

BIBLE MONITOR

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“For the faith once delivered unto the saints”

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GOD'S SON

Especially now at Christmas
We think of God's own Son-
We remember all the Blessings
That are ours because He come-
To earth to teach us how to live
That we might dwell above;
He gave His life on Calvary
This shows us His great love!

For all mankind, our Savior came
As a babe in Bethlehem,
He lived, died, and rose to heaven
But will someday come again-
To take the faithful to His Home
To live in heavenly bliss;
Where tears and sorrow are no more,
Nothing can compare with this!

—author unknown

Selected by Shirley Frick

PICTURES OF JESUS

During holidays and other events, it is common that photographs are taken, to help remember the event. Later, looking at those photos may bring floods of memories into our minds. We also enjoy looking at pictures of our ancestors and others who have passed.

Artists have imagined varying images of Jesus since photography was not available to capture His actual image. We do not have actual photographs of Jesus, but we do have several vignettes throughout the New Testament showing the highlights of His earthly ministry.

This article serves as a photo album of Jesus as we look at some of these pictures. There are a few sightings of the Son of God in the Old Testament, but we will confine

our views to the New Testament.

The birth of Jesus in the Bethlehem stable is the first view. The stable emphasizes there was no room in Bethlehem available for the incarnation of their long-expected Messiah. Throughout His ministry, there apparently was little interest in men's hearts to accommodate Him. It is unlikely there was any snow or other signs of winter in that locality. His birth did cause a mighty chorus sung by the angels. Following that announcement, the shepherds from near-by came to find and worship Him. Eventually the wise men from far-away came to bring gifts and honor to Him.

There are not many pictures of Him during His childhood and youth. Only the comment that "Jesus increased in wisdom and

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stature, and in favour with God and man.”

Jesus came to John the Baptist to be baptized at the place of much water. Although He had no need of confession or repentance from sin, He submitted to baptism to establish it as the standard for sinful men approaching God. The picture of His baptism includes the presence of the Holy Spirit in the shape of a dove, along with the words of His Father acknowledging His pleasure in Him. This began His time of service which was initiated with a season of fasting and prayer, followed by the intense temptation that Satan used to detour Him from His purpose.

Since He came to instruct His disciples and others, it is fitting there is a picture of Him on the mountainside surrounded by those who wished to hear Him. They may have been shocked by His statement that the Law had been fulfilled in His coming. Now God expected their external service to be internalized rather than mere fulfillment of rituals. He set higher standards for the followers of God. This picture shows the astonishment of those gathered as they considered what He had said and the level of authority He displayed.

Another picture on the

mountainside shows Jesus in garments that outshone the sun for glory. Again, the Father speaks of His Son, saying not only that He is well-pleased in Him but also that whatever He teaches should be heard and obeyed. The glory of Jesus in that setting also outshone the Old Testament saints, Elijah, and Moses, placing Him higher than the prophets and the Law.

There could be several snapshots of Jesus as He performed various miracles. He changed water into wine, healed the man born blind, cleansed lepers, healed various diseases, raised at least three people to life, brought peace and comfort to others, and rescued wasted souls and brought them into His Father's family. His miracles covered the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of the people around Him.

There could be many more pictures covering the three and a half years of His earthly ministry. The next pictures show Him during the final week of His ministry. There might have been a picture of His welcome into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, however the sentiments expressed that day did not survive the week. The Kingdom He was establishing was not a worldly kingdom. The palm branches represented the nation of Israel but

their enthusiasm for Him was very short-lived. His Kingdom would be based on the hearts of people rather than the formal organization of worldly kingdoms.

There might be snapshots of His visit to the Temple where He expected to worship God, but instead found a commercial enterprise dedicated to reaping profits for the religious leaders of Israel. That picture might have been quite active as He upset the money changer's tables. Perhaps it should have been a video.

We would love to see pictures taken in the Upper Room. There could have been a group picture of those surrounding the table. The picture might show the surprise on Peter's face as Jesus approached to wash his feet. A simple quiet picture might have been taken while they quietly partook of the provided meal which represented not only their fellowship but also prophesying of the future wedding supper of the Lamb. A picture of their reaction when Jesus said that one of them would betray Him would be full of astonishment and surprise. After that turmoil there could have been a picture of each of those remaining at the table breaking bread and partaking of the cup. He wanted them to remember the scene and spiritual depth of the

moment, so He commanded them to continue replicating that scene throughout the years of their lives and in the generations until His return.

From the Upper Room the scene would shift to the Garden of Gethsemane. There He would in agony accept the fulfillment of His Father's plan for His sacrifice as the Lamb of God. Even while the picture would show a group of sleepy disciples, it also would show the bloody drops of sweat. The band of soldiers accompanying Judas would be pictured trying to identify Jesus. Judas would identify Him by his kiss of perfidy.

Back to Jerusalem for the night-long trial at the High Priest's residence, where there could have been pictures of Peter denying Jesus thrice. There would also be pictures of members of the Sanhedrin as most taunted Jesus, although two tried as best they could to defend Him. Condemnation was the meeting's outcome. The sentence was made but they lacked ability to carry it out unless the Roman government became an accessory.

The pictures that would be taken as Jesus appeared before Pilate would show the Jewish leaders as they tried numerous ways to secure Pilate's judgment

against Jesus. Finally, they were able to persuade Pilate by political means, making him fear the loss of favor with his superiors. Just when the Jewish leaders and the people and Satan thought they had achieved their greatest desire, the grace and mercy of God was being exercised at its greatest extent.

