

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 July 4, 1993

A 4th of July Picnic

"We're here," Chris shouted, as they drove over a bridge spanning the North Santian River. "Look at that clear water. I can hardly wait to dive in."

"Now Chris, I've already told you the rivers in Oregon come from the snow melting off the mountains. Swimmers sometimes get cramps from the extreme cold water and can't swim against the current," Mother cautioned. "Even if you didn't get cramps, it would make you sick. You know, you're not well. We've come a thousand miles for a week of fun with your cousins. Do you want to ruin it?"

Chris fell back against the seat. Why was Mother always worrying? He wouldn't get sick. "I've told all my friends I was going swimming in Oregon," he complained.

"Sorry, but you should have asked before you told them."

They unloaded the car. Chris mechanically helped set up the tent. All the while he was planning different ways he could accidentally fall into the water.

While Mother cooked lunch he scouted the banks of the river, hunting places where the water was deep

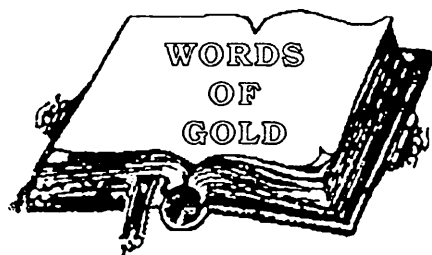
right at the bank. "I've found a good place to fish," he told his dad while they ate.

His father followed him to his chosen spot. The bank went straight into the water like the side of a swimming pool. Chris wore pants that would not be heavy when wet. He took off his shoes and threw in his line where it could easily get snagged on a branch he'd spotted under water. He tugged on his line. It wasn't caught, so he reeled in and cast again, tugged, and cast again. All the while, he was edging his body out of his father's reach.

When a safe distance away, he lay back on the grass and placed his cap over his face so he could watch his father without his father noticing.

After a bit of fussing and fixing, his father cast in and also laid down. Chris waited, and waited until finally he heard his dad snoring.

Seeing his chance, he jumped up to fall in. Just then he felt a jerk on his line. In the excitement he forgot about swimming, or wishing his dad would sleep. He shouted, "Look Dad, a foot long rainbow trout!" He had hardly gotten the words out, when he noticed his dad's float bobbing up and down. Grabbing his dad's reel he



John Serves Jesus

Revelation 1:1-10a

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

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

7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day,...

The Message: John served Jesus when he was young, and could walk beside Jesus. He also served Jesus when he was old and alone on a barren island.

Questions:

1. Why did God give these Revelations?
2. Who wrote the book of Revelation?
3. To whom was this book addressed?
4. Who has loved us and washed us from our sins?
5. What has He made those whom He washed?
6. Who will see Jesus when He comes?
7. What kind of Lord is Jesus Christ?
8. Where was John when he wrote Revelation?
9. What was he doing on the Lord's day?

Verse To Memorize

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein:...

Revelation 1:3.

Let's



Talk . . .

When Jesus called John to be His disciple, John and his brother were in a ship with Zebedee their father mending their nets. "They immediately left the ship and their father, and followed Jesus." Matthew 4:22.

At that time, John was a young man. He followed Jesus from city to city. He saw Jesus healing the sick, opening blind eyes, raising the dead, and teaching the people about the kingdom of God. John wrote a book about Jesus and the things He did. The book is called John and it became part of the Bible. Often in the book, John told about God's greatness and His wonderful love for man. He knew Jesus as the loving Son of the almighty God. He knew Jesus was there with God when He created the world, so he began his book by saying, "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life;..." John 1:3-4a.

John also wrote the last book of the Bible. Throughout that book he gives us pictures of a majestic God, of His great love, of His eternal throne, of His church in the world, and His severe judgments on those who dare to be wicked. In this last book, Jesus has a new name. It is "Alpha and Omega" or the first and the last.

Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet. Omega is the last letter of the Greek alphabet. So Alpha is equal to "A", and Omega is equal to "Z". Jesus then, is the beginning and the end of everything, of all living and non-living things, and also of all spiritual things.

We begin our life at point "A". God gives each person the breath of life a few minutes after he is born. He will also take life away when it is His time

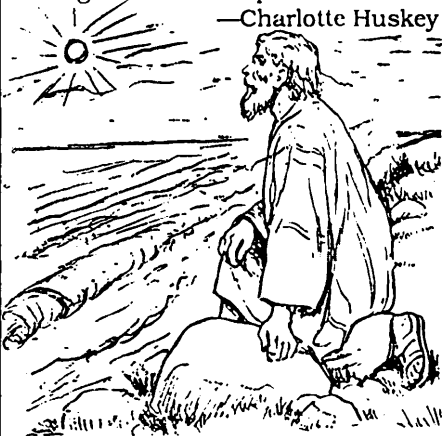
for us to die. That will be point "Z" of our life. So He is our beginning and our end.

He is also the beginning and the end of our spiritual life. If we accept His plan of salvation, He gives us spiritual life. That would be point "A" of our spiritual life. When receiving this spiritual life, we promise to obey God and His written commandments during the long span of our life. We may be serious, and carefully obey God's Word, or we may live to please ourselves. Remember though, when we get to point "Z" God will be there. Then we will be judged out of those things which were written in the books of the Bible. Revelations 20:12.

The apostle John was getting close to point "Z" in his life when he was exiled to the rocky barren island of Patmos. From reading history we learn that he was past 90 years old. Perhaps his persecutors cast him onto the island, thinking he would starve to death or be killed by some hungry beast.

John was living in a very difficult situation, but his mind was clear. On this desolate island there were no brethren with which to worship, but John worshipped God alone. One Sunday when he was worshipping, he saw some visions. He wrote what he saw and heard for God said for him to send it to the seven churches in Asia. John had served God all the years since that day when Jesus called him to leave his fishing and be a disciple.

—Charlotte Huskey



brought in an even larger trout. All afternoon Chris fished. Never in his life had he had such success.

Mother cooked the trout for supper. After they had eaten, they went to visit Uncle Bill. "May I go with Ryan and Justin to pan gold tomorrow?" Chris asked, when his cousins told of their plans.

"You would be in the icy water all day doing that!" Mom said. Then she fussed at the idea.

"Mom, I think you should let the boy go. After all, its a once in a lifetime chance," Dad said. "Bill has some hip boots Chris can wear."

Mother finally gave in.

Chris knew he should obey, and he felt God had given him the fish yesterday so he wouldn't disobey. So he promised himself that he wouldn't try to fall into the water. But all day long, he kept hoping that God would let him really accidently slip down.

Wednesday he went fishing with his cousins, Pete, Kent, and Jessie. While they were fishing, he slipped off his shoes and waded just a little. The water was cold, but it felt good to Chris. That night he dreamed he was swimming.

The next day when he begged to go swimming, Father also agreed that he must not. Even Aunt Hazel, who came to take them on a hike around Silver Creek Falls, said, "Chris, you're just not strong enough to get so chilled."

Only one more day left. It would be the day of the big family reunion. Chris felt sure his friends at home would find out he had not once gone swimming in the great rivers of Oregon. He had bragged to all of them that he was going swimming, not in a pool, but in a big river with a swift current.

It was the third of July. All the

Hightower family met at Detroit Reservoir. There were many aunts, uncles and cousins running everywhere. One aunt and her family had come all the way from Oklahoma. Another cousin came from Lancaster, California.

Uncle Bill had brought his small row boat and a canoe. Chris wanted one more chance to fish, so he went out early with Uncle Bill in the small boat. Aunt Hazel's new husband brought his powerful speed boat. He gave thrilling rides. Back and forth across the lake they sped. Chris could see them.

Jessie was in the speed boat. "Let's go by and make some waves for Chris," he suggested. Away they sped toward Chris and Uncle Bill. Just before getting to the small boat they turned a little and sped along side it. The waves were too much for the row boat. It turned up on one side. "Jump away from the boat," Uncle Bill shouted to Chris and Pete. "It's going to flip."

In Chris jumped! With the life jacket on, his clothes and shoes seemed no problem. At last he was swimming! And he hadn't disobeyed. He felt like a light hearted king! He really was a king, for he had ruled the temptation to disobey and go swimming.

He would tell all his friends about swimming in Oregon.

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. "To show his servants things which must shortly come to pass." 2. John. 3. The seven churches in Asia. 4. Jesus. 5. Kings and priests unto God. 6. Every eye shall see him, also those who pierced him. 7. He is the beginning and the ending, the Almighty. 8. On the isle called Patmos. 9. He was in the spirit, which means he was worshipping God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 July 11, 1993

The Contrary Wind

It was still dark when James Stewart's alarm sounded. He jumped out of bed and slipped into the loose cotton muslin breeches and shirt. These were used in most parts of Egypt because they shaded the skin from the harsh sun and at the same time did not prevent one from feeling the occasional breeze that blew. "I have only three weeks left to visit the villages along the banks of the Nile," James told himself. "According to my map, there are thirty-six. Probably most of these haven't heard the Gospel. Some days I will need to visit two villages, if I am to reach each one of these Moslem villages. Every day will count."

Hurriedly he gathered his traveling gear. A suitcase filled with Arabic Bibles, two changes of clothing, a water bottle filled with fresh water, tablets for purifying more water when that was gone, note pad and pens, some dehydrated foods to be eaten if unfriendly store keepers refused to sell to him, and last but not least, a large umbrella for protection from the sun. He took no camera, afraid it would cause trouble with the natives.

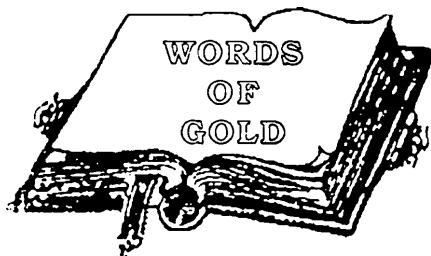
At ten o'clock James had made his way to the Nile River. He paid his fare on a boat that was going across to a village where he knew some Chris-

tians lived. He was sure these Christians needed Bibles and would also be glad to hear the Gospel preached. He hoped they could also direct him to other villages in which he might be allowed to teach and hand out Bibles.

A strong wind was blowing from the direction of the town but James thought the boat strong enough to buck the storm. The anchor was raised and the boat churned out a ways into the water. Then it stopped moving.

"Every day counts", James muttered to himself as he watched the helpless boat struggling against the wind. "I may never get back to these parts. The war is raging in Europe. I have heard rumors that no Americans are being allowed to enter Egypt. Some that are here are being ordered to leave. If I could only fill these twenty-one days sharing the Gospel with these Moslems, how happy I would be." But the boat was making no progress. During a calm it went forward a few yards. Then a huge wave, forced by a gust of wind, pushed it back to where it had started.

James couldn't sit still. He went up the deck. Holding to a railing to steady himself against the wind, he studied the sky for any sign of change. He went to the captain's quarters and chatted with him. This day counted, for he had a great amount of work to



Jesus Speaks With John



Revelation 1:10-20

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right

hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: **18** I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

The Message: When people hold up God's standards they are lights in their community.

Questions:

1. On the Lord's day, what did John hear?
2. Who did the voice say He was?
3. What was John to do?
4. What was the first thing John saw?
5. How did Jesus' eyes look?
6. What came out of Jesus' mouth?
7. Who did Jesus say he was?
8. For what were the keys which Jesus' had?
9. What did the seven stars and the seven candlesticks represent?

Verse To Memorize

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Matthew 5:14.

Let's Talk . . .

Have you ever had a friend say something again and again? Why did they say it many times? Was it so that you would not forget, or perhaps to be sure you understood? Jesus also repeats things so we will understand and not forget. In verse eight, verse eleven, and verse seventeen, Jesus has called himself the *first* and the *last*. It is very important that we understand, and don't forget that He is the beginning and the end of all things.

Jesus is also the light of the world. He is shining through a church or a person to give light to that community. Isn't it wonderful that our good friend and Savior can shine through us? What a mighty friend! Nothing is too hard for Him!

John also understood the greatness of Jesus. He was not afraid while living alone on the barren island of Patmos. He was faithfully worshipping God one Sunday, when Jesus spoke to him. John turned to see who was speaking, and he saw seven golden candlesticks and Jesus in the middle of them.

Jesus' strange shining appearance frightened John so that he fell as a dead man. Jesus was shining as the sun and in his right hand were glowing stars. Perhaps John was expecting Jesus to look as He had looked when they had walked the shores of Galilee and through the villages of Judea. Only once during those years had John seen Jesus shining like this. Jesus comforted him saying, "Fear not, I am he who was dead, but am now alive for evermore."

Then He told John the interpretation of the vision. The seven candlesticks represent the churches, and the seven stars held in His right hand are a symbol of His ministers. The churches are like a tool to hold God's light, just as a candle stick holds the lighted candle.

As a star shines brightly, so the Holy Spirit of God shines through God's ministers. The true Church of God and its ministers are lights in this dark world.

There were seven candles and seven stars. Throughout the Bible the number seven is used to mean all of anything, or completeness. There were many churches in Asia when John wrote about his visions. The seven listed may have been the larger ones, or the ones who needed the advice given. However, the Bible is written so that churches of all ages can receive counsel from these letters.

When Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world." He was speaking to all people, not just to those who were hearing Him that day. We are as lights in the world today, just as the churches of olden times were lights. Jesus also said to His disciples, "I will be with you even to the end of the world." He was not only promising to be with them to the end of the world, He was also promising to be with you and me wherever we might go. So the letters to the seven churches in Asia were written to help all churches and all people at any time to be better lights in the world.

Jesus wanted the churches of Asia to shine more brightly for Him. Each letter told the churches where they could improve so His light would shine through them in a better way. Are there things in your life that are keeping Jesus from shining brightly? Each saved person is a part of the Church of God. If he lives clean, that part of the church will shine. We cannot wait until every one and everything in the congregation is perfect before we clean up our actions and let Jesus shine. Let's be the first, not the last, to do our best. Let each of us live honestly and Jesus will shine through us making a light in our community.

If we think someone is making a smudge on the church, ask Jesus to help them. He is the light. He is the only one who can help them shine. Remember He is the beginning and end of all things. He was dead but is alive for evermore and has the keys of hell and of death.

—Charlotte Huskey

do. The captain understood James' intense desire to get to the other side, "I'm sorry," he said "but the wind will not release its grip."

James went to the dining room and visited with an old man who looked very scared. The man was a Moslem. James' message of comfort was rejected. He looked at his watch. It was three minutes after eleven. The wind hadn't died down a bit. Just then the captain announced, "We are returning to shore. Ticket monies will be refunded or the tickets marked to be used at a later time." James' heart sank.

"Only twenty days left," he sighed as he walked off the gang plank. Then new thoughts began channeling their way into his distressed brain. Yes, he was God's child. Nothing happened to him that wasn't for good.

With a determined look in his eyes he turned and asked the ticket agent if there was a town nearby. "There is a village on the south side of those huge sand dunes," the agent answered.

Soon after James arrived at the village, he met a man walking toward him. "Please sir," he said, "do you know if there are any Christians living here?"

"Well, folks tell me that Mungo has taken up western ideas. Maybe he is what you call a Christian. He lives over near that tall palm tree." He pointed to a tree on the other side of the village, then he hurried away like James might be dangerous.

James found Mungo. He soon learned that Mungo was a lonely, hungry Christian. He had no Bible nor other brethren to teach him more of God's ways. Excitedly, James began sharing with him some of the treasures of God's Word. One by one his family gathered to listen.

An hour had passed before James glanced at his watch, but he talked

on, realizing that he was gaining the day he thought he had lost.

"How wonderful it must be to have a Bible to read," Mungo said after James had slowed down a bit.

James opened up his back-pack and took out the new Bible. "God has sent you one today," he said, placing it in Mungo's hands.

Tears of gratitude welled in Mungo's eyes. He looked up to heaven and said, "Now I can teach my people about the Savior."

James felt light as a feather as he walked back to the river. "Hum," he mused, "That town wasn't on my map, but God got it covered by sending this wind." Then he noticed that the wind wasn't blowing.

"We've been watching for you. I knew you were very anxious to go so I waited," the boat captain said when James neared the dock. "We can cross now."

"You will never know how grateful I am to you for waiting," James said.

He found the Christians on the other side of the Nile. He gave them Bibles. They helped him with directions to find many villages that wanted Bibles and where he could preach the Gospel for the next twenty days.

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. A great voice. 2. Alpha and Omega. 3. Write in a book what he saw. 4. Seven golden candlesticks and Jesus in the middle of them. 5. They were as a flame of fire. 6. A sharp two-edged sword. 7. The first and the last, and the one who was dead but is alive forevermore. 8. For hell and death. 9. The seven churches and their ministers.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 July 18, 1993

A True Friend

Joe was a poor boy, whose early years were spent on the streets of Los Angeles. Where were his father and mother? He did not know. But better times came for Joe when a kind man got him admitted into the Door of Hope Boy's Home. There he had nice clothes to wear and plenty to eat. He was also able to attend school and learn many things.

One day in reading class, the teacher asked Joe to spell the word "friend." Joe stood up and the letters, "F-R-I-E-N-D," came out slowly.

"That's right, Joe," said the teacher; "and now tell us, what is a friend?"

Joe studied for a moment trying to find a way to express his thoughts. At last he said, "A friend? He's a feller that knows all about ya an' likes ya just the same."

Joe's brief life had taught him what a true friend is. Joe hardly realized it, but he had spelled out the sweetest word ever made known. There is no friend to whom these words better apply than to Jesus. He is Friend and Saviour to all who will let Him be their friend.

Before we were born, Jesus saw us hating, fighting, and sinning, but *He loved us just the same.*

He came to earth to make that love known. He puts away any person's sin

by His death on the cross. Now sinners who repent and believe may share His joy. When they die, they will go to that bright home above.

King David said, "He knows my down sitting and mine uprising." (Psalm 139:2.) In John 10:27 we read, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them ..." Jesus knows all our weaknesses and our failures, yet *He loves us just the same.*

"...There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Prov. 18:24. Jesus is that friend.

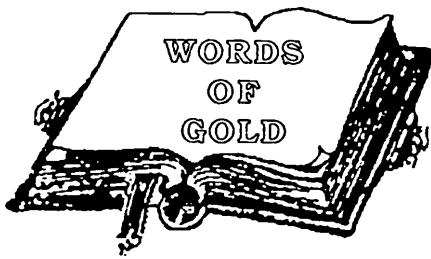
There's a Friend for little children
Above the bright blue sky;
A Friend who never changes,
Whose love can never die.

Do you know this Friend, dear young reader? He is "the chiefest among ten thousand.... He is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend." (Song of Solomon. 5:10, 16.)

—Selected

Serving A Golden Calf

Linda listened with wide opened eyes as Mr. Hill told a sad story of the people of Israel. They had turned their backs on God and were worshipping a golden calf. In her mind she could picture that golden calf glittering in



What Is My Greatest Love?

Revelation 2:1-7

1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write: These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Acts 19:11, 18-19, 23-29

11 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

18 And many that believed came, and confessed...

19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them...and they

counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

23 And...there arose no small stir about that way.

24 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana....

25 ...called together...workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.

26 Moreover ye see and hear,...this Paul hath persuaded...much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

27 So that not only this our craft is in danger...but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised...whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.

28 And...they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

The Message: Only those who have a greater love for God than anything else will be able to enter into the paradise of God.

Questions:

1. To whom was this letter addressed?
2. What was Jesus holding in His right hand?
3. Where was Jesus walking?
4. What did Jesus know?
5. Name four good works of this church.
6. What did Jesus have against this church?
7. What were they to do to correct the failure?
8. What would Jesus do if they did not repent?
9. Before being saved, in what did the people of Ephesus trust?

Verse to Memorize

...Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

I Corinthians 13:3.

Let's



Talk . . .

The great Emperor, Domitian, had banished John to the Isle of Patmos, hoping to keep John from spreading Christianity. John was there on the island receiving visions from God and writing God's messages from these visions in a book. This helped Christianity wonderfully! - although the emperor had no way of knowing it.

God sent a special message to the Church in Ephesus. This great city was the commercial, political, and religious center of Western Asia. It was located near where the Cayester and the Meander rivers flow into the Aegean Sea.

Excavators have uncovered streets paved with marble. (Can you imagine a street being covered with such an expensive stone?) They uncovered a gorgeous, marble bath house, a fine library, and a large basilica church which in years later was dedicated to the "St John" we are studying about. Also, they found a theater large enough to seat 24,000 people. Each year on the birthday of their goddess, Diana, the men carried her into this theater and a grand celebration was held. It was in this theater that Demetrius stirred up the people against Paul because his teaching had convinced the people to stop worshipping Diana, and worship the living God. According to Demetrius, the silversmith, not only Ephesus, but Asia and the whole world worshipped Diana. (Acts 19:27).

Because the brethren loved God more than anything else, the Church

of God in Ephesus grew to be the strongest church in that area. It stayed strong for many years, but at the time that John wrote this letter, the church was beginning to weaken. The saints were beginning to lose their love for Jesus. Being accepted by worldly neighbors was becoming very important to them. They were desiring beautiful homes in their fine city. A glorious home in heaven did not look as attractive to them as it had when their love for God had been stronger.

John cautioned them saying, "Repent, or I will come quickly and take away your light." When Jesus removes light, a person's mind loses understanding and they begin to believe strange, dangerous ideas. Believing these wrong ideas will cause the darkened person to think he is alright with God when indeed he is a servant of Satan.

Some leaders in this congregation were already in this condition. But God's ministers had proved them to be liars. Jesus was happy that they had done this, but He also saw that they must get their affections off the things of this world and get them back on Jesus or else they too would soon be in that blinded condition.

Let us ask ourselves, "What do I love most, Jesus or things of the world? Do I love God more than anything else? Do I love God with all my heart? Mark 12:30 commands, "...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength...." Let us be careful to obey this commandment, so that God will not remove our understanding.

Yes, John was doing much for the Gospel as he wrote letters warning the different churches to repent and turn their love back to God.

—Charlotte Huskey

the sun and the people bowing down before it.

The next day, on her way to the store, Linda was startled. Stopping suddenly in front of a small dairy store called "Countyside Dairies" she stared in horror! There in the window stood a large glittering display of a calf advertising dairy products. Behind the counter, inside The Dairy Bar stood Mrs. Williams. She had not noticed Linda staring at the display, nor did she have any idea of the thoughts that were passing through the head of the small girl standing in front of her window.

Suddenly the small girl with blazing eyes burst into the store and cried, "You mustn't worship the golden calf!"

Mrs. Williams stood staring in amazement, wondering what the small girl was trying to say. Linda continued: "God wants you to love and worship Him! You mustn't worship the golden calf! Honestly, you mustn't!" Then Linda seemed overcome with shyness. As suddenly as she came in, she ran out again and disappeared down the street.

"What a strange little child," Mrs. Williams said to her helper. Later, however, realizing what Linda had meant, she had a hearty laugh. But owing to her busy life she soon forgot all about the incident.

Mrs. Williams was a clever business woman and her dairy prospered. She became wealthy and built other dairy stores in nearby towns. "Countyside Dairies" became a well known and respected company in that part of the country.

She and her husband sold their big house in town and bought a beautiful mansion in the country. Mrs. Williams believed that money was the most important thing in the world. She bought everything she wanted, nevertheless she was a lonely woman. Later her husband died, and then she

was more lonely. Her days were empty and she was sad.

Mrs. Williams did not go to church. She did not read her Bible, nor listen to sermons. But one day when she was especially lonely, she switched on the radio and heard a man preaching. The subject of the sermon was "The Golden Calf!"

Slowly—dimly—then clearly—Mrs. Williams remembered the funny little girl with the earnest face, who came bursting into her store. She had said, "You mustn't worship the golden calf! God wants you to love and worship Him! You mustn't! Honestly, you mustn't!" That was so many years ago. She sat up and thought very deeply. Then the preacher asked, "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

Mrs. Williams saw now the reason for her loneliness and disappointment in life. Although she had everything that money could buy, she had forgotten God! She was worshipping success and money just as the people of Israel had worshiped the golden calf.

Suddenly she felt like God was saying, "I love you. If you will worship me, I will bring happiness and fulfillment into your life." She listened. Alone with God, she humbly got down on her knees and trusted in Christ, as her Saviour.

She was never alone again.

—Selected

(Answers: 1. To the church in Ephesus. 2. The seven stars. 3. In the midst of the seven candles. 4. Jesus knew their works. 5. (1) They had patience. (2) They could not bear evil professors. (3) They exposed ungodly apostles. (4) They laboured without fainting. 6. They had lost their first love for Jesus. 7. They must repent. 8. He would come quickly and remove their candlestick. 9. They trusted in the goddess Diana, and curious arts (black magic).

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 July 25, 1993

How A Robber Was Saved

John Wesley rode horseback all over England, preaching the gospel to the miners. Of course, he preached to any person who would listen, but in Wesley's time, few miners attended public worship services. The miners were poor and the churches rented their benches. They could not afford to pay for a pew in the church, neither could they dress fine enough to be accepted by the rich who filled the churches. When Wesley preached to the miners, they sat on the ground. The starry heaven was the roof over their heads. Thousands gathered to hear his sermons.

Many times he traveled by himself over lonely wooded trails. His saddle bags bulged with Bibles for the miners and his own study books. Wesley was so accustomed to riding that he could read books as he bounced on the back of his handsome bay.

The miners were paid in cash, not with checks as we use today. Men were hired to carry large amounts of cash into these mining villages. Wesley knew that any robber hiding along these lonely trails would think his saddle bags were bulging with money. However, he fearlessly trusted God to care for him.

Wesley was known to ride all night, sometimes in the rain, so he would

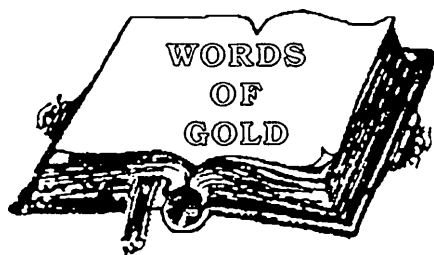
not miss a preaching appointment. One night he shivered with fear as he entered a narrow, dark canyon where robbers sometimes attacked. But knowing he must hurry on to get to the village before the miners went to work, he spurred his horse and began singing.

