

The Bible Standard

“Send out your light and truth! Let them lead me;...”

Psalm 43:3

“LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE”

Isaiah 62: 10

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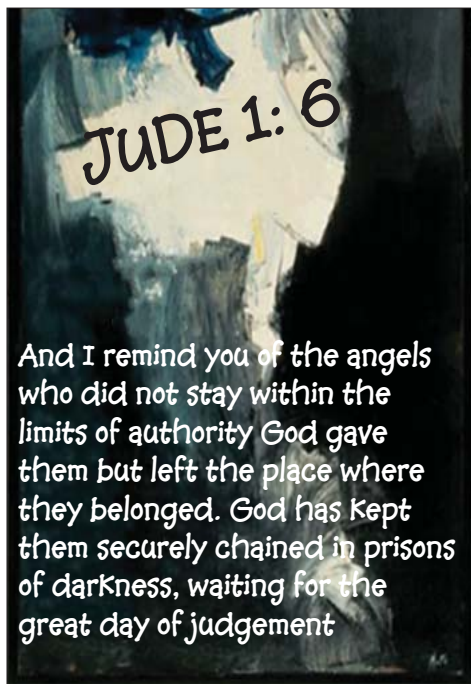


The Question Mark is derived from the Latin word "Question" meaning "I Ask"

ANGELS

DO WE REALLY KNOW WHAT THEY ARE LIKE?

We find angels portrayed in pictures, as ornaments in jewelry, and on U.S. postage stamps. They are young and chubby; they are, in a vague way, friendly; and some even care about us. Angels, it seems, are today's fascination. But we should ask what are these beings really like? From the Bible (God's Word) we know what they are not like. It will come as no surprise that they do not need wings; nor are they the romance-inspiring cupids of fable. Angels are serious. They do serious, real work. The nature of these fascinating beings, and the work they do—good and bad—are explored in the following article. We trust the reader will be left with a new understanding for these remarkable creatures, and a fresh appreciation of the God who created them. "The angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day" (Jude 1: 6).



We have many thoughts given in our writings about the test or trial which came to the angels of God through the fall of man (SITS 5, pp. 412, 413; SITS 6, pp. 619-624, and the Spiritism Ancient and Modern booklet, pp. 110-112). Such a testing of the loyalty of the angels of God was appropriate,

yet would have been, we may say, impossible, had it not been for man's creation under conditions practically what

they were. This testing of these perfect beings existing under perfect conditions should have found them all loyal to the LORD and to His various arrangements, realizing that they were every way beneficial, the wisest and the best.

We have seen how sin as a disease is figuratively represented in the Scriptures by leprosy; and that the temptation came along the lines by which humanity was different from angels: in that humanity possessed the power of propagating its own species.

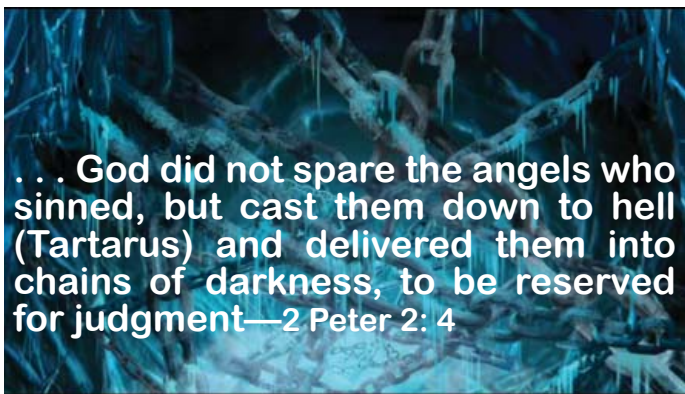
This power was seductive, and the Scriptures show us that many of the angels preferred to leave their own estate or habitation that they might associate with humanity and participate in this fleshly power of propagation (Jude 7). They should, of course, have settled it in their own minds that the Divine program for them was far better than they could have devised for themselves. They should have relied upon God's assurance that their plane of being was still higher than that of humanity; in short, they should have been contented, happy in the exercise of the powers and qualities and blessings already given them by the Father richly to enjoy. And this was true of many of them, but not of all. The fall of these angels is also referred to by the Apostle Peter: "For if God did not spare the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment" (2 Pet. 2: 4) and still more particularly in Gen. 6: 1-5.

Reviewing what we have elsewhere presented: the angels who fell from favor were restrained in Tartarus, the atmosphere of our earth—it has separated them from the holy angels; they have been bound in "chains of darkness" which, since the Flood, have hindered them from materializing in human form, and obliged them—if they would have anything to do with humanity—to do so secretly or through agents, mediums, witches, etc.. These fallen angels, then, also known Biblically as "wicked spirits," "demons," and "lying spirits," have

been operating since Noah's Flood under restraints of darkness for some long time, however the fallen angels now accomplish the ensnarement of the human family by the propagation of false doctrine—notably, by the teaching that the dead are not dead, but are alive as spirit beings; by so-called communications with the “dead”—actually a clever fraud. They attempt to corroborate their own claim, that the “dead” are “alive”! This, of course, was Satan's lie in the Garden of Eden—“Ye shall not surely die,” the very reverse of God's plain declaration, “Ye shall surely die” (Gen. 3: 3, 4).

HOW DO ANGELS ENSNARE THEIR VICTIMS?

We feel it our duty to tell Christians and remind all the consecrated brethren, within the reach of our influence, to be on their guard against the dangers of Spiritism, Occultism (including hypnotism), etc., and the subtle trickeries and deceptions of the evil angels as practiced today. We have learned from time to time of people who have had experiences with “flying saucers,” with spirit mediums, with spirit “messages” (some directly and some indirectly), with Ouija boards, with visions and even with spirit materializations. These demons can materialize, carry on conversations and be very convincing; they can assume the appearance, manner and sound of the voice of the one whom they are impersonating. An example of a demon impersonating Bro. Russell (R4736, par. 6-12).



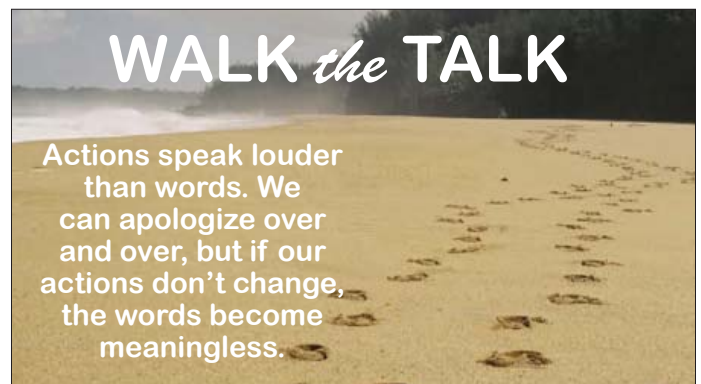
It seems that with the progressive binding of Satan, “the prince of devils,” “the prince of the power of the air” (Matt. 12: 24; Eph. 2: 2), there is a progressive releasing of the demons from their “chains of darkness” (2 Pet. 2: 4; Jude 6). Their communications with mankind and their subtle practices and deceptions seem to be far more general and successful today than when the Special Vow was recommended (1908) for the protection of the LORD's people 106 years ago. More and more, human society is being demoralized and corrupted under their evil influence. Note, e.g., the low and immoral standards (if we may call them standards) now prevailing in music,

art, sculpture, dancing, literature, film, radio, television, social proprieties, etc. Lawlessness is rapidly increasing on every hand and in every respect. We have reasons to believe that as the continued relaxation of restraints upon the fallen angels and human society progresses, demonic materializations and human licentiousness will correspondingly increase and conditions will become more and more like those recorded in Gen. 6: 1-5.