The pictures of Calvary were excruciatingly painful. Physically Jesus would suffer to the uttermost. Spiritually He would suffer even more as the weight of the world's sin was placed upon Him. That sin also brought being forsaken by His Father. There might have been pictures of the soldier piercing His side, or of Nicodemus and Joseph taking His body down from the cross and placing it in Joseph's tomb.

There would be no more pictures until the first day of the week. Then would the picture be of the resurrected Christ. A picture

unexpected although predicted. He would show Himself to various disciples, in the Upper Room and by the Galilean seashore.

Forty days later He would ascend into Heaven. The picture would have been blurred with the speed of His rising into Heaven. Now His disciples were left with a task but also with a promise of the Comforter who would soon come to empower them for that task.

The last picture has not been taken. That is the picture of His return at an unspecified time. Just as some expected Him when He first came, some still look forward to His return. Would you like to be in that picture? He wants you to be prepared for that event, which can only happen through your faith and trust in Him. Get ready for that picture.

Merry Christmas.

M. C. Cook

THE REAL CHRISTMAS IS FOR CELEBRATION!!

I will attempt to put my thoughts of the Christmas season into words. I have a growing appreciation for it since I have begun to focus on the real reason for Christmas and not let the over commercialization of it discourage me.

I still have my discouragements with certain aspects of it. The worst being Santa Claus, and the way people who know better, are promoting it/him. I see him not as just a cute little lie that parents tell their kids about, but as a highly effective and

destructive distraction created by Satan himself. Does it come as a shock to anyone to think that Satan would not want to take the focus off the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ? When Satan wants to distract, he invents something as close to the real thing as possible to make it more palatable to the ones he is trying to deceive. (Sound familiar? If not read the first few chapters of Genesis.) The three similarities I find completely sacrilegious are: Santa is advertised as:

#1 "omnipotent" – having unlimited power; able to do anything. Can make reindeer fly and somehow fit his overweight self, down all the undersized chimneys.

#2 Omnipresent – present everywhere at the same time, all over the world in just one night.

#3 Omniscient – knowing everything. "He sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake."

There is only one that can truly claim these characteristics and that is GOD. The creator of the universe, my Lord and King.

Anyone or anything who claims any or all three of these things is a liar and impostor. They are reserved for God and God alone. Here are a few scriptures to

prove that God truly is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient:

OMNIPOTENT:

Rev. 19:6, "And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of many thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."

Luke 1:37, "For with God nothing shall be impossible."

Psalms 147:5, "Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite."

OMNIPRESENT:

Proverbs 15:3, "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

Psalms 139:7-10, "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascent up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."

OMNISCIENT:

Job 42:2, "I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee."

1 John 3:20b, "God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things."

This brings me to the point of it being more than a silly or harmless lie. Children that are told Santa is real will someday grow up to know the truth, and when they do, they will also wonder what else mom and dad have been lying about.

When this happens, they surely will not ask mom or dad because they cannot be trusted. Satan will gladly insert doubt into their minds until someone will tell them something that is incorrect, but it makes sense to their already confused minds. In doing so, most likely they will stray further from the truth and could end up walking away all together.

I know I cannot get Santa banished from worldly Christmas celebrations, but my cry is to God fearing, God loving parents, tell your children the TRUTH!! Tell them about their need for a Savior, and because God loves us so much, He made a way for redemption back to Him and that way is the reason we celebrate Christmas!! Do not, for any reason, cheapen Christmas to a silly old man in a red suit!

Remember this is just the beginning of the story. Go on to tell them about Jesus' miracles, His love and caring attitude for people, and His death and why He died. Do not stop there! Tell them

how in three days He rose from the dead, with the keys of death and hell in His hand. Tell how He met with His loved ones that thought He was gone forever, how He extended forgiveness to Peter. Tell of the great commission, His ascension, how He is sitting at the right hand of the Father, and that He is coming back for us some day.

Take them to the scriptures and read these things to them. Show them, so they can read it themselves. Teach them to believe what they read in the Bible as absolute truth, without one bit of doubt. Start when they are too little to even understand and continue until they have children and grandchildren.

Tell them the story every year. Tell it with enthusiasm!! Tell it with emotion like you believe it. Tell it till you cannot and by then they will take on the tradition. They will take on the tradition, not because you always did, but because they will find it to be true. They will find it to be comfort, and peace, and joy and strength.

I see churches have Christmas events that are both the Jesus story and Santa Claus. Maybe a combined event or a separate one. This, without a doubt, brings sadness and a holy jealousy to

God. It is nothing short of idolatry. Not a harmless, fun tradition, but a substitution, straight from Satan himself to bring doubt and distraction from the real Christmas story.

We have the best story the world has ever been offered. Not only because it is true, but

because it makes a difference in the lives of those who believe it. Do not be ashamed of it. Do not cheapen it. Go boldly this Christmas season and wish the world A MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Brother Joe Cover
Dallas Center, IA

A TRUE GIFT FLOWS FROM A COMMITMENT

The Magi who traveled so far to visit the baby Jesus often fascinates me.

I do not really know who these men were or what really motivated them to travel so far to see a little baby. What was it about this baby that made it worth their time and effort to go and see him?