Suddenly out of the darkness a man shouted, "Halt." An instant later a rough hand swept past him and seized his horse's bridle. "Your money, or your life," the robber demanded.

"I wish I could give this guy God's rich salvation," Wesley said to himself. "But he wants my few pences." He almost laughed as he calmly handed over his purse. The robber, thinking he was being tricked, began cursing and threatening. Then he jerked open Wesley's saddle bags and began searching them. "Nothing but books," he muttered. Then jumping in his saddle, he slapped his horse with his reins and the horse started off.

"Stop. You stop," Wesley called after him. "I wish to say something." The surprised robber stopped.

"My friend," Wesley said, "you may someday want to live differently and will then regret the things you are now doing. When you do, remember this, The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin."



Enduring Tribulation

New Word: 1. *Tribulation* is severe affliction or lasting suffering.

Revelation 2:8-11

8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Acts 14:19-22

19 And...having stoned Paul, [they] drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

20 Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch.

22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Matthew 5:10-12

10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

John 16:33

33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

James 1:2-4

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Matthew 10:38

38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

The Message: Those who endure tribulation for Jesus will receive their reward and not be hurt by the second death.

Questions:

1. In this vision, what does Jesus call himself?
2. Is Jesus dead or alive?
3. What were the saints not to fear?
4. For how many days would they have tribulation?
5. Who would cast some into prison?
6. What are the believers to do?
7. Who is speaking to the churches?
8. What will the faithful receive?
9. What tribulation did Paul endure?

Verse to Memorize

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

James 1:12.

Let's



Talk . . .

In this lesson, Jesus again gives us the important message that He is the *first* and the *last*. He has done this many times in these first two chapters of Revelations. I believe He is wanting us to understand that we, His little children, are in His care and He will see that everything works for our good. We may think that tribulations or suffering is not good, but He knows that it is best for us. Jesus does not give us the privilege to choose what happens in our life. He gives us the privilege and the grace to be faithful unto death, then the second death will have no power over us. We shall receive the glorious reward He has for us.

Smyrna was founded by Alexander the Great. The city had a large public library, also a handsome building surrounded with porticos which served as a museum. Olympic games were celebrated there and excited great interest.

Although it was a beautiful, grand city, the mysteries ritual of the pagan worship marred its beauty in God's eyes. Those who loved the pagan rituals hated the Christians that had come into their city. Wherever the Christians went, they visited with their neighbors about the Christian faith. Soon their neighbors would also surrender their lives to Christ. When these people became believers, they threw away their idols and refused to give offerings to the pagan priests. They also told others about the wonderful freedom and love which they felt in their heart. Soon they, too had won a friend to Christianity. In

this simple way the number of Christians was growing.

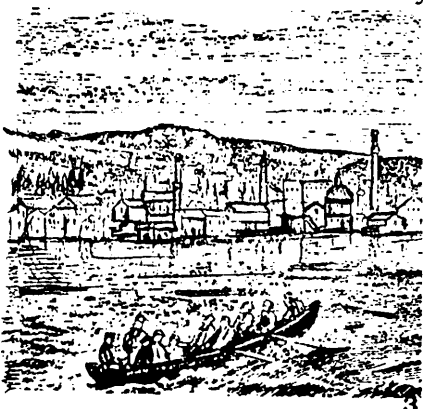
Becoming alarmed, the pagan city leaders began enforcing laws more strongly and putting new ones into effect to crush Christianity. For this reason John warned the brethren to expect tribulation for ten days but to remain faithful to God.

The troubled brethren of the church in Smyrna seemed to be feeling sorry for themselves. Their attitude was, "poor me", when Jesus said they were rich. Jesus did not feel sorrow for himself when He was being nailed to the cross. He said, "I could call angels to help me out of this, but I will suffer, for it is my father's will." So these brethren should have been more willing to suffer the tribulation which God was allowing to come to them.

The brethren did have to brace up against temptations to accompany their friends and family to pagan worship services, for these were times of great pleasure and feasting. It also took much strength to keep from being discouraged by the persecution from the city authorities.

John understood all this, so he ends his letter by saying, "He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death," for I am the first and the last. I control everything, I will be there to help you in time of tribulation and to see that you receive your reward.

—Charlotte Huskey



"Huh," the robber grunted and sped away. Wesley slapped his bay and away she galloped.

Many years later, John Wesley was preaching in a large church. After the service had dismissed, a very wealthy looking man came to him and said, "You do not know me, but we met many years ago. I remember you, because I robbed you. At that time you told me that the blood of Jesus cleanseth from all sin.

"Those words stuck in my mind until I cried out to God and was forgiven for all my sins. Thank you ever so much. I am now God's child. He has blessed me with much money and many spiritual riches. I owe it all to you." He took Wesley's hand and kissed it again and again.

"You owe nothing to me," said Wesley. "I am nothing but God's unworthy servant. You owe your blessings to God. He is the author of the wonderful Gospel that I have been preaching."

(Adopted from *Messages of Love*)

—Charlotte Huskey

The Old Rag Pillow

Adoniram Judson went to Burma to teach the gospel. After he had learned the language, he began translating the Scriptures into the Burmese language.

The time came when the rulers became suspicious of all foreigners. Judson was then put in prison. The guards treated Judson very cruelly and would not allow him to teach about God. But still he wanted to have the pages of his Burmese Bible with him, hoping he might finish the translation.

His wife, Anne, had a hard time getting things to him in the prison. On one occasion she put a message in

a cake she had baked for him. Another time she wrote a note on a scrap of paper, and put it in the spout of an old coffee pot which she sent to him by her faithful servant, Moun-Ing.

How to get the writing material to him was a problem. One day God put in Anne's mind to hide Judson's translating material in a pillow, so she made an old pillow of rags. Placing the leaves of the translation carefully in between the rags, she sent it to the prison by Moun-Ing. The jailor let Judson keep his old rag pillow. He did not know the pages of God's precious Word were hidden inside.

After two years in that terrible prison, Judson was set free. The jailor kept all of Judson's possessions for himself, except the rag pillow which he threw out on the trash heap. Moun-Ing rescued the old rag pillow and Judson got back his most prized possession.

The time came when Judson finished his translation and it was printed. The people of Burma had its first Bible in their own language. In the years that followed many Burmese were brought to Christ through hearing and reading the Scriptures in their own language.

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." Isa. 45:22.

"...Ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven. I Thess. 1:9b, 10a.

—Selected

(Answers: 1. The first and the last. 2. Alive. 3. Tribulation. 4. Ten. 5. The devil. 6. Be faithful unto death. 7. The Spirit of God. 8. A crown of life. 9. He was stoned and thrown out of the city as dead.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 Aug. 1, 1993

The Infidel

Tyler Goodwin leaned against the ship's railing and looked out across Lake Erie. The warmth of the sun had cleared the morning fog. It was going to be a beautiful day! The deep blue of the water was broken only by small white caps. He heard the ship's motor humming and felt its vibrations as the captain revved up the engine. He had been on old Robert Fulton many times. She was a steady, trusty craft.

It was Tyler's day off. He had boarded the boat to pass out gospel tracts and hopefully to talk to some passengers about God. Tucked in his back-pack was his lunch and four religious leaflets, "Lost in the Church," "How to Find Salvation," "The Gospel in a Nut Shell," and "Forty-eight Hours in Hell."

At the far end of the deck, Tyler noticed six men were talking. Four were sitting around a table, the other two leaned against the railing. Tyler edged his way around the deck and began listening. A guy, whom the others called Frank, was doing most of the talking. He looked shrewd and was loud and clamorous. His long blond hair was held back in a pony tail. A pipe hung from the corner of his mouth. He wore white knee length shorts and a white hooded sweat shirt. The hood, serving as a back-pack, held several pamphlets and a book.

Tyler shudder as he listened to the blasphemies belching from Frank's

throat. It was like a volcano spitting out hot cinders from hell. Tyler hurried away.

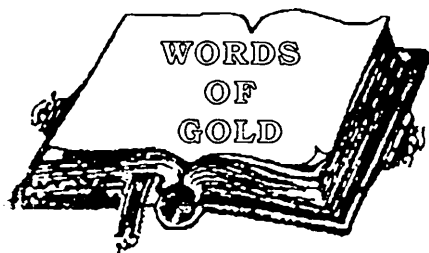
He listened for the humming of Robert Fulton's motor. He half-way expected it to explode and the ship to sink. He looked at the sky to see if God was sending fire and brimstone. It was then he noticed a bank of dark clouds in the north, and a strong wind blowing from that direction.

"Lord, have mercy," he prayed silently.

Tyler went down to the snack room and struck up a conversation with an elderly man who was munching on a Snicker candy bar. He ate his lunch while the man talked about his church activities. The man happily accepted "Lost in the Church" and "Forty-eight Hours in Hell." After glancing over them, he asked Tyler for ten of each.

All the while, Tyler kept thinking of poor Frank and the Bible verse, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Hebrew 10:31.

Frank was still ranting and raging against God when Tyler again sneaked near him. Only two men were still with him. One of them was reading the book that had been in Frank's hood. Tyler noticed only a few pamphlets were left. Trembling, he braced himself against the railing. A stiff wind was now blowing but Tyler prayed for courage to say something before the coming storm would force them below. He waited patiently while his heart pounded wildly.



Satan's Seat In The Church

Revelation 2:12-17

12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Matthew 7:15-17, 19, 20-23

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing....

16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

The Message: Professing to be a Christian will not help us gain Heaven unless we are also obeying God's commandments.

Questions:

1. In this vision, what did Jesus have?
2. Where was this church located?
3. What good works was the church doing?
4. What two doctrines did God hate?
5. What evil did Balac do?
6. What will God do for the person who overcomes?
7. How will a person know if a prophet or a doctrine is wrong?
8. What will happen to those who have corrupt fruit?
9. Who will enter into heaven?

Verse to Memorize

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 7:21.

Let's



Talk . . .

Pergamos was located about 15 miles from the Aegean Sea. It was 60 miles north of Smyrna, the city of John's last vision. Today Bergama stands on the plain below the hill-site of this ancient city. Four pagan gods, Zeus, Athena, Dionysus and Esclepius, were worshipped and it was also the seat of the blasphemous emperor worship. It is no wonder that Jesus called this place "Satan's seat".

"Excavations in 1878 uncovered a most spectacular building complex with a gorgeous Hellenistic theater at its center. Sacred and royal buildings spread out in a half-circle. This consisted of the great altar, the Athena Shrine, the temple of Trojan and Hadrian, the royal palaces and many other fine structures. The great altar with its sculptured decorations of the battles of gods and giants was the most important artistic monument unearthed. No one knows if this was "Satan's seat" or if it was in the temple where the emperor was worshipped. (See footnote 1.)

Some of these pagan doctrines had crept into the congregation of the Church of God in Pergamun. One was called the doctrine of Balaam because it approved of ungodly marriages just as Balaam did. An account of Balaam and Balac is found in chapters 22-25 of Numbers. Wanting to please Balac, Balaam tried to curse Israel, but he could not, so he advised Balac to defeat Israel by having his women entice the men of Israel to take them as wives. (Numbers 31:16) This was against God's commandments.

The other evil doctrine of the Nicolaitans was even more ungodly. It endorsed community wives. No man's

wife was only his wife, she was a wife for any other men in the community who desired her. Such horrid practices as these were common among the pagans.

Some people were calling themselves brethren and approving these lewd practices. Jesus declared, "Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth." Confessing to be Christians would not protect them from God's wrath. Only obeying His commandments would keep Jesus from disciplining them.

How could such obscene doctrines enter in among the people who called themselves saints? Someone had not guarded his relationship with Jesus, and the spirit that was in the world had come between them. Each of these worldly minded people had influenced someone else to become careless about guarding their affections. Soon others followed these examples. By this time, the spirit of Satan was rapidly working. Soon a spirit of adultery was rampant and they were so blinded they could not see the evil. Satan had found himself a good seat, right among the people who called themselves the Church of God.

Satan has great power in most cities today. We must guard against whatever spirit is in the place where we live or it will attach itself to us. We may call ourselves Christian, or even a Saint, but if we do the things that are against God's laws, we will be lost. Some may even do wonderful works, in the name of Jesus, but in the end, Jesus will profess to them, "I never knew you, depart from me ye that work iniquity."

Let us be very careful to read the Bible and obey its commandments, so Jesus will be pleased with us. We do not want Jesus to fight against us with the sword of His mouth as He did against the church at Pergamos.

—Charlotte Huskey

Footnote

(1. Archaeological Supplement of the Thompson Chain-Reference Bible, # 4403.)

Presently Frank addressed Tyler, "Say young man, what's your opinion about this?"

"I - I - read about a man who spent - spent forty-eight hours in hell," Tyler said in a loud whisper. "What if there is a Hell and a God who will judge people after they die?"

"But there is neither," Frank stormed. "If there is a God, He would have already struck me dead. Isn't that right?" He laughed a most impish laugh. The two men laughed with him.

Tyler felt weak and alone, but he mustered courage to answer, "No, God loves you, that is why He hasn't struck you dead." Frank again burst out with an errie laugh. "It's like this," Tyler continued. "The other day my twelve year old brother got up in a terrible grumpy mood. He yanked my coat out of the closet and threw it on the floor, saying it was on his side of the closet. Then he kicked my shoes far under the bed. I had to get the broom to get them out. When I scolded him, he tried to pick a fight. I refused to fight. Then he taunted me with 'You're afraid of me.' 'Come on, come on,' he yelled jumping around and slapping at my face. 'Fight with me.' He followed me in the bathroom and down to the kitchen. I could have licked him in a minute. I load heavy freight on ships everyday. He goes to school, and only plays ball once in a while. But I didn't want to hurt him. I love him too much."

"What does that have to do with me?"

"You're angry about something that God allowed to happen. You're shouting up at God trying to get back at him."

Frank got up and walked away. The other men followed. He could see them laughing and talking until they disappeared down the stairs.

Tyler went about the deck striking up conversations whenever possible and giving tracts away to the few that remained there. The wind increased until it drove everyone into the cabin below.

Old Robert Fulton had braved many storms. Waves had thrashed her many

times. She had bounced and jerked about in gales like this before. She was being heaved about by first one wave, then another, but all the while she was steadily nearing the shore.

Children cried and clung to their mothers. Ladies screamed. The strong and the weak became sea sick. One woman fainted. Tyler spotted a silent Frank huddled in a corner. Frank looked frightened and deathly ill.

The wind blew harder. The waves pounding on Fulton's sides and splashing over its deck sounded like claps of thunder. A silent fear engulfed the passengers.

The dead silence was broken by a sudden creaking, crashing sound as old Robert Fulton split open in the middle. Water pushed into the cabin. Screams, shrieks, and groans were heard above the blast. They pushed and shoved; trampling each other, rushing about trying to climb to safety. Wild fear caused the people to not realize that climbing up on the ship would not save them, for the Old Fulton was going down fast.

As Tyler was swimming away from the sinking craft, he trembled when he heard Frank's shrill voice crying, "God, oh God, please forgive my blasphemies." He looked toward Frank and saw him being sucked down as the ship went under water.

"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Tyler thought. (Genesis 18:25.) He wondered if Frank was forgiven or had he spurned God's spirit too long?

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. He had a sharp two edged sword. 2. In Pergamos, where Satan's seat was. 3. They were holding to God's name, and had faith. 4. The doctrine of Balaam, and the Nicolaitanes. 5. He cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel. 6. He will give him a white stone with his secret name on it. 7. If its fruit is bad, we know it is wrong. 8. They will be cut down and cast into the fire. 9. Those who do the will of God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 Aug. 8, 1993

Saved From Trouble

Fred, while a boy, was kept out of jail through reading his Bible. He had been looking for employment. One morning before leaving the house to go job hunting he was reading his Bible as usual. Suddenly he heard the sound of breaking glass. Peering out, Frank saw no one.

The accident was reported and the police came to check it out. "I think it was the boy next door," said the lady whose window was broken. "The boy looked very much like him." She gave the police a description of the boy she had seen running.

The officer came to the house where Fred was staying and said, "Come with me." They took him to the police station. The desk sergeant asked Fred about the broken window. He said, "You have the same color shirt and trousers, the same color hair and are about the same size. I think you did it."

"No," said Fred, "when that happened I was in my room reading my Bible."

The sergeant laughed. "Oh, just listen to that!" he said to the other policemen standing around. "He says he was reading his Bible at the time of the accident. Give me a Bible. I'll see if he knows anything about the Book."

Fred trembled. He thought he was too frightened to remember anything he had read.

The men searched but no Bible was found. Then the sergeant asked, "What did you read this morning?"

Without any hesitation Fred answered, "John 3:16. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have ever lasting life."

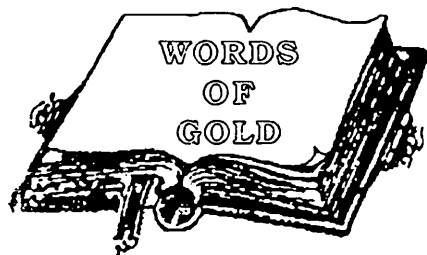
"All right, my boy," said the sergeant. "You can go!"

"Thank you, Lord, for being faithful to remind me to read my Bible this morning. Then he thought of other comforting Bible verses. One reads like this, "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust." Psa. 91:2. (Adopted from *Messages of the Love of God*.)

—Charlotte Huskey

Your Sin will Find You Out

When we were young, my brother Rob and I had lots of fun together. But we were not always good; we were often naughty. There were times when Mom told us to do something, but we ended up doing just the opposite. We hadn't yet learned the importance of the scripture: "Hear instruction, and



God Sees Everything

New Word: 1. *Reins* is the center of a persons desires.

Revelation 2:18-29

18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

28 And I will give him the morning star.

29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

The Message: God sees every good or evil action, and He rewards the person according to their actions.

Questions:

1. How did John see Jesus in this vision?
2. Name the good works of this congregation.
3. With what condition was Jesus not pleased?
4. What did Jezebel claim to be?
5. What sin was she causing others to commit?
6. Why was God planning to kill Jezebel's children?
7. To whom does God give rewards?
8. How did Jesus advise the Saints in Thyatira?
9. What is promised to those who overcome?

Verse To Memorize

**Blessed are the pure in heart:
for they shall see God.**

Matthew 5:8.

Let's Talk . . .

In this vision special attention is given to Jesus' eyes and feet. He did not say He was the *first* and the *last* as He did in the other visions. He said, "These things saith the Son of God, who hath his *eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass.*" I believe Jesus is giving the message "that He see everything." No persons, regardless of how smart they may be, can hide things from God. Jesus sees everything we think and do. "*His feet are like fine brass,*" is a symbol of Jesus' power to destroy. In this lesson, He had already given that alluring Jezebel a chance to repent of her sins, but she had not repented. So God said, "Unless you and your followers repent soon, I will destroy you all." Read again verses 21-23. Jezebel was claiming to be a minister of the Church of God in Thyatira.

Thyatira was on the border between Mysia and Ionia. Sometimes one country claimed it and sometimes another. Their principle god was Apollo, the Greek god, however there was also a temple called Sambath. The pagan religion of Sambath seemed to have been brought there by the corrupted Jews, whom God had scattered among the nations. Sambath was controlled by a sibyl, which is a group of ten women prophetesses. These pagan religions sacrificed unto idols, also part of their worship consisted of immoral acts between men and women, or fornication. It is hard for us to believe that people could think

that a god would be pleased with impure actions. This alone is a good proof that the spirit of pagan worship is from satan.

In I Kings chapters eighteen and nineteen, is the account of Elijah battling against the worshipping of Baal. King Ahab had married Jezebel, the princess of Zidon. When she came to live among the people of God, she had brought along her god, Baal. Before long Baal had many worshippers and 450 prophets. God destroyed all these pagan prophets, so the people would know which god was the living God.

Within the Church of God at Thyatira there was another evil pagan woman, whom Jesus also called Jezebel. She was also drawing people away from God and seducing them to secretly commit fornication and eat things offered unto idols. In this vision, Jesus showed John that God was again going to destroy the idol worshippers so others would know that He is the living God that knows all things.

Some in the church were not following this evil woman. They feared God and knew that His eyes were seeing all their thoughts and actions. Jesus said to them, "I will put upon you none other burden." It was a burden on them to stand for the truth when the city was having great feasts in honor of their god, and some in the congregation encouraging them to go and eat the free food that had been dedicated to idols. I can see in my mind, the devil whispering to some hungry person, "Sneak away and get something to eat. What harm can it be?" Those who loved God did not yield to these temptations. They held true to God because they knew His eyes were seeing it all and that He would reward their good actions.

—Charlotte Huskey

be wise, and refuse it not. For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord." Prov. 8:33, 35.

One summer morning Mother told us to take her grocery cart and do some shopping for her at the super market. She specifically instructed us *not* to go by the creek and to come straight home when we were finished.

In a few moments we were off, but all along the way we were plotting and planning how we could get down to the creek without Mom's finding it out. We decided to visit the creek on our way home.

With our cart packed full of groceries, we trudged down the path towards the woods. Suddenly I said, "You know, Mom told us not to go down here."

"Oh," said Rob, "no one sees us and Mom will never find out because we won't tell her." We had forgotten the verse: "...Be sure your sin will find you out." Num. 32:23.

With my mind a little more at ease, we slowly took the cart down the steep embankment that led to the creek. Already we could see the water splashing over the rocks below. Oh, how delightfully inviting it looked!

Suddenly we reached an unexpected soft spot in the gravel, and the cart overturned. Groceries flew everywhere and went rolling down the steep embankment. I became alarmed, but Rob reassured me that he would recover the groceries and clean off the dirt.

I watched him work and thought how clever he was to get all the dirt off and pack the cart full again. I was relieved as we started home once again. But I had forgotten that verse:

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." (Prov. 15:3.)

Mom was smarter than we were, and it wasn't long before she began to ask questions. She noticed the bananas at the bottom of one bag; then a loaf of bread crushed between cans of soup. She knew that no cashier would pack groceries that way. She didn't have to ask many questions for our red faces and guilty looks told the tale.

We were punished for our disobedience. I proved that day that disobedience does not pay, but only brings sorrow and shame, whereas obedience and happiness go together. I also learned the truth of that verse: "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Prov. 28:13.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9.

—Selected

(Answers: 1. With eyes like a flame of fire and feet like fine brass. 2. They had service, faith and patience. 3. Of letting a wicked woman teach. 4. A prophetic or preacher. 5. Fornication and eating things sacrificed unto idols. 6. So all the churches would know that He searches the desires of the heart. 7. He rewards those who overcome. 8. He said, "Hold fast till I come." 9. Power over nations, or over sin of the nations.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 Aug. 15, 1993

God Must Come First

"Papá, surely we are not all going to camp meeting tonight?" Juan asked. "The chicken thieves will get our chickens as they have gotten our neighbor's chickens."

"Ve veel go," Papá said in broken English. He was a Mexican immigrant, trying to make a living on a small farm in southern California. "God veel take care of our hens. You know ve have never missed a meeting, even during harvest time. God must come first. He veel vatch over our things."

Consuelo agreed with her brother. Someone should stay and watch their place, especially their fifty laying hens. Eggs were their main source of income in the spring while they were preparing the ground and planting. What would they do without the egg money?

On Thursday evening Consuelo hurriedly gathered the eggs. She washed them carefully and placed them in four egg cartons. "Almost every hen laid an egg today," she told her Papá as she rushed after him to feed the calf while he milked the cow.

After a quick supper they all went to the meeting, which Papá called a *fiesta*.

On their way home after the meeting, Consuelo sighed and said, "I left the sack of chicken feed in the hen house."

"You must get it," Papá said, "the chickens will have the grain spilled long before you get out of bed."

When they drove into the drive, Consuelo noticed the hen house door was open. Fearing she had also forgotten to close it, she ran swiftly to the house, hoping that her papá hadn't noticed. She peeked in to be sure the hens were all right. "The hens are all gone," she screamed.

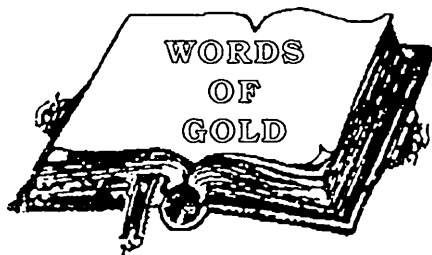
Juan and Papá came running. Not one hen was any where on the farm.

Consuelo looked at Juan. He was silent, but his eyes were saying, "Papá, I told you so."

As if he knew their thoughts, Papá said confidently, "Ve put God first, He veel take care of it." Then he started for the house.

"He'll pray for God to send them back," Juan whispered to Consuelo when Papá was out of hearing distance.

"No," Consuelo answered. "Surely we can't expect God to drop fifty chickens from the sky back into our pen."



Being Perfect Before God

Revelation 3:1-6

1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

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

6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

I Timothy 6:3-7, 9-11

3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to ... the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to ... godliness;

4-5 He is proud...and destitute of the truth, supposing that [gaining riches] is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

9 But they that will be rich fall...into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which

drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Romans 12:2

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

II Timothy 3:17

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

The Message: God will blot out the names of those imperfect persons in His Church in order to keep the Church perfect.

Questions:

1. Who can remember what the seven stars are? (Read Rev. 1:20)
2. In what condition were the people in this church?
3. What did Christ tell them to do?
4. What fault did Christ find in these people?
5. In what would the person who overcome be clothed?
6. Will Jesus confess that He knows the white robed?
7. Is becoming rich a sign of godliness?
8. What is the root of all evil?
9. Name some things we must do to become perfect.

Verse to Memorize

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:4.

Let's



Talk . . .

The city of Sardis was about fifty miles east of Smyrna. It was the capital of the famed Lydia kingdom, which is now Turkey. It was situated where the gold laden Pactolus River gushes out from the base of the Tmolus Mountains. Men mined from the river's sand without having to dig into the earth below. It is believed that the world's first coins were minted in this city. Croesus, its ruler, had his palace in this ancient city. He was so fabulously rich that ever since his reign men have said, "As rich as Croesus."

In 17 B.C., about twenty years before Christ's birth, Sardis was destroyed by an earthquake. Years later the Romans rebuilt the city, and it survived until 1402. Then Mongol Turks lead by Tamerland, a devout Muslem, swept over the country and almost completely destroyed the place. All the gold of the city did not make it perfect before God, nor keep it from being destroyed. Only a small village, near Izmir, Turkey, stands where the great city once stood.

