

*In creation, God shows us His hand; in redemption, He shows us His heart*

MISSIONARY

BIBLICAL

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# The Baptist Examiner

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*"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" — Isaiah 8:20.*

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## PERFECT REDEMPTION

By Pastor Edward G. Graff, Grace Central Baptist Church, Mansfield, Louisiana



Redemption is defined several ways. A recovery of something pawned or mortgaged. Deliverance upon payment, including a ransom, or to buy back. Or to rescue by paying a price, and to regain what was yours, but was lost. In Genesis we see that the perfect relationship between God, and man was lost. This relationship was lost by the sin of one man, the first Adam. But now, we have perfect redemption of our body, and our souls by a perfect redeemer, the second Adam, which is Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13-14, "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

Redemption is not brought to us by great words, or works, nor by the wisdom of man, or the power of logic, but by the foolishness of preaching, and those sent, by God, to preach. I Corinthians 1:21, "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." Also Romans 10:14, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

It is Christ, and only Christ, and His blood that gives us perfect redemption! Ephesians 1:3-7, "BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO HATH BLESSED US WITH ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST: ACCORDING AS HE HATH CHOSEN US IN HIM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, THAT WE SHOULD BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLAME BEFORE HIM IN LOVE; HAVING PREDESTINATED US UNTO THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN BY JESUS CHRIST TO HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO THE GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS WILL, TO THE PRAISE OF THE GLORY OF HIS GRACE, WHEREIN HE HATH MADE US ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED. IN WHOM WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE."

Predestinated, Predestinate, Predestine — To destine, or deter-

mine in advance, to fix upon, decide, or decree in advance; foreordain to by divine will or decree; to determine, decide, or establish in advance.

Redemption — A recovery of something pawned, or mortgaged. Deliverance upon payment of ransom: a rescue.

Redeemer — One who redeems, buys back pawned, or mortgaged goods. To set free one that is in bonds.

(Definitions taken from the American Heritage Dictionary)

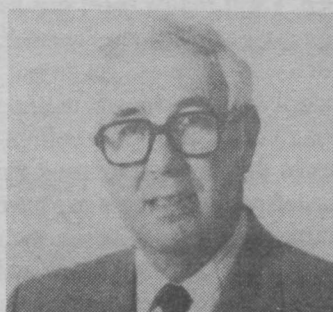
Praise be to God, and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah, who has blessed us in Christ with every Holy Spirit given blessing in heaven. Paul continues by writing: that God, in love chose us. God actually picked us out for Himself as His own before the foundation of the world. Now, this means exactly what it says, that before God even spoke the world into existence, that He had chosen, elected, and set aside those that Christ would come and die for. Continuing Paul says, that we should be holy, and set apart; blameless, even above reproach (Continued on Page 6)

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Eugene P. Helton

## SPIRITUAL RECESSION

"A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the Lord of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name? Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee?"



In that ye say, The table of the Lord is contemptible. And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the Lord of hosts. And now, I pray you,

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## CONSECRATION AND DEDICATION: TWO OF GOD'S REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE

By Pastor John M. Alber, Mid-Continent Baptist Church, Wichita, Kansas

Romans 12:1-2 "I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 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."



The book of Romans is divided into two sections: Doctrinal and practical dissertations; of which our text begins the second division. The apostle builds upon that which has been set forth in the previous chapters, especially chapters one through eight. In the apostle's eyes, the service rendered to God is the practical aspect of knowing God, having God's approval upon our life in doing the will of God.

The apostle does not threaten us, nor does he use terror or danger to engage our service; rather, he relates God's wonderful mercies as sufficient causes to render unto God our bodies. Of all the various mercies mentioned in the previous chapters, three jump out and cause me to rejoice in the Lord:

1. God calling us unto salvation by the quickening work of the Spirit of God.
2. God's regenerating power unto salvation by the grace of God.
3. God's vocation whereby He hath made us sons of God.

These three mercies, though

there be many more, should cause every child of God to properly render unto God the service He requests; furthermore, they should be the driving force that engages every child of God to walk in holiness. This should always be the proper grounds upon which we render our service to God; and with that truth in mind, the grace of God will drive us away from a life of sin.

GOD'S GRACE SHOULD NEVER BE A LICENSE TO LIVE AND PLAY IN SIN. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THE CHRIST TO REPRESENT YOU ABOVE AS YOU REPRESENT HIM ON THIS EARTH?

Let me briefly look at a few more mercies whereby the apostle would challenge us to serve God:

1. God's Kindness — Romans 2:4, "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

2. God's Patience — Romans 11:22, "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off."

3. God's Love — Romans 5:5, "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

4. God's Grace — Romans 3:24, "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

5. God's Justification — Romans 3:25, "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his

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## THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

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## RECESSION

(Continued from Page 1)

**beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the Lord of hosts. Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the Lord of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand"** (Malachi 1:6-10).

I would like to announce that we're living in a time of unparalleled spiritual prosperity. I would like to, but I can't. There are exceptions of course, but it seems to me that a great number of

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

AUGUST 27, 1994

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## Editor's Update

By Pastor Eugene P. Helton, Editor

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I have said many times that Bible prophecy is like a great picture puzzle. As the puzzle is worked piece by piece, the picture becomes more clear.

The Bible is a book of numbers. The fourth book of the Bible is entitled Numbers. There are thousands of numbers in the Bible and they all have a significance. There are 66 books in the Bible that expound on a period of time from the creation to the heavenly existence. Beginning with creation and coming forward through history, some great event has taken place every 2,000 years. First was creation; 2,000 years later was the flood; 2,000 years later Jesus came to the earth to die on Calvary's Cross; and now we have come forward from that event almost another 2,000 years. This begs the question: Are we nearing another great event on the order of creation; the flood; and the first coming of Christ? It would seem we are.

### DO THESE NUMBERS MEAN ANYTHING?

4,000 YEARS BEFORE CHRIST (APPROXIMATE DATE OF CREATION IS 4,004 B.C.)