Travel in those days was not like travel today. I am not sure how long it took them to get from where they were to where Jesus was and then travel back again. But for them it was worth the time and the effort.

The wise men knew something about Jesus that others, even the Jewish religious leaders, did not know. What I want to understand is, what did they know? And, why the Jewish leaders and scholars did not know this about Jesus? They

had all the information needed to really identify Jesus as the Messiah.

This leads me to believe that no matter how much you know it is not worth anything unless, underneath all that, there is a personal, unconditional commitment to know the truth.

Some believe that behind the Magi was Daniel of the Old Testament. Perhaps he is the one who laid down the foundation encouraging them to look for this Messiah.

The wise men needed to see Jesus. That leads me to say something that wise men are the ones who are seeking Jesus regardless of the cost. These Magi had a passion to know Christ and to find him and to see him, pay homage, and lay down before him their gifts.

Every gift reflects the giver.

Nobody can give beyond his or her means. Sometimes at Christmas time, we outspend ourselves and get into debt. Is that genuinely a gift?

My giving reflects the passion of my heart. Many times, we give gifts to impress people. I am not sure that is what the Magi were doing. There was nobody on their radar they wanted to impress.

They came to Herod to find out if he knew anything about this king that was just born. I can imagine what he felt as he listened to their story and the rage building up within his heart and I do not know how he could keep so quiet and calm before these men. He did ask them that when they found him, they would come back and tell him so that he too could go and worship this newborn King. Yeah. Right.

I do not think Herod had in his mind anything like the worship that the Magi had in their hearts.

To offer a gift to Jesus the Magi was doing it to express their thanks. I have often wondered what they were thankful for. I often wondered what really stirred in their hearts to really express this kind of thanks and gratitude for this little child they

never knew.

How can we honor Jesus today? That is an excellent question. How can we, in our situation, and we all have different situations, honor Christ today?

If I want to measure my thanks, I need to begin to look at what I am giving to God. How I am putting on the altar of sacrifice those things I think are so important.

The Magi brought gifts to Jesus they thought were important and had value to them. As I bring my thanks to God, it must be what I deem as valuable. I cannot give what someone else gives. I do not have that. I cannot give what I do not have. What I can give is what is important to me. The aspect of my life that is important, is to discover what is valuable in my life. What do I deem as valuable?

Some people's value has a dollar sign. But that may not be the true value of that individual.

Jesus watched the Pharisees go by and drop in lots of money in the offering box and then a widow came by and put in just a little coin. Jesus turned to the disciples and said, "Verily I say unto you, That this poor

widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury.” (Mark 12:43)

It is not what you give but what you have left. It is not what you give, but it is the commitment behind that gift. If I am giving just to give or to impress, then I am not really giving out of a heart of commitment.

My giving is not really giving until it hurts me in some way. Until it costs me something I cannot get back. True giving is an act of surrender.

I think our worship of the Lord comes down to this matter of commitment. What are we

really committed to? What are we really committed to giving to God without any expectation of return. Today we have those trying to teach that we give to get something back from God.

I do not think these Magi were giving to Jesus with the expectation that they would get a hundredfold back. They were giving out of a heart of thanks. That thanks was rooted in their commitment to who they believed this baby Jesus was.

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HE BEING DEAD YET SPEAKETH

Hebrews 11:4

“Moreover, I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.” II Peter 1:15

We have reached the age in life when most of our early influences, those who helped bring us to Christ, have passed on to their reward. Their effect on our lives, particularly our conversion, cannot be measured. Hebrews 12:1 talks about a great cloud of witnesses. This refers to all those having died in the faith. Even though they have gone on,

they are still here with us, advising us, admonishing us, reassuring us. Often, we think to ourselves, what would this old Brother have done in this situation? These folks were instrumental in teaching us the walk: the way that leadeth to Heaven. Others taught them, and those gone on before were taught by their forebears back to Jesus' time, the Holy Spirit teaching and bearing witness with the Word of God.

We did not grow up amongst the Brethren, but there were some

ancestors, particularly my great-great grandfather, who was a Brethren elder over a hundred years ago. A few years back we asked an old deacon, who was about ninety, if he remembered him. We showed him an old photo and he said he heard the old man preach when he was ten years old. That would have been 1910. The old deacon has since passed on. This event impressed me. He being dead yet speaketh. We do not know what a photo or a story will do to help a person on the path of righteousness.

We cannot underestimate the importance of the cloud of witnesses: what they believed and how they lived. Paul told others to follow him only so long as he followed Christ. He was the last Apostle, that is, the last to see Jesus alive (on the road to Damascus). Those after Paul needed examples.

John 1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The Word is not just ink on paper, but the Word is Christ, and He abides in us. We have not met Christ in the flesh, but Christ has met us in the flesh.

When our history book was in the making, many of us gathered at Conference with our old photo albums, and even then, those being dead spoke to us. Our purpose

was to pick out pictures of old meetinghouses and people of interest, but many of us noticed something. These pictures were from the 1920's and 1930's and seeing them brought up some questions. Are we the same as we were back then? Have we lost our modesty? Are we preaching the same gospel as we were ninety years ago? Let us let the dead speak to us.

Rise, O my soul, pursue the path
By ancient worthies trod;
Aspiring, view those holy men
Who lived and walked with God.