The ancient Sardis must have known about God, for it seems to have had a large Jewish population. Archaeologist have uncovered a synagogue 60 X 270 feet. Uncovered also was a pagan temple 163 x 327 feet in which the goddess Artemis or sometimes called "Cybele" was worshipped. This goddess was the symbol of a fruitful nature and was supposed to be the twin sister of Apollo. The road leading to this temple entrance was flanked by crouching lions. Inside this temple many crosses were en-

graved. This tells us that this pagan temple was in later years used as a Christian church. However, this change took place after the Church had lost God's blessings. The church was called Christian, but it was not God's church at that time because it was not perfect.

When Christ had John write to the church, it was already becoming weak in faith. Some of its members were already spiritually dead. Christ wanted the Church perfect, so He asked them to be watchful and strengthen those who were yet alive, but ready to die. A few had not yet dirtied their white robe of righteousness. These Saints were perfect and their names were in the Book of Life and would not be blotted out. They would receive their reward. The names of all those who were not perfect would be removed from God's record.

In this abundantly rich city it must have been a great temptation for the brethren to set their heart on riches, and lose a love for the simple, perfect way of God.

—Charlotte Huskey



"Yes he will. You'll see," Juan said.

As usual, they gathered to have family prayers before going to bed. Juan and Consuelo listened carefully to Papá's prayer.

In a most loving voice, Papá prayed, "Father in heaven thou knows who has our chickens. Lord help the theives to know what terrible punishment is waiting for them. If they are hungry, please supply their needs and bless them. Then Lord, after you have taken care of them, make them so miserable about having my hens that they will bring them back. You are our good Father, so I know you veel do this for us."

Saturday the family went to camp meeting and stayed overnight. The next morning Papá told about his chickens being stolen, and that he was expecting them to be returned.

Consuelo felt embarrassed. "What if they don't come back?" she groaned.

When they got home Sunday night, Papá went straight to the hen house. Consuelo and Juan followed him.

It was full of hens! Juan ran to the house to tell Mamá.

Papá started on the top roost to count the sleepy cooing hens. "Uno, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco,...." he counted. Then he counted the next roost and the next. Consuelo counted behind Papá.

"All fifty hens were back," Consuelo said.

"Just as I expected," Papá said calmly.

Consuelo was so excited that she could hardly sleep that night.

Early the next morning she heard a truck driving into their yard. It was their neighbor. Consuelo opened her window and listened. She heard him saying to Papá. "Mr. García, I know

you have been praying. Your God wouldn't let me sleep until I returned your chickens. Then he wouldn't let me be at peace until I apologized."

That night in family worship, Papá read Psalm 139. "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.... Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: ... Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

"You see, God is always watching over His children. And He also sees all the evil that others do. He veel always take care of us and our things, if ve veel put him first," Papá said humbly.

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. The angels or pastors of the church. 2. They were dead, but thought they were alive. 3. To be watchful and strengthen that which remained alive. 4. He said they were not perfect. 5. In white. 6. Yes. 7. No. 8. Money. 9. We must not be conformed to this world. We must be content. We must follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 Aug. 22, 1993

Mr. Fees' Threat

"I'll be back tomorrow," Mr. Fees told Robert Johnson as he stepped off the front porch of the Johnson home in Denison, Texas.

"Well, Mamma," Robert said to his wife, Sarah, "That man is an infidel, if ever I saw one. Seems I'm wasting my time talking to him."

Sarah was scrubbing clothes on a wooden washboard. Her big, round, tin wash tub set on a crate beside the rain barrel at the corner of the house. Margaret dipped water for her mamma from the barrel which had been filled during the recent rain.

"What is an infidel?" questioned Margaret.

"An infidel is a person who believes that there is no God," her papa answered.

Margaret's eyes widened. She trembled to think what would happen to Mr. Fees and how miserable he must be. Just thinking about God caused her to feel happy.

"I think you'll need to get the midwife this evening," Sarah said, "I'm not feeling well."

"Then let me help you with the washing," Papa said, jumping quickly to her side.

Early the next morning, Sarah had a new baby. They named her Nennie Lee.

Nennie was soon smiling and cooing for the family. Mamma and the other five children shared the fun of playing with Nennie during the day. In the evening, Papa kept her all for himself.

One evening when Papa was playing with Nennie, Mamma said, "We must have a family picture made. I think something is going to happen to Nennie."

"What did you say?" Papa asked sharply.

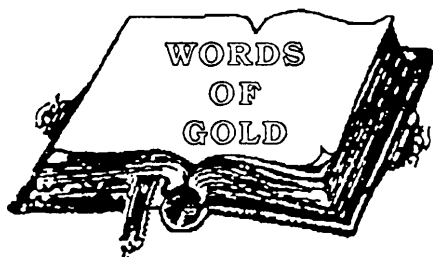
Mamma hesitated, "I think our baby will not live long."

"Oh, no," Papa wailed, "She is sweet as an angel." Papa didn't want to believe as Mamma did about his little darling, however, he took Mamma's advice. A family picture was made.

One week afterward, Nennie took sick with polio. The neighbors came scurrying in to give advice. Some said, "Give her only broths and juice to drink." Others said, "Never let Nennie drink cold water." The Ku Klux Klan members demanded, "A doctor must be called, or Nennie must be rushed immediately to the nearest hospital."

Mamma and Papa often discussed what should be done. "I am the God that healeth thee," Papa quoted.

Mamma, wiping tears, said, "I don't believe our Nennie will get well. But I



Hold Fast

Revelation 3:7-13

7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Hebrews 10:23, 32-36, 38

23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is

faithful that promised;)

32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, ... ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

33 Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.

34 ...and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

The Message: Hold fast, for no man can keep another person from entering into Christ, the opened door.

Questions:

1. To whom was this letter written?
2. Did God know the people's work?
3. What had God set before each one?
4. What good works had this church done?
5. Who was God willing to keep from the hour of temptation?
6. Why were the people to hold fast?
7. What will become of him that overcometh?
8. How are the just to live?
9. What will happen to those who draw back?

Verse to Memorize

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

Hebrews 10:23.

Let's



Talk . . .

Fleeing persecution in Jerusalem, Christians flocked into Philadelphia. Although a little frightened, they were excited about being Christians. Their optimistic attitude was so different from the enslaved attitude of the pagans that people readily noticed the difference. Opportunities came for the Christians to explain why they were so cheerful and wanted to hold fast to Christianity although they had to suffer because of it. When they told about their hope of heaven, and the assurance they felt that God was caring for them everyday, others began seeking for this same experience.

Capable men held worship services in Christian's homes, and sometimes evangelists came. In this way neighbors heard the gospel. Some accepted it and were saved. After a while there was a Church of God in Philadelphia.

The Christians in Philadelphia seemed to have kept their fervent love for God, for Jesus does not reprove them. He encourages them to hold fast to God for no man can take their crown.

There is a little hint of trouble among the brethren in this place or among this congregation and another one, for Jesus said, "I will make them who say they are Jews and are not to come and worship before *your feet* and to know that I have loved *thee*." (Jews in this sentence means Christians. Often in the New Testament, a saved person is referred to as a Jew.) He also said

to them, "I set before *you* an open door that *no man* can shut or open."

Whatever others do, they cannot keep a Christian from entering into the presence of God or receiving their reward.

It seems that the ancient city of Philadelphia was never completely destroyed. Today it is called Alasehir and is in the country of Turkey. King Attalus II was ruler of the old city. Whether he named the city Philadelphia because of it meaning, "brotherly love" we do not know. However, we know that Christians at Philadelphia had brotherly love. Also, that God blessed them, because they had held fast to His Word and did not deny His name. He promised to keep them from a great temptation that was to come upon all the world. This was a wonderful promise. How rewarding it is to serve God. He always does more for us than we could ever sacrifice for Him. Many of the Christians who lived in Philadelphia truly loved and served God with their whole heart. Jesus encouraged them to keep right on living for Him and they would receive their crown.

Today, Jesus is saying the same to all those who love and serve Him. I hope that every reader will hold fast to Jesus. If persecutions come, remember, all the troubles we have had will seem like nothing when we receive our reward.



still want to trust the Lord; for Jeremiah 17:5, says, "Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD."

Mr. Fees was one of the neighbors who belonged to the Ku Klux Klan. The Klan, as it is often called, is a powerful social club. It often uses violence to achieve its aims. They often threaten, beat and murder people. At this time the Klan had almost 2,000,000 members only in the U.S. At meetings or during violence their members wear hoods and robes. They burn crosses at their evening outdoor meetings to frighten non-members.

At one of the Klan meetings, one man said, "I think we must take action against Mr. Johnson, because he's trusting God to heal his little baby."

The others agreed.

One of the Klan members met Papa in the corn field the next day. "Say, Mr. Johnson," he said, "we think its time you get a doctor to cure your little girl."

Papa loosened the horse's reins and leaned against the cultivator. "God knows what He's doing with my little angel," Papa answered. "God always does what is best for His children."

"I didn't come out fer a sermon," the man stormed. "I came to tell you that you better not let that child die. Did yu hear me?" He shook a fist in Papa's face and continued, "If she does die, we're gonna tie you up and beat you within an inch of your life with a big horse whip."

Five month old Nennie wasn't getting any better. One of the Klan's wives checked on her everyday.

A special meeting was called. First one and then another ranted and raged about Mr. Johnson. After they had calmed down, plans were made to kidnap Mr. Johnson, tie him up and lay on the lash.

"I'll bring my shotgun," Mr. Fees promised.

"Terrific!" the men shouted.

"Yep, I'll be there with my gun, and plenty o' shot and powder."

The men shouted again.

"But listen to me," Mr. Fees said. "I'm gonna use my shotgun on anyone of you that sets foot in Mr. Johnson's yard."

"What?" they gasped. "But you were helping us."

"Nope, I'm not helping you'un. I don't believe there is a God. But I don't want anyone bothering me about what I believe. Neither should we bother Mr. Johnson 'cause he does believe in God."

The meeting broke up. The men knew Mr. Fees. He would shoot.

Not long after this meeting, a wife of a Klan member knocked on the Johnson's door. "I've come to care for the baby while you get some rest," she said.

A few days later another wife came to help, then another. These neighbors helped all through the hot July of 1916, until Nennie was taken back to heaven and her little body laid away under the sod.

The truth Mr. Fees had spoken changed a lot of people. God used him, although he was an infidel.

(Mr. Johnson is the father of Sis. Margaret Eck, Sis. Hattie Dean, and the late Sis. Etta Davis.)

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. To the saints in Philadelphia. 2. Yes. 3. An open door which no man could shut. 4. They had kept the Word and not denied His name. 5. Those who had kept the Word. 6. Because Jesus was coming quickly, and they would either receive or lose their crown. 7. He will be made a pillar in the temple of God. 8. By faith. 9. God will have no pleasure in them.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 Aug. 29, 1993

Contented, But Wrong

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 14:12.

Sometimes men and women, boys and girls, think that they are on their way to heaven. They are happy with the way they are living. They believe that what they are doing will not hurt anyone, not even themselves. Have you ever thought you were right, when you were wrong?

Todd boarded a train in Detroit that was headed toward Chicago. Another man got on the same train. He looked perfectly satisfied that everything was fine. Choosing a seat across the aisle from Todd, he got a pillow from the compartment above. Then placing the pillow behind his head, he settled back to enjoy the ride. He smiled contentedly as he looked out the window.

After they had traveled many miles, the conductor came through the train collecting tickets. "How long will it be until we arrive in Chicago?" asked a lady sitting across the aisle.

"In another hour," the conductor answered.

"Thank you," she said, then added, "I trust we shall have a safe trip."

When the man in front of her handed the conductor his ticket, the

conductor exclaimed, "You are on the wrong train!"

"What?" the man asked. "Isn't this train headed for Akron?"

"This train is going to Chicago."

"No, no," the man exclaimed angrily. "But I thought sure this was the right train."

"No," the conductor answered, "This train is going west."

"And I wanted to go east!" he exclaimed.

Todd watched to see if the man would blame the conductor. He did not. Neither did he settle himself back against his comfortable pillow.

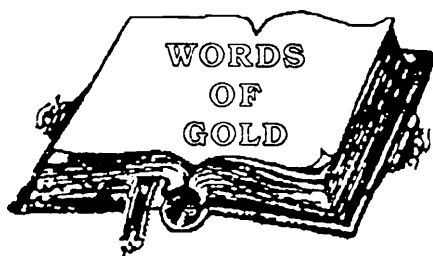
When he found he was going the wrong way, he got his things together so that he would be ready to get off the train as soon as it stopped.

The man got off at the next station. He crossed the tracks quickly and stood ready to board the train that would take him where he wanted to go.

"That man is determined to go the right direction," Todd said to the young lady across the aisle.

"Yes," she agreed. "And wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone was as determined to go to heaven as he is in going to Akron?"

When Todd first saw her he thought she must be a Christian, now he was more sure. "Yes," Todd an-



The Lukewarm Church

Revelation 3:14-22

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

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

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Joshua 24:14-16, 20, 24

14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth...

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day

whom ye will serve ...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

16 And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD....

20 If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.

24 And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

I Peter 1:3, 2:5

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

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

The Message: We must read the Bible and pray daily so that we will not become lukewarm in spirit and have God reject us.

Questions:

1. In what spiritual condition was the church at Laodicea?
2. How did God want them to be?
3. What was God planning to do to this lukewarm church?
4. How did the people feel about themselves?
5. What was their true condition?
6. What did God tell them to do?
7. Why did God rebuke them?
8. What did God promise to do, if they opened up for Him?
9. What reward is offered to those who overcome?

Verse To Memorize

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him....

Revelation 3:20.

Let's



Talk . . .

Laodicea was located on the ancient highway leading up from Ephesus through the Maeander and Lycus valleys to the east and on to Syria. Colosse lies ten miles east, and Hierapolis is six miles northeast. It was populated by Syrians and Jews which Antiochus II had brought from Babylonia about 250 years before Christ. It was named for his wife, Laodice. The great city was situated on an almost square plateau a hundred feet above the valley, and was surrounded by extensive fertile fields and good grazing grounds. The place soon became famous for its beauty and wealth, derived largely from sheep, whose glossy black wool was woven into garments and carpets. It became a center for banking and other financial operations, conducted mostly by the wealthy Jews. Eventually it became the capital of West Phrygia and the chief city of all Asia.

The city declined after Seljuk Turk wars and was abandoned in the thirteenth century. It is unexcavated but the lines of its city walls, its two theaters and its 1,000 foot long stadium may be traced. (About two and one-half football fields could be placed inside such a large stadium.)

The saints in Laodicea were affected by the busy, wealthy life style of their city. They too became rich and began loving things money could buy more than the spiritual blessings of God. Once they had been in a *hot* spiritual condition but now they are *lukewarm*. They called themselves Christians and said they were rich and need nothing. Perhaps they thought that becoming rich was a

sign that God was blessing them. However, they did not love God's Word nor did they enjoy praying as they should have.

Jesus told them that they were "wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked." They were looking at the things that money could buy, but Jesus was looking at their spiritual condition. He said they needed eyesalve, to heal their eyes so they would see things in the right way. He said they were naked because in this lukewarm condition their robes of righteousness had slipped off. Their gold had no value. They needed the rich gold of God's Word which has eternal value.

Do we too need eyesalve, so we can understand God's Word? Has luke-warmness caused someone's robe of righteousness to slip off? How can we tell? Ask yourself, "What do I love more than Jesus?" How can I tell what I love most? We will think pleasantly about what ever we love most. Loving anything more than we love Jesus will cause a lukewarm spiritual condition.

Jesus wants us to have a hot strong desire to do His will and read His Word. Those who have fallen into a lukewarm condition may return to Christ by asking forgiveness. Jesus said he was knocking at the hearts of those lukewarm Christians in Laodicea. If they would just open up to Him, he would come again into their hearts. Jesus is doing the same for every lukewarm heart.

—Charlotte Huskey

Laodicea



swered excitedly. "But some people are confused about what is the right way to get there. Many think if they are sincere in their religion, they are on their way."

She laughed. "That man would never have arrived in Akron just because he sincerely believed he was going there," she said, then added, "The Lord Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.' John 14:6. Only through salvation in Jesus can a person get to heaven."

Todd agreed. Then very seriously he said, "But it is so sad that many are unconcerned. They seem so satisfied. They act at peace with themselves and with others. Yet they are on the wrong road. They are carelessly traveling the broad road that leads down to destruction."

"Yes, if we do not have Christ as our Saviour, we are on that broad road. We have to turn completely around, just as that young man turned around and went the other way," she added.

"And the happy thing is, that anyone can turn his life around this moment by coming to Jesus and taking Him as their Saviour and Lord. Then instead of being all wrong, they will be happy, contented and ALL RIGHT."

The train was coming to a stop at the station in Chicago when they finished talking.

"I enjoyed visiting with you," Todd told the pretty lady. "It is very pleasant to meet Christians. Here is my phone number. Call me collect anytime you would like to chat."

She smiled shyly and answered, "Maybe I will. It is wonderful to meet a young man who is going the RIGHT WAY."

—Charlotte Huskey

A Hid Treasure

Old Joel was a Christian who hid his money between the pages of his Bible. He thought the money would be safe there.

One night some robbers broke into his house. They hunted all over for his money. They emptied his drawers, they ransacked his cupboards, they lifted up his carpets, they looked behind the pictures. But they didn't find any money. They never thought of looking in the Bible which was laying in plain sight on the living room table.

There are many treasures found in the Bible. We may all find some of these treasures. It is full of precious ones. It contains the wonderful story about Jesus the Saviour of man. It tells us about God the Father who created the beautiful world that we enjoy. It tells about the heavenly home which God has prepared for His children. It tells, too, of hell, the dreadful place to which all who reject the Lord Jesus will go. The very best treasure found in the Bible is the plan of salvation. By following it one can escape going to hell.

We must love and read the Scriptures daily. Reading a precious promise of God is like finding a new treasure. The Word is able to make you wise unto salvation, which will lead you to that everlasting heavenly home. That will be the grandest treasure that anyone can find.

—Selected

(Answers: 1. It was lukewarm. 2. He wanted them to be either hot or cold. 3. Spue them out. 4. They thought they were rich and had need of nothing. 5. They were wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. 6. Repent. 7. Because He loved them. 8. He would come in unto them. 9. To sit with Jesus on his throne.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 Sept. 5, 1993

Compel Them to Praise God

(In John Wesley's time, thousands came out to hear the preaching. This story of today is based on a true story.)

Lies were being told on the Christians in Wanapon, Mexico. The superstitious Indians believed the lies, and only the very fervent were attending the regular worship service at the mission.

In an effort to reach the persons in darkness, it was decided to have a meeting every night. But only the faithful few came out. "You are not working hard enough to get people to come," the pastor complained. "Each one must visit someone in his village and invite them to Jesus and bring them to worship service. How many will promise to bring a friend tomorrow night?" Several hands were raised. "Now I said, *bring* them. I did not say *ask* them," he scolded.

Mario wanted very much to bring visitors to church. He invited several friends. Two of them came with him, but when they got to the door a great fear gripped them and they would not go in. Before service started, they went away.

Mario sat for a while with his head down, then he got up and went out.

Down the narrow dark street he walked until he met a man. "Amigo," he greeted the stranger, "Come with me to worship God at the mission."

"I have heard the Christians do terrible things," he said. "People tell me that they sometimes eat those who are senseless enough to come inside the mission."

"Come with me and see for your self," Mario said with great determination. Then picking up the man he started for the mission. The man kicked and struggled, but Mario held on tightly until he had the man seated in a corner inside the building. Then Mario sat himself down between the man and the door so his guest could not escape as his other two visitors had done.

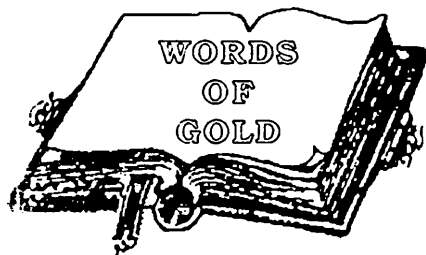
The terror-stricken man looked around, his eyes darting this way and that way.

After a while, Mario noticed the man calming down. Gradually he appeared to be interested. At least Mario hoped he was.

After the service closed, Mario stood up and said, "Amigo, you may go home now."

"What?" he exclaimed. "Aren't you going to eat me?" Mario knew by this that he was no longer afraid of the Christians.

"No," said Mario. "I just wanted you to hear the gospel."



John Sees God's Throne

Revelation 4:1-11

1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they

rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

The Message: We must live carefully so we will someday be a part of those worshipping God around His throne.

Questions:

1. What door did John see?
2. What did the trumpet voice say to John?
3. What did John see in heaven?
4. What was round about the throne?
5. Describe the elders?
6. How were the Spirits of God pictured?
7. What was continually being said around the throne?
8. What did the elders do with their crowns?
9. Why were things created?

Verse to Memorize

...There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 21:4.

Let's



Talk . . .

Would you like to see inside heaven? I would, and that is what God let John do. Inside, he saw a throne and a Being on the throne so precious that He appeared as dazzling jewels. Over the throne was an emerald rainbow. Around it sat twenty-four white robed elders, wearing golden crowns. Seven lamps burned before the throne and four living creatures praised God continually, saying, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come." We must live faithful here on earth so that we can become one of those praising God around the throne.

Now let's talk about the meanings of this great picture that John saw! The objects John saw in this vision were symbols of other things. The throne is a symbol of God's supreme power and authority. God is light, so His appearance could only be likened to the most luminous gems.

The rainbow is a symbol of the everlasting agreement God makes with each saved person. Remember the story of Noah? God gave a rainbow as a token of his promise to Noah. (Gen. 9:8-16.)

The twenty-four elders, represent the leadership of God's church. The twelve patriarchs and the prophets were leaders in the Old Testament times. They bravely stood for faith in the living God, while men around them worshipped sticks, stones, sun, moon and stars. The twelve apostles were Church leaders after Christ's death. They hazarded their lives to spread this gospel.

The seven lamps, were not lamp stands or candlesticks but seven

flames of fire. These represent the Holy Spirit of God, which of course is light just as God is light. Remember seven in the Bible is used for completeness or the whole of anything.

The strange beasts or living creatures represent the saved people of all ages. They were like as a lion, a calf, a man and an eagle. A lion is noted for strength and courage, an ox (calf) for steady, patient labour, a man for reason and intelligence, and an eagle is an emblem of swiftness and far sighted vision. Saved people have these and many other characteristics that these animals could symbolize. Being full of eyes signifies the understanding and watchfulness of God's people. The six wings could signify going into the whole world with the gospel.

These creatures were continually praising God. There was no discouragement, trouble or sorrow. No tears dimmed their eyes, nor choked their voices as they praised God. Oh, that we might be faithful and join the throng in heaven.

All who are in heaven feel much gratitude. They do not feel worthy of such joy. The twenty four elders did not feel worthy either. They took off their crowns and laid them before the throne, saying, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour, and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

Many times in the beginning of this book, Jesus called himself Alpha and Omega, the *first* and the *last*. The four beasts said, "God was, and is and is to come." The elders called Him the Creator and said that all things were created for His pleasure. All are saying that He is the beginning and the end, the *first* and the *last*. Everything was started by Him and all will end when the faithful are gathered around His throne in heaven to worship Him for ever and ever.

—Charlotte Huskey

The next night the man came back and continued to come. Soon he accepted Christ as his Saviour and Lord.

He is now a close friend of Mario, although he was captured and carried into the gospel hall the first time he came. Now he is a willing captive of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isa. 55:7.

—Selected

What Was It?

He was a farmer King
Who reigned o'er Judah long,
And while he sought the Lord
Ruled wisely and was strong;
But - oh, that little word,
It has a voice for all.
This word in Proverbs find,
Which caused this good king's fall.
(Prov. 16:5, & II Chron. 26:1-16)
(Answer: Pride.)

It Couldn't Be Done

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But he with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so til he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with a trace of a grin
If he worried a bit, he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;
At least no one ever has done it;"
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.

With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure;
There are thousands to point out to you, one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off you coat and go to it;
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing
That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.

How She Knew

A poor Italian lady was asked how she knew the Bible was the Word of God. At first she became confused and could not answer. But suddenly she turned to her inquirer and asked,

"How do you know there is a sun in the sky?"

"I feel its warmth and I see its light," was the reply.

"Just so!" cried the poor woman joyfully. "That is how I know that the Bible is from God, for it warms my heart and lightens my soul."

(Answers: It was a door opened in heaven. 2. Come up here. 3. A throne with someone sitting on it. 4. A rainbow. 5. There were 24 white robed elders wearing crowns. 6. As seven lamps of fire burning. 7. "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come". 8. They cast their crowns before the throne. 9. For God's pleasure.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 Sept. 12, 1993

The Scarlet Sash

"They are coming! The robbers from the hills! They have outnumbered the police and driven them away! What shall we do?"

The cry ran from lip to lip in a great city in northwest China. The bandits were on their way to ransack the town. The armed officers had fled before them, and the town was at their mercy.

Suddenly there arose a cry: "To the foreigner's house! The mission compound is large! There we shall be safe!"

So the English missionary found to his amazement the doors of his compound besieged by a terrified crowd—men, women and children by the hundreds were clamoring to be admitted to the shelter of the mission. Mr. Shirley, the missionary, could do nothing except pray. God knew, and God could preserve them even now with danger and death advancing so near.

The bandits' leader soon learned where the people had gone. After looting the village of all that he and his men wanted, he started hunting the missionary. "The foreigner! Show me where he lives!" he shouted to all. No one dared tell him, for their mother, or child, or uncle or father was hidden in the compound.

Mr. Shirley knew only too well what kind of fate was likely to be in store for him and the people he was protecting. But he made no attempt to hide or escape. Calm and fearless, he went outside. Closing the gate behind him to protect the frightened villagers, he waited for the bandit. His heart raced, and he prayed silently all the while.

"Where is the foreigner?" demanded the bandit chief as he galloped up the street.

"Here! I am he!" The missionary called. He hoped this would keep the bandit from hurting the man he had just stopped and asked. He stood waiting. What terrible fate was to be his, he did not know.