These wicked spirits—not content with operating through humanity as their mediums—seek to “possess” or “obsess” people so as to use their bodies as if they were their own; this succeeds only if the subjects yield their minds to the influence brought to bear upon them. If one's will, by yielding, becomes broken down, a number of these fallen spirits can get possession of an individual, resulting in the victim's insanity. In one incident the Lord inquired the name of the unclean spirit and got the answer “legion,” (Mark 5: 9) for there did many possess the afflicted one. When the Lord released the demons they entered a whole herd of swine which became so crazed that they ran into the sea and drowned. Our present inquiry is particularly respecting the judgment of these fallen spirits, concerning which we read, “Do you not know that we (the saints) shall judge angels?” (1 Cor. 6: 3).

CHRIST'S SERMON TO THE FALLEN ANGELS

We have already studied the hope of these angels, and have seen the manner in which Christ preached to them by His death and resurrection—preached to the spirits in prison which were disobedient in the days of Noah—the angels which kept not their first estate. Our Lord could not preach orally during the time He was dead, but He preached by His sufferings, death, and resurrection. An old proverb puts it succinctly, “actions speak louder than words.”



We may be sure that Satan and all these fallen angels knew the Lord and observed closely everything pertaining to His early life, death and resurrection. Did they not declare, “I know who you are, the Holy One

of God”—the Messiah (Mark 1: 24). While the holy angels watched every procedure, these fallen angels had a special interest in this manifestation of God’s love for humanity, which brought the Redeemer from the heavenly plane to the earthly one, and then cost His death to redeem Adam and his race, because the penalty was death.

GOD DELIGHTS IN JUSTICE



“ . . . For there is going to come a day of Judgement when God. . . will judge all people according to what they have done. . . ”—Rom. 2: 5-8.

The angels knew God’s reputation for justice; their own experience was an illustration of it, and the experience of mankind likewise testified to it. But here was taught a manifestation of Divine love and compassion, bringing aid to the degraded race of Adam. They perceived, too, in our Lord’s resurrection that His obedience had brought Him a great reward and high exaltation, so that He arose from the tomb a mighty God, a partaker of the Divine nature. They watched in amazement.

Let us now seek Pastor Russell’s thoughts on justice, “sometimes Christian people see the doctrine of love in the Bible and forget there is a lesson which precedes love. It is the lesson of justice—righteousness. Justice first, love afterwards, should be the rule governing all our dealings with others. Whosoever is not disposed to justice to such an extent as to be willing to suffer loss rather than do an injustice will not have a share in the Kingdom.” Yes, the Bible always pictures God as the great Representative of Justice!

Can we doubt that these circumstances, as the Apostle suggests, were a great sermon, a great lesson to them? Bright, intelligent, wise, they doubtless reasoned that if God had done so much for Adam and his race in their degradation, He might not be unwilling also to show them some favor at some future time. Indeed, we may reasonably suppose that some of those fallen angels, inspired by hope of reconciliation to God at some time in the future, began to mend their ways and to seek to live more in accord with righteousness. We

may assume that these no longer exercised deception and wiles against humanity, but that, though still restrained, they are hoping and waiting for some leniency of the LORD in the judgment of the great day.

SO WE ASK—WHAT WILL THEIR JUDGMENT BE?

With the facts of the case before our minds—that there is to be a judgment, and that this implies a trial—we inquire what kind of a trial or judgment will it be. The word translated judgment in Jude 6 is in the Greek, *krisis*, its primary signification being decision, determination—was a trial in order to reach a decision. This implies that the decision in the case of these fallen angels is not yet rendered, and that some test or trial must come to them that will determine the results.

The Word of the LORD shows clearly that, whatever God’s dealings may be in the interim, the finality of His judgment is that none shall have eternal life except those who are fully in accord with the principles of righteousness; all others shall be destroyed utterly, without hope of recovery. There can be no doubt, then, as to the result of the trial. Both the Apostolic statement that the fallen angels are reserved unto judgment, *krisis*, testing, and the further statement that the saints shall judge angels, show that the matter is not yet settled as respects all of these—there is yet hope for such of these fallen ones as may heartily recognize their wrong course and return to obedience to the LORD.



When will this judgment take place?—at the beginning of the great day or at its further end, or throughout the day of Christ? We answer that the judgment of mankind requires and God has appointed to it the entire period of 1,000

years—the Millennium. Because man is ignorant and deluded and impaired by his experiences under the reign of sin and death and, too, by the machinations of these evil spirits, he will need to have special counsel and help. God has provided the agents—the Church, Head and Body—for man’s social, mental, moral and physical uplifting during the Millennium and his trial or testing will be throughout that period. God will determine for each one as to their willingness to accept and profit by the various blessed agencies which will then be in operation. So, then, the entire Millennial day is scripturally called man’s Day of Judgment. As the

Apostle declares, “because He (God) hath appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness” (Acts 17: 31).

As for the fallen angels—the Scriptures do not say that the whole Millennial epoch is set apart as their judgment day; indeed, we can surmise that this would not be necessary or proper, because, never having come under the sentence of death, they are as much alive and perfect in their organization as they ever were—that all the change possible to them has been in their mentality, their wills. Their knowledge is great, and not, like man’s, confined to a knowledge of sin and evil things, for they had previously a knowledge of goodness, holiness and purity. Additionally, they have seen the Divine dealings through all the various epochs of human history: first, with Israel under the typical mediator, Moses and the typical covenant, the Law; second, they have seen Christ, the antitypical Moses, and have been witnesses of the proclamation of the Gospel throughout this age and of its influence upon those who are rightly exercised thereby, leading them to sacrifice and to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

It would appear, then, that these fallen spirits have little to learn of either good or evil, and that any judgment or trial coming upon them would not need to be long-drawn-out, as with humanity. Their judgment would signify the bringing of them to a decision, a crucial testing of their hearts, their wills, as respects righteousness and sin—harmony with God or with Satan. In order to have such a testing, such a *krisis*, a peculiar condition of things would be necessary—a condition in which they would have an opportunity to do the evil or to resist the temptation and to do good.

“The LORD executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy” (Psa. 103: 6-8).

As we have suggested, no doubt some of them have already acted upon the sermon of Christ’s death and resurrection, and its manifestation of God’s loving character and the hope that it inspires respecting their future. Such might be said to be in a condition of trial all through this Gospel Age—whether or not they would stand firm in their opposition to sin and to those

around them, or succumb and yield and participate in the sins. But evidently, according to the Scriptures, some crucial point of testing will be reached which will decide matters for all these fallen spirits—the “*krisis* of the great day.”



“And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him” (1 John 4: 16).

WE ARE NOW LIVING IN THE *KRISIS* TIME

In view of all these conditions and considerations, we hold that we are now living in this *krisis* time—that the restraint of darkness placed upon these fallen angels was to last only until the crisis or judgment of “the great day.” Our understanding is that this great day of the Lord began chronologically in October, 1874, and from what we can learn it is since that date that “materializations” have become more and more common. Admitting that there are many frauds along this line, we consider that the evidence is too strong to be disputed that there have been numerous genuine manifestations—materializations—in which the spirit personating the dead has assumed a material body, possessing weight and various qualities similar to a human.

A consecrated sister—who had at one time been a spirit medium—related that in the parlor of her own home, the door being shut, a spirit materialized before her in the form of a man who advanced toward her. With a firm grasp he caught her by the arm—just then, her brother opened the parlor door and the materialization instantly dissolved.

In another incident, a brother who also had flirted with Spiritism, saw an apparition masquerading as his dead wife, hand held out. He refused to take the hand, and instead turned his heart to the LORD in prayer for deliverance from the Adversary’s power. The apparition vanished.

In February, an interview with The Daily Item newspaper in Sunbury, PA., reported that a 19 year old

recently married woman and her husband, confessed and were charged with murder for killing a man when he replied to a Craig's List newspaper advertisement. In the confession she stated that she had also murdered at least 22 people, maybe more over the past six years as part of her involvement in a Satanic Cult. Authorities have been investigating her claims.