Tho' dead, they speak on reason's ear
And in example live;
Their faith, and hope, and mighty deeds,
Still fresh instruction give.
'T was thro' the Lamb's most precious blood

They conquered ev'ry foe;
To his almighty pow'r and grace
Their crowns of life they owe.

Lord, may I ever keep in view
The patterns thou hast giv'n,
And ne'er forsake the blessed road
That led them safe to heav'n.

John Needham
Brethren Hymnal #494

Brother Lynn H. Miller
Mohler's Congregation

PHIL'S PONDERINGS

As we *“study to shew ourselves approved unto God...”*

December 2021 Study Questions

December 9 – Revelation 21:1-13

How is the New Jerusalem distinctly different from what has passed away?

Why is there no more sea?

What promise is best in the first four verses?

Will you be thirsty in the New Jerusalem?

What do we usually think of when speaking of the bride of Christ?

Commentary: We are incomplete in this life. No matter how many days we live there will never be enough days to complete us. One choice is to live in frustration of all the ways we make a mess of our lives. Or we can choose to live in hope of the completeness that God promises to each one of us who lives to overcome our incompleteness. To live as an overcomer is to live by faith in what God teaches us and empowers us to overcome. It is not a perfect process. But we live by faith so we may hear those words that will overcome all our failings. “Behold, I make all things new.” But the Good News of what we must hope and look forward to is not the only source of our hope. For day by day, we experience the handiwork of our God who is working in us now and showing us the power of His grace as we are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (Eph. 2:22)

December 12 – Revelation 21:14-22:5

How long is a furlong?

What do all the numbers have in common that are mentioned in this passage?

What do all the different gems and gold have in common?

How is worship different since there is no temple?

How many times does John mention that there is no need of light from the sun or moon?

What role on earth had the sun and moon played that detracted from the glory of God?

What is the curse alluded to in 22:3?

Commentary: There will be no graffiti on the walls of the New Jerusalem. This is not a particularly profound insight. But it does draw attention to the reality of perfection and our inability to experience perfection without compromising it. And it all started in the beginning. What God made was good, very good. Yet, in a truly brief time we managed to ruin what was good thinking we could improve upon God's work. There are valuable gems nearly flawless and therefore very good. But someone decides that they need them for themselves, and those flawless gems bring out the worst in us. No matter how good, beautiful, pleasurable, or joyful something may be, we are incapable of enjoying perfection. In one way or another we will become bored with what seems perfect and lust for something that seems better. This is but one of a multitude of reasons why we need to be made new to rejoice, worship, find pleasure in, and be constantly amazed by God's own perfection. We must be made perfect to live surrounded by His perfection.

December 19 – Micah 5:1-15

How is the one, "that is to be ruler in Israel" typically referred to?

How recent are His plans to become the ruler?

What must happen first before He can intervene and become ruler over Israel?

How shall Israel overcome her enemies?

What is the primary source of God's fury with the nations who are unwilling to listen?

What are some of the similarities and differences between Micah's vision and Revelation?

Commentary: What does it take to be successful in God's kingdom? In a recent conversation someone remarked that the membership in the Dunkard Brethren Church is virtually the same as when it first began ninety plus years ago. If we are measured by membership for success, we might be scratching out a C minus at best. The community identity of Bethlehem in Micah's day might relate well to our own. We are little and insignificant. No one takes us seriously about what we think, say, or do. The ESV makes this a little clearer. Mic. 5:2, "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah..." But God has big plans for Bethlehem. Out of it will come the Messiah. The Messiah will lead Israel to a place of great power and authority on the world stage of nations. The Lord will conquer and punish all the nations for their idolatry and boastful arrogance that belittled the Lord God of Israel. Littleness is not an impediment to God success. If littleness means humbleness before our Lord, then success means God receives all the glory for what He accomplishes among us, for us, and through us. If, as servants, we take our one talent and use it for God's purposes and glory then it will be God's prerogative to boast of our faith and welcome us into His kingdom with the words, "Well done!"

December 26 – Revelation 22:6-21

Which words are these words being referred to?

What advantage do we gain from studying Revelation?

What is a likely reason for John telling us each time that he begins to worship an angel?

What are some reasons for working for a reward?

Why are there sinners outside the gates?

When does verse 11 become true?

Commentary: Rev. 22:7, "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book." This verse identifies three important truths that we can readily receive as part of our spiritual outlook. 1) Our earth-bound experience does not accurately portray the quickness of Christ's return in power. We see more than nineteen centuries have passed since John wrote Revelation. That does not seem

like it is quick. In comparison to eternity everything that has and will take place in human experience will happen quickly. Cultivating this sense of “quickly” keeps us prepared for what shall come. We will not be surprised nor caught short if we stay prepared and expectant of the Lord’s return. 2) If we are to keep the sayings of this book, we must frequently study it and keep it familiar in our hearts and minds. As we do this Revelation will become an integral part of our biblical understanding and not an add-on that we look to only occasionally. 3) Revelation is the key by which we should interpret all other prophecy. Too often the teachings of other prophetic scriptures have been used to interpret Revelation. As a result, we have a mishmash of various interpretations of Revelation that conflict in many substantial ways. Imagine putting together a jigsaw puzzle after adding pieces from other puzzles and trying to make all the pieces fit. The result is confusion. We will have created a false understanding of end time events. Revelation will shed light on all other prophecies, not the other way around. The truest understanding of eschatological events and their fulfillment is found in Revelation without adding to it. If we cannot demonstrate the truthfulness of prophetic interpretation from within the pages of Revelation, we must regard those interpretations with suspicion.