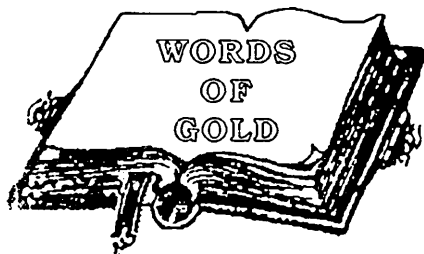
How surprised he was when the robber chief stopped and looked carefully at him. Then the chief came forward smiling — *and held out a friendly hand.*

"You are the foreigner?"

"Yes."

"No harm shall come to you," said the bandit. "Once I was ill, and one of your foreign doctors saved my life. So now your life shall be spared. Here, take this!" he said, as he untied his scarlet sash from his neck and handed it to Mr. Shirley.

Mr. Shirley hesitated to accept the scarf.



Jesus Opens The Book

Revelation 5:1-14

1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book...sealed with seven seals.

2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth...was able to open the book....

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book....

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals....

6 And I beheld...in the midst of the throne...and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth...heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

The Message: Only Jesus could open the Book that made salvation possible.

Questions:

1. What did John see in the hand of him that sat on the throne?
2. What did the angel ask?
3. Why did John cry?
4. Who was found to open the book?
5. What did the elders do when the Lamb took the book?
6. What did the elders have in their hands?
7. Who did the Lamb redeem?
8. How many were praising the Lamb for opening the book?
9. What was the multitude in heaven and on earth saying?

Verse to Memorize

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

Let's



Talk . . .

Things are different when John looks into heaven this time. The twenty-four elders and the living creatures are again around God's throne, but now there is a mysterious sealed book in the right hand of God. An angel is shouting, "Who is worthy to loose the seals and open the Book?"

John watches heaven and earth being searched for someone who is worthy to open the Book. No one is found. John cries.

An elder trying to comfort John says, "The Lion of the Tribe of Juda will open the Book."

Then through tear dimmed eyes, John sees a strange Lamb come forward. The Lamb has seven horns and seven eyes. It appears to have been killed, yet it is alive, for it takes the book. John watches to see if He will open it. At that moment the twenty-four elders, each carrying a harp and a golden bowl full of the Saint's prayers, fall before the Lamb and began singing, "Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof; for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth" about the Lamb's blood redeeming them and making them kings and priests unto God. Suddenly John hears not only the singing voices of the elders, but the voices of thousands and thousands of people singing praises to God.

Now that we have a picture of what John saw, let's unravel the mysteries of this vision. The book in God's hand is His plan of salvation for all people. This includes people from the beginning of the world until its end. A book cannot help anyone unless it can be opened, read and understood. Just as a book cannot help until it is first opened, so God's plan of salvation could not save until a sinless sacrifice was made. But a sinless person could not be found. Jesus (the Lion of Juda) saw the sad condition and offered to go to earth and live a sinless life.

Jesus did live a sinless life and was then worthy to "open the Book." He was sacrificed by dying on the cross and that made the plan of salvation ready to work and available to everyone.

For years people had sacrificed innocent, perfect lambs to atone for their sins. These all died and went to heaven. They were a part of the multitude rejoicing and praising God for salvation.

The *Lion of Judah* and the *Lamb* are both symbols of Jesus. The seven horns and seven eyes, represent the complete fullness of God's Holy Spirit on Jesus. All of God's spirit and power are a part of Jesus. Horns often represent authority and leadership and eyes indicate great knowledge and understanding. Jesus has the complete fullness of all these characteristics.

Only through faith in Jesus can a person be saved from sin and receive eternal life. Let us ever praise God as the multitudes were doing around the throne of God.

Turn to page 85 in *Evening Light Songs* and read more about this wonderful Lion of Judah.

—Charlotte Huskey

F.G.Smith, *The Revelation Explained*, Faith Publishing House, pgs.79-89.

"Take it! Take it," he demanded. "Tie it to the gate of your compound. None of my gang will dare harm you or anyone else within your gates. They know the sign of my scarlet sash."

The chief left. His robber band pursued their way through the city, robbing and looting everywhere. But none came near the mission—it was safe!—protected by the robber's sash.

The missionaries and their Chinese guests, sheltered behind that scarf tied on the gate, opened their Bibles and read of others who were saved by a scarlet line. Rahab was saved by hanging a red cord in her window when Joshua and his men came to destroy Jericho, for she had let down the men by a cord from a window on the city wall, and the messengers escaped back to Joshua's camp. Later Rahab and her family were saved when she obeyed their order and tied the red cord in her window. To Rahab it was a signal of protection.

To us it is also a picture of protection from the devil and his tricks. A scarlet line runs through all the Word of God. It tells of Jesus, who on the cross of Calvary put away sin so that man's guilt that is like scarlet, and red like crimson can be washed as white as snow.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isa. 1: 18.

The crowd of Chinese women and children were safe behind the gate where hung the scarlet sash, because Mr. Shirley had risked his life to talk with the robber chief. We read that "...Jesus also, that He might sanctify (cleanse) the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate." Hebrews 13:12. Jesus came out of His home in heaven and met the devil's

power and the judgment of God against sin. He did this when He sacrificed His life on the cross for all those who trust Him as their Saviour.

Are you under the shelter of His blood, dear reader?

It cost the blood of God's dear Son

To save the soul of anyone.

We have no strength, we're guilty, lost;

But grace is free, at infinite cost.

Friend, be with sin forever done,
And put your trust in that blest One.

—Selected

Not Here Long

"Fear not, neither be discouraged," is a word from God to every tract distributor (Deut. 1:21.)

A mailman, when making his rounds one day, noticed on a letter he delivered the words, "Not Here Long!" "From the return address on the envelope, he judged it to be from a son in the armed forces, intimating that he would soon be moved to another camp.

As he continued his rounds, the mailman thought of those words "Not Here Long!" They could be written on every letter, he said to himself.

Each one of us, old and young, could truthfully say, "Not Here Long!"

(Answers: 1. A sealed book. 2. "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the book?" 3. Because no one was found worthy of opening the book. 4. "The lion of the tribe of Judah." 5. They fell down and worshipped Him. 6. Harps and golden vials full of the saint's prayers. 7. People of all nations. 8. 10,000 X 10,000 = 100,000,000 and thousands and thousands. 9. "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.")

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 Sept. 19, 1993

The Guthrie Flood

Tim Huskey answered his phone. "Ernest Davis just called. He says, that the Cottonwood Creek has overflowed on to his pasture. It usually floods the area around the church a few hours after it does his place," Bob Sallee said.

Tim looked at his clock. It was six a.m., April 29, 1993.

By nine o'clock, the brethren had loaded on to George Montgomery's low-boy trailer, two commercial cook stoves, a refrigerator, a washer, a dryer, and a 100 gallon hot water tank. The heavy Hobart 30 qt. mixer was lifted by six men and placed on a sturdy, homemade work table. The ice maker was placed on another work table. The three doors of the big seven foot wide refrigerator were opened so if the water did get that high, it could enter the refrigerator and keep it from floating. Benches were placed upside down on the few heavy tables that remained in the dining hall. Fortunately all dishes, cooking equipment, folding tables and chairs had been carried up the stairs to the ladies' dorm the last day of the Assembly that ended on January 2.

While some were clearing the dining hall, others were picking up song books, seat cushions, foot rugs, Sunday School material, etc., from the Church of God chapel at Sixth and West Warner. These were stored in the

baptistery, which is 43 inches above the chapel floor. The pulpit and the curved altar were placed on top of the benches in the Sunday School room behind the pulpit.

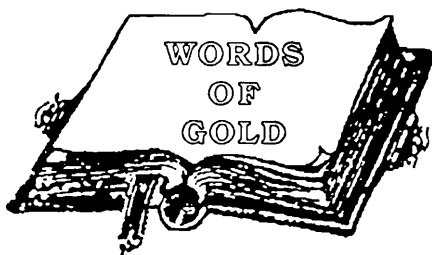
Bob Sallee checked the flood marker located in the Cottonwood under the viaduct. It was just two feet below flood stage, and the water from Seward, eight miles west, was yet to come.

The rain continued Friday and Saturday, but the Cottonwood Creek kept faithfully carrying away the water and dumping it into the Cimmaron River three miles north of Guthrie.

The saints gathered early Sunday morning and put the chapel back in order. Worship service was held. The chapel was dismantled again after evening service as the Cottonwood was still near flood level, and rain was still falling.

Monday it was raining again. Tuesday morning the Cottonwood was out of her banks at the College Street bridge. Wednesday evening the church was reorganized before service and dismantled again afterwards.

Thursday it was cloudy and stormy looking, but parents and students of the Path of Life School went to Roman Nose Park for an overnight camp out. No rain fell on Guthrie, until about 6:00 p.m. Friday after most everyone had arrived home.



A Conquering Church

Revelation 6:1-2

1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

Acts 2:1-6, 37-38, 41-43, 47

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

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

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day

there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

47 ...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 4:1-4

1 And as they spake unto the people, the priests...came upon them.

2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

The Message: The early morning Church conquered over sin and sickness, and multitudes were daily added to it.

Questions:

1. Who opened the seals?
2. What animal did John see?
3. What did the rider have?
4. What did the rider do?
5. On what day were the disciples filled with the Holy Spirit?
6. What did the people want to know?
7. What were they to do to be saved?
8. How many obeyed and were saved?
9. The day Peter was put in jail, how many men were in God's Church?

Verse to Memorize

...He...gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

Luke 9:1.

Let's



Talk . . .

Who would like to ride a horse? Well, our lesson is about a horse. The horse is white and its rider is the winner.

As we continue to study Revelation, keep in mind that the visions John is seeing are messages from God. In chapter one, he saw a vision that revealed the greatness of God and His Church. (God was the first and the last. The churches were golden candlesticks. The ministers were stars.) Chapters two and three are letters to help the seven churches in Asia. God's throne is pictured in chapter four. In chapter five, Jesus opened the Book so people may be saved.

Chapter six is the breaking of six seals. It shows the history of God's church. The first two verses give us a picture of what is called the *early morning church*. The early morning is the time when a day first begins. The *early morning church* is the Church of God when it first started on earth.

The world began seeing the Church soon after Jesus ascended back into heaven. He had lived a sinless life and died a sacrificial death. The way of salvation was complete. Now all men everywhere could become a part of this glorious Church.

On that momentous day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled the hearts of the believers. This set the Church of God in working order. It was like pouring gasoline into an empty motor. The Church now had power to move forward, and it did move forward. On that day, 3,000 more people

believed in Jesus. A few days later the number of men (not counting women and children) was 5,000. Not only were people saved, but "many wonders and signs were done by the apostles."

The vision God gave to John pictures this church age as a man riding a white horse. He has a crown on his head and a bow for a weapon, and he is conquering. Kings wear crowns. In last week's lesson, the elders praised the Lamb because His blood had made them kings and priests unto God. The early morning believers were kings (rulers), and priests, (servants of God). They ruled over sin and served God. Their weapons, a bow and arrows, were the Word and the Holy Spirit. The preaching of the Gospel is like arrows, shot to hit a certain target. The Holy Spirit drives God's Word into man's stony heart.

This conqueror rode a white horse. The color white often represents peace and purity. The white stripes in our American flag do. Wedding dresses are often white, a symbol that the bride is pure. The *early morning church* was pure. Christians were persecuted and often put to death. Only the pure who were ready to die dared to join themselves with the believers.

In chapter five we read about a great multitude around the throne praising God for salvation. In this lesson, a great multitude on earth is praising God for salvation.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to be in a congregation where thousands of people were being added to the Church? I'm sure we would feel like a winner riding a powerful white stallion. And we would be happy to give our seats to the elderly and sickly, and share our lunch with the poor.

—Charlotte Huskey

(F.G. Smith, *The Revelation Explained*, Faith Publishing House, Guthrie, p. 90-96.)

Within 24 hours a severe thunder storm with high winds dumped 6.55 inches of rain over central Oklahoma. Awakened Saturday morning by the shrill whistling of the city flood alarm, we telephoned the fire department. "It was a mal-function," the fireman said, "but we will have a flood. It is expected to be six feet above flood stage early tomorrow morning.

Saturday afternoon four feet of muddy water had already forced its way inside Morgan's Auto World on South Division. A forty foot span of the new highway under construction blew out like a volcano losing its top.

The same afternoon Bird Creek surged out of control and gushed into Juanita (Eck) Creel's home on Walker Drive. Within minutes water was gurgling up through the vent pipes and ducts. Dwane Sorrell came quickly with a truck to haul out the furniture, but two feet of water was already in the house when he arrived. Struggling hard, Dwane did rescue Juanita's cedar chest where her keepsakes were stored. However, her pictures were wet and ruined. The water ruined all the beds, everything in the bottom drawers and shelves, clothes and shoes in the closets, and the refrigerator. It got into the new electric stove, the new washer and the dryer. Thirty inches of water was in the garage before they could get the car moved. The Creel's fled to the Miles' house on Magnolia Drive and watched the raging water destroy their newly remodeled home. It rose until it was two feet above their six foot back yard fence.

Later that evening, the water went down. Knowing it was best to clean up immediately after a flood, they hosed out the house. About 2:00 a.m. Sunday morning, the water rose again. This time it was laden heavily with mud. When this water receded, an inch of slimy mud, ten lively frogs, a

dozen foot-long earthworms and many slugs covered the carpet.

A little further east, flood waters carrying two railroad ties, rushed across the cul-de-sac and into John and Wanda Gibson's yard. These ties were left about three feet from their house. The water rushed along side of the house next door and back again into the creek, leaving that house partially flooded and sitting on an island. At three a.m. they were awakened by a policeman and told to be ready to evacuate.

After finishing her days work, Esther Hightower left Golden Age Rest Home and started for her home south of Guthrie. On every route she took a street was flooded, so she spent the night in town at her brother's home.

At 3:30 Saturday afternoon, the city flood warning sounded. The usual preparation to protect the church property had already been made. The saints waited and hoped it would not get into the chapel which is built three feet above the street level.

Cottonwood Creek flows along the south edge of the west part of Guthrie. From 13th Street up on the hill down to 4th Street the bank has been washed away by previous floods. So when the creek gets too full, it spills over covering all the low area.

The water moves west from 4th street and east from 9th. It merges, then flows north. Sometimes it creeps slowly like a cold blooded reptile in the dead of winter. At other times it rushes and roars like a hungry lion chasing its prey.

(To be continued.)

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. The Lamb. 2. A white horse. 3. A bow and a crown. 4. He went forth conquering. 5. On the day of Pentecost. 6. How to be saved. 7. Repent and be baptized. 8. 3,000. 9. 5,000.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 Sept. 26, 1993

The Guthrie Flood

Raleah, who lives in the flood area, heard the siren on Saturday afternoon. "Is that a flood warning?" she asked.

"Maybe," her cousin, Licha, answered. "Seems it's been raining for weeks, and it's been pouring all day today. Say, let's go see if it is really flooding. I'll call Sis. Janie." "I'd love to go," Sis. Janie said. "And I'd like to pick up Tracie at Wal-Mart."

When they returned, Tracie was already home. Her supervisor knew the east and west sides of Guthrie are sometimes separated for days by flood water.

Bro. Wayne, manager of the Faith Publishing House, also heard the siren. It is only a ten minute drive from his home so he and his two children Jason and Patina, drove in to check things out. The publishing house is located at 920 W. Mansur. Sis. Janie Woodruff and daughter Tracie live in the first house east of the Publishing House. Raleah Campbell and Licha Lara live in the old Pruitt home just west of the shop on the corner of Mansur and Ninth.

"There are some necessary precautions we must take," Bro. Wayne said, after he arrived. "But first let's check out where it's already flooding and see how fast the water is rising."

Smitty, the local fire chief was also out checking the flood conditions. First he checked Seward, for the water from Seward flows to Guthrie. "The Cottonwood under the viaduct is already above

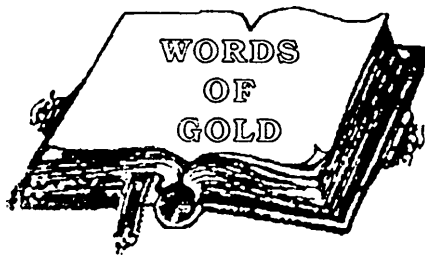
flood stage, and it's only 5:35 p.m.," he told the other firemen when he returned. "And we haven't yet gotten the water from the local runoff."

Smitty checked again at 7:00 p.m. Seward had risen 14.5 feet in less than one and one-half hours! A foot of muddy flood water was now covering the whole west part of Guthrie. From the creek (near 4th Street) to 9th Street, it looked like a wide river rushing northward. Only patches of tall green grass, trees and building could be seen above the flood. Water covered the first of the four steps of the Church of God chapel. A little patch of grass could be seen in front of the dining hall. By now the muddy water had covered all of the area east of Eighth Street, just one-half block from Sis. Janie's house.

Bro. Wayne checked the water again at eight and nine o'clock. It showed no signs of rising and was still flowing good. Thinking it would not get higher, he took his two children and went home.

Raleah and Licha went to bed in the living room in case something happened during the night. Tracie and Sis. Janie slept with one car open.

Smitty measured the water again at eight, nine, ten, eleven, and twelve o'clock. It was holding, but he knew the 14.5 feet of water from Seward would soon be in Guthrie. At 12:00 a.m. the civil defense workers were sent out to awaken people in danger areas. "The water is coming fast," the worker told



The Church is Persecuted

Revelation 6:3-4

3 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

Acts 19:24-29, 34-41

24 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen;

25 Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.

26 Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

27 So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.

28 And...they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

29 And...having caught Gaius and Aristarchus...Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre.

34 But...all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

35 And when the townclerk had appeased the people, he said, Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Jupiter?

36 Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly.

37 For ye have brought hither these men, which are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess.

38 Wherefore if Demetrius, and the craftsmen...have a matter against any man, the law is open....

39 ...it shall be determined in a lawful assembly.

40 For we are in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar, there being no cause whereby we may give an account of this concourse.

41 And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly.

The Message: We must stay true to God, even when He lets persecution come to us.

Questions:

1. What seal did John see opened?
2. What color was the horse?
3. What was given to the rider?
4. What was the craft of Demetrius and the workmen?
5. Who was Diana? (verse 35)
6. What had Paul done?
7. Why did the men dislike Paul's preaching?
8. What did the men cry out for about two hours?
9. How did the town clerk calm the people?

Verse to Memorize

...At that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria.

Acts 8:1.

Let's



Talk . . .

In this awful vision John sees a red horse whose rider has a murderous sword. He is given power to kill and take peace from the earth.

Just as the color white sometimes represents purity and peace, the color red often symbolizes red blood. The red strip in the American flag stands for the blood of the men and women who were killed in defence of our great nation.

In our last lesson we learned that the different visions of horses that John saw stand for church events. The pure *early morning church* was conquering over sin, many being saved daily, so it was pictured as a victorious rider on a white horse.

The red horse and murderous rider must represent some religious group who will battle against the *early morning Church*. The men in Ephesus fought against the Church. They wanted Paul and his helpers immediately killed, because some people believed Paul's teachings and stopped worshipping the goddess Diana. The worshippers of Jupiter, Apollo, Athena, and many other gods also persecuted the Christians. People who worship these idol gods are called pagans. They hate the Church of God.

In every city where people heard and believed on Christ, the pagans soon began persecuting them. They caught the Christians and burned out their eyes with red-hot irons. They bound them with ropes and dragged them behind wild horses through city streets. They were be-

headed, stoned to death, crucified, or tied on a stake and burned. Yet they stayed true to God. "...They loved not their lives unto the death." Rev. 12:11.

In some cities, if the Christians did not come to the idol-worshipping festivals, soldiers hunted them. They were brought into the public stadium. While hundreds watched, the Christians were given a chance to denounce their faith in Christ. If they would not, hungry, savage beasts were turned out of cages and allowed to tear the Christians to pieces, while the multitudes cheered for the beast.

There were ten seasons of severe sufferings for the Christians. Nero was one ruler who seemed to enjoy seeing God's people suffer. History tell us that he had Rome burned and blamed it on the Christians, then persecuted them for it. Some of the other rulers who severely persecuted Christians, were Domitian, Trajan, Marcus Aurelius and others.

The believers moved from city to city trying to avoid death. Not that the men or women feared to die, but their families needed them, and the world needed their message of salvation through Christ. However, most all of the people stayed true to God. Some who did give in came back later and suffered their persecution. Often seeing a Christian remain true when persecuted caused more to believe.

Yes, a red horse and rider with a great sword very well represented the pagan agents that so unmercifully persecuted the pure Christians of the *early morning church*.

—Charlotte Huskey

(F.G.Smith, *The Revelation Explained*, Faith Publishing House, Guthrie, p 96-99.)

Raleah when he knocked on her door.

Licha and Raleah, dressed in pajamas and robes, hurried out to check the water. "It seems no higher," Licha said, as if trying to convince herself that no flood would come. "But what will we do if it does get in our houses?"

Sis. Janie and Tracie came over and the next hour they prayed and hoped. At one-thirty the flood siren sounded again. A police car drove by. "You must evacuate. There is a shelter at Cottoral School," they heard the officer announce.

Raleah slipped on her robe and dashed out in the rain to again check the water. The strong wind tugged at her robe. A flash of lightening revealed the water. She had almost stepped in it! "The water is right here," she shouted, pointing to the driveway not ten feet from Sis. Janie's house.

"We better get out of here," Sis. Janie said. "Do you girls know where Cottoral School is?"

"No," they answered at the same time.

They scurried around and dressed while Licha went to the Print Shop and called Bro. Wayne. The phone was dead at the Pruitt home.

"Go up the hill to my mother's," Bro. Wayne said, after she told him the water was in her driveway. "And call us when you get there, so we'll know you are alright."

They hurried to Sis. Frances Murphey's home on the hill. Remembering they had taken no clothes, they returned, but didn't shut off the motor of the car.

When Sis. Janie returned the call, Mary, Bro. Wayne's wife answered. "Wayne's on his way over there," she shouted above the static of the storm. Then she asked, "Did you get things up off the floor?"

"Why no."

"Go back and put everything you can up on the bed, the table, the refrigerator, anywhere up high. Get your white sofa off the floor. The dirty flood

water will ruin it. Hurry, you haven't much time, and call me as soon as you get back. Don't worry about the Pruitt house. It has never been flooded. One of you watch the water while the others work."

"Girls, we've gotta get things off my floor. Come on, let's go," Sis. Janie said.

They sped down the hill and began piling the smaller pieces of furniture on the higher ones. Tracie and Harvey Pruitt came to check on the Print Shop, so they lifted the heavy sofa on to kitchen chairs.

Smitty had checked the water every hour since 3:30 p.m. Now he was checking more often. Between 1:35 a.m. and 1:45 a.m. it had risen seven inches. By 2:10 a.m., it had risen another foot, 2:40 a.m., another foot. At 3:10 a.m. it was nine inches higher.

Racing against the flood, Sis. Janie, Raleah, Licha and Tracie hurried back to Sis. Frances Murphey's. Sis. Janie called Mary, "We're okay, but the water is coming really fast."

"Did you remember to sand bag the doors?" Mary asked.

"I didn't know to do that, neither do I know how," Sis. Janie explained.

"Listen carefully. I'll tell you — Be sure and don't fill the bags very full. Sand is heavy. The bags will burst. Remember to put bags by all the Print Shop doors, too, even the big garage doors."

(To be continued.)

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. The second. 2. Red. 3. Power to take peace from the earth, and a great sword. 4. Making silver shrines for Diana. 5. A goddess who was supposed to have fallen from Jupiter. 6. He had persuaded much people away from serving Diana. 7. Because their business was in danger of not gaining money. 8. "Great is Diana of the Ephesians. 9. By telling them the matter against Paul could be determined in a lawful assembly.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 Oct. 3, 1993

The Guthrie Flood

The girls hurried back down to the Faith Publishing House. Flood water was rushing down the streets on both sides of the shop. They took plastic garbage bags to the back side of the shop, where they found a large concrete box full of sand. Sis. Janie held open a bag, while Raleah shoveled in sand. Licha tied the bag and Tracie carried it to the door. While water crept up around their feet and thunder sounded overhead, they filled bag after bag. They had three doors sand bagged before Bro. Wayne arrived. Because of many detours, the usual ten minute trip had taken him one hour. They continued working until all six doors of the Print Shop were bagged.

Huge drops of rain were still pelting their backs and forked lightening flashed overhead. Raleah trembled at the thought of being electrocuted, for by now they were working in water almost knee deep. Now Tracie carried the filled bags to the front of the Print Shop. Bro. Wayne waded through water about 18 to 20 inches deep to get the bags to Sis. Janie's doors. One bag after another was put in place until all her doors were sand bagged. "This will keep a lot of water and mud out," Bro. Wayne said when they had finished. "It sure makes clean-up a lot easier."

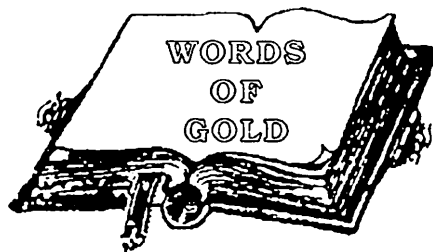
Raleah looked at her watch. It was 3:30 a.m. The water was now over the sidewalk in front of Sis. Janie's house.

The girls hurried back to Sis. Murphy's home on the hill.

Local authorities had been checking the water level since 3:40 p.m. Saturday. The two hours between 1:45 a.m. and 3:40 a.m. Sunday it had risen 2.11 feet. At that time it was 5 feet 2 inches above flood level under the viaduct. It was 5 feet 4 inches above at Seward, and rain was still falling. At 5:40 a.m. it was six feet above flooding. Checking again at 7:40 a.m. a whirlpool of water made reading difficult. The assistant fire chief measured the depth of the Cottonwood Creek to be 29.6 feet. That is 7 1/2 feet above flood level.

By 10:00 a.m. the water had receded almost 1.85 feet. People from the east side of town were parking cars at Second Street and walking up on the viaduct to get a bird's-eye-view of the flood. (This is when most of the pictures were taken.) According to Dick Correl, Civil Defence director, about 35 square blocks of west Guthrie were under water. That did not include the east and south parts of the city which were flooding.