1,998 YEARS SINCE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST (BIRTH WAS ACTUALLY 4 B.C.)

5,998 YEARS SINCE CREATION

God created the earth in 6 days; on the 7th day he rested. Could it be that the earth will exist from creation until the second coming of our Lord to the earth, spanning a period of 6,000 years; and then JESUS will reign on earth for 1,000 years.

6 (DAYS OF CREATION)

1 (DAY OF REST)

7

6,000 (CREATION TO 2ND COMING)

1,000 (REIGN OF CHRIST ON EARTH)

7,000

**"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."** (2 Peter 3:8)

May our Lord bless and keep you!

churches are in a spiritual recession. Why? I'm sure there are many reasons for this; however, I only want to deal with one: the quality of our service for the Lord. One of the things that has hurt our national economy in the past forty years is a de-emphasis on the quality of our products and services. The art of craftsmanship has been sacrificed in favor of personal gain. This trend has found its place, in a spiritual way, into many churches. Our quality of service has been sacrificed in favor of selfish self pursuits. Again we realize that there are exceptions to this trend and some Christians and some churches are serving the Lord with great commitment and zeal.

I. A look at our text.

In Malachi 1:6 the Lord asks the following question: "Where is mine honour?" In verses 7 and 8, the Lord tells the people that their offerings are second best and rejects; not the kind of offerings that are pleasing unto the Lord. In verse 10, the Lord says: "I have no pleasure in you."

Many people are guilty of giving God only the fragments of their lives. We bring our polluted bread in the form of a polluted life unto

the Lord. We bring our blind, our lame and our sick animals unto the Lord; that is we keep the best for ourselves and give the Lord what we can do without.

II. In what ways do we withhold our best from the Lord?

A. Time

Time is a gift of God; a very precious gift of God. Many times we have an excuse (not a reason) for using time for other things that should be used to serve the Lord.

"I must have time for my family."

"And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father" (Luke 9:59). In all probability this man wanted to wait until the day came when his father would die and then he would follow the Lord and "preach the kingdom of God." "And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house" (Luke 9:61). This one wanted time for a farewell party. In both instances the Lord is promised the time left over after these two have used the best of their time; i.e. their quality time, for themselves and their families.

"I must have time to relax. I

work all week; I have to relax on Sunday."

"I must have time for recreation. I work all week; Sunday is the only time I get for recreation."

"I must use all my time to make a living. If I agree to work on Sunday, they will pay me double time. I just can't pass that up."

"It looks like I have some time to spare. I don't have anything to do so I guess I'll go to church today."

Sometimes folks gets lots of time to remember and to regret as they lie motionless in a hospital bed or confined and restricted to a wheelchair.

We need to use our time wisely in serving the Lord and heed the words of the Apostle Paul, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16).

B. Money

"I can't tithe, it takes all I make to provide a living for me and my family." "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings" (Malachi 3:8). "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that

there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10). The question should never be: "Can I afford to tithe?" The question should always be: "Can I afford not to tithe?" Malachi 3:10 is clear; we can't out give the Lord! A little excess that falls short of God's command causes God to say: "Where is mine honour?" (Malachi 1:6). Remember the top ten percent of gross belongs unto the Lord. No one ever gave an offering until they first gave a tithe.

C. Abilities and Talents

Many times folks take the "let somebody else do it attitude." Don't ever say "look what my church has done" until you first ask "what have I done?" Often times the yards of our homes are made beautiful, while the church grounds are neglected. Our homes are kept in good repair, while the church building is in bad repair. We clean our homes from top to bottom and give the church building a lick and a promise. If we can teach; if we can sing; if we can clean; if we can drive a nail; whatever our abilities and talents, we should "give of our best to the Master." Sometimes folks who will not do anything want to criticize those who do the work of the church. When a person has done their best, it is acceptable to our Lord and must be acceptable to those of us who serve in His churches.

D. Self

Jesus placed Himself on the altar literally. Abraham placed his son on the altar. Are we placing ourselves on God's altar as a living sacrifice? More often than we would like to think, our sacrifice of self is polluted bread. Our sacrifice is the fragments of our time, and our money, and our abilities and talents that we can afford to do without. True sacrifice means giving up of something valuable or useful. The Lord doesn't want our polluted bread; He doesn't want our blind, lame and sick animals. He wants our best. "I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1). Have you placed your best on the altar?

May our Lord bless you richly!

# AMEN





## The Baptist Examiner Bible Study Lesson

By Clyde T. Everman, Deacon  
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### After the Flood

Read Genesis 8. "And God remembered Noah..."

In this chapter we have given the details of events after the flood. In verses 1-5 we have the record of God bringing to a close His divine judgment. The Lord remembered Noah and a new era is now to be established. The waters from the deep and from above have ceased (v. 2). After 150 days the waters had gone down to the point that the ark finally came to rest on top of one of the mountains of Ararat (v. 5).

In verses 6-14 we are given Noah's response to the events. We need to note his attitude was one of faith. He opened up the window which was in the top of the ark and sent forth a raven which went forth to and fro and did not return. He then sent forth a dove, but the dove not finding a resting place returned to the ark.

Noah also had an attitude of hope. Waiting seven days he again sent forth the dove. This time it came back with an olive leaf. This told Noah that the waters were going down. Noah also had an attitude of patience. He waited another seven days and again sent forth the dove. This time the dove did not return. This told Noah the day of deliverance was at hand.

God had given Noah His Word that he would bring him safely through the judgment and would establish His covenant with him. It was upon this strong foundation that Noah's faith, hope, and patience rested. Do not all of God's children have the same foundation for our faith, hope, and patience? Can we not say with the song writer: "How firm

a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word! What more can he say, then to you He hath said—To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled."