Brother Phil Franklin
Modesto, CA

JESUS CALLED HER!

Rudy Cover

Luke 13:10-17

It was an exciting time in the land of Israel. Jesus, the great “miracle man,” was teaching the people about God. He taught by the seaside, sometimes on a mountain, or other times in the desert, in the temple at Jerusalem, or on the streets of some town or village. One Sabbath Jesus was teaching in a Jewish synagogue.

It was a place where people met every week to listen to the word of God – like we go to church on Sunday.

There was a woman who had come to hear Jesus that day. I suppose she was in the habit of going to the synagogue every week. I think she was a good woman. It was not easy for her to

go any place because her back was crooked. The Bible says she was bowed together and could in no way lift up herself. I think she could walk but it must have been very difficult for her to get around. She had been this way for eighteen years.

Even so, she went to church. She may have had to walk a long way to get there. We do not know how far it was from where she lived. She was determined in her mind to hear the Word of the Lord. Many people in that time were unable to read or write and they could only learn about God by hearing someone who could read.

It should make us feel very humble when we compare ourselves to this poor woman. We have our automobiles, our nice homes, good things to eat and most of us are well and strong and have been to school and can read the Word of God.

Jesus saw the woman and called her to Him. I think she was glad to go to Jesus. He could tell about the love of God and I am sure this woman listened with all her heart and soul. When she came to where Jesus was, He said, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." Then He laid His hands on her and immediately her back was made straight and

she could stand up like anyone. Eighteen years she had been bent and crippled; now she was perfectly whole. How happy she was that day! She glorified God – she praised God and thanked Him for the great miracle that Jesus had performed on her.

There was always someone who was jealous of Jesus and this time it was the ruler of the synagogue. He was indignant and said, "There are six days in which men ought to work: in them come and be healed, and not on the sabbath."

No one should tell Jesus what to do because He always knows best. Listen to what He told the ruler, "Thou hypocrite, does not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall and lead him away to watering? And ought not this woman being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?"

Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." We have all been crippled by sin and He calls all of us to come to Him.

Selected from the
April 15, 1981
issue of the Bible Monitor

THAT WONDROUS NAME

James M. Hite

In Ephesians 2:21 we read, "Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion. AND EVERY NAME THAT IS NAMED, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come." The previous verses tell us that this is referring to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Isaiah 7:14 we read, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." We believe this refers to the birth of Christ and that those versions which translate this verse "a young woman" are in error. The fulfillment is found in Matthew 1:23, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

Another verse we see as a prophecy of Jesus Christ is Isaiah 9:6. We would like to comment briefly on the various portions of this verse. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." In Matthew 17:5 we read, "While

he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him.'" In I John 5:12 we read, He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

"...and the government shall be upon his shoulder." In Colossians 1:13 we read, (Giving thanks unto the father," vs. 12). "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." We do not feel that this prophecy has references to the secular governments of this world although we do acknowledge the fact that God is sovereign over all governments and that Jesus Christ will, ultimately, rule over all the world. In I Peter 2:9 the Church is described as "an holy nation." We feel that the confusion of the two Kingdoms is causing problems in the church today.

"...and HIS NAME shall be called Wonderful." In Matthew 2:15 we read, "And when the

chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David, they were sore displeased." Jesus Christ was wonderful in His actions, He was wonderful in His position, (the Son of God). He was wonderful in His love, and He was wonderful in His death. With the song writer we can surely say, "Oh what a wonderful Savior."

"Counsellor": The Greek word "parakletos" rendered "advocate" in the King James Version, is defined as "counsels with such authority as a legal advocate (lawyer) has for his client." I John 2:1 reads, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate (counsellor) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

"The mighty God": It would require an entire writing to do justice to this phrase. Let it suffice us to say that the Bible, without doubt, declares Jesus Christ to be one hundred percent God and one hundred percent man. We might add without the reality of the virgin birth this is impossible.

"The everlasting Father": In John 10:30 we read, "I (Jesus) and my Father are one." And in John 8:24 we read, "I (Jesus) said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." Then in verse 27 we read, "They understood not that he spake to them of the Father." Since we do not believe a human mind can fully grasp this truth, we will not endeavor to explain it. While we reject the "Jesus Only" theory, we affirm that in the mystery of the Trinity, Jesus Christ and the Father are one.

"The Prince of Peace." In John 14:27 we read, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you..." We believe the most important peace Jesus Christ gives us is peace with God. This is our salvation through His shed blood. After we experience this peace then we can live in peace with all men as Jesus and the Apostles taught.

In Acts 4:12 we read, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is NONE OTHER NAME under heaven given among men, whereby we

must be saved.” In Philippians 2:9-10 we read. “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and GIVEN HIM A NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY NAME: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,”

Let it be our desire to bring honor and glory to this high and holy name. Let us desire to worship Him in word and deed. There are those who would cast shame on this holy name by using it as a curse

word. Others try to bring this holy name down to a purely human level by declaring that Jesus Christ was not divine. Sadly, sometimes we bring reproach to this holy name by deeds we do.

We close with that glorious phrase, “Hallelujah, what a Savior.”