We could see that a huge tree trunk had been pushed up against the viaduct cement railing. The street sign reading 5th and Noble could barely be read above the flood waters. The numbers "35" on the speed limit sign were half submerged in water. A commercial dumpster and a roofer's hot-tar tub were forced by the rushing waters out into Noble Street. A gasoline delivery



The Black Horse

Revelation 6:5-6

5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

II Thessalonians 2:3-4, 7

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work:...

Matthew 20:20-21, 24-28

20 Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children...

21 And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

24 And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.

25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Matthew 23:8-12

8 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.

9 And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

10 Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.

11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

III John 1:9

9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the pre-eminence among them, receiveth us not.

The Message: The church that had been white and pure, falls under the rule of "the man of sin" and becomes a dead, darkened church.

Questions:

1. What color is the horse?
2. Name some things which black represents.
3. Who was to be revealed?
4. What did the "man of sin" do?
5. What is the mystery of iniquity?
6. How did it show itself among the disciples?
7. What did Jesus say would make a man great?
8. Which titles are not to be used for men?
9. Was the mystery of iniquity working in Diotrephes?

Verse to Memorize

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed,...

II Thessalonians 2:3.

Let's



Talk . . .

Have you noticed that witches are usually pictured in black clothing, and that many evil things are done in darkness? The Bible speaks of people who "love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil."

In this lesson John saw a rider on a black horse. The rider on a white horse was used to symbolize the pure Early Morning Church. A rider on a red horse symbolized the bloody persecutions of the religious pagans against the Christians. Black is used to symbolize the wicked deadly change that came over the Church.

Have you ever blown the down of a dandelion and watched the seed be carried away by the wind? As the wind spreads the dandelion seed, so the strong winds of persecution spread the Christian faith. Soon there were thousands more Christians over most of the known world. The devil saw he could not crush the Christian faith by persecution, so he began working inside the Church.

He got a seed of pride into some hearts and soon a spirit of "self exaltation" found its way into these hearts. This spirit grew until it choked out the Spirit of God in many congregations. Christ was no longer living and working in these churches. The people were still called Christians, but they were spiritually dead. In chapter twelve of Revelation, God tells us that the pure Church flew away into the wilderness and hid during this time and that death reigned in the churches that most people attended.

This "exaltation of man" is the "spirit of iniquity." It kept working until a group of men were elected to rule the church. From these men, one man was elected as head ruler. He is the Antichrist spoken of in the Bible. Today people call the man chosen for that position, the Pope. Apostle Paul called him, "the man of sin" and said he would exalt himself above God, and show himself that he is God.

How can a man show himself as God? Since the resurrection of Jesus, every repentant sinner can go directly to Jesus and receive forgiveness from sin and cleansing of his unholy nature. When a man teaches others to confess their sins to him, and he in God's name will forgive the sinner, he is acting as God. The Roman Catholic Church, the Greek Orthodox Church, and other churches teach this. (Information from the World Book Encyclopedia.)

These practices of exalting men, and not preaching God's Word brought darkness into the church, causing the death of multitudes of Christians. This church is symbolized by a black horse whose rider holds a scale in his hand.

(Smith, F.G., *Revelation Explained*, Faith Publishing House, Guthrie, p. 99-107.

—Charlotte Huskey



truck was stranded in water up to its windows. On the north side of Noble are many baseball parks. Only three feet of the backstops on the 5th Street fields could be seen.

The Church of God on the corner of 6th and Warner Streets and its dining hall looked somewhat like two great house boats sunk in a red lake. The roof of the little stoop over the double doors of the dining hall was about a foot above the rushing muddy torrent. Through binoculars we could see the door knobs on the church's two front doors just above the water. (This was after the water had lowered almost two feet.)

It was Sunday morning, May 9, 1993. There would be no worship services today. During other floods, the saints had gathered at the Path of Life School south of tow, but this storm had also left mud and water surrounding it. Tears trickled down my cheeks as I thought of the happy times we had shared in those two buildings, now so threatened. What kind of damage was being done to God's property? Wild water surged against the cement block walls, then fell back and forced its way around the buildings as it rushed on north toward the Cimmaron River. Would the blocks stand? Would they crumble? They had stood many other floods, but this one seem even more violent than others. Was it? The sea of mud pushed its way into every crevice around the windows and doors. It forced its way up the drains pipes, into the air ducts. Would our kitchen where we had laughed and eaten together ever be sanitary enough to serve another meal?

What had happened to the curved altar of the Church, where so many people had met the Lord and conquered the devil? Were the heavy pews being dashed together by the raging water? I could imagine the slime covering the floors where we had so often knelt and communed with God. What anxious thoughts I had as I stood on the viaduct and looked across the flood waters to our beloved chapel. Then I noticed it was raining again. What a dark, sad Sunday morning.

A little later that day the water had receded so that those living on the 900 block of Noble, Warner, Mansur and Logan Streets were wading back into their homes and beginning to clean up the debris.

Bro. Wayne, Ralcah, Licha, Tracie and Sis. Janie removed the sand bags from the six doors of the Faith Publishing House and began cleaning up. The mud line on the outside of the building showed the flood had been 13 inches deep around this building. The floor is only a few inches above the ground, so at least nine inches of water should have been covering the Print Shop floors. But thank the Lord, only spots of the floor had water on it.

First the workers used squeegees to remove the water that had covered the front and back rooms of the Print Shop. While some were mopping, others were sucking up water from the carpets with a wet-vacuum. After the bulk of water was removed, the scrubbing began. Although the sand had kept out much mud, there was still a great amount to be cleaned up. After the scrubbing was finished all the hard surfaced floors were mopped and the carpets shampooed. Windows and doors were opened and fans stationed throughout the wet parts of the building. Even though things are immediately cleaned, the smell and dampness left behind after a flood takes weeks to remove.

(To be continued next week.)

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. Black. 2. Gloom, evil, death, sadness or wickedness. 3. The "man of sin or son of perdition." 4. Exalted himself above God, and showed himself as God. 5. It is the spirit of exalting yourself or other people in place of exalting God. 6. When the mother of two disciples asked Jesus to give her sons special places in His kingdom. 7. Jesus said that serving others would make a man great. 8. Rabbi, Master and Father. 9. Yes.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 Oct. 10, 1993

The Guthrie Flood

By this time the water had gone down enough to get into Sis. Janie's home. It was much more difficult to clean as most of the rooms were covered with carpet. It was almost a week before the house and carpets were dry enough for Sis. Janie to return to living in it.

Monday evening about 6:30 the telephone rang. "The water is down enough to clean the chapel. We are calling for volunteers." It was Sis. Irma Saltee. "Bring whatever cleaning tools you have and come prepared to work."

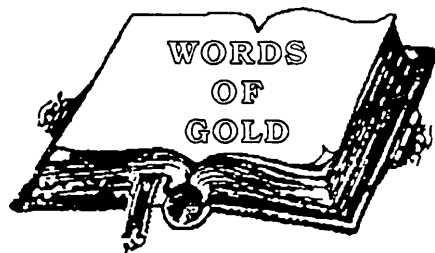
We live only nine blocks from the chapel, but many of the streets were still closed so we had to go south and west of town and come back east on Noble to the chapel. From 9th street on east to the Cottonwood Creek the streets and buildings were badly damaged. The roof of Bill's Shoe Shop, 910 W. Noble was on the ground covering the crumbled remains of the shop, it's equipment and many shoes. The sign protruding through the rubble announced bravely where the shop had once stood. A small two story house on the corner of 8th and Noble was washed away. Leaving the foundation clean. Twelve washing machines were scattered down two blocks of 7th Street between Noble and Mansur. The west, cement-block wall of the the car wash had tumbled. Cement blocks were scattered over the block north of the car wash. The blacktop and the bedding of several streets was

washed away leaving the streets impassable.

We arrived at the Church of God Chapel at 6th and Warner about 7:30 p.m. Fifty people with *a lot of zeal and energy* had already gathered. Each was clad in either boots or washable or disposable shoes. Many wore rubber or plastic pants or rain coats. These offer some protection from the contaminants found in the flood's residue. The dampness of the flood added to the chill of the recent storm made wraps necessary.

The process of cleaning-up appears much like a colony of ants descending on a much needed supply of food. Strong young men (two, three or four to a bench) were carrying the heavy, water soaked benches out into the parking lot to be hosed down whenever the water hoses and faucets were unoccupied. Using snow shovels, several men were shoveling mud out the doors. Two people using hoses, were moving along foot by foot spraying the 44 1/2 inch high mud from the walls. Another man was coming behind them cleaning mud from the crevices of the cement blocks with a power pressure water cleaner.

A dozen girls were sweeping out muddy water. Boys followed them with 30 inch squeegees, complaining all the while that the girls were leaving an awful mess behind. Two boys standing on a bench were unhooking the muddy draperies. (Usually the draperies are thrown up over the rods, but this time



The Pale Horse

Revelation 6:7-8

7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-38

24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, more-over of bonds and imprisonment:

37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder (saw into pieces), were tempted,

were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

Matthew 10:17-18, 22

17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

II Timothy 3:12

12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

The Message: Christians of all ages have been hated by the world. We must not let this keep us from serving God.

Questions:

1. What color is the horse?
2. What is his rider's name and who followed him?
3. Over what part of the earth does he have power to kill?
4. What was used to aid in the mass killing?
5. Why did Moses choose to suffer with the people of God?
6. Why did some not accept deliverance?
7. Name some of the ways God's people were persecuted.
8. Did Jesus say his disciples would be persecuted?
9. Will Christians receive a reward although they are hated by the world?

Verse to Memorize

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:10.

Let's



Talk . . .

In the lesson last week we learned that darkness came into the congregation of believers. Most of the Christians were deceived by this darkness and died spiritually. The rider on the black horse that represented this fallen church was selling one measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny. In ordinary times, a penny would buy 20 measures of wheat and 50 to 60 measures of barley. So this picture shows how this fallen church kept the *bread of life*, or God's Word, hidden from its people.

The people called themselves Christians, but without light from God's Word they became blinded and elected men as church leaders who appeared wise, but were truly selfish, cruel and heartless. The evil which these men did shows this. During the following years millions of true believers were slaughtered. That is why God chose a ghostly pale horse and a rider named Death to represent this time of persecution.

The "man of sin" we spoke about last week became the most important leader of this church. He gained political power until he ruled over the kings of most of the countries in Europe. These kings, under the authority of the church, used the sword, starvation, fire and every other means of imaginable cruelty to exterminate those who did not agree with the rules of this fallen church.

The power of the church over kings is well illustrated by a quarrel between Pope Gregory VII and King Henry IV of Germany which ended in Henry's excommunication. To regain his authority and kingdom, Henry was forced to seek pardon of the Pope. He found

Pope Gregory at Canossa, but the tyrant refused to see Henry. "It was winter, and for three days the king, clothed in sackcloth, stood with bare feet in the snow of the court-yard, waiting for permission to kneel before Gregory VII and receive forgiveness. On the fourth day he was granted admittance."

The authority of this so called *Christian Church* was the strongest authority in the world for more than 1,000 years. It is still a large powerful church, boasting 900 million members, which is one-sixth of the world's population. This church was given power to use sword, hunger, death and beasts to destroy one-fourth of the earth. How many people would be killed if one-fourth of the earth's population were killed today?

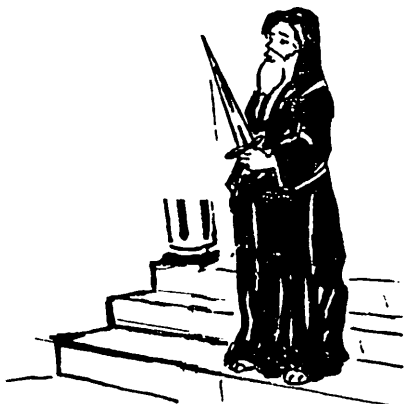
This so called *Christian Church* is represented by a rider called *Death*, on a pale horse because of the many saints put to death when they stood for old-time truths and would not bow to "the man of sin."

Believers are still suffering from those who call themselves Christians. Sometimes it will come from those with whom you worship. Keep faithful, for Jesus said, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake."

(Smith, F.G., *Revelation Explained*, Faith Publishing House, Guthrie, p. 107-115.

World Book Encyclopedia.)

—Charlotte Huskey



it was over looked.) Some women were up in the baptistry gathering up the ruined song books, cushions and foot pads that had been placed 43 inches above the floor. One and one-half inches of water had crept into their storage place but that was enough to ruin and damage at least fifty song books, a lot of cushions and many pads.

The cleaning process was slowed by extreme danger of sliding down. Every step was taken with caution. All floors and sidewalks were slimy as if millions of slugs have just crawled over them. Any area off the sidewalk or off the thick graveled parking lot was gushy. One could easily have gone in over their shoe tops and been stuck until someone came to hoist him out.

Hour after hour the crew laboured in the filth. After 10:00 p.m. some went home. About 10:30 p.m. heads were counted to order tacos and burritos. There were twenty-seven people still laboring. This continued until 1:30 a.m. When the weary crew left, the benches were in the parking lot waiting patiently to be cleaned. Work in the dining hall had not been started.

Around 8:00 on Tuesday morning, about twenty-five volunteers met again. The conditions in the dining hall made repair look hopeless to a newcomer, but the old-timers had cleaned up after many floods. They knew "all things are possible with the Lord's help." It was easy to tell how deep the water had been. All the walls under the flood water level appeared to have been painted with rust colored paint. I stood near the wall. The depth of the water had been up to my nose. We measured from the clean upper portion of the wall to the floor. It was 57 1/2 inches.

The big, heavy, seven foot refrigerator, whose doors had been left open to prevent floating, had indeed floated. Forced away from the wall by the rampant water, it lay flat on its back in the middle of the kitchen. The motor could have been ruined by the water, but time has proved that God protected it. The

heavy worktable on which the icemaker was set had also floated around until the icemaker had crashed to the floor and was completely ruined. The big commercial dishwasher was ruined. The few heavy worktables that remained were piled here and there. About an inch of slimy mud covered the floors, tables, window sills and every other ledge in the building. It is unbelievable what a flood can do.

As I stood looking at what seemed to be a hopeless mess I questioned, "Are we tempting God to remain in this location longer?" Then I thought of the many times the dear saints had labored to clean up just such a mess. In 1959 they had cleaned up after three floods in less than two weeks, September 25, October 2nd and October 5th. Others floods in recent years were in 1962, 1965, 1983, 1987, 1989. Some of the older saints can also remember floods in 1941, 1945, 1947 and a terrible one in 1949, which picked up the previous chapel and shifted it on its foundation.

Of all the floods in Guthrie since April 1897, this flood is recorded as being the deepest.

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. Pale. 2. His name is Death. Hell followed him. 3. one-fourth. 4. Sword, hunger, death, and beasts. 5. He esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than Egypt's treasures, and he respected the reward he would receive. 6. So that they might obtain a better resurrection. 7. By cruel mockings, scourgings, being bound, imprisoned, stoned, sawed in pieces, killed with a sword, afflicted and tormented in others ways. 8. yes. 9. Yes, if we endure faithful unto the end.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 Oct. 17, 1993

John Bunyan

(John Bunyan is the author of several books, the most famous being *Pilgrims' Progress*. It has been rewritten in modern English. There is also a version for children which has been translated into many languages.)

Mrs. Bunyan sat up in bed and listened. There it was again, a *shrill* scream. Her bed was the usual, tall curtained bed used in England in the early 1600's. She pulled back the thread-bare cloth and peered into the darkness.

"John is screaming again," she whispered to Mr. Bunyan. Then she silently scurried away to help John.

"What is it, John?" she whispered in his ear, as she shook him.

John sat up in bed. "Oh, Mother," he cried, "you are here, so it wasn't real. I thought—I thought, I was being thrown into hell by a black monster. It was like the dream I had last week."

"Oh, John, when will this stop? You've been having tormenting dreams for a couple of years."

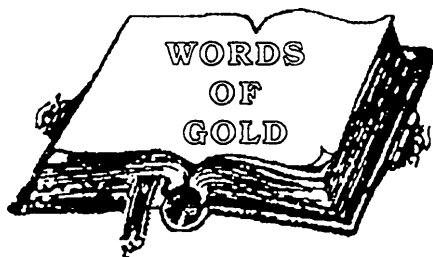
"Yes Mother, and they are about hell, that terrible place." He paused. "You think it's cause I'm such a wicked boy?"

"I hope not," she said looking into the face of her frightened son. "But you should do better. After all, you are a big, ten year old now. You are old enough to make yourself be good."

"I will," he promised. "I'm going to be the best boy in Elstow." John did quit lying, telling dirty jokes, cursing and swearing. The following weeks he was even good to stray cats. However, he soon found out that he enjoyed sinning so much he just couldn't stop. He loved to sound big and tough when he talked. He loved his rough friends, and the pranks he played with them.

So instead of getting better, John's wicked ways multiplied. His dreams changed into visits of evil spirits. These were more horrifying. They troubled him often, even when he was playing. In the midst of a game, he would suddenly be cast into a dreary, dark, sullen mood. At these times the Spirit of God called to him, but John did not yield. He threw off the convicting Spirit and plunged himself deeper into sin. His whole nature loved the world and its pleasures. He became the ring-leader of a gang of vile, ungodly boys, and built up within himself a real hatred for religion.

One time when he and the gang were walking through an open field, a poisonous adder struck. It barely missed sinking its fangs into John's leg. This did not change John's attitude toward evil. Twice while swimming he almost drowned, but he did not change. He joined the army and became a rough soldier. One night a friend took his place on sentry duty



The Tribulation

Revelation 6:9-11

9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

Examples of Martyrs

II Chronicles 24:20-21

20 And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah...and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the Lord,...because ye have forsaken the Lord, he hath also forsaken you.

21 And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king....

Mark 6:17-22, 24-25, 27-28

17 Herod...laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife....

18 For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.

19 Therefore Herodias...would have killed him; but she could not:

20 For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man...

21 ...Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords,...

22 And when the daughter of the said Herodias...danced,...the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee.

24 And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist.

25 And she came...and asked, saying, I will that thou give me...the head of John the Baptist.

27 And immediately the king sent an executioner,...

28 And brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother.

Acts 7:54, 59-60

54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying,...

60 ...Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.

Acts 12:1-2

1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

The Message: Through persecution, satan tried to wear out the saints and get them to give up Christ, but their faithfulness caused many others to surrender to Jesus.

Questions:

1. Who were the souls under the altar?
2. What did these martyrs ask God?
3. What did God tell the martyrs?
4. What were given to the martyrs?
5. Why was Zechariah killed?
6. Why did Herodias want John the Baptist killed?
7. How did Herod feel about John?
8. What did Stephen say as he was dying?

Verse to Memorize

And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Daniel 7:25.

Let's



Talk . . .

John sees a picture of the martyrs crying for God to avenge them. This picture represents the years of tribulation of the saints while the Antichrist ruled the world (The Antichrist ruled from approximately A.D. 270 until 1530.) The weary, distressed, pure Church prayed continually for God to help them through these most difficult years.

God gave them white robes and told them to wait, for others would also be martyred.

Were others killed?

The Waldensians of southern France were a humble, obedient people, however they denied the Pope's authority over their souls, and taught that purgatory did not exist. For this the prejudiced Oppede had 800 men killed in one town. Then he imprisoned the women in a barn filled with straw and burned it to ashes amid the screams of the tortured women.

Queen Mary I of England was called Bloody Mary because she had so many people burned alive, only because they opposed the Catholic Church. Some of the great reformers, Thomas Cramer, Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer were killed in this way.

In 1560, at the command of Pius, Pope IV, thousands of saints were martyred in southern Italy. One executioner boasted that he alone slashed the throats of 88 men on one occasion.

Between 6,000 to 10,000 innocent, God fearing Huguenots were lured into Paris under the pretext of

a wedding to be held August 21, 1572. After the gates were closed a massacre began which lasted for three days.

The Duke of Alva in the Netherlands also boasted that in only six weeks he had 18,000 Christians slaughtered.

But that was a small amount compared to Louis XIV of France who brutally butchered 300,000 during his reign. The following letter praised him for this deed.

"The Catholic Church shall most assuredly record in her sacred annals *a work of such devotion toward her* and celebrate your name with never dying praises, for this most excellent undertaking."

Signed,

Pope Innocent XI

God's true followers have been persecuted from the beginning of time. Able was the first to suffer because he was accepted of God when Cain was not accepted. For telling men the truth, Zechariah and Steven were stoned by religious men. John and James were killed by the pagan Romans using a sword. It was a quick easy death, while the Jews killed cruelly by throwing stones.

All of the sixth chapter of Revelation is a history of the Church world. A very important phase of the Church history was the persecutions that true Christians suffered from the hands of the *so called Christians*. These 1260 years of tribulation while the Antichrist reigned are pictured as the martyrs under the altar crying for God to avenge them.

(World Book Encyclopedia, Field Enterprises, Inc., Chicago, Smith, F.G., *Revelation Explained*, Faith Publishing House, Guthrie, p. 107-115.)

—Charlotte Huskey

and was shot. "Through this I see the mercy of God," John cried, as he looked on the body of his friend who had been killed in his place.

John was now twenty years old. He got married, although he had nothing, not even a dish or spoon, for he had spent all his money in riotous living. His wife's only possessions were two books she inherited after her father's death. These books, *The Plain Man's Pathway to Heaven*, and *The Practice of Piety*, aroused in John an interest for religion. So with his wife's often encouragement and telling of her Godly father, he started attending church. The established Episcopal Church was the only church permitted to operate in England at that time. John liked it. Soon he was attending regularly. He sang with all his might and revered the clergy like every good Christian. At the same time, however, he continued living a wicked life.

Then one day the pastor preached against the common sins of those days and read from the Bible, Romans 2:1-11: "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man,...but we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things....who will render to every man according to his deeds:...Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil,...For there is no respect of persons with God." "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23.

John felt bad for he was doing many sinful things. He tried to do better, and did for a while, but the desire to do good was often choked by the pleasure he found in sin. One Sunday afternoon while playing cat, he was seized with such heavy conviction that he stopped in the middle of the game. His friends said, "Come on, forget about your worries. Let's have fun." John stood silent awhile and the

devil whispered, "You've gone too far in sin to ever find salvation."

"Then I'll get all I can out of sin," John told himself and plunged headlong into an even more sinful life. One day when he was standing in front of a neighbor's shop, cursing, swearing and 'playing the madman, after his usual manner, a godless woman cried, "Stop! Stop! Your fearful cursing makes me tremble. You are the most ungodly fellow for swearing that ever I have heard in all my life. Every boy in town shall be ruined if he is much around you."

John looked into her eyes. He saw that she was not only angry at him but grieved for fear of what could happen to their town. Was he that bad? Was he the worst young man in town? He remembered promising his mother that he would be the best boy in Elstow. He thought awhile and agreed that the woman was right.

"I'll do better, Madam," he promised.

He began struggling to change. At times he felt he was doing good, at other times he felt it was hopeless, but finally he did quit swearing.

About that time a friend got saved. One day when they were visiting at the market, the friend said, "John, the Bible is very interesting. I believe you would enjoy reading it."

(To be continued.)

[Answers: 1. Those who had been killed because of God's Word and their testimony. 2. How long will it be until You take action against those who killed us? 3. He said, "Wait until others should also be martyred." 4. White robes. 5. Because he told them the truth. 6. Because John said it was not right for Herod to be married to his brother's wife. 7. Herod respected John as a holy man. 8. "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." 9. To please the Jews.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 Oct. 24, 1993

John Bunyan

(Continued from last week.)

When John began reading the Bible, he found it fascinating! He read on and on. While reading the books of Deuteronomy he learned that he was doing many things that people should not do.

John was a powerful man. He had control over his body to make it do what he thought it should. So, he made himself stop doing the things which God said man should not do. Then John felt he was as good as any Christian in the land.

To earn money John went from town to town mending pots and pans. Sometimes the thin metal pans would get small holes. These John repaired so that the pans could again be used for cooking. One day as he was standing outside a humble home mending a pot he began talking with three women who were sitting in the sunny doorway warming themselves.

"How do you know you are a Christian?" the oldest woman asked John, when he said he was a Christian.

"Because I go to church and do what is right," he answered.

"Not so," she answered. "Salvation is a gift God gives to those who believe that Jesus' death is the payment for their sins. The Bible says, 'For by grace are ye saved through

faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.'" Ephesians 2:8-9.

"What? The things I do will not save me?" John asked surprised.

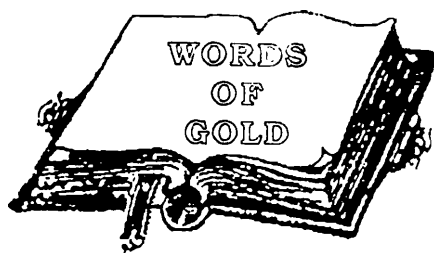
"That is right. Jesus is our salvation." Then she opened her Bible and read Romans 9:11.

"God forgives our sins because Jesus paid the price for them," another woman explained. Then she quoted John 3:16, "For God so loved the world..."

John noticed that these miserably, poor women were happy. They were basking in a spiritual sunshine while his soul was covered with dark clouds, and shivering in the cold snow. He wanted and determined to have what they had.

He began praying and struggling to believe. Now the devil came again. This time he quoted to John Romans 9:11, which the woman had read to him. Then he said, "God calls whom He will to be saved. He has not called you to be saved, but to be damned."

John again believed the devil, but he did not return to his sinful life. For the next few months he groaned in spirit continually. His agony was so great that he said often to his wife, "I am a lost sinner doomed for eternal hell. Oh how I wish I had never been born."



The Holy Spirit Protects

Revelation 7:1-4, 9-17

1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea.

3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which

are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

The Message: God prepared and equipped His Church before He allowed the tribulations period to come upon it.

Questions:

1. What did John see in this vision?
2. What were the four angels commanded to do?
3. How many servants of God were sealed?
4. From where had the great multitude come?
5. In what was the multitude clothed?
6. Through what had the multitude come?
7. How had the multitude made their robes white?
8. Where will He that sitteth on the throne dwell?
9. Name some things the multitude will not suffer?

Verse to Memorize

**And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
Ephesians 4:30.**

Let's Talk . . .

Each theme in Revelation is taken up and followed to its completion, then another theme is addressed. First it established Christ as the beginning and ending of all things. Following that were: 1. The letters to the churches. 2. A vision of God's throne. 3. God's plan of salvation. 4. A history of the Church.