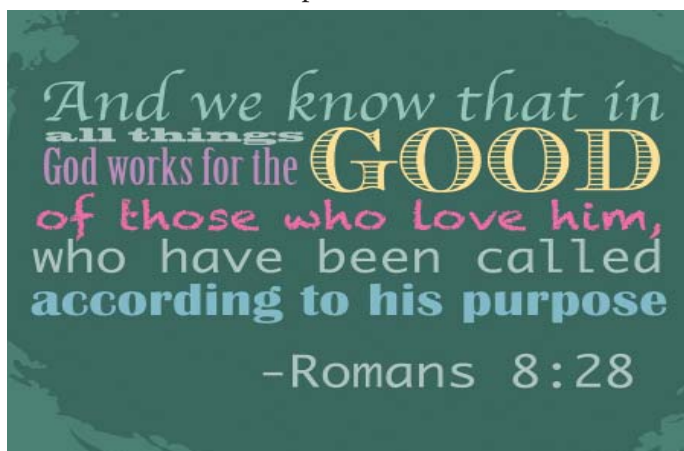
With the ability to go on line with our computers and search for Spiritualist Materialism we can find many reports on this kind of work of the angelic host. We need only turn the television on and many programs can be found about how ghosts inhabit old homes or hotels. We hear of ghost hunters with modern cameras and infrared lighting spending great effort to catch the image of a ghost. The correct action from God's Word is to refrain from watching these programs on television.

Apparently these evil spirits have special power and liberty with those who have at any time yielded to curiosity in connection with spirit manifestations. Here we have a fresh reason for our repeated advice that the LORD's people totally refuse to have anything to do with spirit mediums, séances, hypnotism and clairaudience, or any form of occult divining, by the pendulum, Ouija board, or any such thing. Attempts of the demons to intrude upon us are usually associated with something that excites our curiosity. Our advice is that the LORD's people restrain their curiosity and resent such intrusions as dangerous beginnings, the end of which we may not be able to control.

"MY SOUL BE ON THY GUARD"

Hymns of Dawn 183

The proper course to pursue, when these evil spirits attempt to intrude upon us, is to look to the LORD with faith and confidence, and in the name of the Lord Jesus command the evil one to depart. We need have no fear of their power against us so long as we are the LORD's and are walking in our daily life—not after the will of the flesh, but after the Spirit.



Remember our Lord's words to Pilate, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above" (John 19: 11); and again the Apostle's assurance, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8: 28). Greater is He who is on our part than all they that be against us. If the Adversary had power to injure us he would have done so long ago. "The angel of the LORD encamps all round those who fear (reverence) Him, and delivers them" (Psa. 34: 7).



SOCIAL CONDITIONS WILL DETERIORATE

The Apostle declares that one of the delights of these demons is to impersonate the pure, the good, as an "angel of light" (2 Cor. 11: 14), that they might thereby the more effectually accomplish injury. It is one of the delights of the evil-disposed to entrap others into sin and wrong doing. To this picture we must not forget to add the Apostle's testimony respecting this very time. He declares that because Christendom has not received the Truth in the love of it, but has preferred a lie—preferred to believe that the dead are alive when the Scriptures declare that they are dead and without hope except in a resurrection from the dead—therefore God will send them strong delusion that they may believe a lie because they had no pleasure in the Truth—that they all may be condemned—shown to be unworthy of a place amongst the Elect of the Kingdom. Respecting this time the LORD also through the Prophet declares that "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips but have removed their heart far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men: therefore, behold, I will do a marvelous work among this people, a marvelous work and a wonder; for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden" (Isa. 29: 13, 14).

Our concluding thought respecting the judgment time for the fallen angels is this—that during the Millennial

Age, when righteousness shall be laid to the line and justice to the plummet, when nothing shall be permitted to hurt or to injure in all God's Holy Kingdom, it would be impossible for those fallen angels to have any special trial in connection with mankind—indeed their trials would then seem to be over—surely they will then have less opportunity and therefore less temptation than at present.

We reason therefore that their judgment in present time is in the immediate present—that the permission for them to find and use means of materialization and communication with mankind will furnish the special trial and testing of these angels, their *krisis* and their testing time which is called their judgment, and their testing time will prove which of them are sorry for their sins and now are heart loyal to God. And at the same time this matter has been so gauged by God as to bring it within the period of man's day of trouble—"the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God" (Rom. 2: 5).

As we examine God's Word our conclusion is that the loosening and liberating from the chains of darkness of these demons will increase, perhaps very rapidly. Of a certainty there will be an increased interest in society in the occult and the exotic, "mysterious" trends of thought, such conditions provide fertile ground in which the demons can work. We might well tremble when we anticipate the future; where evil influence, immorality and general lawlessness will prevail. It is not our thought to awaken needless alarm over present-day evil conditions, but rather to call attention to the

safeguarding and protecting arrangements which God has provided, in the use of which His consecrated ones may be kept in perfect peace and safety. Our thought is that in some manner there is a protecting influence surrounding human beings which safeguards them from the nefarious efforts and influence of Satan and his angels except so far as they shall give a measure of their will or consent. This safeguarding influence, we believe, is manifold in the case of the consecrated. "The angel of the LORD encamped all around those who fear (reverence) him, and delivered them" (Psa. 34: 7; 125: 2). This view is supported by the statement of Satan respecting Job; "Have you not made a hedge around him?" (Job 1: 10).

Were it not for God's promise of a coming Kingdom under Christ, we would despair. But a better day is coming when all things in heaven and earth will be reconciled in Christ (Eph. 1: 10). Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



THE SEARCH FOR WISDOM AND ITS RESULTS

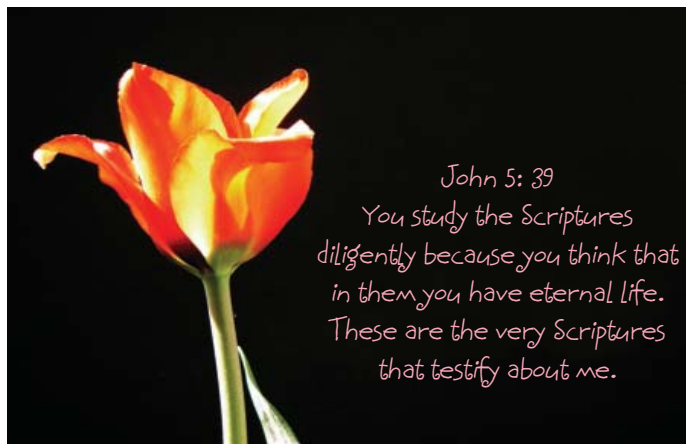
"If you seek her [WISDOM] as silver, and search for her as for hid treasures, then you shall understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God" (Prov. 2: 4, 5).

Among various definitions of wisdom given by Noah Webster, the following is interesting from a religious standpoint: "In Scripture theology wisdom is true religion." And what does religion mean? The word is derived from the Latin word *religio*, which means to bind anew, to rebind, and to bind fast. It is used, according to Webster, in a general sense to signify "any system of faith and worship." Notice, it is defined as a system. This brings us to the conclusion (if we take Webster as the standard for the meanings of words, and we have no reason to differ in this instance) that wisdom is the true system of faith

and worship. We would gather from our text that we are to seek as diligently for the true system of faith and worship as men seek for silver, for hidden treasures. But silver which is to be mined is out of sight, underneath the earth's surface, and is hard to find. There is a strong analogy between seeking for knowledge of the true system of faith and worship and seeking for silver.