Selected from the
December 15, 1981
issue of the Bible

THE ROYAL FAMILY

B. E. Kesler

One of the main reasons, if not the main one, why the Jews rejected Christ, was that He did not come in royal splendor as they expected Him to come and set up a magnificent kingdom as they had pictured in their minds. The disciples were perhaps, more greatly disappointed in Him that He did not set up and establish an earthly temporal kingdom, than in anything else. They found themselves wondering about the nature of the kingdom, and who would be the greatest in the kingdom and even desiring the highest place “one on the right and one on the

left” of Jesus in the kingdom.

On the contrary, Jesus tried to disabuse their minds by the parable of the Good Shepherd, the parable about the Householder, His teaching about the bridegroom, and the bride and the children of the bridegroom. But they seemed not to realize He was building up and establishing a royal family until the work was completed and He had taken His leave of them and returned unto His Father from whence He came.

True, this family bore the titles of vineyard, kingdom, sheepfold, and church, each

of which was in some way descriptive of its nature and portrayed its character. As a vineyard the branches were to maintain vital connection with the true vine, and were expected to bear fruit as a kingdom, Jesus was its born King, and His people as loyal subjects were expected to obey Him. As a sheepfold, Jesus was the good shepherd who maintained vigilant watch over the sheep that they were not destroyed by ravenous wolves. As a church it was an organism fully equipped to function as a mighty force in evangelizing and Christianizing the world.

Paul was enabled through the hidden mystery to see God's eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus, that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs with the Jews and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel. And "for this cause," said he, "I bow my knees unto the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and on earth is named." Eph. 3:6, 9, 11, 14, 15.

In gathering together, in the dispensation of the times, both Jew and Gentile into one body, Paul saw the church as one

great family, part of which is in heaven and part on the earth.

Peter saw in this "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people." I Peter 2:9. And that God "had chosen us in him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, having predestined us to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself," as Paul saw it, Eph. 1:4-5. And that through Christ, both Jew and Gentile "have access by one Spirit unto the Father." Eph. 2:18.

In the beginning, this family was composed entirely of Jews. The first Christian church was composed of Jews. But in His death Christ had "broken down the middle wall of partition between Jew and Gentile." So that now, as Gentiles, we have been adopted, and become a part of God's family, a chosen generation, a royal family, with God the Father, as its head, and our elder brother, and we the spiritual children. As spiritual children we should "obey our heavenly Father," and "love one another even as Christ loved us (the church), and gave himself for us, that he might purify unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works." And so, we may sing, "I'm the child of a

king, with Jesus my Saviour, I'm the child of a king."

Occupying our proper place and operating in our own sphere in which God has placed us, as a "Holy nation," a royal family, filling our mission and God's purpose in our lives, may we ever be faithful to Him an honorable citizen of this holy nation, and a worthy member of this royal family.

The instruction to this nation is, "be ye holy, for I am holy," and "follow peace and holiness with all men, without which no man shall see the Lord."

This being a holy nation it follows as a natural conclusion; its citizens must be holy for the nation cannot be holy unless the people who compose it are holy.

Another truth here is, we are holy only to the extent that we live a holy life. A mere profession of holiness can serve only one purpose, and that is, to deceive. We may deceive our fellowmen, but God is not mocked.

"A peculiar people," because the purchased possession, "the habitation of God through the Spirit." Peculiar because no other people are so highly favored. "Ye are the temple of God." How holy then should we be! "If any man defile the

temple of God, him shall God destroy." It means much to live so that our "hearts may be a fit temple for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit." It means that we put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, filthy speech, corrupt communication, lying, with all secret sins, presumptuous sins, and so forth, and that on the other hand we live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world, deal justly, provide things honestly, owe no man anything but to love him. "Walk in all the commandments of the Lord blamelessly," adding faith, virtue, temperance, knowledge, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity," for so an entrance into the kingdom will be obtained.

"A royal priesthood," with Jesus Christ as our high priest, "that we should offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ," and "as lively stones being built up a spiritual house." And as such we should "abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul, and have our conversation honest among the Gentiles," or those with whom we associate, that "they may by our good works which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation;" and that

as Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Jesus, by the sacrifice of Himself, redeemed us by His blood, and "made us kings and priests unto God" and so we sing, "All glory and praise to the lamb that was slain," who "bought us with a price." His own blood. "Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are his," by purchase. And being made priests unto God, we should present our bodies "a living (not a dead) sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God which is our reasonable service," and be not conformed to the fashion of this world, and "not fashion ourselves according to our

former lust in our ignorance." By adopting the uniform of the Church, we can avoid the styles of the world, and at the same time be in line with the teaching of the scripture on simplicity and modesty of apparel.

True, the uniform of the church may not be the only style that is simple and in harmony with the scripture, but it is one style, at least that IS in harmony with the scripture. Then, as a mark of distinction and identification it behooves each of us to adopt it, and thus be "living epistles, read and known of all men."

Selected from the
October 15, 1930
issue of the Bible Monitor

THAT EVENTFUL MORN

Paul Myers

The Holy prophets of old repeatedly foretold of the certain coming of the birth of Christ, the Son of God, and the Saviour of men. Days, weeks, months, years, and centuries passed by. Some forgot and others waited then on a certain night nearly two thousand years ago, in the little town of Bethlehem, in the stable of the Inn,

all the happenings foretold by those faithful prophets were fulfilled in the little bundle of flesh, which the Angel of the Lord said, Shalt be named Jesus.