This lesson is part of the history of the Church. It is showing how God equipped His Church with all the needed graces before allowing the tribulation period which we have already studied.

It is two visions: one is the angels holding back the four winds of the earth until the servants of God were sealed; the other vision is of the redeemed of all ages.

To seal is to preserve. Most of the food on the supermarket's shelves are sealed in containers. The seal keeps outside bacteria from getting into the food. A bottle of juice pops when it is opened, because the seal has been broken. Then bacteria can get into the juice causing it to spoil.

The seal of God is the Holy Spirit. Eph. 4:30 reads, "Grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye were sealed..." Eph. 1:13, "...after that ye had believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise." The Holy Spirit was first given on the Day of Pentecost. The terrible persecutions which the saints endured were after that day. They were equipped with the Holy Spirit.

Persecution is suffering because of what you believe, not because of

any wrong you have done. God's people in the Old Testament often had problems and wars. It was usually God punishing them for disobedience.

God sealed 144,000 of the tribes of Israel. A Jehovah Witness believer once said to me, "I can not know if I will be saved until the judgment day, because only 144,000 can be saved." Had she not read verse nine of Revelation, chapter seven? John saw not only the 144,000 sealed, but he also saw a great multitude which no man could number. Every person who desires to be saved and sealed can be.

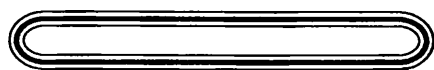
This great multitude was clothed in white robes and praising God because their suffering was over. All those 60 million which had been slaughtered by the *so called Christian Church* would never again have pain, nor hunger, nor thirst, nor heat, neither would they cry, for God would wipe away all their tears.

The latter part of chapter six, and chapter seven are two contrasts. One shows the corruption in the *so called Church* and the final judgments that overtook these cruel persecutors of God's people. The other shows God sealing and protecting His people from the contaminations of the "spirit of iniquity" and "the man of sin" and the final glorious triumph of these sealed ones.

What a wonderful, fascinating book. Who but a wise God could have shown John such factual, interesting events of the world so many years before they actually happened.

(Smith, F.G., *Revelation Explained*, Faith Publishing House, Guthrie, p. 123-130.)

—Charlotte Huskey



Then Mr. Gifford, a minister, came to visit. "Oh John, you must not think thus, you are not lost," he said. He picked up John's Bible and read from Revelation 22:17, "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." "You see," he said placing a wrinkled hand on John's shoulder, "whosoever will can come." "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Jesus also says, "... Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37.

John tried very hard to believe God's Word which Mr. Gifford had read to him, but he found it impossible. He had obeyed the devil for so many years that the devil had him bound. A year of struggling passed and John still thought he could not be saved. One evening he was sitting by the fire musing on his terrible condition when Hebrews 2:14-15, flashed into his mind. "...Through death he [Jesus] might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

The message burned in John's heart until it set him aglow. He felt light enough to fly away. His burden was gone, gone forever!

At last John was basking in God's sunshine, like the three poor ladies who had helped him. Now when he read his Bible, its truths were very plain

About a year later, however, the devil attacked John again. It was a long severe battle, but John overcame by the Word and the Spirit of God, those two witnesses which the church had cast out as dead. "I have loved thee with an everlasting love..." (Jeremiah 31:3) and "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin," were some of the Word that helped John overcome.

John was soon sharing with others the wonderful Words that had brought the happiness which he had tried to find in sin. When people heard him speak, they knew his experience was real, and they too cried out for the same. Many were saved. They brought their friends and families to hear him, and many of them were also saved.

John's preaching without being licensed to do so caused him to be thrown into prison. Sometimes he was offered a release, if he would promise to not teach the Word. But this John could not do, so he remained in prison for almost twelve years. There were times during these twelve years that favorable officials would give him liberty to preach.

During these long years of trial, John relied on II Cor. 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

While John was in jail, he wrote the book, *Pilgrim's Progress*. It is a story about his own experience of getting saved and living for God. *Little Pilgrim's Progress* is a children's version of the book. Everyone should read this book. —Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. He saw four angels holding the four winds of the earth and another angel shouting to them. 2. To hurt nothing until the servants of God were sealed. 3. 144,000 and another multitude that could not be numbered. 4. From all nations, kindreds, people and tongues. 5. White robes. 6. Through great tribulation. 7. By washing them in the blood of the Lamb [Jesus]. 8. Among this multitude. 9. Hunger, thirst or heat.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 Oct. 31, 1993

Fatimah

"Mother, must I take the horrible medicine?" questioned Fatimah.

"Yes, you must. I paid a great price for it. Our whole family has sacrificed to buy it for you, and you do not appreciate it? The medicine will make you well. Then you can carry the water and help me with the work around the house. Must you always be sick and a burden to us?"

"But I have been taking it a long time now and I am no better. Mother, I have heard that the Christians have a place for sick people to stay until they are well. Could I go there?"

"Oh no, Fatimah, you may not go. The Christians will poison your mind and make you hate the Mohammedan."

"I would never hate my people," Fatimah assured her mother. "I would only go to get healed."

"How horrid to think of going to the Christians, but you are no good laying in bed all the time. I will ask your father."

For many days Fatimah's father would not consent. When Fatimah got no better and kept begging to go, one day he said to her, "I cannot take you to the Christians. It is against our religion to go to them for anything."

Sick, weak Fatimah dragged down the road to the town where the Christians lived. She was tormented by many fears because of all her friends and family had said about the Christians.

When she finally reached the mission she was afraid to go inside. It was a big, shiny building, where many sick people stayed. Fatimah had never seen anything so clean. A kind speaking lady came out and spoke softly to her. The loving words made Fatimah feel happy, but when the woman patted her arm she pulled away in fear that she might be tied up and punished. After a long time she followed the nurse inside where she was given a bed in which to sleep.

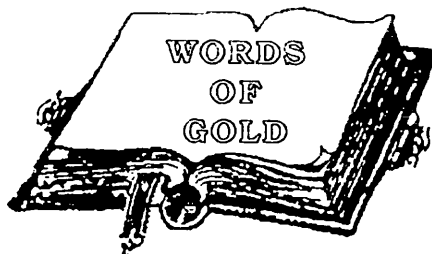
She was not so afraid in the morning. She bravely ate her breakfast. No one spoke harshly to her nor expected her to carry the water or hunt for sticks to burn. She was amazed at the love. "Why do you love me?" she asked the nurse.

"It is because the love of Jesus is in my heart," the nurse answered.

"My people say the Christians hate Mohammedans, but you seem to love me."

"The love of God causes us to love everyone, even our enemies. God loves all people, too. He loves them so much that He sent His only Son down from heaven to die on a cross so that all who believe in Him might some day go to heaven also."

Fatimah had never heard such beautiful words. She loved them! But when the Bible teacher came around to give the daily gospel message, Fatimah would bury her head under her blan-



Torment of the "So Called Christians"

Revelation 9:1-12

1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

7 And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.

8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.

9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.

10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.

11 And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

12 One woe [time of great trouble] is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.



The Message: God allowed a false teacher and a hellish army to divide and torment the people in the fallen Christian Church.

Questions:

1. What did John see fall from heaven?
2. What did he do with the key which he had?
3. What came out of the bottomless pit?
4. What was given to the locusts?
5. What were the locust to do?
6. What were they not to hurt?
7. During this time, what would men want to do but could not do?
8. Describe the locusts.
9. What was the king of the locust called?

Verse to Memorize

He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Revelation 13:10.

Let's



Talk . . .

John saw a time of great trouble in this vision. All the visions which John saw were symbols. If they were pictures of natural things or animals, they would represent something political. If they were of people or things of heaven, they symbolized something religious. In this lesson we have heavenly, human and natural pictures, so the vision is about both religious and political events.

Rev. 1:20, says, "The seven stars are the seven angels [ministers] of the seven churches." In this lesson the "fallen star" has the keys to the bottomless pit, so he was a false religious minister. When he taught his false doctrines it was like a horrid smoke from the bottomless pit filled with a plague of war-horse like locusts had been turned loose on the earth.

Those who have read *On The Banks of Plum Creek*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder, may recall how a cloud of grasshoppers flew down on the prairie and ate every green, living plant. It is the nature of grasshoppers or locusts to eat living plants, but these locusts, were not to eat anything living. They were to torment those men who had not been sealed by God's Holy Spirit until they would wish to die. God's people were not to suffer from the locusts, just as the people of Israel were not harmed by the locusts when the Egyptians were plagued with them.

How long were the people to suffer? Five months. Often in the Bible one day is like unto one year. In this case five months would be 150 years.

According to Bro. F.G. Smith, in A.D. 612 Mohammed began publishing his false doctrines and gathering followers. His great army called the

Saracens, overran Arabia, Palestine, Persia, Egypt, the northern shores of Africa, Portugal and Spain. Many in these countries had fallen in darkness under "the man of sin" and had not "the seal of God" which is the Holy Spirit. These suffered until wishing for death, under the savage fury of these fanatic warriors who had been promised by their prophet that if slain in battle, they would be immediately caught up to Paradise.

These wars lasted until A.D. 762 when Bagdad was built and they became a settled nation. This was 150 years.

God allowed them to meet defeat in the southern provinces of France where the Waldensians and Albigenses people lived. These people were serving God with all their understanding. Some may wish to read Paula *The Waldensian* to learn about the attitude of the Walsensians. Years later the so called *Christian Church* had these people slaughtered. I told about that in lesson number two, October 10.

Now let's think of the different symbols in this picture: The "locusts like horses prepared unto battle" is an army. Crowns, are a sign of victory. (Rev. 4:4.) Faces of men, hair of women, represent something religious. Teeth of lions, means a savage brutal character. Breastplates of iron, show they are very well fortified warriors.

Jesus gave John a vision of God protecting his children and punishing evil, by using a picture of a fallen star opening the bottomless pit and letting out a cloud of war-horse like locusts to torment only the people who were not sealed by God's Holy Spirit.

[This great army symbolized by locusts is led by the spirit of Satan or Apollyon. If you have read John Bunyan's famous book, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, you may remember he also called the evil power Apollyon.]

(Smith, F.G., *Revelation Explained*, Faith Publishing House, Guthrie, p. 151-163.

World Book Encyclopedia.)

—Charlotte Huskey

kets, determined to obey her father and not listen to the Bible.

God caused the woman's voice to pierce through the blankets and fall clearly into Fatimah's ears. She liked the words. "Could this message be so bad as her people had said," she questioned? She could not keep from hearing the Bible being read, so before long, she was sitting up in bed and drinking it all in.

A few days later she asked the nurse, "Is what I am hearing true or is it a fairy tale? Is there really a Saviour even for Egyptian girls and women?"

"Yes, it is true," answered the nurse. "I am an Egyptian and I know Him as my personal Saviour and friend."

"Then I want Him to be my Saviour, too. How did you get Him to be yours?"

"You must believe that Jesus took your place in death; that His death on the cross makes you free from sin."

Fatimah thought awhile. For a long time she had been afraid to die, because she thought her sins would make God angry and that He would punish her. Could it really be true that Jesus would cover her sins so God would not see them? It sounded too good to be true. Then she thought about the Mohammedan religion. It did not make people loving, nor did it make her happy when she obeyed its rules, and it gave no promise of heaven.

"Yes, Jesus," she said softly, "I do accept you as my Saviour. I do believe you will cover my sins." What joy and peace filled her heart.

Within a few days, Fatimah was well and telling other patients in her room how great she felt since confessing that Jesus was her Saviour.

She decided to stay at the mission and become a nurse but when her parents found out she was well they forced her to come home. They knew she had become a Christian and set to work at once to discourage her. They locked her in a room and gave her only a tiny ration

each day to eat. Every few days they would ask if she was ready to give up Christianity. When she would say "no," they would beat her. "How could she love it so much?" they questioned. Then one day they discovered she had a Bible. They tore the Bible from her and burned it. Fatimah felt like dying when she saw her Bible being burned. However, in her haste to hide it one day she had torn a page out. This page she still had tucked away in a hole in the mattress.

When everyone was away she would read it. What words of comfort! "The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?... When my father and mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up."

Day after day she quietly and patiently bore her sufferings. All the while she prayed for her family, and God was working in the hearts of her mother, her sisters and her brother.

The time came when they, too, decided that the Christian message was good; not poison as they had thought years ago. They too believed in Jesus and committed their lives to Him. Then she and her sisters all became nurses so they could help others as Fatimah had been helped.

When people came to visit the mission, they found Fatimah and her sisters telling that there is a wonderful Saviour for all who will put their trust in Him.

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. A star with a key to the bottomless pit. 2. He opened the bottomless pit. 3. Smoke filled with war-horse like locusts. 4. Power as scorpions. 5. They were to torment, but not kill all men who were not sealed by God. 6. Any living thing. 7. Die. 8. They were like horses wearing crowns, each with a man's face, with lion's teeth and woman's hair. 9. Abaddon in Hebrew and Apollyon in Greek.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 Nov. 7, 1993

Finding The Way

James lived on an island near Bellingham, Washington. The only way to get to his home was by a ferry-boat which traveled every two hours from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. One day he hurried to catch the ferry. Just as he drove his car onto the boarding dock, the gates closed. As he watched the ship leave the dock without him, the words of Matt. 25:10 flashed into his thoughts, "And the door was shut." He thought about the five foolish virgins who were left outside, and said to himself, "If the ferry gate had been the door to heaven it would never have opened again for me."

After a two hour wait the ferry returned, the barrier was raised, and James went across. That evening he could not concentrate on his work. "And the door was shut," kept ringing in his ears, and knowing he was not ready to enter heaven, he felt very uneasy.

Finally he found a quiet place to pray and gave his life to Jesus. He had learned that Jesus said, "I am the door:...if any man enter in, he shall be saved." John 10:9.

John found the way.

Wally had just moved to town. He lived on Highway Street. In the same city was a street called Broadway. One day Wally thought he knew his

way around and decided to take a walk. Fascinated by the beautiful houses and shade trees in the neighborhood, he was soon much further from home than he expected to go.

He looked at the street sign, but it was strange to him. He walked on and on stopping at each corner to read the street signs. When he found Broadway, he said to himself, "This must be the street I live on." So he hurried in the direction he thought his home to be.

The further he walked the more frightened he became, for nothing looked familiar. Soon he was walking along crying. A man passing by saw his tears and asked, "Why are you crying?"

"I don't know the way home," Wally wailed.

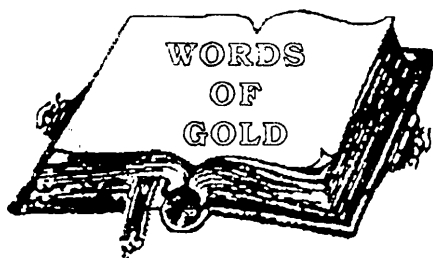
"Where do you live?"

"I don't know. I thought I lived on this street, but none of these are my house."

Quickly the man thought, "Highway and Broadway." They both end in "way." "Do you live on Highway?" he asked.

The boy looked up. "Yes, that is the street I live on."

The man took Wally by the hand and led him to Highway Street. Soon he met a woman hurry down the street looking for Wally.



The Rainbow Angel

Revelation 10:1-11

1 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,

3 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,

6 And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

8 And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.

9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book.

And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.

11 And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

Matthew 24:11-14

11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

The Message: God is sending forth His truth to save sinners and purify his people because the end of time is drawing near.

Questions:

1. Describe the angel which came to earth from heaven?
2. Can you name another person whose feet were as if burning?
3. Where did the angel stand?
4. How did his voice sound?
5. Could John write what the voice of thunder said?
6. What did the angel swear to God?
7. When will the mystery of God be finished?
8. What did the angel tell John to do?
9. To whom was John to prophesy?

Verse to Memorize

The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

II Peter 3:10.

Let's



Talk . . .

The following song, written about this portion (Rev. 10: 5-7.) of scripture, is found on page 398 of the *Evening Light Songs*.

Near The End

Time moves on with solemn footsteps,
As it nears the final shore;
Fast the sun of earth is sinking,
Soon our world shall be no more.

The sixth trumpet now is sounding
To prepare the holy bride (the Church);
Many on the golden altar,
"Purified, made white and tried."

Lo! the angel now is standing
On the sea and on the land;
How his voice the air is rending,
As to God he lifts his hand!

What an awful, awful message!
Help us, Lord, this truth to see:
When the seventh trumpet thunders,
Then shall time no longer be.

One more trumpet yet to summon
Us before the judgment seat;
Then the time of our frail planet
Will be said to be complete.

How the wicked will be wailing,
And the righteous overjoyed,
When with fire the heav'ns are burning,
And the earth shall be destroyed.

—W.G. Shell

This song clearly illustrates the message of this lesson. Angels, as you have already learned, are often used as ministers of the Gospel. This angel was so filled with Jesus that his face shone and his feet were fire as Jesus' feet were in the first chapter of Revelation. The rainbow was on his head. The rainbow represents God's promise of salvation. So the ministers which this angel repre-

sents are filled with the Holy Spirit and are prepared to give out God's Truth. This angel stands on the sea and the land, showing us that the truth taught by these God-filled ministers will be preached to everyone, in all parts of the world.

What is the main message of truth that will be preached? That there will be no more chance to be saved after Jesus returns, for "The mystery of God (the plan of salvation) will be finished in the days when the seventh angel...shall begin to sound." That will be the end of the world.

Dear reader, are you prepared for that day? It will come when it is least expected, as a thief in the night. Let Jesus take over as Lord of your life and you will be safe in that day when Jesus comes bursting through the clouds to claim His own and judge the ungodly.

After the early morning Church lost the Spirit of God by disobeying God's Word, until the time of this vision there was a famine of God's Word. Printing presses had not been invented so Christ's teachings were passed on by men speaking. When men quit preaching the whole truth in order to make for themselves positions in the church, a famine of the truth followed. In this vision John ate the little book. This may symbolize people being able to have a Bible and study it.

Now printing is not expensive, some countries have changed laws, and Christians are making great efforts to send Bibles, so most everyone in the world can have God's Word. They can eat the whole of it and it will be sweet to them. The bitterness must represent the trial and dying to oneself that is necessary to understand and do God's will. The will of God is that we prophesy before others, as the angel told John to do.

Yes, the vision of an angel standing on the sea and land is a good symbol of God's true Church again spreading the whole truth over the world, just before the end of time.

(Smith, F.G., *Revelation Explained*, Faith Publishing House, Guthrie, p. 175-179.) —Charlotte Huskey

She swooped Wally up into her arms and hugged him tightly. She thanked the man and went home.

Wally found his way.

But Wally reminds me of other little boys and girls who are also on the wrong way. They want to go to heaven, but are taking the "broad way that leads to eternal destruction." Who will help these know of Jesus, the Door that opens to the "Highway that leads to eternal life."

Every Christian can help others find the Way. They may tell others that Jesus saves all those who let Him be Lord of their lives. They may give tracts to others so they may read about Jesus' saving plan. There are some people who wish to be saved but do not know how to find the Saviour. Hazel was one of these. She had been to Sunday school, but did not really understand how to be saved from sin and become a Christian.

In the town where she lived some boys had decided to have a prayer meeting and pray for others to be saved. Hazel happened to walk past the garage where these boys were meeting. She heard them singing, and thinking it was a public meeting, she tried to open the door. The door was hooked on the inside so she could not get in. However, God spoke to her heart. "What if that was heaven's door?" He seemed to say. "What will happen to you, if the door of heaven will not open for you when you die?"

Hazel went home with a troubled mind. She could not sleep well when she went to bed that night. The next day she felt troubled all day long. The next day she felt the same. Day after day she thought of being shut out of heaven.

She began reading the New Testament a friend had given to her. One day while reading in the book called John, she found these words, "I am

the door: by me if any man enter in he shall be saved..." John 10:9. Hazel paused and reread the verse again and again. How happy she was to find that Jesus was the Door. She could enter into Him and be saved. She knew Jesus was in heaven and if she believed in Him, that He would open the door of heaven for her when she died. By faith she entered in and was joyfully saved.

Hazel found the way.

Everyone may find the way, for Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6. He is the Door and the Way. All those who enter the Door get into the Way. All those who stay in the narrow way are assured that the gate of heaven will open wide for them when they die.

I am the Door, the words are but four,

Millions are in, and there's room
for more.

The door's open wide, come right
inside,

And thou shalt be saved.

Have you entered into the door?

Have you found the Way that leads
unto eternal life? The end of your life
may be near so don't delay, seek
Jesus while He may be found.

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. The angel had the face of the sun, feet of fire, a book in his hand and dressed in a cloud, with a rainbow on his head. 2. Jesus. (Revelation 1:15.). 3. With one foot on the sea, and one on the land. 4. Like a lion roaring. 5. No. 6. That time should be no more. 7. When the seventh angel shall begin to sound. 8. To eat the little book. 9. Before many people, nations, tongues and kings.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 Nov. 14, 1993

Sam's Prayers

Sam was a good-looking, happy Christian who acted as a guide to Bro. Smith.

One day Sam said, "I used to treat the Lord as if He was a poor man and had very little to give away."

"How did you do that?" asked the missionary.

"Well, in those days," answered Sam "I prayed, 'Lord do give me a little more faith,' or 'Oh, I beseech Thee, Lord, bestow on Sam rather more grace!' And I begged and prayed for everything as if I had to drag it away from Him. Then a white man came to preach at Lagos, and he described how great the Lord was and what His riches in glory must be like.

"As I sat under a tree that night I said to myself, 'Sam, you've been praying as if the Lord owned only a small sago palm, and as if His heart was as hard as the shell of a coconut; when all the time every beast in the forest is His, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. His heart is like the great sun that warms and gladdens us all, and He is full of love to both poor saints and sinners.'"

"Well," said the missionary, "what did you do after that?"

"Oh, sir," was Sam's glad reply, his dusky face all aglow with joy, "I just acted on what I had found out. I

said, 'Lord, I is very poor and quite empty of grace and patience and all the beautiful things. But Thou art very rich. Give this poor sinner according to Your great heart and great supply.'"

"And I know He answered you, Sam, for your simple, faithful testimony is a blessing to others. I am thankful for you."

"Yes, the Lord just weighs me down with a load of all the good things that He gives, and He seems to be saying to me all the time: 'Use this Sam, I have a lot more I want to give you.' Oh, life has been a different thing to me since that time. You see, I'm never afraid of asking too much, for I know He loves to give it."

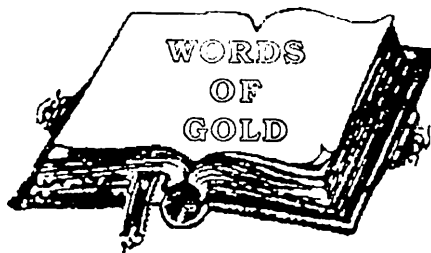
—Selected

Not Here Long

A mailman, when making his rounds one day, noticed on a letter he delivered the words, "Not Here Long!" From the return address on the envelope, he judged it to be from a son in the armed forces, meaning that he would soon be moved to another camp.

As he continued his rounds, the mailman thought of those words "Not Here Long!" "They could be written on every letter," he said to himself.

"Each one of us, old and young, could truthfully say, 'Not Here Long!'



The Church and the Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:1-6

1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months (42 X 30=1260 days).

3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days (1260), clothed in sackcloth.

4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

Zechariah 4:1-6

1 And the angel that talked with me came again,...

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

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

4 So I answered...saying, What are these, my lord?

5 Then the angel...answered... Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.

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

John 5:39

39 Search the scriptures;...they are they which testify of me.

Hebrew 10:15

15 Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us:...

I John 5:6

6 It is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

Hebrews 12:22, 29

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem....

29 For our God is a consuming fire.

The Message: God's Word and the Holy Spirit are the two witnesses. They were not allowed their ruling place in the Church during the 1260 years of darkness.

Questions:

1. What did the angel tell John to do?
2. Why was he not to measure the court of the temple?
3. What were the Gentiles (unbelievers) going to do to the holy city?
4. How long were the two witnesses to prophesy?
5. In what were the two witnesses dressed?
6. What defence did the two witnesses have?
7. Did the two witnesses have great power?
8. What kept the two witnesses alive?
9. What are the two witnesses?

Verse to Memorize

...This is the word of the Lord...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.

Zechariah 4:6.

Let's



Talk . . .

John is given a rod and told to measure the temple, altar and the people who worship in the temple. The rod is a symbol of the Word of God. The temple is measured to show the congregation in what ways it is, or is not, conforming to the standard of God's Word. The court was not measured, for the Gentiles, which are the unsaved people, stood in the courtyard to watch the worship service. They were not a part of the worshippers.

The angel told John that these unsaved people would tread over the holy city for forty-two months. Remember a day represents a year, so the holy city, which represents the true Church of God, will be reproached for 1260 years. When did the 1260 years of start? The Church grew very rapidly after Christ sent the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. According to the Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, by A.D. 270 almost one-half of the Roman Empire claimed to be Christians. Constantine came into power in A.D. 312 and did many favors for this vast group of people. This caused many more people to attend the Church of God. Soon multitudes of unsaved people were in the congregation and pretending to be Christians.

The Holy Spirit could no longer rule the worship service. The man whom the people liked best became the leader. Wishing to continue being their leader, he taught only what the people wanted to hear, so the true meaning of the Word of God was not being taught. During this time God's

two witnesses, His Word and Spirit were set aside by the people attending church. God's Word had the same power as it did when it stopped the rain for Elijah and turned water into blood for Mose, but the people loved other things more than God. This caused the Word to be powerless in the congregation.

Is your heart full of love for God or something else? Do you come to church or want to be accepted by the saints for personal gain? For example: So that God will heal you when sick? So He will help you get good grades in school? So other young people will like you? If a person comes to church, testifies, teaches, preaches, or does good deeds, to receive personal gain, he does not love God with all his heart. The "spirit of iniquity" that caused the *pure early morning Church* to fall is working in that heart. God cannot bless that person.

Children, thank your pastor for teaching all the Bible. Thank him for letting the Word and the Holy Spirit be the leaders in your congregation. If these two witnesses are not the leaders in your congregation it may soon fall as the *early morning Church* did. Then when God measures it by the rod of His Word, it will not measure to His standards. His curse, not His blessings, will be on it.