That the true system of faith and worship, particularly the deep things of the Word of God (1 Cor. 2: 10), cannot be discerned without seeking diligently, is indicated in

Heb. 5: 11, from the Diaglott “In our discourse we have much to say, and of difficult interpretation, since you have become sluggish hearers.” There are times when the Word of God is difficult to explain. V. 14 “Strong meat belongs to them that are of full age [those with exercised faculties] even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil”; it is also indicated in St. Peter’s words in 2 Pet. 3: 16, where, writing concerning St. Paul’s writings, he says that they contain “some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned [in the Word of God] and unstable wrest [distort, twist, pervert], as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction.”



Experience demonstrates that as there is much persistent and painstaking searching required in finding the “veins” of precious metal concealed in the earth, so there is much persistent and painstaking study needed in order to find the “veins” of precious Truth hidden away in the mine of God’s Word. And our text implies nothing less. It is the duty, as well as the privilege, of every sincere, consecrated Christian diligently to “search the Scriptures” (John 5: 39; Acts 17: 11), using the helps that the LORD provides (Eph. 4: 11). In our day we have not only these helps, the human teachers the LORD has provided, but also we have the Truth writings, such as the Parousia and Epiphany Volumes, the Present Truth, etc. Yes, Pro. 4: 18 so elegantly expresses this thought of progression “The path of the just is as the shining light, that shines more and more unto the perfect day.”

The teachings of God’s servants are to be received with good attention and “with all readiness of mind,” and then each consecrated individual is to search the Scriptures “daily,” to see whether or not such teachings come from and are in harmony with the Bible. We are to “try the spirits [doctrines],” to “prove all things, and hold fast that which is good” (1 John 4: 1; 1 Thes. 5: 21). By searching diligently and carefully we will find the precious “silver” of Truth (Matt. 7: 7), the treasures hidden from others

Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do! And whatever else you do, develop Good Judgement (Proverbs 4: 7). Wisdom is easy to find - just open a Bible and start to read.



[sluggish hearers]; we will find and gradually learn more and more about God’s “system of faith and worship”; and what we cannot find out will be only that which God has so completely and carefully hidden that it cannot be discovered because it is not yet His due time for it to be revealed [progressive Truth]. Deut. 29: 29 “The secret things belong to the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong to us” [the called, chosen and fully consecrated child of God]. See also Rom. 16: 25; Col. 1: 26.

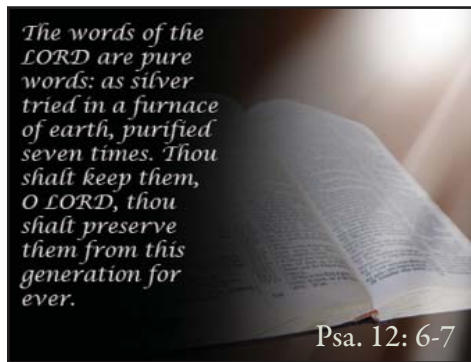
But, the curious mind may ask, why has God hidden the Truth, if it is right for us to know it? We answer, God does not wish everyone to know it at this time (comp. Rom. 11: 32), for the worldly-wise are not humble enough to receive and be benefited by present Truth at this time; for them the increased knowledge of God’s Word would at present only add to their culpability and work to their disadvantage; so God hides it from them. Jesus said, “I thank thee, O Father, LORD of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the [worldly] wise and prudent, and have revealed them unto babes [meek, humble, trusting ones—Matt. 18: 3, 4]: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in your sight” (Matt. 11: 25; Luke 10: 21).

Furthermore, the Truth is hidden so that the search for it is a beneficial exercise for us and causes us to appreciate it all the more when found; and it is so hidden that it will not be found until it is needed. God “has in due times manifested his word through preaching” (Titus 1: 3). Paul penned these words to Titus [a matured Christian character], an overseer of the Church. The instructions are not intended for or applicable to others than consecrated believers, a peculiar faith of God’s elect not shared by others, for “it is spiritually discerned” (1 Cor. 2: 14).

One might just as well say that the silver and gold, the coal and the oil, were hidden away in the earth because it is not right for us to have them, as to say that God hid the Truth in the Bible because He did not wish us to have the true system of faith and worship. The Truth as due [present Truth] can be found only as a result of diligent searching; and it is found and retained only by such as have the following qualifications: reverence (Psa. 25: 14; 111: 10), proper humility (James 4: 6;

1 Pet. 5: 5, 6), meekness (Psa. 25: 9), hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matt. 5: 6), honesty and goodness of heart (Luke 8: 15), and holiness, “without which no man shall see the LORD” (Heb. 12: 14; Matt. 5: 8; Psa. 97: 11). Only those who are interested and earnest enough to search diligently will find the precious wisdom of God’s Word, which consists of “pure words, as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times” (Psa. 12: 6), which is “better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold” (Prov. 3: 13-15).

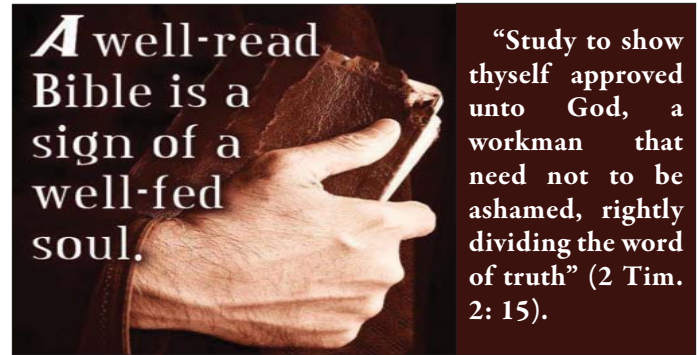
But, says one, we have had the true system of faith and worship all along through the Gospel Age—what more do we need? Did not our fathers understand it? Those who searched diligently and in a proper heart attitude received what was needed for them to know in their day [present Truth], but that is not enough for us to know in our day [progressive Truth], any more than the Truth of Noah’s day was enough for Abraham or John the Baptist to know in their day, or any more than the supply of silver and gold which was in the world at the time of the discovery of America is sufficient for the world today. Our fathers worked the same mine for the Truth of God’s Word, but they did not exhaust the supply—thank God! There are nuggets of symbolic gold and silver coming to light, “Light is sown for the righteous” (Psa. 97: 11) and “You, brethren, are not in darkness” (1 Thes. 5: 4); even in our day (Prov. 4: 18; 1 Kg. 10: 22; 2 Chron. 9: 21; PT ‘54, p. 60, par. 4).



J e s u s emphasized the importance of knowing the present Truth (2 Pet. 1: 12) when, weeping over Jerusalem, He said: “If you had known,

even you, at least in this your day, the things which belong unto the peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes” [they set aside God’s earthly teacher] (Luke 19: 41, 42). Though professing to have the Truth, they neglected to search for it in the right way and in the right spirit [their house was left desolate, God abandoned them during the Gospel Age], they knew not the time of their visitation (v. 44) [they also conspired against the Lord to slay Him]. Yes, the “light shined in the darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not” (John 1: 5). It is just as important today, here in the lapping of the Gospel and Millennial Ages, perhaps even more so, that we heed carefully the Apostle’s exhortation

(2 Tim. 2: 15): “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”




Men in mining have generally used lights fixed upon their heads, and they bend low, sometimes prostrate, in their search for the hidden treasure. We need to be humble and have our minds illuminated with God’s Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2: 9-16). In John 9, when the blind man received his sight miraculously, we see the spirit of disobedience and rebellion on the part of the Pharisees rejecting the light, despising the Truth; because their deeds were evil. Marvel not if in some respects the blind man’s case was typical of ours. When he confessed his faith in Jesus the Pharisees said “do you teach us” (John 9: 34). This blind man might have kept quiet and believed in his heart and retained his standing in the church but that would have been cowardly and he would have missed his subsequent communion with Jesus. Those who have consecrated to God, like this blind man, our eyes being opened to the recognition of the LORD’s presence and blessing of light and Truth can surely say “once I was blind, but now I can see” (John 9: 25). Yes we are the light of the world.