The time had come for Noah to leave the ark. The same One who had said unto him, "Come thou and all thy house into the ark", now said, "Go forth of the ark" (8:16). The words "come" and "go" tell us that the Lord was in the ark before Noah and was there when he left it. All the time that judgment was falling upon the earth Noah had no worries, he was shut up in the ark with God. Neither are we to worry. Has not God promised all of His children, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5). "Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee." We need to note that not only was the ark a place of safety for Noah and his family, but every animal, every bird, every creeping thing that entered the ark came forth out of the ark (v. 19). "And Noah went forth..." (v. 18). The man who had, before the flood, faithfully followed the commands of the Lord, now leaves the ark at the Lord's command. The Apostle James told us that a man's faith is shown by his work. Noah's obedience to God's commands show us he was a man of faith.

"And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord" (v. 20). Noah's first act after leaving the ark was to build an "altar unto the Lord", and to offer sacrifices. By this act he (1) shows his gratitude to God for deliverance, (2) his need of sacrifice in approaching God, (3) and the consecration of a life of service to his God. We might

note that Noah's worship was "unto the Lord." All honor, all praise went to the One who had brought him to this place of safety. He did not worship the ark as some would have done, but he worshipped the God of the ark. The Lord accepted Noah's sacrifice as "a sweet savor" and gave divine assurance as to the future of the earth. There was to be no more curse in the form of a flood and there was to be seasons as long as the earth remained. "While the earth remained, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

### REVIEW

Before leaving the study of the record of the flood we need to review this account. Keeping in mind that, "whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Rom. 15:4). Does history repeat itself? There is coming a time when it will. Christ Himself said that, "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matt. 24:37). What were the days of Noah, and what will be the days of the Son of Man?

The world was full of evil, "the wickedness of man was great in the earth,...every imagination of the thought of his heart was only evil continually" (6:5). Here we have shown the depravity of man. But there was one man who "found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (6:8). For 120 years Noah, "a preacher of righteousness", told of the coming judgment. He did this not only by word but also

by his life. But his message went unheeded. Besides his own family he had not a single convert. This shows the extent of man's depravity and the certainty of the wrath of God against sin. Are things any better today? Is not the world full of violence and the thoughts of man "only evil continually"? For almost 2000 years the gospel message has gone out and men have been warned of the coming judgment. How has the world responded? Much the same way as the world of Noah's day.

But in this account of that flood we find the grace of God portrayed. "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (6:8). Of all the earth there was one man and his family that God saved from the flood. The ark was prepared that Noah, his family, and representatives of the animal kingdom might be saved. While all outside the ark were without hope, those within the ark were safe because they were kept by the power of God. He had shut the door, the pitch sealed out any water. Noah could sing, "Keep me safe while the storm passes by." We need to note that those whom the Lord placed in the ark were there before the storm of God's wrath fell upon the world. Likewise, in the coming day of the Son of Man, all those who are His will be caught up to a place of safety before judgment falls upon the earth. While the wrath of God is being poured out upon the ungodly, the elect of God will "meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:17).

**GREAT IS THE  
LORD**

## SERVICE

(Continued from Page 1)

righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God."

Our text, once again:

Romans 12:1-2, "I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 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."

From Psalms, as well as Romans, three truths become evident.

Psalm 50:15, "And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."

Psalm 116:3-4, 13-14, "The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. Then called I upon the name of the Lord; O Lord, I beseech thee, deliver my soul. I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people."

A comparison between Romans and Psalms:

Man's misery described  
Romans 1:1-3:20 and Psalms 116:3-4

Man's way of deliverance described

Romans 3:21-11:36 and Psalms 116:13

Man's rescue is noted and his gratitude to God

Romans 12:1-16:27 and Psalms 116:14

I. God's plea for man is to make a sacrifice unto Him.

A. It is an Urgent Plea — "I BESEECH you." The apostle would exhort; invoke the believer to service.

1. To admonish or entreat the beloved to service.

2. To counsel or petition the believer to service.

3. To persuade or implore the child of God to service.

B. It is a gracious opportunity to serve the Lord.

1. We should serve God with the same spirit and attitude He shows us in redeeming us.

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AUGUST 27, 1994

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## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT  
THE BAPTIST EXAMINER, P.O. BOX 60, ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41105-0060



### Should a Christian be involved and/or concerned with the political developments in the world today?

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After the flood God made a covenant with Noah and included in this covenant was the provision for civil government. For the first time the reigns of government were placed in the hands of men. As this covenant was to be an everlasting covenant, it is still in effect in our day. The Apostle Paul in Romans 13 tells us that civil government is ordained of God and should be respected and obeyed.

While God, by His sovereign will, is in control over all things even over the political developments in the world today, yet man has a responsibility to follow His commands and give an account for his actions. This being true, Christians, as human beings and citizens of the country in which they live should be very much concerned and involved in the political developments in the world today. I would not say that this nation was ever a Christian nation but at least its government was founded upon Christian principles. But how things have changed in the last few years! It has fast gone from those principles to the principles of paganism. Are not laws being enacted as if there were no God to whom we must give an account? Why has our nation gone the pagan way? Is it not because Christians are unconcerned and uninvolved? Is it not because we have elected men to run our government upon the basis of their politics rather than upon the principles for which they stand? Yes, Christians should be very much involved and concerned in the political developments not only of their own country but that of the world.

Much of the blame for the sad state of things that exist at the present time in the U.S.A. and the world can be laid at the door of the Christians who have not been concerned and involved in the affairs of government.

Before closing my answer to this question I must add that as the covenant God made with Noah and his seed was to be an everlasting covenant, the death penalty for murder which was included in the covenant (Gen. 9:5, 6) is just as much in force today as it was then. This includes the murder of unborn babies as well as others. The government may approve of this but we can be sure that God will not overlook those who perform the murders, neither the nation that approves of the same. **"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God"** (Ps. 9:17). With this warning why should we not be concerned?

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**"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves"** (Matthew 10:16).

Most certainly we as Christians should be aware and concerned with the political developments in our present world. Our present time is interesting and important for we can see world events changing at a dizzying pace and all pointing to prophetic end time situations. We need to be aware of what is happening in the world for world events are a pointer to prophetic fulfillment of final things. Surely, the events happening in today's world are disturbing, even frightening for the average thinking individual, but Christians must remember that God is in perfect control of all

things. Daniel 2:20-22 tells us, **"Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him."** The unjust governments (their rise and fall), the starving individuals, the victims of tribal and ethnic murder, as well as the general suffering for lack of basic needs is all disturbing, but they are all part of the world scene leading toward the Antichrist and the tribulation.