During the 1260 years the Word and Spirit had no leadership in the church. The Church was not measuring to the standards of God's Word. The two witnesses were leading the few saints who had stayed true to God. They were sad because only a few people were allowing them to rule in their lives. For this reason God pictures them dressed in sackcloth as they prophesy.

(Smith, F.G., *Revelation Explained*, Faith Publishing House, Guthrie, p. 180-200.)

—Charlotte Huskey

Each of us will soon be living in an eternal, spirit world. We will not be living in this world that marks time by hours, days and years but will be living in a world that lasts for eternity."

The words of this poem came to his mind:

"Fairest flowers soon decay;
Youth and beauty pass away.
Oh! you have not long to stay
Be in time!

Time is gliding swiftly by;
Death and judgment both draw
nigh,

To the arms of Jesus fly,
Be in time!"

Let me ask one question? If you should die tonight, are you sure you would enter heaven? If you are not sure, Jesus is waiting with arms open to receive you. He says, in Matthew 11:28, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 19:14 tell us that even the little children can come. "Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Perhaps you have heard the following verse and fear you cannot come to Jesus. "And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father." John 6:65. However, other verses in the Bible tells us that, "this is the will of him that sent me (God), that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:40.) Another verse says, that it is not the will of God that any perish. God will draw you to Jesus if you ask Him to do so.

We are "not here long," so let us get prepared today for the day Jesus calls us to die.

—Selected

"Fear not, neither be discouraged," is a word from God to every tract distributor (Deut. 1:21.).

It is not Easy
To apologize,
To begin over,
To admit error,
To take advice,
To face a sneer,
To be unselfish,
To be charitable,
To be considerate,
To avoid mistakes,
To endure success,
To profit by mistakes,
To forgive and forget,
To think and then act,
To keep out of the rut,
To make the best of little,
To subdue an unruly
temper,
To maintain a high
standard,
To recognize a silver
lining,
To shoulder a deserved
blame,—
But it always pays.

Answers: 1. He was told to measure the temple, the altar and them that worship there. 2. Because it was given to the Gentiles. 3. Tread it under foot for 42 months. 4. For 1260 days (years). 5. In sackcloth. 6. Their mouths. 7. Yes. 8. The Spirit of God. 9. The Word of God and His Holy Spirit.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 Nov. 21, 1993

Is That In The Bible?

When Tom was old enough to get a job, he left his home in Ontario and went to Michigan. There he found a job in a department store. He worked hard and was responsible, so the time came when he had a fine position in the firm with a good salary.

Alas, like many another young fellow, Tom started running with the wrong crowd and got to drinking. Then his work habits changed and he lost his job. From that time on he went from bad to worse. In his wretched condition he found life very hard. He struggled on until he thought things would never be better, then he decided to kill himself. But God loved poor Tom, and He did not let him commit suicide.

Tom can't remember how it all happened but by some means or other he came into possession of a Bible. He felt it was his only hope and began diligently reading it. His understanding was opened to see that he was a lost sinner. He was guilty of many things the Bible said was sin. How condemned he felt.

Then one day a friend suggested that he should go and hear an evangelist preach. He was holding some gospel services in a nearby town. Tom gladly accepted the invitation and drove to the place in a blinding snow storm. Several times on the way he thought he would return home, for the streets were

very dangerous, but he felt impelled by some unseen power to press on.

That night the preacher read the wonderful words of Isaiah 53:5-6: "But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Tom was sitting in the very front row of seats listening to every word. While the preacher was reading the precious scriptures he suddenly rose to his feet.

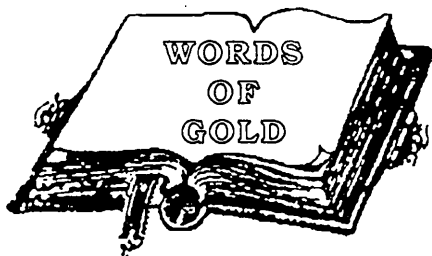
"Do you wish to speak?" the evangelist questioned.

With a husky voice and deep emotion Tom asked, "Is that in the Bible?"

The speaker answered, "Yes it is, I will show it to you." He took his opened Bible from the stand and gave it to Tom.

"What a wondrous declaration!" Tom exclaimed. "God has laid all my sins on Jesus, and He has been wounded for my transgressions and bruised for my iniquities. Thank God, that is enough for me!" Tom left the meeting rejoicing. He saw that Jesus died in his stead, and by believing on Jesus, who bore the curse, he was saved (Acts 16:31). Now he had eternal life (John 5:24).

Tom's life changed. The way he lived proved to all who knew him that he was a Christian. No more drinking, no more



The Word and Spirit are Alive Again

Revelation 11:7-18

7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven,

saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God.

17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

The Message: The two witnesses (the Word and the Holy Spirit) are revived, killed and revived again.

Questions:

1. What happened to the two witnesses after they finished testifying in sackcloth?
2. How long did their dead bodies lay in the city streets?
3. Did the city allow the two witnesses to be buried?
4. What happened to the witnesses after three and one-half days?
5. What happened at the same time the witnesses came alive?
6. At the end of what woe is this?
7. How long will Christ reign?
8. What did the worshipping elders say to God?
9. At this time what is God going to do?

Verse to Memorize

And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

Revelation 11:11.

Let's



Talk . . .

The two witnesses are God's Word and His Spirit. In last week's lesson they were pictured as preaching in sackcloth because the bishops and elders of the so called *Christian Churches* taught the people that they should not study the Bible nor should they let the Holy Spirit guide their conscience. They were taught to only obey the rules of the church.

The two witnesses are killed by a beast from the bottomless pit in today's lesson. (This beast would be Satan's agent.) Their dead bodies are left laying in the city streets for three and one-half days, then they come alive again.

The men were happy when the two witnesses were dead because the Word of God had tormented their conscience when they did not obey God. However, after three and one-half days, the witnesses came alive again and great fear fell on the people who saw them alive.

These two witnesses came alive when believers started letting the Bible and the Holy Spirit guide their actions. When discussion arose about something being right or wrong, they studied the Bible to find the answer. When they came together, some were inspired to select or to sing hymns, others prayed, and others explained some scriptures. This was letting the Holy Spirit be active.

These congregations grew rapidly. Soon hundreds of people were spreading these new methods. Many were being saved and many were

coming out of Catholic and Protestant churches where the Word and Spirit were not free to operate. God showered his blessings on this group of believers by greatly anointing the singing and preaching, also by healing and calling thousands to home and foreign missionary fields.

The Church was again like it was in the early morning time. It was pure, so it was pictured as if it had ascended up to heaven. The other churches came to hate the Church of God, for their best members were leaving and joining it. The Church's Jubilee, page six, in *Evening Light Songs* describes this area of Church history. Maybe you can sing it.

About this same time a great earthquake destroyed many and the remnant were frightened. This was the end of the second woe. Then the seventh angel sounded and it was time for the dead to be judged.

We have learned from this lesson about the two witnesses being killed, but not buried. Then they were brought to life. Now the Word of God and the Holy Spirit are dressed in royal robes and are to the Church as a king and queen is to a nation.

(Smith, F.G., *Revelation Explained*, Faith Publishing House, Guthrie, p. 200-211.)

Do you know persons who claim to love the Bible, but are not obeying it? That is kind of what it means to kill the Word but not let it be buried. Multitudes of church members say the Bible is God's Word, but they do not believe all of it. One example is: 1 Cor. 11:14-15. It is a shame for a man to have long hair, but a glory for a woman. Another is: "Without holiness, no man can see God." (Heb. 12:14.)

—Charlotte Huskey

partying for Tom. Old things passed away and all things became new. The Bible was to him the "joy and rejoicing of his heart."

He shut himself up in his little cottage and for several weeks he read and meditated on the Scriptures only taking time to do what was very necessary. Then from a heart filled to overflowing with love to Christ and sinners, he went to the school houses and told the "old, old story of Jesus and His love." The freshness, simplicity and power with which he spoke touched the hearts of his listeners. The result was that many people were led to know Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

—Selected.

Little Black Sheep

A Christian worker visiting in a hospital in Ottawa, Ontario, was told by one of the nurses that a man lay dying in a room down the hall.

She went immediately to his bedside, only to find he had drawn the sheet up over his face. Was she too late? Should she speak to him? Satan whispered. "It is very late. The visiting hours are nearly over. Come back tomorrow."

With a little prayer she overcame the evil one's suggestion, and kneeling by the dying man's pillow, recited the southern paraphrase of the old gospel hymn, "The Ninety and Nine."

"Poor little black sheep that strayed away,

Got lost in the wind and the rain;
And the Shepherd said, 'Oh, hireling,
go
Find My little black sheep again!'

"But the hireling said, 'Oh, Shepherd,
That sheep is black and bad!'
But the Shepherd smiled as if that
little black sheep
Was the only wee sheep he had.

"And the Shepherd said, 'Hireling,
hasten!
For the night is dark and cold.

And that little black sheep, he's
lonesome
Out there so far from the fold.'

"But the hireling said, 'Oh, Shepherd,
That sheep is old and gray!'
But the Shepherd smiled as if that
little black sheep
Was as fair as the break of day.

"And the Shepherd went out in the
darkness,
Where the wind was cold and bleak,
And that little black sheep, He found
it,
And laid it against his cheek.

"And the hireling said, 'Oh Shepherd,
Don't bring that sheep near me!'
But the Shepherd He smiled, and He
held it close...
And that little black sheep was me!"

With the last line, the dying man slowly pushed the sheet from his eyes and looking into the lady's face exclaimed, "And that little black sheep was me!"

How thankful the Christian worker was that she had let the Holy Spirit control her. The poor man might not have been saved if she had not listening to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

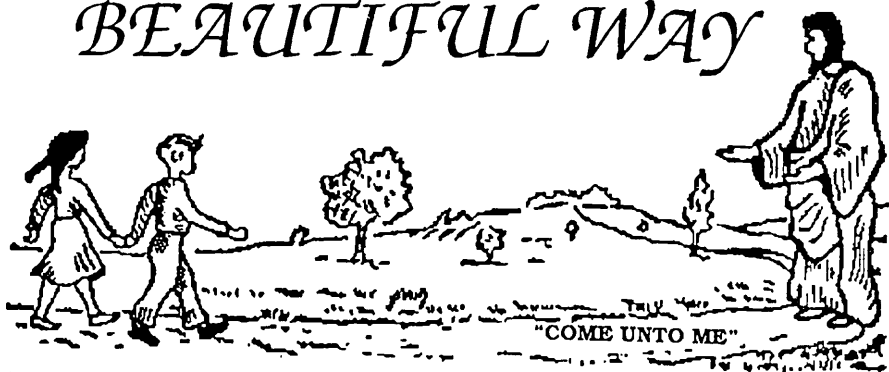
Are you letting God's Word and His Spirit control your actions?

—Selected from Messages of the Love of God, April 7, 1974.

(Answers: 1. The beast from the bottomless pit killed them. 2. Three and one-half days. 3. No. 4. They came to life and were called up to heaven. 5. There was a great earthquake. 6. The second woe. 7. For ever and ever. 8. "We give thee thanks...because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned." 9. Reward the prophets, the saints, and those who fear him, and destroy them which destroy the earth.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 Nov. 28, 1993

Origen

"What a grand son is ours!" said Father as he looked down on Origen sleeping. Then looking up toward heaven he said, "Lord, why have you deemed me worthy to father such a son? His body seems to be the temple of your great Holy Spirit." Bending over he bared his son's chest and kissed it over and over again while tears of gratitude streamed down his cheeks.

"Yes, he is very obedient and has a great love for God. But how I do wish he wasn't so daring," said Mother.

"Be thankful he is brave and not a coward."

"But he seems to want to be a martyr. Every time he hears of any Christians being persecuted, he runs to them with words of praise and courage. That's all fine. But if he keeps showing up at every execution, well,— well — one of these days the officials are going to capture him. I couldn't bear seeing my son tortured so, or burned, or beheaded, oh no," and she covered her face with her apron.

"You must be strong," said the father. "Many are dying at the hands of cruel Severus. Others have lost their son, or daughter, or mother or father. Are we any better than they?"

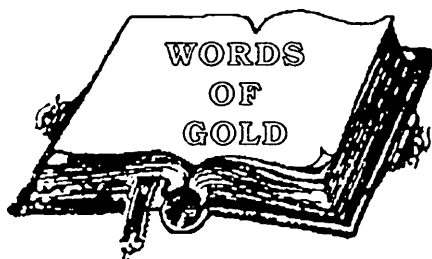
"Maybe I could give up a son, — a son — who was rowdy or mean, a son not so special. But Origen? He is an angel sent from heaven to us."

"All must be committed. We must love Jesus more than child — or life itself."

Mother noticed the far away look in Father's eyes when he said, "life itself." She wondered if he had been threatened.

The next morning at the breakfast table Father asked Origen, "Did you memorize the scripture yesterday?"

"Of course my dear father," Origen answered and began quoting, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also...If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you



A Picture of God's Church

Revelation 12:1-6

1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

2 And she being with child cried, travelling in birth, and pained to be delivered.

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Galatians 4:26

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

Hebrews 8:5-6; 10:1

5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things....

6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very

image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

Isaiah 66:7-8

7 Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.

8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

Acts 2:41, 47; 4:4

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

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

The Message: The woman and her child are the Church. Part of it was caught up to God. The other part hid in the wilderness for 1260 years.

Questions:

1. With what was the woman clothed?
2. Where was the moon?
3. What was on her head?
4. What does the crown represent?
5. What color was the dragon?
6. What was he waiting to do?
7. What happened to the child?
8. Where did the woman go?
9. What does the woman and her child represent?

Verse to Memorize

...And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Acts 8:1.

Let's



Talk . . .

John sees a woman clothed with the sun. A crown with twelve stars is on her head and the moon is under her feet. What could this woman be? The apostle Paul said the New Jerusalem was the mother of us all. God's Church is often called the New Jerusalem, so this woman represents the Church. She is clothed with the sun. The "Sun of righteousness" is Jesus, Malachi 4:2. This Church is clothed with Jesus making her as bright as the sun.

A crown is a sign of victory. Her crown had twelve stars. We have already learned that stars represent God's ministers, (Rev. 1:20.) The twelve Apostles were the first ministers of the Church. This Church gained victory through believing and obeying the teaching of Christ's apostles.

The moon was under the woman's feet. The moon is a good symbol of the old covenant which was the Old Testament laws. It was "a shadow of the good things to come." It had no light of its own, for Jesus was the light! After Jesus' death and resurrection, people could partake of the new covenant, so the old was put down.

Now let's turn our attention to the red dragon. In chapter six, the red horse represented the pagan powers that persecuted the Early Morning Church. These pagan powers operated under the various rulers of the Roman Empire. This dragon with his many heads is a good symbol of that empire with its many different heads of governments. This dragon was large enough that his tail knocked a lot of stars out of the sky. God said His people sit together in heavenly places.

That is the heaven presented here. The stars that fell were probably ministers who got discouraged and gave up their true, pure faith and went with the fallen church. These were part of the child which the dragon was waiting to devour.

The woman is the Church. So her child represents those which will be brought to Christ when she (labours) travails. (Read again Isa. 66:7-8.) This happened soon after the day of Pentecost, when 3,000 were added in one day. A few days later the number of saved men in the church was 5,000.

How will this child rule the world with a rod of iron? In lesson seven, November 14, we learned that the rod is the Word of God. Many times wicked men cannot do the evil things they planned to do, if they are in the presence of another person who is living pure like the Word of God demands. The life of the Saint so convicts them, that it is ruling them.

This child is caught up unto God. Notice it does not say unto heaven. For heaven, as I stated before, is not the heaven where God dwells but it represents the heavenly or spiritual place the Church occupies here on earth. Because the heaven where God dwells is such a glorious place, it is called God's throne here. The great multitudes which were saved during the early time of the Church were murdered in massive numbers and caught away unto God. The true Church itself stayed on earth, but fled away into a hiding place which God had prepared for it. It hid there 1260 years while the so called *Christian Church* was the only visible Christian Church.

Yes, the sun clothed woman is a good symbol of the pure, bright, Early Morning Church and the dragon is a good symbol of the evil pagan power that persecuted the Early Morning Church.

(Smith, F.G., *Revelation Explained*, Faith Publishing House, Guthrie, p. 212-219.)

—Charlotte Huskey

comfortless: I will come to you...He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him...But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." That is through the twenty-seventh verse," Origen said as he finished.

"Wonderfull" said his father, "you'll soon be finished memorizing the four gospels.

"Oh, Father, I love to study the Word. What did Jeremiah mean when he said, 'The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?' Is my heart deceitful and wicked?"

"Son," his father said, as if scolding, "you must not try to understand all the spiritual things of the Bible. You are too young. Someday you will understand more about men's hearts."

"May I study literature today?" Origen asked.

"Yes, after you study and memorize your Bible lesson."

After prayers were said around the breakfast table, Origen hurried away to study, that was something he loved to do.

Before long a knock sounded at the door. Origen heard a woman's voice sobbing, "My husband, my husband," she said, "He's being executed today."

Origen jumped to his feet and dashed out of the house and down to the arena. Already a crowd had gathered. A zeal burned within him. "How noble! How vallant! How heroic to die for Christ!" he thought. "Someday I too, will give my life."

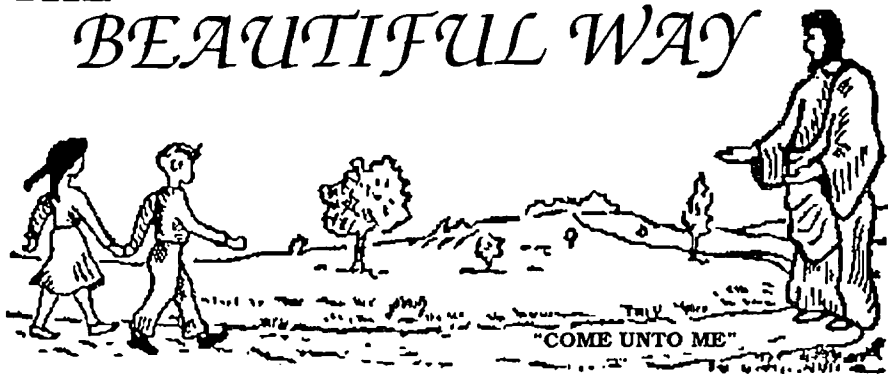
More Christians were being killed because they would not deny Christ. The flame within Origen burned brighter and brighter. Only the constant begging of his mother restrained him from volunteering his body as a sacrifice for Jesus. Then one day the news came home that his own father had been arrested and was in jail. Origen desperately wanted to accompany his father, but his mother hid all his clothing and forbade him to leave the house. He then wrote his father a most encouraging letter. At the end it said, "Mind you don't change your mind on our account." He knew his father felt the great responsibility of supporting and teaching his family, which at this time was seven boys, Origen being the eldest.

Origen was thrilled by his father's courage. He wanted to be just like him and although life changed greatly afterward, Origen remained true to God. After his father's death, the government confiscated all his father's property, leaving the family destitute. He, being the oldest, was given to a wealthy lady who desired to help homeless boys.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. The sun 2. Under her feet. 3. A crown with twelve stars. 4. Victory. 5. Red. 6. To devour the child as soon as it was born. 7. It was caught up to heaven. 8. Into the wilderness. 9. The Church of God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 Dec. 5, 1993

Origen

(Continued from last week.)

Origen had been the oldest son of devote Christian parents. After his father was martyred, he had become the younger son of a wealthy lady who claimed to be a believer, but was not a true Christian. Her other adopted son was a heretic and voiced his opinions against the truth very often. People called this son Paul because his arguments seemed so convincing.

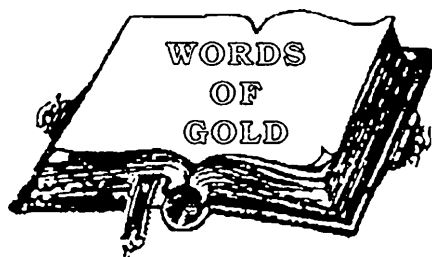
There were many heretics in this time and many gathered to discuss doctrines and pray together. Paul often invited Origen to accompany him, but never did Origen fellowship with Paul and his false ways. His new mother was very devoted to Paul's way of thinking and constantly assented to them, but Origen kept himself clean, thanks to his faithful father who had taught him the truth.

His father had also helped him to progress in secular subjects. Before long he was able to earn a good living by teaching. In Alexandria there was no one dedicated to elementary Christian teaching, as most Christian teachers had fled the persecution. However, there were some pagans who were interested. One named Plutarch came to him one day and ask to hear the Word of God. After hearing the Word he became a Christian. Soon Plutarch's brother, Heraclas, was also saved. The number of pupils grew until a Christian school

was formed of which Origen became principal when he was only seventeen.

At this time Aquila, the governor of Alexandria, stirred-up more persecution. Origen became noted throughout the city for lending a helping hand to all the holy martyrs, even if they were strangers to him. When they were in prison he visited them, taking food for their body and soul. He also helped their families. At the cross-examinations, Origen was there to encourage and support. At the final sentence, he was there boosting them on and even as they were led away to be executed he was at their side displaying fearlessness and meeting danger face to face. Many times the pagan crowds were maddened to the point of stoning him when he kissed and encouraged the weary saints before their execution. Again and again he was protected by the hand of God.

The number of pupils in his school grew and grew until he had thousands of students. So bitter was the hostility of unbelievers because of this growth, that they collected groups of soldiers and posted them around the house where he was living. Origen had once burned with a desire to die for Jesus. Now he was older and felt he was needed to teach and encourage others, so he moved from house to house, always with a band of soldiers after him. About this time he gave himself to teaching only the Word. He felt that the teaching



The Devil Fights the Church

Revelation 12:7-17

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into

her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The Message: The great struggle between true Christianity and the pagan religion is illustrated in this vision. Michael is fighting for Christ. He overcomes by casting satan out of the hearts of men.

Questions:

1. In this vision, who is fighting?
2. What had this dragon been doing?
3. What great thing had come?
4. What happened to the accuser of the brethren?
5. How was the dragon overcome?
6. Why was the dragon wroth?
7. How was the woman (church) protected?
8. What kept the woman from being swallowed by the flood?
9. What was the remnant of the woman's children doing?

Verse to Memorize

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 12:11.

Let's



Talk . . .

First, let's review the rules for interpreting the visions of Revelation. If the object is without spirit such as a mountain, a sea, a river, or if it is a wild beast, it represents something political. If it is human, heavenly, the temple or holy city, it is religious. Evil is often represented by the bottomless pit, satan, or other names for him.

The vision today is of Michael and the dragon warring in heaven.

In last week's lesson we learned that heaven means a spiritual place on earth or a respected position. In Revelation, the heaven where God dwells, is called the "throne of God." Verse ten reads, "I heard a voice in heaven, saying now is salvation come." This cannot be the heaven where God dwells, for there is no need for salvation there. Salvation is only needed in the spiritual world of men's hearts.

The description of the dragon is also the same as the last lesson. His heads, horns and crowns causes us to believe it is again speaking about the Roman Empire. His angels are the spiritual or religious powers of pagan Rome. He is called the devil and satan because of the satanic spirits in the pagan religion which at that time were the official religion of the empire.

"He was cast into the earth," or out of the high position he had held in men's hearts when thousands of people left the pagan religion and became Christians. That is when the man child was born and a nation was born at once.

The angels of Michael are the ministers of the Gospel, who overcame the dragon by preaching salvation through the blood of Jesus. Suddenly the idol

temples were empty of worshippers. When this happened, a physical as well as a spiritual war began. The Christians were slaughtered because they would not obey religious rites sanctioned by the laws, and because they endeavored to draw men away from such practices. They "loved not their lives unto death" was their testimony.

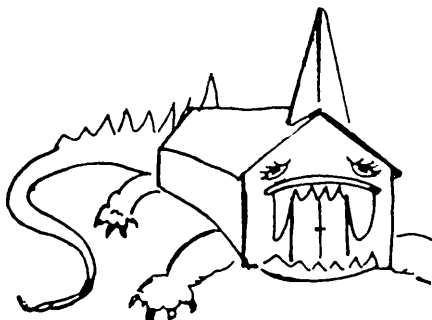
God stepped in at this time, and gave the woman (the Christian Church) wings or the ability to get away before she was completely destroyed. She was hid in the wilderness and nourished there by God. Then the serpent or dragon cast a flood out of his mouth hoping to carry her away in the flood. The earth helped the woman by swallowing up the flood.

The flood probably represents the most terrible persecution the church ever received of pagan Rome. It lasted ten years under the emperor Diocletian. Then Constantine became emperor and in A.D. 313 he made Christianity the established religion of the empire. So the political powers of Constantine swallowed up the flood of persecution, thus protecting the Church. That old satanic pagan religious system had no more freedom to operate. It was bound for a thousand years. Next week we will learn how the dragon gave its power over to a beast.

(Smith, F.G., *Revelation Explained*, Faith Publishing House, Guthrie, p. 219-232.

World Book Encyclopedia.)

—Charlotte Huskey



of literature was useless and a hindrance to sacred studies. He sold his literature books which had been his cherished possessions.

Origen was so devoted to God and the spread of the Gospel that he wanted nothing to hinder him. He put away all youthful lusts, drinking of wine and eating anything except necessary food. He read where Jesus told his disciples to not take shoes or two coats when they went on their missionary journey. So he quit wearing shoes for a few years and didn't carry an extra coat. He did strenuous work and slept on the floor to keep his body in good shape. Some of these strange ideas caused his friends to worry about him, but it seemed to have a good effect on his young students. Many of them dedicated their lives completely to God and served Him in very adverse circumstances. Several were martyred for their faith.

Plutarch was his first pagan student and was also the first to be executed. Following him many others were martyred, some of which were girls and women. Beautiful Potamiaena was first tortured and then burned together with her mother, Marcella. It is said that Aquila, the judge, subjected her beautiful body to the most dreadful agonies. First, she struggled valiantly to retain her chastity and virginity. Then she was threatened to be given over to the gladiators for bodily insult. When asked what she intended to do, she thought a moment and then gave an answer which offended their religious prejudices. Quickly she was sentenced.