When men find silver in the mine it has to be separated from materials which may or may not be useful in themselves, but which in either case would detract from the value of the precious metal unless separated. So we must not only rightly divide the Word of Truth, but also carefully separate from it all that would detract from it, whether otherwise useful or not. Let us “dispense with evil,” “abhor that which is evil, and cleave to [desire] that which is good” (1 Pet. 3: 11; Rom. 12: 9).

Let us who “have tasted the good word of God” (Heb. 6: 5), the antitypical manna, the symbolic “angels’ food” (John 6: 31-35; Psa. 78: 25), let us not become weary of feeding regularly on it as due. We must not be like the unfaithful Israelites in the type (Num. 11: 4 - 6), and begin to long for other food for heart and mind, as some are doing. Let us not long for the foods of antitypical Egypt, the present evil world, including the systems of error (fish), secular history (cucumbers), worldly science (melons—comp. 1 Tim. 6: 20), philosophy (leeks—comp.

Col. 2: 8), art (onions) and literature (garlic), as instead of the sanctifying Truth (John 17: 17), “the wisdom that is from above, which is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy” (Jas. 3: 17).



Happy moments, PRAISE GOD
Difficult moments, SEEK GOD
Quiet moments, WORSHIP GOD
Painful moments, TRUST GOD
Every moment, THANK GOD

IMPORTANT THOUGHTS ON OUR LEADERSHIP

The great Jehovah has put into place a plan to restore all of mankind that will obey Him. His plan requires many very principled people and God has been calling them throughout the ages. We have now entered into the Epiphany period of time; those who are not properly established in the Epiphany Truth and its spirit may criticize and even stumble into opposition; some of the more mature, but self-willed ones may stumble too. But let us remember that the Lord has often allowed His people to be tested over dates and situations not taking place exactly when or as expected. For instance, what a shock it was to the early disciples when the Lord was suddenly taken from their midst! The Shepherd was smitten and the sheep were scattered. They had preached the Kingdom is at hand and indeed, “they thought that the Kingdom of God should immediately appear” (Luke 19: 11). No wonder the two disciples on their way to Emmaus were perplexed and sad and told the supposed stranger that they “trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel” (Luke 24: 17, 21). They had correct doctrine, but things did not take place at just the time they expected.

Again, what a testing and sifting came to the Lord's people in 1844, when many climbed upon haystacks, barn roofs, *etc.*, expecting to be caught up bodily into the air! Similar tests came in 1874 and 1878. The Lord did come in 1874 and the sleeping saints of that day were resurrected in 1878, but all of the Lord's people alive in the flesh, at that time, also expected to be taken home on that date. It did not happen at that time. Those faithful ones, who waited on the Lord, discerned the Truth, but others stumbled and fell.

We can find in our writings a similar testing that took place over a 1914 date. The Church was complete in its last member being Spirit-begotten Sept. 16, 1914, the date was correct, but it was not complete in glory at that time, as was formerly expected. Some held dogmatically to the thought of being glorified by Oct. 1, 1914, despite Bro. Russell's warnings to the contrary. *E.g.*, on Jan. 1, 1914, one brother presented calendars to the Bethel family, showing the dates

Our text in Prov. 2: 4, 5 reminds us that as a result of our diligent search for wisdom we will understand the reverence of Jehovah and find the understanding (the Truth) of God, whom to know is life eternal (John 17: 3; 1 John 5: 20). How important then is our search for true wisdom! This is well emphasized in Job 28 (comp. E Vol. 10, pp. 577, 578). “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4: 23, 24). Having found the true wisdom, the true system of faith and worship, let us hold fast to it faithfully to the end and continue to walk in the light of the Truth and its Spirit, binding them upon our fingers (writing them into our acts) and inscribing them into our affections and will (Prov. 7: 3).

of 1914 up to Oct. 1st, but none thereafter. The friends were supposed to check off each one of their remaining days as they lived it and to be impressed with how few they had left. Bro. Russell rebuked such a calendar, urging the brethren to live each day as faithfully as possible unto the Lord, but to leave their times in God's hand. A pilgrim brother who left on a pilgrim trip shortly before Oct. 1914, boasted on leaving the Tabernacle that he was buying a ticket to the Pleiades and that it was a one way ticket. This was a rather irreverent use of humor and some were shocked over it. The brother finally came back (but not from the Pleiades), whether he liked it or not. The 1914 test stumbled many others who were not well established in the Truth or willfully used false expectations over dates to excuse themselves in rejecting clearly taught doctrinal Truths. The date was scripturally established as the end of the Times of the Gentiles and the beginning of the forty-year Epiphany period or Time of Trouble. The glorification of the Church did not take place at that time and the disappointment that came to many caused them to stumble. Similarly, while 1954 and 1956 are established dates, many stumbled over our dear Bro. Johnson's mistaken expectation, and many still do, that he might possibly remain here until 1956.

We thank the Lord, for giving us the blessed Epiphany Truth and the Spirit of the Truth, which is amply able to steady and guide us in this present testing, providing we have made it our own. The Lord *did not* give us the Epiphany Truth just to satisfy our curiosity, but that in its strength we may be able to stand.

By the removal of the last priest, the Lord was gently whispering, but in no uncertain tones, to those dear ones whom Jesus loves, that are next to His own precious Bride, “You are not quite fitted for a place as My Bride, but you do have a high standing among My Bridesmaids.” There was a blanket manifestation for most of the Good Levites, and this made it much easier for them. How gently and lovingly Jesus was speaking to them! Of course those who turned their ear away from the Lord and His Epiphany Truth

and whose ears would not hear, were not included in that class. They were however, offered a position right up next to the Throne; but were manifested as rebellious, self-willed Levites. [The Great Company is now fully selected and spirit born.]

By the Lord taking that last priest home [Bro. Johnson] and indicating that the work of the Great Company was due to begin as recorded in Rev. 19: 5-7, He solved another great problem for us in a marvelous way. After the last priest left the earth, Bro. Jolly addressed the brethren who were sorely disappointed that they did not receive a crown. Bro. Jolly's consoling message was: "Now to my dear new creature brethren, I feel for you very deeply, with a sympathy and understanding that is made possible only by my having passed through a similar experience. I know what a bitter disappointment you must feel and will feel, not that you are discontented over receiving a position of eternal service before the throne instead of in it, with palm branches of victory instead of crowns of glory, but that you are grieved over not having been fully faithful and that you have in any way fallen short of doing the Father's will perfectly and of having His smile of approval in all things."

When we make a thorough study of the great plan that God has set in place, the foremost need for us is to recognize that NO man will be allowed to change His plan. Next in order is that God has and will continue to choose the individuals for their part in this plan! From the time of Abraham to this day there have been individuals who through pride have set themselves forward and usurped authority that was *not* granted to them by God; these trespasses are only allowed by God so that the Great Jehovah could have a fully tested people to lead the entire restitution class during the Millennial Mediatorial time of testing.

As each of these chosen vessels died, God permitted a power struggle to occur. The purpose of this was to show the people that what they might see as good in the character of a man might not be entirely pleasing to God. In contrast, let's consider those individuals favored by God. Our Lord Jesus found little support, the three Hebrew youths stood alone, the Star Members of the seven churches had little support, Pastor Russell stood alone among the church systems, Pastor Johnson in regards to his unpopularity said, "If I were *not* unpopular among the Great Company and the Youthful Worthies who are associated with them, there would be good reason to fear that my mission is fraudulent." [E5, p. 505] We see that each time the Lord places His hand on the shoulder of a successor to lead His people; His choice is often unpopular to many and becomes a severe trial for those who do not recognize the Lord's choice of a successor. This remains true to this very day.