There are many churches, groups, and organizations of Christians who try to get involved in the world politics at home, or abroad who believe that they can change things to suit their beliefs. They often times exert great pressure on various parts of government to achieve their will. While we all must render to Caesar the things that are Caesars, I do not feel that we can improve on what God is doing by trying to impose our will; He is in perfect control. Proverbs 21:1 says, **"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."**

We should pray for our leaders,  
(Continued on Page 8)

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It is well worth remembering that the Pilgrims came to America to escape the state church. They were persecuted for trying to worship with a free conscience. That is how America was born. The old axiom is holding true that "history repeats itself!" It seems that our government is taking

away more and more of our liberties. Thomas Jefferson said, "Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that their liberties are the gift of God? Hear also the words of another founding father, James Madison: "We have staked the whole future of the American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future upon the capacity of each of us to govern ourselves according to the ten commandments of God." Our nation's founders were godly men who understood that good law is based upon God's law. Their purpose was to establish a republic that would protect the rights of its citizens to pursue happiness. In this day it has changed. Now the government wants to guarantee happiness to everyone by feeding and providing everyone's needs. It doesn't work! This only makes the masses slaves to government. That will lead to tyranny! (Study the final days of the Roman Empire—We are right on course!) Only God can give happiness and peace to the hearts of people. Many politicians and leaders are trying their  
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**"Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men"** (Psalm 12:1).

This verse may serve good purpose as we would give answer to the question before us. We may consider political developments of the world today from two aspects. First we see how moral issues such as, homosexuality, lesbianism, abortion, traditional family values are being made subjects for the Government and courts to decide upon. We are faced with seemingly,

growing numbers of individuals and groups proclaiming and demanding new laws to recognize their so-called minority rights. It is of particular concern that our present highest government officials, with particular reference to our President, Attorney General, Surgeon General, are more in concert with the various sinful, ungodly groups and organizations, demanding change. Without doubt we live in an unprecedented time in the history of the United States where we are exposed to government leaders who are corrupt, immoral and degrading our country. Should Christians be involved and concerned about this? The answer should be obvious. We must of course recognize in all of this that God is still in control and though we may never stem the tide of moral decline, we are yet never to yield or compromise to sin and evil behavior. We are to follow our leader, God, and what He has told us in His Word: **"Ye are the salt of the earth"** **"Ye are the light of the world"** **"Let your light so shine before men"** (portions of Matthew 5:13, 14,

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## A GREAT BUT LITTLE KNOWN THING ABOUT ABRAHAM

By Pastor Jim Orrick

If we were to list the great things that are recorded in the Bible about Abraham, I am sure there are several things that we would all agree on. He was a man of great faith (Romans 4:18-21). He believed in God's power to raise the dead (Hebrews 11:17-19). He is the only man in the Bible who is called "the friend of God" (James 2:23). Although our text for this message is not one of the more familiar verses connected with Abraham, it too tells us something great about him. **"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him"** (Genesis 18:19).

To religiously educate our children is something that God commands every parent to do. **"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"** (Proverbs 22:6). In the New Testament we are told: **"But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel"** (I Timothy 5:8). To provide for our own means more than just providing food, clothing, and shelter; it also means providing for their spiritual needs. If God was pleased with Abraham because he would command his children to keep the ways of the Lord, He is pleased with parents today who train up their children in the ways of God.

### UNUSUAL COMMANDMENT

In the laws that God gave to Israel, we often find things that teach us some great spiritual truth. Such a law is found in Deuteronomy 22:8, **"When thou buildest a new house, then thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man fall from thence."** To understand this unusual commandment we must understand that they did not build their houses with gable or hip roofs as we do today. In-

stead, they built them with flat roofs. This flat roof could be used as a place to dry things (Joshua 2:6), quiet place to go to pray (Acts 10:9), or as a place to relax (II Samuel 11:2). In that time a flat roof was used much as we would use a porch or patio. Because this flat roof was a place that one could fall from and injure himself, God commanded them to put something around it for protection, something to keep the children as well as the adults from falling.

We should all want things around our homes that would serve to protect us from the falls that can so easily occur.

### THE WORD OF GOD

We should all want our homes surrounded and protected by the Word of God. We all have Bibles in our homes, but we need to have God's Word in our hearts. Our lives need to be saturated with the Word of God.

In Matthew 4:1-11 we find that when Satan tempted Jesus, He met every temptation with a quotation from the Bible. Temptations often come to us. Many parents today are not as careful as they should be about constructing a spiritual banister around their homes. They often feel that if they have provided for a child's material and educational needs, they have done all that is expected of them. This is not so. If our homes are to be protected from the attacks of Satan, they must be built upon, filled with, and surrounded by the Word of God.

No doubt we have all been thrilled by the hymns of the blind hymn writer, Fannie Crosby. In an interview that she gave to one who was writing her biography she said: **"When I was a child this Book had a practical place in both home and nation. During these many years my love for the Holy Bible has not waned. It's truth was not only born with me; it was bred into my life. My mother and grandmother took pains that I knew the Bible better than any other book. All that I am and all that I ever expect to be in litera-**

ture or life is due to the Bible."

**"My love for the Holy Bible and it's sacred truth is stronger and more precious to me at ninety than at nineteen. I have no time to cavil over the sacred volume or raise questions of no value about the Word. I go to the Book to find God and man's relation to Him. There I see Christ as representing God's spirit in human flesh. This book is to me God's treasurehouse and there is nothing I love better than to have my friends read to me from the sacred page. It is my bread of life, the anchor of my hope, my pillar of fire by night, my pillar of cloud by day. It is the lantern that lights my pathway to my Paradise Home."**

II Timothy 1:5 gives us a wonderful record of two great women. **"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and in thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."** I don't know about Timothy's father, but his mother and grandmother saw to it that he knew the Scriptures.