Basilides, a soldier, seized her arm and led her away to the execution. As the crowd plagued and insulted her by obscene jests, he drove them away. "Thank you for you pity and kindness to me," she said. "I will ask the Lord for you, and He will repay you for all you have done for me."

Not long after this Basilides was asked to take an oath. "I cannot, for I am now a Christian," he said.

Thinking he was joking, they laughed.

"Yes, I am," he assured them.

"You know that means you will go to prison," they cautioned.

"I know," he answered.

Basilides was put in prison. When this news reached the Christians, they came to visit him. "Why such a sudden change?" they asked.

"Potamiaena came to me in a dream, three days after her death. On my head she placed a martyr's wreath, saying, 'I have prayed to my Lord for you. He has given me my request. You will be by my side in a few days.'"

After hearing his testimony, the believers baptized him.

The next day he was beheaded.

Records state that soon after beautiful Potamiaena's death, that many citizens of Alexandria accepted the teachings of Christ. Many of these said that Potamiaena had appeared to them in dreams and called them.

"Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children." Isaiah 66:8.

How Origen died, we do not know. What we do know is that his great suffering for Christ brought thousands of souls into Zion, the Church.

(A true story recorded in *The History of The Church* by Eusebius).

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. Michael and his angels, and the dragon and his angels. 2. Deceiving the whole world. 3. Salvation. 4. He was cast down. 5. By the blood of the Lamb and the Christians' testimonies. 6. Because his time was short. 7. She was given wings so she could fly into the wilderness. 8. The earth swallowed the flood. 9. Keeping God's commandments and having a testimony of Jesus.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 Dec. 12, 1993

Arrested but Victorious

(A true happening in 1992.)

Magdangal waved good-bye to his wife in the airport in Manila. He would come home and spend Christmas with his family. Good jobs were hard to find in Manila. His family needed a good income, so Oswaldo had been working in Saudi Arabia for ten years. He was executive secretary to the Minister of Defense and Civil Aviation.

Magdangal loved the Lord with all his heart, but he thought himself nothing more than an ordinary Christian filled with the Holy Spirit. True, he did witness occasionally to men he met, and he had Bible Study, worship and fellowship with other Christians in his home. This was against the law in Saudi Arabia. Sometimes concerned friends said to him, "You should be more careful. You might get arrested for teaching the Gospel, and being arrested for a religious violation spells *torment*," they would add.

One evening when the Christians gathered for Bible study one Brother said, "I heard just yesterday that the muttawa (Saudi religious police) is planning to raid one of our meetings. You'll be in for serious trouble if they do, for this is your house."

The group had special prayer that night. After prayer Magdangal said, "The Lord seemed to ask me while praying, 'How far will you trust me? Will you not allow me the freedom to truly protect

you?' I think we should continue our worship services."

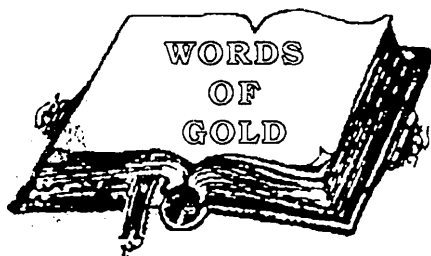
To keep quite about a secret meeting in Saudi is really hard for people who love money, for it has been reported that the Saudi police offer a great amount of money (like \$8,000) for information leading to the arrest of an expatriate Christian. This temptation soon overcame one man and he told about the meetings.

Nineteen Saudi religious police gathered outside of Magdangal's home one evening last year. One knocked on the door. No one dared open the door until they heard a voice call,—"My friend, my friend. There has been an accident and your car has been hit."

As soon as Magdangal opened the door, all nineteen muttawa burst in and started ransacking his home. "Where are your warrants?" demanded Magdangal. "We are protected by law unless you have a warrant."

"We are the religious police," they answered while they pushed and shoved the believers out of their way. Two policemen found joy in smashing the piano into pieces. Others opened every cupboard and every drawer, taking everything out and loading it into their cars.

After four hours of harassment Magdangal was arrested. "We have been searching for you for over a year," a policeman told him as they rode to the holding station. Later he was told by the officials at the station that he was the country's leading public enemy.



Paganism In a Christian Garb

Revelation 13:1-8

1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Daniel 7:17, 19, 23-25

17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.

19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful....

23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall devour the whole earth... and shall tread it down....

24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise; and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Acts 14:12, 15

12 And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius....

15 ...We...preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities...

The Message: The so called Christian Church worshipped the great Red Dragon through pagan rituals and ceremonies.

Questions:

1. From where did the beast come?
2. What was written on the heads of this beast?
3. Where did the beast get his power, and authority?
4. Who did the people worship?
5. How long were the two beasts to continue?
6. With whom did he make war?
7. What people would not worship this beast?
8. What did the beast and his horns represent?
9. How was the little horn different from the other horns?

Verse to Memorize

Ye worship ye know not what....

John 4:22.

Let's Talk . . .

This vision has a seven headed beast with ten horns wearing crowns. A strange beast? Yes indeed, and very much like the dragon of Chapter twelve. The dragon had seven heads wearing crowns, and also ten horns. Daniel had a vision of the same beast hundreds of years before John did. God told Daniel that the beast was a king ruling a kingdom with ten kings. At another time God told Daniel that Jesus would be born during the reign of this king. From reading history we know Jesus was born while the Roman Empire ruled most of the known world.

The Roman Empire consisted of ten minor kingdoms. What a great empire it was, and according to the World Book Encyclopedia "the Roman Catholic Church replaced the Roman Empire as the unifying force in Europe." This is shown in the vision by the little horn (Dan. 7:8.) that could speak. Speaking is solely a human trait, and human characteristics symbolize something religious.

Verses four reads, "They worshipped the dragon which gave power to the beast, and they worshipped the beast." People were worshipping both the dragon and the beast at the same time.

The following is a list of ways in which the fallen Christian Church wor-

shipped the dragon through its rituals and practices:

1. Priests of both religions are called Pontifex Maximus, and wear the same type of clothing.
2. Both claim spiritual and non-spiritual authority over men.
3. Both wear scapulars, medals and images for shields against common ills and dangers.
4. Both have special images for protections while traveling.
5. Both reverence great men after death, even praying to them as a god.
6. Both punish themselves for forgiveness of sins.
7. Both have monks and nuns only they are called by different names.
8. Both worship idols and images and burn incense in public worship services.
9. Both use holy water, burn wax candles for various religious reasons, use altar boys.
10. Both have processions or pilgrimages as worship.
11. In Rome, both dedicated the same temple. The pagans dedicated it to "all the gods," the Catholic to "Mary and all the saints." People are today bowing and saying prayers before the pagan gods in that temple and many other churches. Only the idols have Christian names, Jupiter is St. Paul; Venus is Mary.

Let us be careful to not practice any of these evil customs. We too will be exalting the dragon who gave his power and authority to the beast.

(Smith, F.G., *Revelation Explained*, Faith Publishing House, Guthrie, p. 233-251.



Later that night he was crammed in a 9 x 15 foot cell with twenty-five other prisoners. Later he was placed in a cell without lighting nor windows. On the second day he was taken out and tortured for more than three hours. He was beaten on his hands, feet, back and face. "This is nothing compared to what you will receive tomorrow," they warned, as they locked him up again. The bruises on the parts of his body which he could see were swollen and purple.

After the second torture session, he was questioned about some religious literature found in his room. "Do you believe this?", Lt. Hanad asked.

"Yes, I do," he answered.

"You are no ordinary Christian," Hanad answered.

Later when asked if he had anything to say Magdangal answered, "God has allowed this. I am not angry. I have asked God to forgive you.— And I believe.—"

"Shut-up," Lt. Hanad snarled, then ordered Magdangal to be taken back to his cell.

That night Magdangal prayed about two hours. He was able, by the help of the Holy Spirit, to thank God for allowing him to suffer for Christ. After the long prayer, he slept soundly.

He awoke the next morning feeling very good. He looked at his arms, legs and feet. "They are normal!" he cried excitedly. "There isn't any dried blood either, and I know my wounds bled."

Magdangal was charged with building a church, praying and teaching the Bible to other Christians. He was soon taken to Malaz Prison where other prisoners were warned to stay away from this very dangerous Christian.

During the month, Magdangal was joined by his friend, Renato Posedio. They were both sentenced to die on Christmas day.... "Lord, we are willing to die for you," they prayed.

"But you know all about my anxieties and fears. I am not a super Christian, as Lt. Hanad thought," Magdangal

said. "But I serve a super God," he added.

When his wife in Manila learned about his execution, she appealed to the Philippine government for help. They, together with the U.S. Congress, brought pressure on the Saudis to release him.

On December 22, Magdangal's wife visited him at the prison. She said, "God has shown me that you and Renato will be released before midnight tomorrow."

Magdangal wanted to believe it, but found it hard to rebuke fears. Their fears increased when they heard their execution announced by the BBC on a fellow prisoner's radio.

The day was long. At 10:00 p.m. Magdangal and Renato met for an hour of prayer. They hoped the prison wall would shake and the doors open as they did for the Apostles, but when they opened their eyes the giant pillars where prisoners received lashings were securely in place.

A few minutes later at 11:15 p.m. a police officer walked up and said, "Both of you are free to go." A half hour later they were back at the holding station where they were first taken.

The next day they were taken to the airport and put on a plane for Manila, where their families later joined them.

"I thought I would be home for Christmas," Magdangal said holding his wife tightly, but during the past month I have wondered if I were going to this home or my heavenly home."

(From an article in *Open Doors News Brief*, August, 1993.)

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. Out of the sea. 2. Blasphemy. 3. from the dragon. 4. The dragon and the beast. 5. The Revelation beast. 42 months; the beast in Daniel, a time, times and dividing of times (both equal 1260 years). 6. with the saints. 7. Those who's names are written in the Book of Life (these made up the church that hid in the wilderness). 8. A great empire having ten kings. 9. He could speak. He spoke blasphemy against the most High.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 Dec. 19, 1993

The Quicksand of Babylon

Jed loved to play in the sand near the river that ran through their farm. With the moist sand he built castles and forts. Sticks and rocks were used for soldiers and great imaginary wars were fought there. Sometimes he almost buried himself in the sand and watched the white clouds floating by. He dreamed of flying away to strange enchanted lands where life held many magical things. Everything was fun and easy in that land.

His dog, Spot, was always at his heels. Often he would take a soup bone, or Spot's favorite ball and hide them from Spot underneath the sand. What fun to watch Spot throw the sand between his legs digging for the treasure. Sometimes Jed threw sticks and Spot would bring them to him again. Often they swam together. Spot was so strong that Jed held his tail and Spot would bring him to shore.

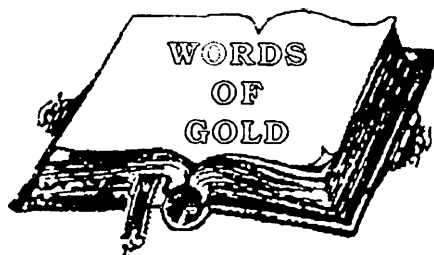
However, Jed was not allowed to play all along the river bank. One part of the golden sand was dreaded *quicksand*. All the farmers knew about this dangerous place. Together they had built a fence and put a warning sign on it. They warned their children to never cross the fence. Some days when everything Jed thought to do seemed boring, he would wonder over to the fence and look on the other side. "That sand looks

the same as it does on this side," he would say to himself. "I wonder if it is really dangerous?" Each time he was tempted to climb over the fence and test the *quicksand*, he would remember the story old farmer Hightower told about a stranger's horse being swallowed by the sand. The horse was a beautiful steed and swift of foot. The horse fought with all his might to get out, but the more he fought the deeper he sank. His chestnut coat soon beaded with sweat, his eyes were wild with fright and his mouth foaming. The owner pulled and tugged. When he saw it was doing no good, he hurried to a nearby barn and borrowed a team of work horses and hitched them to the drowning steed. But the *quicksand* sucked the horse deeper and deeper. Finally only his head was above the glittering sand. The stranger could not stand to see his frightened horse be sucked under so he went mournfully away. The farmer from whom he had borrowed the team kept him overnight.

The next morning when he returned to the river the smooth golden sand was glittering in the sun. The sand seemed to be saying, "I am innocent of devouring your favorite steed."

Old farmer Hightower always ended his story with, "That's when the neighbors built the fence."

"That was a sad day for the farmer," Jed thought, and this is a sad day for me too. I want to go with my friend Phil to Youth Meetings at his church, but



Men Build An Image Of The Beast

Revelation 13:11-18

11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or

the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

The Message: Men built an image to the beast when they organized the protestant reformation into different churches.

Questions:

1. Describe what John saw.
2. What kind of power did he have?
3. Name four things he did.
4. What happened to the people who would not accept the mark of the beast?
5. What is the number of the beast?
6. Is it the number of a man?
7. Must we be careful and not be deceived by miracles?
8. What is represented by the beast?
9. What is represented by the image of the beast?

Verse to Memorize

Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image...Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them....

Exodus 20:3-5.

Let's



Talk . . .

John sees another vision of a beast. An animal represents a political power. This one has two horns which would represent two kings or kingdoms. He also speaks, so we understand that it has some religious authority.

This beast spoke like a dragon and exercised all the power of the first beast, and he caused the people to worship the other beast whose deadly wound was healed.

How could one beast cause people to worship another? Remember in last week's lesson, the beast caused people to worship the dragon by practicing rituals and ceremonies from the pagan worship service. Another system of churches could cause people to worship the beast by practicing some of its customs.

Throughout the remainder of this chapter when the word beast is used it refers to the beast with seven heads and ten horns (the Roman church). This image of the beast is called "he" not a beast. "He made fire come down from heaven." This must represent the great reformation fires which burned in Europe from 1516 through the 1530's. Biblical truth spread like wild fire until thousands were separated from the Roman Catholic Church. Also the Church in the wilderness came out of hiding.

Sad to say, however, that this reformation soon developed into many churches, each defending his particular doctrines with the Bible, and killing others who opposed the Word of God which they preached. In this way they obeyed part of the Bible and disobeyed another part of it. For thirty years Germany had wars over Bible

doctrines. The Huguenot wars in France were lengthy. In England, the Anglican Protestants waged a bitter, cruel and relentless war not only against Catholics, but against all Protestants who refused to conform to the established church.

How did this beast make an image to the other beast? By making rules and forcing people to obey these rules. The rules were different, but the machinery that ran these churches was manufactured off a blueprint from the church they strongly protested. These churches are called Protestant because they protested the Catholic Church.

"He had power to give life unto the image of the beast." The Protestant movement did not need God's life to keep the many organizations going, for men gave the orders that kept it moving.

"The mark of the beast" is the false spirit and doctrines which men receive from any false worship of God. Talk about religion to a Jehovah Witness, a Baptist, or most any sect, and you will soon learn how they have been branded or marked.

"No man might buy or sell," without a mark, symbolized needing permission from the church head before preaching. John Bunyan wrote *Pilgrims Progress* in jail because he preached without getting permission from the church leaders.

The number of the beast is the number of a man. What man? On the tall cap of the Pope are the jeweled letters VICARIUS FILII DEI. Omit all the letters not used by Latins as numerals. (Both V and U were formerly used as five.) Now give the Roman Numeral value to each letter:

V=5, I=1, C=100, I=1, U=5, I=1, L=50 I=1, I=1, D=500, I=1. Add $5+1+100+1+5+1+50+1+1+500+1=666$. That is the number of the beast. Isn't it amazing the wisdom found in the Bible?

(Smith, F.G., *Revelation Explained*, Faith Publishing House, Guthrie, p. 251-267. World Book Encyclopedia.)

—Charlotte Huskey

Dad won't let me. He ought to be glad I'm asking to go there and not a "pot party" some place. That's what most boys are asking to do, or not asking but sneaking off and doing it."

Jed sat on the bank and looked down at the sand between his knees. Suddenly he wasn't seeing the sand, but his father's earnest face. "Son," his father was saying, "churches that preach only part of the truth are more dangerous than *quicksand*. They will suck you under and you never know you are going down. The book of Revelation speaks of being drunk on the wine of Babylon. When a person is drunk, he hardly knows what he is doing. He can't make good decisions. Isn't that right?"

Jed answered, "Yes."

"If you take in something that could make you drunk, you will not be able to make good decisions. You will surely take in false ideas if you attend churches which do not preach the truth. Soon you will be making choices that are not good."

"But Dad, I need to see for myself."

"Do you think I would let you go into a tavern and get drunk so you could see for yourself what it is like to be drunk?"

"No," Jed answered.

"Getting drunk on the wine of Babylon is just as dangerous as being drunk with grape wine. It will suck you into its false ideas so slowly that you will not even fight like you would if you were caught in *quicksand*."

The word *quicksand* brought Jed back to reality. Rebellion burned in his heart. Why was Dad so careful? Why was he so strict? "I need a little freedom," he said as he jumped up and stomped the sand. "I think I'll just try the *quicksand* today. It may not be half as bad as they say. Probably just trying to scare us kids. Isn't that right?" he said to Spot who looked up at him with questioning eyes.

"It'll be alright, Spot old boy. I'm not doing anything really bad. It's just a

little experiment." He patted his dog and walk deliberately to the fence. He stop and read the sign.

WARNING!
DANGEROUS QUICKSAND

"I'm sure many other boys and girls have read that sign and paid no attention to it," he said trying to assure himself that what he was doing was just normal behavior. "Anyway, there are too many warnings given to us. We are almost young people now, and old enough to start making decisions for ourselves," he mumbled.

Jed hopped over the fence. He looked down on the sand near the river. It looked firm enough, just like the rest of the sand. "Foolishness," he thought, "they're just trying to scare us." he jumped down the river bank onto the sand below. No sooner had he hit the sand than he began to sink. He could feel the sucking force on his feet and legs. Already his shoes were almost buried. Quickly Jed flung himself on the bank and grasped the long grass that grew there. Tugging with all his might he did pull himself out of the sand and up the bank to safety.

Carefully, oh so carefully, he eased his way to a safe place on the water's edge and washed his shoes. He surely didn't want anyone to know how foolish he had been, and he decided that Babylon could also be as dangerous as the *quicksand*! —Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. A two horned beast speaking like a dragon. 2. The same kind as the beast before him. 3. He caused the earth to worship the first beast, did great wonders, made fire come from heaven, deceived people by his miracles, gave life to the image, marked all men. 4. They could not buy or sell, (teach or preach) 5. It is 666. 6. Yes. 7. Yes. 8. All Catholic churches. 9. All Protestants churches.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Jane's Everlasting Gospel

"How I wish we could go to Sunday school," Jane said to her mother. "We have missed eight Sundays now."

"I'm sorry, but you know the car will hardly run and Father thinks we must only go into town for necessities."

"But isn't hearing God's Word a necessity?"

"Sure it is, but your father doesn't think so. We do have a Bible and can read it. Also I have this book about Amy Carmichael. Reading it would be a good way to spend Sunday."

Jane took the book and went to her room. There she spent the remainder of the day reading. Every day when she had time, she continued to read. The next Sunday she finished the book. "I would like to live such a life," Jane said. She realized, however, that she could not do so unless she was born again and had the Spirit of God in her life. She thought awhile. She had seen people go forward in church service and testify that God saved them. She had also heard people testify of being born again. She had watched these people. Some she saw being faithful. Those she was sure had a real change in their heart. Others she never again saw in Sunday school. Some were returning to Sunday school but had no real testimony for Jesus.

After some thought, Jane knelt beside her bed. "Dear Lord," she said, "I

want to be your child. I want to be a real Christian, not a short turn Christian, or a people-pleaser Christian. I wish to be a blessing to others. I cannot be a blessing as Amy was unless you change me. Please Lord make me a new creature. I am sixteen years old; old enough to know I want to live for You the rest of my life. I don't have the privilege to hear your Gospel preached very often, but I know Jesus that You can make me strong. You can give me a salvation that will last forever; an everlasting salvation.

"Thank you Jesus, I know you will. Amen."

Jane arose from her knees a new creature. Jesus had accepted her as she had accepted Him as her Saviour.

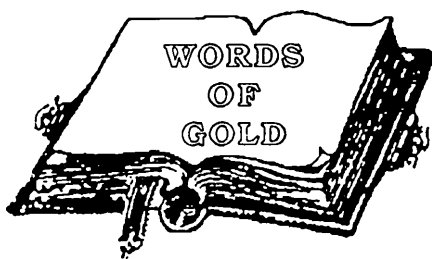
Jane is now a grown woman still living for Jesus and being a blessing to others.

Jane did not become a member of some church and live by the rules of the church. Jane lives by the commandments of Jesus Christ, and His Holy Spirit has kept her all these years.

—Charlotte Huskey

Saved Twice In the Same Day

An old time preacher of the Gospel went into a small town in Minnesota to hold a meeting. He rented a hall and advertised for a meeting. People in general were more interested in God, so the minister had hopes of a crowd coming to hear him.



The Church Out Of The Wilderness

Revelation 14:1-11, 13

1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne...and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

4 These are they which were not defiled (disgraced themselves) with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man

worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

The Message: Three ministries of the Church of God are to preach an everlasting Gospel, proclaim Babylon is fallen, and warn all who have the mark of the beast of their coming punishment.

Questions:

1. What did John see in this vision?
2. What was this multitude doing?
3. What kind of song were they singing?
4. Were these people without fault before God?
5. What was the first angel carrying?
6. What did the second angel announce?
7. What was the message of the third angel?
8. What will happen to those who worship the beast or his image?
9. What will happen to those who die in the Lord?

Verse to Memorize

...Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord...that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Revelation 14:13.

Let's



Talk . . .

Revelation contrasts the good and the evil. Chapter thirteen was a vision of two evil religious systems, known as Christian. The vision we are studying today is of the pure Church.

This true Church is described as a great multitude standing on mount Sion, singing and proclaiming the everlasting Gospel. This 144,000 on mount Sion are singing a song that only the redeemed can sing. Also they speak with one mouth (verse 5) showing they are in unity and it reaches to the throne. God hears them because they are pure and in unity.

The three angels in the vision are the three main ministries of this throng of saints. They are to carry the everlasting Gospel all over the world. This gospel is what Christ's followers taught during the first 300 years of the Church. Many churches teach that only those are saved who obey their church's rules. The churches are not preaching an everlasting gospel. Its salvation lasts only as long as that church exists. Christ taught people to leave religious rules whether they be Jewish laws, pagan customs or any other. They were to believe in only Jesus as their direct route to God.

This message has great urgency because "the hour of his [God's] judgment is come." St. Paul warned the Thessalonians not to think the end of the world was near because he said, "The 'man of sin' must first make himself as God." The "man of sin" is the pope and he has acted as God. People of every nation are worshipping him through the "image of the beast."

Another ministry of the Church is to announce that Babylon is fallen. Babylon was the city which kept the people of Israel captive. False churches, whether Catholic or Protestant, keep people captive in a religious system. Their false doctrines make people spiritually drunk so the person cannot think clearly and get the help they need from God.

The third ministry of God's Church is to strongly warn people of the judgments of God on all who have the mark of the beast or his image. Those who are branded by churches will be tormented with fire and brimstone forever. They will never have rest, so it is very urgent that we as the Church of God warn our friends, our neighbors, all church members, that a great punishment is awaiting those who receive the mark of the beast or his image.

The blessings of God are for all those who remain in personal fellowship with God and free from religions and/or churches. Only these will be a part of the great company standing on mount Sion preaching the everlasting Gospel that Christ taught.

(F.G. Smith, *Revelation Explained*, Guthrie, p. 268-283.)

—Charlotte Huskey



Near the close of the meeting he noticed a girl giving much attention to what he had to say. Later he saw her clinging to her Bible as if it were a prized possession. As the people filed out of the building he shook hands with each one. "You must be the girl people have been telling me about?" he asked her as he shook her hand.

"Why is that?" she asked.

"Some have told me that a girl is the only Christian in this town. I believe you are that Christian."

"Yes, I am a Christian, and as far as I know, I am the only one in town," she answered. "I was saved down in a water well. It happened two years ago. I was playing with my brothers and sisters on the farm which my daddy had recently bought. Of course, I did not know much about the place. As I was running I stepped into a wide hand-dug well. Down, down, down I went. Splash! I hit the water. I was trembling and thought I might drown as the water was over my head, but there just above the water a plank had lodged. I pulled myself up to the plank and rested my chin on it. At first I feared I could not hold my body up, but the water supported me enough so I could. There I began to pray.

"Oh, Lord Jesus," I said, "I am not ready to die. I heard that you died on the cross for my sins and those of everyone else, but I have always thought I would take care of my soul when I was old and about to die. Lord, I'm about to die now! Please God, do save me this minute! For you know I might be buried here in this well.

"I could hear my brothers and sisters playing. Later they began calling for me, but they could not hear me answering them.

"Later when they returned home and I was not with them, my mother asked where I was.

"We don't know," they all answered. "We can't find her."

"The whole family started out to find me. I could hear them in the distance. I had been praying and felt that Jesus

had saved my soul. Now if they would only hear my voice. I cried out as loudly as possible. My parents both heard me. They followed the sound of the voice and soon discovered me in the well.

"There are many leather horse straps and ropes on the farm, so they soon pulled me up out of the well. I was saved twice that day. Jesus saved my soul. Mother and Daddy saved me from drowning."

"And your Bible?" he asked.

"It was sent to me by a friend who lives out of town. It has been so much encouragement to me that I shall never part with it as long as I live.

When she grew up, she moved away to another town where she found some Christians. The minister still continued to preach and teach in the town. On one of his visits, the people sadly told him that the girl had been killed when a tractor she was driving overturned in a ditch.

After that people of the town began getting saved. Soon there was a nice group of Christians. The girl had been crushed under the tractor, and she went on to heaven to live with the Saviour she loved so well, but her beautiful life lived on in the hearts of the people. She had shown them the way to live for God. She had not shown them the way to live for a certain church, nor the way to please church people. She had shown them how to live for Jesus who had given her an "everlasting Gospel."

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. He saw a multitude standing on mount Sion. 2. Singing. 3. A new song which only the redeemed could sing. 4. Yes. 5. The everlasting gospel. 6. Babylon is fallen, is fallen. 7. Those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark shall drink of the wrath of God. 8. All who have the mark of the beast shall be tormented forever and ever, and never rest. 9. They shall be blessed, and rest from their labours.)