Now to Bro. Jolly, Yes, he was severely tested, to the point that he lost his crown, "by the skin of his teeth." He was so grieved over his not being fully faithful to the Lord, that he left the Bible House to seclusion in Gull Rock, NC for about 10 years. In due time, Bro. Johnson gave him

research to do for him. He said his pillow was wet from tears many times as he realized he had failed Jehovah in his bid for a crown. Yet because of great humility he became the leader of the Good Levites; and with that office came more sifting action from high minded, heady, self-righteous individuals. The result of this ill-mannered work was for God to allow these ill-minded ones to lose their standing before Him. Yes, the office granted to God's chosen leaders does not depend on everyone recognizing it; in fact many will fight and oppose it!

Let us now turn our attention to something that perhaps carries with it some importance: Special Helpers usually become Leaders!

(a) For a considerable time Joshua was Moses' special servant and helper until Moses' death. "Now Joshua was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him..." (Deut. 34: 9) and then Joshua succeeded him as God's appointed leader of Israel (Joshua 1: 1-9);

(b) Bro. Johnson was the special helper of Bro. Russell from 1908 onward until the time of Bro. Russell's rapture and then succeeded him, *not* as "that servant," but as the leader of the Lord's people with "the privilege of giving the Epiphany Truth pertinent to, and of overseeing the general Epiphany work toward Azazel's Goat" *not* the priests, (by God's grace he completed this work—E 10, p. 509—and by many has been more and more recognized as The Epiphany Messenger, in giving the teachings for, and in overseeing the work of the Epiphany Levites—E 6, p. 150);

(c) Bro. Jolly as the Divinely appointed Great Company leader was raised up under the tutelage of the Parousia and Epiphany Messengers and was privileged to serve during the Epiphany, until Pastor Johnson's death Oct. 22, 1950, as Bro. Johnson's special helper, and thereafter served as the leader of the Great Company, the Youthful Worthies and the Consecrated Epiphany Campers till his death. (Feb 14, 1979);

(d) Bro. August Gohlke as a Youthful Worthy leader was raised up under the tutelage of the Epiphany Messenger and the Great Company leader. He was privileged to serve as the special helper to Bro. Jolly until his death. Bro. Gohlke served as the next leader of the Youthful Worthies and Consecrated Epiphany Campers until his death on Dec. 18, 1985;

(e) By analogy, and in harmony with Scriptures, reason and facts, it was evident that the Divinely chosen leader of the Lord's people to succeed Bro. Gohlke would be the one, who for a considerable time, served faithfully as his special helper. That next leader, chosen of God, was Bro. Bernard Hedman, who was recognized as being in harmony with the above considerations. Yes, it was Bro. Hedman whom God pointed out, as His choice to act under our Lord Jesus' supervision as the next earthly leader of the Youthful Worthies and Consecrated Epiphany Campers. He was well qualified for this service; for he was a careful student of and firm believer in the Truth of God's Word, including the

Parousia Truth and the Epiphany Truth as due in the post 1954 part of the Epiphany period, as set forth in the PT and BS. Under many tests he proved himself to be humble, zealous, self-denying, thoroughly devoted to God and our Lord Jesus, filled with Their Spirit; and showed loving, kind, considerate and understanding in his dealings with others. He served as one of Bro. Johnson's main special assistants, helping Bro. Johnson personally, with his correspondence and the preparation of his writings for publication, as well as assisting Bros. Jolly and Gohlke in similar ways. Let us consider these Scriptures in support of our statements in this article. Psa. 25: 9 "The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way." Also Psa. 32: 8 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go." Bro. Hedman finished his course Jan. 30, 2004.

(f) After Bro. Hedman the long patterned method was changed by our great Jehovah. By many accounts the Movement was in need of another cleansing as we entered into an era of some changes and unknowns. Jehovah reasoned that some lessons were needed in 2004 to bring the needs of this present time to the fore. Almost without any fear many of the prominent special helpers came forward with aspirations of leadership that could not be sanctioned by either the Lord nor the regulations that He had set forth in His chosen Earthly Movement. At the very inception of Bro. Ralph Herzig's appointment there was trouble because of a lack of proper understanding of his appointment recommended by Bro. Bernard Hedman. Because it appeared there were two candidates for the position, this created the need for a special business meeting; which took place with pilgrims and auxiliary pilgrims from the U.S. and representatives from foreign countries for an in-depth study of Heb. 7: 7, "Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better." This was the first time that the Movement was faced with making the determination between a Consecrated Epiphany Camper that had served at the Bible House for some time and a Youthful Worthy candidate that had not been serving at the Bible House regularly. The evidence presented showed that in harmony with Heb. 7: 7 the Lord had indicated His choice was the Youthful Worthy candidate. We know that God never leaves His people to vote for a leader from among multiple choices, but He and He alone makes the choice. This was shown in part by the document, "Power of Attorney" that Bro. Hedman executed approximately 8 years prior to his death indicating that the Lord had shown him the Youthful Worthy candidate as the Lord's choice. We who were invited to this board of review concurred in favor with Bro. Hedman's document which was then presented at three conventions for a vote of acceptance to elect Bro. Ralph Herzig, as the Executive Trustee. We should always keep in mind that only God selects our leaders and we then vote for that person to the office of Executive Trustee.

This decision was in full harmony with Heb. 7: 7, yet it left a bad taste in many mouths which brought about a

cleansing of God's House. We would have to say a much needed cleansing from the evidence that Jehovah presented in the following years! We sometimes forget that *all* the called ones are sifted; some find their conduct favorable to the call to which they were called and God shows His favor by continuing to proffer their consecrated walk. Some are given certain stripes to bring them back to a favorable standing before the Lord and the brethren; while still others find themselves to have fallen fully out of harmony with God through actions of self-righteous behavior, and have been sifted out! "Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken away" (Luke 8: 18). We find Jehovah to be a God of justice first, then love [Pastor Russell's Sermons p. 351]. It was and is the will of God to have His children have trials, difficulties and polishings. Let us examine Jer. 23: 28, "The prophet that has a dream [an imagination], let him tell a dream [many are teaching their own imaginations—incorrect teachings]; and he who has my word [the written revelation, God's inspired word—His testimony], let him speak my word faithfully [the Gospel, God's Holy Spirit; interpreted by our Lord and given to His chosen vessels]."—Then God asks, "What is the chaff to the wheat?" Yes, do we wish to be as wheat to God or chaff left on the threshing floor? The primary lesson is the law of absolute justice. There was much evidence in January 2004 that Bro. Ralph Herzig had been looked upon and Jehovah had placed His hand on Bro. Ralph to be His special servant. Having stated this fact; we must also see God's hand in bringing the severe trials and testings that came to His children. Let us rejoice in God's absolute justice and work with all diligence to be a tabernacle fit for God's habitation!

These experiences develop us in a God-likeness of character that will fit us to be used in the future work of bringing the unsaved world into a complete knowledge of the Truth that will be needed in their trial for life everlasting. "O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together" (Psa. 34: 3).

A LETTER FROM BRO. SNYDER

Today (2014) we are living in a time of transition, a time when Jehovah is bringing about more drastic changes in His Movement; however I wish to draw our attention again to something that perhaps carries with it some importance: Special Helpers usually become Leaders! As the Special Helper to Bro. Ralph since 2004 I [Leon Snyder] was given some understanding of the needs of the Lord's Movement. As Bro. Ralph's health began to fail, I took on more responsibility in helping with the administration of the Movement till June of 2012 when we moved to the Bible House permanently. That experience has been beneficial in giving me the training necessary to proficiently continue the work presently needed in our Movement.