No doubt, we all have several Bibles in our homes. Satan does not care how many Bibles we have, just as long as we do not have the Word of God in our hearts. May we have such a love for God's Word that we would say like the Psalmist, **"The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb"** (Psalms 19:9-10).

We need the same attitude as Job who said, **"I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food"** (Job 23:12).

### PRAYER

We should also want our homes surrounded with the banister of prayer. Probably we have all seen the bumper sticker that says, **"The family that prays together, stays together."** Perhaps you are careful to pray before each meal,

thanking God for your food and asking Him to bless it to the use of your body, but do you ever pray as a family at other times? Prayer should be as much a part of our daily life as is eating food or drinking water. We are robbed of many blessings because of our failure to pray. **"Ye have not, because ye ask not"** (James 4:2b).

We would also have less anxiety in our lives if we prayed about matters instead of worrying about them. **"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God"** (Philippians 4:6). This verse teaches us that we are not to worry about things, but we are to pray about them.

May God help us that our homes be filled with and surrounded by prayer.

### THE CHURCH

God has established two things that are still in existence today, the home and the church. The home was established while Adam was still in the garden of Eden when God made woman and brought her to him to be his companion, help meet, and wife. Although the home is much under attack, it continues as God's appointed way for the well being and happiness of mankind. The church was established during our Lord's ministry on earth, and it continues today as the institution through which the saved are to serve and bring glory to God.

As to church attendance, there are three classes of people. (1) Those who never attend. (2) Those who attend only occasionally. (3) Those who attend faithfully. We should all want to be among those who faithfully attend the services at God's house. Hebrews 10:24 states: **"And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities"** (Amplified Version). Verse twenty five tells us how we are to do this: **"Not forsaking of neglecting to assemble together (as believers), as is the habit of some people, but admonishing—warning, urging and encouraging—one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching."** Our faithfulness to God's house helps us, it encourages others, and most of all, it pleases God. Our homes

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## SERVICE

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2. Through love, patience, kindness and Christian graces.

C. It is a willful act on our part — the presenting of our self to God.

D. It should be done with a pure motive.

E. It is our moral obligation to serve God — It is only reasonable.

II. God's process whereby man is to make a sacrifice to God.

A. First, by resisting the pleasures of sin and the conforming to the world's ideas.

1. As saints, those redeemed by the blood of Christ, we should acknowledge the fact that we are still sinners and have not attained unto moral-spiritual perfection, though we should strive in that direction.

2. As believers, however, we need to learn to imitate our Lord's humility and service to God.

3. With that in mind, the child of God will want to shun certain things.

Let us shun bad company corrupt ways. If we don't, we are in danger of falling prey to the "god of this world - Satan." For that reason, the children of God should stop allowing the "god" of this world to fashion them after the pattern of this wicked and evil age.

I Corinthians 2:6, 8, **"Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."**

Is there anything wrong with amusements? No! But if it takes away from your service of the Lord, it is used in the wrong way. Is there anything wrong with possessions — be it a house, car or some other thing? No! But if that thing becomes more important than serving God, it should be replaced.

Is there anything wrong with recreation? No! But again, if it takes away from your service to God, it is wrong. Is there anything wrong with a good job? No. But if that job keeps you from serving God, you should find a different job. Nothing is more

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

AUGUST 27, 1994

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HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR  
SUBSCRIPTION THIS YEAR??



## SERVICE

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important than putting God first in your life.

So, why does the apostle warn us about fashioning life's interests after the things of this world? Beloved, we need to learn a truth today, for we should never place our chief aims after the patterns of this world system, but do everything to the glory of God — I Corinthians 10:31, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

B. Second, the constant yielding to the temptation of sin as fashioned after the world system ends in bitter disappointment.

I Corinthians 7:31, "And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away."

1. Learn a lesson, for the Scriptures would declare this truth: the things of this world will pass away someday. Look around you, and what do you see, corruption and the passing away of life!

2. Don't become entangled in the things of this world whereby they compel and drive you the day long. They are but for a brief season, and then gone!

3. Your new car, sooner or later, will give up the ghost. Your new house, in time, will be no more. Your loved ones, in time, will depart from this world; but your service to God can never be taken away.

I John 2:17, "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

C. How should you make this sacrifice to God? "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" (vs. 2).

1. The apostle is not suggesting that we substitute one way of life for another; but that we "renew" our total being a living and transformation that takes place, or begins with redemption.

2. The apostle uses a word that suggest a "present tense" — if you please, "continue" to let your body be transformed. The idea is not getting hot for God one minute and cold the next, but one that lives a consistent way — a way that pleases God.

3. Understand, you cannot transform yourself; but you can allow God the Spirit to work in

your life so that He changes your life — that is progressive sanctification.

II Corinthians 3:18, "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

4. Again, the order of the Scriptures is this: the child of God is compelled by Paul to let God so work within their heart and life.

Philippians 2:12-13, "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

II Thessalonians 2:13, "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth."

D. The apostle describes the wonderful and glorious result of walking with God and the transformation that comes by a continuous walk — so that "ye may prove that" which is "good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (vs. 2).

1. You cannot depend solely upon your conscience! Your conscience is important, but only if it goes to the school of the Holy Scriptures on a regular basis to get instruction from God the Spirit.

2. You must always remain aware of God's will — striving to walk therein and be found doing God's will.

3. May I suggest that when you do this, there will be a sense in which you seek God's direction in your life and the pleasure knowing that you are experiencing God's best for you; and then, you will know and experience the joy of God. At this point, the one who is yielded to God, will "delight" in the things of God.

As a child of God, do you delight in obeying God and following after His commands? There are many things a child of God should do, but not before they first give God their body and allow Him to mold and change it.

May God Bless.