The shepherds were abiding in their fields and a host of Heavenly messengers expressed praise and glory to God, for all the things that they had heard and seen,

following the Virgin birth of Christ. Only the God of Heaven knew the full meaning to mankind, of the greatest of all gifts presented to sinful humanity.

Christ was born at night according to the Scriptures. Certainly, that first morning, following the birth, not only brought the rising of the sun in the Heavens: it brought the Son of Righteousness to a world then dark in sin and needing the Light of the Son of God. This was a morning of mornings. This morning set off a start of commemoration, glad tidings, and good will to men, that has never halted. Today, we await Christmas morning with anticipation. It should not be for the purpose of commercialism, but for the re-instilling within our hearts of the meaning of the Gift of and from God.

God only had one Son to give. He gave Him, so there will never be another such a morning. There will never be another such a birth to commemorate. This very eventful morning caused angels to praise, nations to set up and take notice, rulers to issue decrees and enemies of Christ to seek to destroy.

This morning marked a change in the calendar, a landmark to record aspirations in the lives of

men. This morning proved the reliability of God's Word and the truthfulness of His prophets. The events announced this morning, bound Heaven and earth, God and man, time and eternity.

No other message flashed to man by any means, contained a fulness of meaning, as the message borne to earth by the angelic hosts. None ever was so important, none ever meant so much to mankind as the message delivered and received on this eventful morn.

Luke 2:10 states, "And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." This was a message, not for a few, nor for a generation, but for all people, whosoever will. In every age of time and to every nation spread over the universe, to countless then living and to innumerable unborn the message was intended. The good tidings, relayed from Heaven this morning, were for the poor man, rich man, beggar, Jew, Gentile, white, black, red man, kings, rulers, and servants, omitting none.

To embrace Christ and the full meaning of the message of this morning will change the lives of the beggar, the tribesman of Africa, the Indian on the desert sands, the

islander, the city man, the country man, your next-door neighbor, and yourself. This gift announced was given of God, who is no respecter of persons. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

Continuing the message received on this eventful morning, we read in Luke 2:11, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Why was this message so important? because the world needed a Saviour. It was steeped in sin. People had disobeyed God. God therefore provided a way of reconciliation. He provided the way of salvation. For we read, after Jesus had taken up His ministry, He himself in John 14:6 states, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." On this particular morning, God caused to be announced the provision He made, that men might not be lost, but by choice, could accept of this gift and have salvation.

How does the world today feel about this great gift? How does much of Christendom feel about the gift and God's message to men? Do people today, feel the need of Christ? Do people at large

realize what this first Christmas morning meant to mankind? I fear the real intent is taken too lightly. People are not accepting what God offers them. Too many have made the decision, "We will not have this man rule over us." Too many choose to have Barabbas released in their lives and then to crucify the Son of God afresh.

The babe born on that eventful morn was the Son of God. He is still the Redeemer of the world. He was the child of prophecy, the King of the Jews. He was redeemer of mankind, from the curse of the old Law. "Thou shalt call his name Jesus for He shall save his people from their sins." "There is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved. All this and much more God gave to us at the birth of Jesus. "A child is born and unto us a Son is given," was the message proclaimed to mankind on that first Christmas morning.

Hail the blest morn, when the great Mediator, down from the regions of glory descends. Shepherds, go worship the babe in the manger, Lo, for your guide the bright angel attends.

Selected from the
December 1, 1961
issue of the Bible Monitor

THE CENTER OF THE BIBLE

It is interesting how this works out.

The shortest chapter is Psalms 117.

The longest chapter is Psalms 119.

The chapter in the center is Psalms 118.

There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118.

There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118.

Add the chapters up and you get 1188.

And what is the verse in the center of the Bible?

Psalms 118:8

What does this verse say?

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

It is not odd how this worked out.....

God is and ALWAYS WILL BE in the center of it!!

Selected by Shirley Frick

OBITUARY

MARLAN D. JAMISON

Marlan D. Jamison was born to Newton and Elma (Beck) Jamison on July 11, 1932, in his grandfather's home on the family farm near Quinter, Kansas, attended by his grandmother. He remained close to his birthplace most of his life and went to be with the Lord on September 18, 2021.

Marlan attended Quinter High School and met Shirley Kysar whom he married on May 23, 1952. Together they shared sixty-one years of marriage. They made their home in Quinter except for two years in Gunnison, Colorado, to manage the Kysar family ranch. They were blessed with three daughters, Marla, Debra, and Jill.

Marlan worked from an early age for his uncles in farm and

ranch work; his father, Newton in the Quinter Appliance Store; and his father-in-law, Vern Kysar, in the implement business. He started a propane gas delivery service with a friend and helped his friends build houses on the side.

In 1962 Marlan started his own company, Quinter Manufacturing and Construction, and began building agricultural buildings, personal buildings, and later commercial projects. He worked there until the last six weeks of his life. When Shirley began having declining health, he took on the role of caregiver and with his daughters' help cared for her at home until she passed away peacefully with her family at her side on October 13, 2013.