We have entered a time in God's plan where; A Youthful

Worthy candidate is not available to fill the office of Executive Trustee for God's Movement; and the Lord is developing the last prominent class identified as Consecrated Epiphany Campers, especially the higher order termed the Queen of Sheba class. Jehovah has brought to our attention the need for more corrections within His Movement which we have been bringing about in His due time. Again God has made His choice to lead His Movement and that individual comes with the proper qualities. If one did *not* have a good understanding of and hearty acceptance of the Epiphany Truth, including the post-1954 Truth as set forth in the PT and BS, he would *not* be properly qualified to lead those who do have it! I recall when Bro. Hedman and I were discussing my appointment as auxiliary pilgrim; he asked me the following questions: "Do you accept the Truths we hold dear to our hearts? Do you know that Bros. Russell and Johnson have made some errors in the past? Do you still accept the writings of these servants?"—My answer was, "Yes I do" to all of the questions—to which he said, with his hand on my shoulder, "You are one of the few."

We read in PT 1978 p. 87 "We have every confidence that after the Great Company finishes its earthly course, our Lord will continue His shepherding care for His people through the Youthful Worthies and that after the Youthful Worthies finish their course in this life, He will continue it through the Consecrated Epiphany Campers." We must understand how the Truth has come to the called, chosen and faithful. E11, p. 340 says that during the Parousia and Epiphany God gave Jesus the understanding of the Truths as due. Jesus gave these Truths to the Parousia and Epiphany messengers who in turn gave them to the Priesthood from whom it went to the Levites, who in turn with the Priest, have given it to the Consecrated Epiphany Campers! God's Truth does not fail; only its messengers.

In a study of Isa. 49 we find these thoughts. In v. 11 we see an additional clear distinction between the restitution class, mentioned in vs. 10 and the Great Company, as well as other pre-restitution classes. God will make all five pre-restitution consecrated classes—the Little Flock, the Ancient Worthies, the Great Company, the Youthful Worthies and the Consecrated Epiphany Campers—

symbolized respectively by Zion, Moriah, Akra, Bezetha and Ophel—the special means of assisting the non-elect up the Highway of Holiness. God will exalt them for this purpose. God will highly honor the Consecrated Epiphany Campers, for they are proving themselves faithful under greater trials than the restitutionists in general will have.

The condition of trials and severe testings exist to this very day. Everyone will be sifted; some will be sifted in and some will be sifted out. If we can accept that almost all of the Old Testament prophets were rejected by the majority of those toward whom they ministered; then we can say: speak the Truth in love and stand firmly in it. "For the word of God is quick and powerful"—Heb. 4: 12. The men of old asked; is the Lord's hand waxed short? God answers in Isa. 59: 1—"the Lord's hand is not shortened." With one exception, all of these chosen vessels have fallen short, yet we eat from the table of Truth they have prepared; a meal that has not rotted or become distasteful to His called, chosen and faithful. Let us be found worthy of eating at His table of Truth as prepared by His chosen vessels. As Bro. Russell rebuked a calendar with an end date, let us follow his advice and urge the brethren to live each day as faithfully as possible unto the Lord, but leave their times in God's hand.

A Fellow Servant,

Bro. Leon Snyder



"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Psalms 133: 1

QUESTIONS OF INTEREST REGARDING OUR MOVEMENT IN TRANSITION

QUESTION: For the Little Flock and then the Great Company, the LORD indicated to us the last member of each of those classes. Has the LORD identified who will be the last Youthful Worthy (Y. W.)?

ANSWER: No, He has not. In the case of the L. F. and the G. C. we had Scriptural proof of the last member. But of the Y. W.'s we do not. It is possible that Bro. Ralph Herzig is the last Y. W.; but we don't think we can make that assumption without evidence. In order to reach that conclusion we would also have to conclude that all Y. W. hopefuls (those who consecrated prior to the fall of 1954) have been unfaithful as to the Y. W. calling or that the LORD never accepted their consecration for

Y. W. purposes. The LORD has not manifested that to us either. Not only that, it is likely that there are Y. W. hopefuls in other Bible Student and Christian groups. It would not be possible for us to know each candidate's standing with the LORD when we don't even know them. It does not seem reasonable to apply Heb. 7: 7, as our only evidence, that all the dear Y. W. hopefuls have lost out! We can only conclude that the LORD has not revealed the answer to us. "The secret things belong unto the LORD our God; but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deut. 29: 29).

QUESTION: Will our next Executive Trustee be from the Consecrated Epiphany Camper Class (C. E. C.)?

ANSWER: Yes. We can readily see that the LORD has not raised up another prominent Y. W. candidate that is qualified and capable to serve as Executive Trustee. The LORD could have overruled and extended Bro. Herzig's health so he could retain his office or He could have provided someone else from the Y. W. class, but he has not. For many years now, there has not been a qualified Y. W., other than Bro. Herzig, to serve as the Executive Trustee. Let's look back to Bro. Hedman's time. Bro. Hedman could only find one candidate from the Y. W.'s that was qualified and capable (Bro. Ralph Herzig) and the other one considered by him (in a supporting role) in 1996 was from the C. E. C. class—and that was eighteen years ago.

QUESTION: Isn't it true that in accordance with Hebrews 7: 7 that the lesser class cannot lead (or be the special mouthpiece for) the greater?

ANSWER: Yes, that is true and our writings are quite clear on that. However, please keep in mind that implied by the word "lead" is the fact that the person would be capable and qualified to lead. We can clearly see that there is no one from the Y. W.'s that the LORD has placed his hand on for that office. However, the LORD will not leave His Epiphany enlightened people without a leader, for He is a God of order, not of anarchistic confusion!

Our writings do not say that higher class receives no blessing from the lesser class. Our writings do say that in the narrow, more restricted and special sense the lesser class do not dispense meat in due season; in other words, bring out NEW Bible teachings as due. These new teachings are initially given by the highest class on earth (please see PT Question Book, beginning on electronic page #546 on Hebrews 7: 7—"Special Blessing From The Higher Class").

The writings do say that a leader cannot be from a lower class while ones from a greater class are still alive, but please keep in mind that the situation we find ourselves in is the LORD's doing. We might consider that it is the LORD's prerogative to transition our leadership in this instance differently than He has in the past. He is the one that has not indicated to us if Bro. Herzig is the last Y. W. and has not provided someone else of that class to be the Executive Trustee.

Some claim that the LORD's Epiphany enlightened people have no longer a need of a leader and claim that the only leader needed is Jesus Christ. This claim has been set forth throughout the Christian Era; so why did the LORD raise up the star members of the Church or a Pastor Russell, if all that was needed throughout the Gospel Age was the invisible leadership of Jesus Christ? Providentially, the LORD is wiser and more observant than the opposers who promote this idea! On the other hand, Satan would dearly like to eradicate the Movement that the last member of the Little Flock established. Satan can no longer directly attack Brother Johnson, who is now glorified, but he will do anything he can to destroy the Movement he founded! Satan has a special hatred of the Epiphany Messenger; first he faithfully taught and led the "little flock" Truth Movement and continued the publication of the writings of "that servant." To
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the disbelieving brethren, the wise words of our Lord to those who opposed Him are especially appropriate; "I told you and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of me." (John 10: 25).

QUESTION: Is there a scripture that identifies for us our next leader?

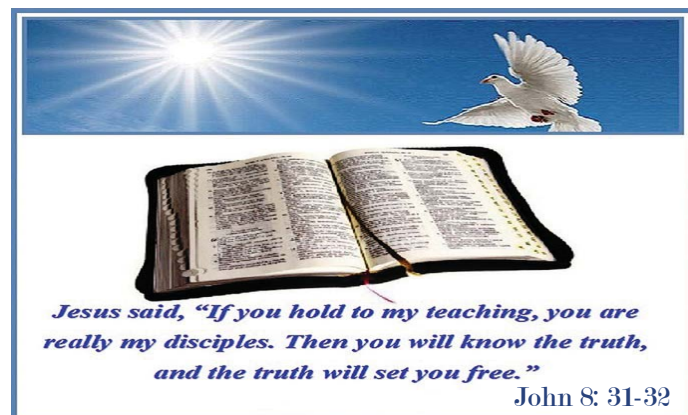
ANSWER: No, at least not that we know of. The LORD may provide one in due time or he may not—we do not know. For our leaders from Bro. Johnson through Bro. Hedman we were given scriptural evidences that identified them as being appointed by God. We ask, how can we now know? Please refer to PT 1978, p. 87, quoted in the article "IMPORTANT THOUGHTS ON OUR LEADERSHIP." When Bro. Jolly wrote this he knew full well that scriptural evidence ended with antitypical Job's Special Helpers and antitypical Solomon's special assistants. Yet, he said that the Lord's shepherding care would continue through the Y. W.'s and then the C. E. C.'s until the New Covenant is inaugurated.