## REDEMPTION

(Continued from Page 1)

before God, in love. Romans 8:28-30, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." Paul is saying to the assembly at Rome: You were marked off, predestinated for salvation, by God before the world began. And as all scripture is inspired of God, than all of God's Word on election, to a perfect redemption, stands strong, and is very clear. Paul, in this scripture, is showing that there are five links in the chain of redemption: Foreknowledge, Predestination, Calling, Justification, and Glorification.

God foreknew those whom He wanted to be His, and marked them off (predestinated) to Himself, to be conformed to the image of His Son Jesus Christ. Then, at the proper time God called them, and made them able, and willing to come to Christ, this is the gift of faith. Now we know that most will take foreknowledge, and say that the foreknowledge of God must have some humanly understandable, humanly rationale, humanly provided faith; that men have a choice. But, Paul says nothing about what God foreknew, except that He foreknew people, "For whom He (God) did foreknow, He (God) also did predestinate." And as God is truth, and cannot lie, His word can mean nothing else but that He predestinated, or planned for us to be adopted, and shown to the world as His own children; so that we would be to the praise of His glorious grace, favor, and mercy, through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the purpose of God's own will, not of our will, because it pleased Him. Not one link in the chain of actual redemption is of our forging: or the whole indeed would be fragile.

Christ is our righteousness, and we are justified, and made upright in the sight of the Father, freely, by His grace, and unmerited favor, through God's redemption that was provided by Christ Jesus: The Second Person of the

Holy Trinity. Romans 3:24-25, "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." Whom God puts before the eyes of the world as a propitiation, that is a mercy seat, by His blood, the cleansing, and life giving sacrifice, to show God's righteousness that has passed over, and ignored our sins without punishment. It is by the blood of Christ that we receive forgiveness of our sins, shortcomings, and trespasses in accordance with the rich generosity of God's love, and mercy.

We have no righteousness of our own. Romans 3:10, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." Without Christ there would be no right standing with God, and we would still be in our sins. Christ, and only Christ saves us from sin. It is Christ that sanctifies us, and makes us saints, as stated in I Corinthians 1:30, "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." It is from Christ that God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) gave us wisdom, which is shown us in His divine salvation. Sanctification (sanctified) is being set apart, made pure, made saints (only God can make saints), set free from eternal penalty, and in the sight of God being made holy. In Christ we have insight, purity, cleansing, and redemption from the eternal penalty of death, and hell. Christ, and only Christ redeems us!

Hebrews 9:22, "And almost the purpose of redemption that God has made known, or has fully shown us by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who made spiritual death of no effect, and done away with death to bring life, and immortality to our sight by the Gospel. Jesus Christ gave our spirit life, by His resurrection, John 14:19b, "because I live, ye shall live also." And God can not lie, therefore, what God says is truth!

Christ redeems our body. Romans 8:22-23 "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves, waiting for

the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." We who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. It is this redemption which will show that we are Sons of God. As V.C. Mayes has well said in T.U.L.I.P.S., page 38, "All for whom He paid the price-redeemed, whose sins He covered in His blood, whom He reconciled to God by His death (Romans 5:10), well be included in those represented by those white robed ones who sing His praises in heaven (Revelation 5:9), and no others, angels, or men, are included in His redemptive work. At this point some will vociferously (loudly) proclaim, "All men have faith, and can believe in the atoning work of Christ." But the Apostle Paul dogmatically proclaimed, "All men have not faith" (II Thessalonians 3:2). If you have faith to believe God's Word, it was imputed to you as a gift from the merciful God of heaven (Ephesians 2:8-10). It is impossible for the blood of Christ to miscarry in the case of any for whom it was shed. It is blasphemy, and I say again it is blasphemy to say it can fail. It is an insult to say that men say yet perish in hell, for whom Christ has died, and for whom God has received the very precious blood of His Son as a satisfaction. It is an infinite atonement, and needs nothing joined with it to save. The blood of Jesus in the actual redemption of the elect ones."

Yes!, praise God we have a perfect redemption, because we have a perfect Redeemer, Christ Jesus our Lord!

HE KNOWS--  
EACH STEP OF THE  
PATH THAT WE  
TREAD  
AND HE WHO  
NUMBERS THE HAIRS  
OF OUR HEAD  
SHALL TENDERLY  
GUIDE US THROUGH  
MIST AND  
THROUGH  
STORM AND KEEP  
EVERY FOOTSTEP  
UNTIL THAT GLAD  
MORN.

Submitted by:  
Ruth Ulmer



## DESIRES OF THE "HART"

By Pastor Robert R. Barkman, Gethsemane Baptist Church, Marengo, Ohio

The "hart" is the archaic name for a stag deer. Within the pages of the Holy Scriptures, we find eleven references made to a "hart." Six of these references to the hart picture and teach three truths concerning salvation from sin.

Truth #1 - Salvation Transforms Us From A State Of Need To A State Of Sufficiency.

In the book of Lamentations, we read of the nation of Israel just following a time when sin was saturating her leaders and common people. During this time in her history, the nation of Babylon had taken her captive and she was feeling the results of the sin she had committed.

In Lamentations 1:6, we find harts are being used to picture the sinful leaders of Judah. These leaders were lacking in the blessings of God because they had sin in both their personal and professional lives: **"And from the daughter of Zion all her beauty is departed: her princes are become like harts that find no pasture, and they are gone without strength before the pursuer."**

Yes, it is very true, those who have not received the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour, are living in a state of spiritual lack. They are like male deer who can find no satisfaction and strength for their walk of life on earth. They are constantly being pursued by the results of their sins. These sins will eventually lead to their eternal punishment.

The state of saved individuals is the opposite of the state of the lost. As we have preciously seen, a lost man is in a constant state of spiritual want. In Isaiah we find that a hart pictures for us the state of satisfaction we enter into when we are saved: **"Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert"** (Isaiah 35:6).

Here we find a hart being used to picture a man who is saved by God's grace. As a lost man, he is in a state of need (note his inability to walk—this is a picture of his state of need as a lost individual). Once saved this man is leaping as a hart (this pictures for us his need being supplied above and beyond all measure). God's grace in salvation is just like that.