He started his hobby of woodworking during this time and made many wooden "dippers" and spoons for his own enjoyment and others. Marlan was a Deacon and active member of the Dunkard Brethren Church, on the board of the Torreon Navajo Mission in New Mexico, and a member of The Gideons. He loved and enjoyed his daughters, thirteen grandchildren, and twenty-three great-grandchildren. There were many hours shared with the grandchildren during harvest, learning to drive the Grasshopper then the Datsun, jeep rides, and working at QMC or in his woodshop.

Marlan is survived by three siblings; Rich Jamison, Ron Jamison, and Dyann (Jamison) Armstrong; and his daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Daughter Marla and (Ray) Hawbaker and grandchildren, Michael and (Stephanie) and Brogan Hawbaker; Keith and (Tara), Pierce and Grey Hawbaker; Meagan and (Mike) Beesley; Riley and (Sarah), Brynn, Morgan, Ryker and Declan Hawbaker; Toby and (Kaylyn), Weston and Garrison Hawbaker; and Audrey Hawbaker. Daughter Deb and (Jeff) Bauman and grandchildren Abbie and (Joel), Eve, Lily and Ila Miller; Jesse and (Alisha), Tia, Adri, Miles and Eden Bauman; Lindsey and (Karl), Maddox, Zuri and Isaac Bucher; Judah and (Amy), Justus and Evertt Bauman. Daughter Jill and (Greg) Custer and grandchildren, Carly and (Taylor) and Hannah Frey; Annabel Custer and Slade Custer.

Memorial Service were held on October 30, 2021, at the Quinter Dunkard Brethren Church.

NEWS ITEM

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The Pleasant Home Congregation recently held an election for Minister. The result of that election was the election of two Brethren to the Ministry. Brother Kyle Chupp, 304 Palm Avenue, Modesto, California 95350, 209-652 4811 and Brother Micaiah Johnson, 6002 Blue Gum Avenue, Modesto, California 95358, 231-923-3471 were installed. Please add to the Ministerial List.

CONNECTIONS

Contributed by the Bible Study Board in reference to this month's Sunday School Lessons. Our hope in writing a monthly article is that we all see afresh different points of connection that reveal the Word made flesh.

The final few chapters of Revelation are a beautiful ending to an otherwise tumultuous book. We may read the book of Revelation with a sense of uneasiness due to the descriptions of events which will be taking place. The wars, turmoil, natural disasters, beasts, marks, and so forth can certainly leave us with a feeling of trepidation at the thought of being alive as those events unfold.

However, because of the overarching message of the book of Revelation, we need not have those feelings of fear or doubt. In the first chapter of Revelation, we are told that Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last. In the concluding chapter, we are reminded of the exact same truth. Everything that takes place between those two chapters will take place under His supervision and by His command or permission.

We do not need to fear times of uncertainty and difficulty because we know the end of the story. We have the last chapter. We know the final outcome. We can face the trials and temptations of life with boldness because we know that the Alpha and Omega is always with us. Beasts, marks, tribulations, and terrors are not outside of His power. They can only affect us if He allows them to do so.

We are entering the time of year when we celebrate the first coming of Jesus to this earth. His first coming gave hope to the human race. It gave us a solution to the sin problem which has plagued us from the beginning. While here, Jesus told us how we could be freed from bondage

and have a hope for eternity.

These final chapters of Revelation show us the culmination of the salvation story. They show us the fulfillment of the hope that we have been given as the children of God. We see the reward for faithfulness to our King. We see the victory of Heaven over the turmoil and trials of this life.

We rejoice in the first coming of our Messiah. May we also rejoice in the promise of the second coming of our Redeemer and King. At the close of the book of Revelation, after all the incredible things that he had heard and seen, John writes a simple yet wonderful final statement from Jesus, "Surely I come quickly." May we keep that promise ever present in our hearts and minds and may we say with John, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

Brother Nate Meyers on behalf of the Bible Study Board

ADULT SUNDAY LESSONS FOR JANUARY 2022

Jan. 2 – Loves Bondage is the Strongest Bond – Ruth 1:1-22

1. What qualities do you notice in Ruth in this first chapter?

2. Why did Mahlon and Chilion take Moabite wives after their father died?

3. How accurate is Naomi's assessment of God's judgment of her?

Jan. 9 – Refuge for a Refugee – Ruth 2:1-23

1. What goals does Ruth have as she goes to work in the fields?

-
2. How has Ruth been prepared for her status as a foreigner?
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-

3. How have the events of Ruth's day impacted Naomi's spiritual perspective?
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-

Jan. 16 – Duty Born of Devotion – Ruth 3:1-18

1. What hope does Naomi hold out for Ruth?
-
-

2. How do you make sense out of Naomi's instructions and Ruth's actions?
-
-

3. What reasons might Boaz have for not courting Ruth?
-
-

Jan. 23 – Through a Moabite Widow the Lineage of Christ – Ruth 4:1-22

1. What other Old Testament passage involves redeeming an inheritance for a widow?
-
-

2. What relic from our culture involves a physical demonstration of a binding contract?
-
-

3. What verse of Scripture best summarizes to your satisfaction the conclusion of the story of Ruth?
-
-

Jan. 30 – Blessed are...Who Mourn...Shall be Comforted – I Samuel 1:1-20

1. What important commonality exists between our study of Ruth and these verses in I Samuel?

2. What life lesson can we all benefit from in how Hannah manages conflict?

3. How do gracious words of spiritual encouragement affect our emotions?

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