By analogy, and in harmony with Scriptures, reason and facts, it seems evident that the Divinely chosen leader of the LORD's people to succeed the Youthful Worthy leader after his demise, not as leader of the Youthful Worthies, but rather as leader (or special mouthpiece) of the Consecrated Epiphany Campers, would be the one, who for a considerable time has been serving faithfully as the special helper of the Youthful Worthy leader and would continue to be faithful to the Truth as due and in such service.

Satan would love to take this opportunity of crisis to divide us again. Some might staunchly take the position that Bro. Herzig is the last Y. W. and not accept Bro. Snyder as being appointed by God. And others may accept him as being appointed by God but conclude that Bro. Herzig is the last Y. W.

Bro. Herzig recognized that Bro. Snyder is the LORD's only choice, "Ye shall know them by their fruits . . ."—Matt. 7: 16; that he is qualified and capable to be the next Executive Trustee; that he's of the C. E. C. class; that he will be loyal to the LORD, the Truth, its arrangements, and the brethren. He is the only one that has been manifested as God's choice to take charge. Please see PT 1975, Page 38. It would also stand to reason that the LORD would only give him new Truths pertaining to the C. E. C.'s and not things pertaining to the remaining Y. W.'s.

We should take Bro. Herzig's recommendation seriously and ask ourselves, "Can we also see that person in the light described above?"





Elijah and the Priests of Baal

Ahab, King of Israel, misled by his queen, Jezebel, perverted the religion in God's typical Kingdom. The ordained worship in the Temple was neglected and image worship established. The faithful Prophet Elijah reproved King Ahab, and was compelled by the wicked Queen Jezebel to flee into the wilderness, where ravens fed him for three and one-half years—1 Kings 17: 5, 6.

Finally, by God's direction, Elijah reappeared and challenged the priests of Baal to a public test as to which god could answer prayer, Jehovah or Baal. Whichever god would accept the offering by fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice, should be acknowledged as the true God. The Israelites saw the fairness of the proposition, and Baal's priests could not avoid the issue. Elijah gave them the preference. All day long they agonized, cut themselves with stones and cried to Baal to accept the offering and vindicate his cause. Elijah mocked them, saying, Cry a little louder! Baal may be sleeping! or perhaps he has gone on a journey!

When the evening came, Elijah gave his test. First of all he had water carried and poured over all the altar and the sacrifice, that there should be no mistake; lest any one might think of any concealed fire. Then Elijah prayed to God to vindicate His cause. Fire descended from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, licking up even the water in the trench. When the people saw this they gave a great shout and declared, "Jehovah, He is God!"—1 Kings 18: 30-39.

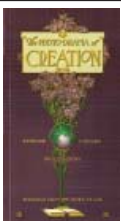
Bible students claim that Elijah represented the True Church, Queen Jezebel a false religious system, Ahab the governments of Earth. The time of Jezebel's persecution, when Elijah hid in the wilderness and there was no rain for 1260 days, represented 1260 years of spiritual drought (538 A.D. to 1798 A.D.), when the antitypical Jezebel's power to persecute to death ceased—Revelation 12: 6, 14; 13: 5.

Elisha, Elijah's successor, restored the Shunammite's son.

Questions for Lesson 46

- 1* Who was Ahab? See Bible Dictionary. 1 Kings 16: 29-33
- 2 Who was his wife? What worship did she promote in Israel? 1 Kings 16: 31
- 3* How fared the ordained worship of Jehovah at the temple? Par. 1
- 4* Who was responsible for permitting these things?
- 5 Should Ahab have taken such a woman for his wife? Why or why not? Deut. 7: 2, 3
- 6* Who was God's faithful prophet at this time? What did he foretell? 1 Kings 17: 1
- 7* What happened to him because of his faithfulness?
- 8* How did Elijah find food during the famine? 1 Kings 17: 6. Par. 1
- 9 When Elijah returned from his hiding what challenge did he make to the priests of Baal?
- 10 How long did they cry to Baal? What did Elijah say to them? Par. 2
- 11* When evening came, what did Elijah do? When Elijah prayed what happened? What did the people say? Par. 3
- 12* What happened to the priests of Baal? 1 Kings 18: 40.
- 13* Was it right to kill those evil priests? Are they eternally lost?
- 14 Whom did Elijah represent?
- 15 What did Ahab and Jezebel type? Par. 4
- 16 What did Elijah's 3 years in the wilderness type? Studies, Vol. 2, page 256.
- 17 What did the destruction of Ahab and Jezebel picture?
- 18 Who was Elijah's successor and what notable thing did he do? Par. 5

* The questions marked with an asterisk are especially for children.



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Chester Springs, PA Convention, July 3 - 6; Muskegon, MI, July 26; Grand Rapids, MI, July 27

Thomas Cimbura

Chester Springs, PA Convention, July 3 - 6

Robert Steenrod

Chester Springs, PA Convention, July 3 - 6; Indianapolis, IN, August 10

Daniel Herzig

Chester Springs, PA Convention, July 3 - 6; Poland, Gliwice, July 19, 20, 21; Rzeszow, 22, 23, 24.

Jon Hanning

Chester Springs, PA Convention, July 3 - 6; Galloway, OH, July 13; Detroit, MI, August 16; Muskegon, MI, August 17

John Wojnar

Chester Springs, PA Convention, July 3 - 6

Lawrence Williams

Muskegon, MI, June 22

Richard Piquone

Chester Springs, PA Convention, July 3 - 6

EVANGELISTIC SERVICES

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Chester Springs, PA Convention, July 3 - 6
Grand Rapids, MI, August 30

Michael Dukette

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David F. Hanning

Chester Springs, PA Convention, July 3 - 6; West Frankfort, IL, July 27

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Walter Onyszko

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Brandon Penney

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David Seebald

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Harold Solomon

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Krzysztof Witko

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Chester Springs, PA Convention, July 3 - 6

Michael Williams

Athens/Nelsonville, OH, July 20

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Chester Springs, PA

July 3, 4, 5, 6, 2014

Site: The Desmond Hotel & Conference Center, One Liberty Blvd., Malvern, PA 19355. Phone: 800-575-1776. Rates and Reservations: \$89.00 plus tax, for 2 guests (each additional person \$15.00 limit of 4); Make reservations directly with the hotel by **JUNE 6th**. Mention you are attending the Bible Standard Ministries Convention for the special rate. For more information contact L. Lounsbury, 610-827-7665. Bible House Picnic, June 3, 1156 St. Matthews Road, Chester Springs, PA, 19425.

Cincinnati, OH

September 5, 6 & 7

Site: Embassy Suites Cincinnati - Northeast (Blue Ash), 4554 Lake Forest Dr., Blue Ash, OH 45242. Register online at biblestandard.com/events.html or call 513-733-8900; Rates: \$99.00, King Suite (with pull out bed), \$109.00 for double (2 Queens with pull out bed). Hot breakfast included. Check-in 4:00 pm, check-out 12:00 pm. Make reservations by **AUGUST 15th** to receive these rates. Mention you are attending the Bible Standard Ministries Convention for the special rate. A luncheon buffet will be served Friday and Saturday. For more information contact: Sr. Jennifer Williams (513-312-2341) or Sr. Linda Williams (937-837-3961).