When the Lord saves us He blesses us above all our needs. Truly as saved mankind our **"cup runneth over."**

Truth #2 - To Receive Salvation, We Must Have Christ In Our Life.

Without Christ in our life there is absolutely no way that we can receive spiritual satisfaction. Christ is the source of all spiritual supply, and apart from Him we can find no peace, comfort nor forgiveness of our sins. CHRIST IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE SEEKING SATISFACTION. In Psalms 42:1, we find this great need of Christ pictured as the great thirst that a hart possesses: **"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."**

Please be sure to notice that both lost and saved possess a true need of Christ. The hart not only has a desire for water, but water is an absolute necessity. It is impossible for the hart to live without water, just like it is impossible for a man to live spiritually without Christ, the True and Living God.

Truth #3 - To Receive Salvation, We Must Have Faith In Christ.

We have already seen it is necessary to have Christ in our life for us to receive spiritual satisfaction. Now we are faced with the questions "How can we receive Christ in our life?" and "What must we do to be saved?"

Of course, both of these questions lead us to the same answer. Our responsibility in salvation is to have faith in Christ as our Saviour. Hebrews 11:1 gives us a clear definition of faith: **"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."** Please note, based on this definition, that faith deals with things that cannot be seen with our eyes. Faith is trusting, hoping, believing in those things which we cannot discern with our fleshly senses.

As long as we are in this sinful flesh we cannot discern Christ with our physical senses. We cannot see Him with our fleshly eyes, we cannot hear Him with our fleshly ears, we cannot touch Him with fleshly hands, yet by faith, we can receive Him into our life as a living, vital, supreme Lord and Savior.

The book of Song of Solomon

gives us a beautiful picture of this truth. Song of Solomon uses a hart to picture Christ as the Invisible Lord who is present among us. In the Song of Solomon 2:9 we read **"My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice."** Just as a hart is very shy and bashful among men, the Lord, even though He is present with us, does not clearly manifest Himself to us today. The Lord's existence, His person, and His work must be accepted into our life by faith not sight.

The Song of Solomon teaches us that our need of faith in Him is only for this time period. There is coming a day our faith will be turned to sight. And our belief will become substance. In Song of Solomon 2:17 we find, **"Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be thou like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of Bethel."**

Here we find that the separation we are now experiencing with Christ will someday be done away. Note the phrases **"until the day break"** and **"until the shadows flee away,"** these phrases are speaking of the second coming of Christ. Christ is to continue to secrete Himself behind the lattice of our flesh until the time comes when He will once again, physically manifest Himself to mankind at His second coming. It will be at that time that **"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"** (Revelation 1:7).

To close this study on the hart, please notice that we not only should be desiring Him to come into our lives now, by faith; but we should also be desiring for His physical, bodily return someday. Song of Solomon 8:14 is an expression of the desire shared by all those who have Christ dwelling in them: **"Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices."** Yes, **"even so, come, Lord Jesus"** make haste.

These are the true desires of the "hart".

## A Woman's Touch

By Wendy Barkman



### Prophetesses and Women Who Prophesied

In the Scriptures, we are told of twelve different women, that she was a "prophetess," or that she prophesied. What we are told, concerning these women, that they were prophetesses and prophesied, must not mislead us, should not confuse us, nor can we use these Scriptures to justify women taking the lead in a public worship service. None of these women held the office of prophet, for they never received previously unknown truth, only teaching what had already been revealed. To understand what it is to prophesy, is to know that these women (except for the one false prophetess and the one wicked woman) were used to proclaim divine messages, spoke as God's ambassadors, revealed the mind of God. Sunday school teachers do this. Witnessing to others, whether it is at work, at school, or in the privacy of one's own home, involves one representing the Lord, revealing His mind, proclaiming His message. All Christians, both men and women, do this.

Miriam (Exodus 15:20-21) - **"And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them...."** Miriam led the Israelite women in praising the Lord. The words of their song proclaimed His greatness. To prophesy is to reveal His strength, give Him the praise.

Deborah (Judges 4:4) - **"And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time."** As a judge, Deborah could only speak from His commands, obey His word. In Judges 5:1-31, we find the song of Deborah and Barak, praising God, thanking Him for their nation's victory. To prophesy is to reveal His power, give Him the glory.

Huldah (II Kings 22:14-20; II Chron. 34:22-28) - **"And Hilkiah the priest...went unto Huldah the prophetess...And she said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel...."** Huldah's message, to King Josiah and his

men, was from God. Jeremiah and Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of Josiah, and why did Josiah not send his men to these prophets? Though we are not certain of the answer to this question, we can see that Huldah herself was quite familiar with these prophets and what God had revealed to them. Huldah simply related, to Josiah's men, the message previously revealed to Jeremiah and Zephaniah.

(Jeremiah 2:11-13, 27, 28, 7:20, 9:1, 13:17, 14:17, 17:27, 26:6, 36:24, 29-32, 44:22; Zephaniah 1:18).

Noadiah (Nehemiah 6:14) - **"My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear."** Noadiah was a prophetess (some say a false prophetess) who, along with Sanballat and Tobiah, opposed Nehemiah and the other men of God, in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. Noadiah and the others intimidated, terrorized, and discouraged the men of God. Though her message was not from God, Noadiah's name means "one to whom the Lord revealed himself." How contradictory to her character.

The Mother of Lemuel (Proverbs 31:1) - **"The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him."** This mother of Lemuel is said to have taught her son a particular prophecy concerning drunkenness, righteous judgment, and the virtuous woman. This woman gave, to her son, much wisdom from His word. When reading what this woman had to say to her son, one recognizes these words from other portions of Scripture. Prophecy at its finest, a mother instructing a child from the word of God.

Isaiah's Wife (Isaiah 8:3) - **"And I went unto the prophetess; and she conceived, and bare a son. Then said the Lord to me, Call his name Maher-shal-**

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## FORUM

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### LENEGAR

not take part in their wrongs if they are opposed to God, or His principles. We should vote, always stand for God's ways, and strive to serve Him as good Christians and good citizens. God and His ways are to be first. As far as being overly concerned about the world's politics and becoming involved in them, I believe we should not, other than to be aware of what is happening. Pray for God's will to be done, thereby asking for God to conform all to His will. Serve God, fear the king, and look for Him Whose government shall be perfect and without end.

### SLEDD

dead level best to remove any reference to God from our country. This grieves the hearts of all of God's people! Christians live in this world just as non-Christians. It is easy to use Bible prophecy of the end times to justify apathy. We can bury our heads in the sand and our freedom will surely be snatched away from us! Now more than ever, God's people need to be aware of the issues and try to do something about making a difference. If we don't, who will? I would like to see our Baptist men and women run for office, especially in the local community. If we had good, godly, separated Christians on the school boards, county commission seats, state legislatures, and other offices, don't you think it would make a difference? Certainly it would! Let's encourage our people to do this, to get involved. Let's encourage our youth to be community and national leaders. By God's grace we can turn our country around!

### WHITT

16). We may well ask: Have the faithful failed from among the children of men?

Secondly, we may consider political developments with regard to Bible prophecy. It is of particular interest as we view the developments in the mid-east with regard to Jerusalem and Palestine. In keeping in tune with current events, we may be aware that the soon appearing of our Lord is very near.

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How and to what extent Christian involvement in politics should extend may vary with individual cases. We have opportunities in selecting those to represent us in government positions. The criteria should always be a candidate with Christian faith and/or morally sound. We can speak out for God and stand against sin. If every true Christian would do this, we would let the world know that Christianity is still very much alive and well.

## ABRAHAM

(Continued from Page 5)

cannot have the protection they need if we neglect the services at God's house. This is a banister that we desperately need around our homes today.

### LOVE

Our homes should be places where love is manifested. There should be love of a husband to his wife and his children, love of a wife to her husband and her children, and love of the children for their parents. I sometimes hear of husbands and wives taking separate vacations, in order to get away from each other. In such cases there must be a great lack of love.

Families should love to do things together. Such things as camping trips, picnics, hiking, sporting events, can all be wonderful family experiences. When there is much love in families, they are happier, sweeter, stronger, and more protected from the attacks of Satan.

Let's all take care to have spiritual banisters around our homes. God help us that it might be said of us even as it was of Abraham "He will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord."

*Humble  
yourself in  
the sight  
of the Lord  
and He will lift  
you up*



## A WOMAN'S

(Continued from Page 7)

alhashbaz." This woman, the wife of the prophet Isaiah, was called a prophetess, most probably because she was the wife of a prophet. There is no indication of her ever prophesying.

Anna (Luke 2:36-38) - "And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser...." This elderly widow, who fasted and prayed, and went to the temple, thanked the Lord for the little baby boy, boldly proclaiming that He was the one they were looking for, the Old Testament Messiah.

Daughters of Philip (Acts 21:8, 9) - "And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy." We are not told what these four women prophesied, but most believe that they were involved in foretelling the future, a fulfillment of Joel 2:28. We see the beginning of the fulfillment of this prophecy in Acts 2:17, 18 (Pentecost), the same time period in which these young women lived. Whatever the content of their prophesying, the origin was sure to be found in His Word.

Jezebel (Revelation 2:20-23) - "...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." There is much speculation concerning the identity of this woman. Was she an actual woman, a false prophetess, who was seducing the saints in the church at Thyatira with her practices of idolatry and immorality, or the wife of one of the leaders in the church? Was the name of the wicked wife of King Ahab given to and was it symbolic of the spirit of immorality and idolatry, prevalent among many of the members of this church? Did this name represent the rise in power of a false church, whose pretensions to holiness and religion are evident in her idolatrous worship of images and in her persecution of true believers. Still, others believe that this Jezebel was a false prophetess of the sect of the Nicolaitanes, and we know that our Lord hated the works and the teachings of these people (Rev. 2:6, 15). Whatever the case, we do know that, in this church, Christ was not being revealed, represented, or proclaimed according to the truth.

## 1994 CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

### BIBLE CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 16-17, 1994

September 16, 1994

- 6:30 p.m. Congregational and special singing
- 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Pastor Jim Hobbs, Kings Addition Baptist Church, South Shore, KY
- 7:30 p.m. Congregational and special singing
- 8:00 p.m. Speaker: Pastor Clarence Grigsby, Salem Baptist Church, Grayson, KY

September 17, 1994

- 9:00 a.m. Congregational singing
- 9:15 a.m. Speaker: Pastor John Lenegar, Walnut Creek Missionary Baptist Church, Delaware, OH
- 9:45 a.m. Special singing: The Bluegrass Boys
- 10:15 a.m. Speaker: Pastor Ronnie Wolfe, First Baptist Church, Harrison, OH
- 10:45 a.m. Special singing: The Bluegrass Boys
- 11:15 a.m. Speaker: Pastor Bobby Lakes, Faith Baptist Church, Versailles, KY
- 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Lunch in the fellowship hall
- 1:15 p.m. Congregational singing
- 1:30 p.m. Speaker: Pastor Jon Rule, Zion Baptist Church, Taylor, MI
- 2:00 p.m. Special singing: The Bluegrass Boys
- 2:30 p.m. Speaker: Pastor Carl Morton, First Baptist Church, Alexandria, KY
- 3:00 p.m. Special singing: The Bluegrass Boys
- 3:30 p.m. Speaker: Pastor Bob Jones, Northside Baptist Church, Lexington, KY
- 4:00 p.m. Congregational singing
- 4:15 p.m. Speaker: Pastor Willard Willis, Northland Missionary Baptist Church, Delaware, OH
- 4:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Dinner in the fellowship hall
- 6:30 p.m. Congregational and special singing
- 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Pastor Charles Lybrook, Waverly Road Baptist Church, Huntington, WV
- 7:30 p.m. Congregational and special singing
- 8:00 p.m. Speaker: Pastor Jim Orrick, Storms Creek Baptist Church, Ironton, OH

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!

