

The CHRISTIAN SHEPHERD

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“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give unto them eternal life”

Editorial

Come: Eternal Life

“He saith unto them, *Come and see*. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour” (Jn.1:39).

During a recent Bible study a comment was made regarding the words “*come and see*” found in the gospel of John. It was pointed out the immeasurable difference between our blessed Saviour’s words “*come and see*” found in the first chapter, and the Jews’ same words to the Lord in the 11th chapter regarding the grave site of Lazarus. How solemn to think of the difference—to come, invited by the Saviour to the place where He dwells would bring a soul into the presence of Eternal Life. But to come where Lazarus dwelt would be only to find the place where all mankind eventually dwells as to his natural body—the place of death, a cemetery. Yet we find similar phrases throughout this wonderful gospel, simple phrases which hold a limitless treasure chest of truth.

Come: Doubt and Assurance

“And Nathanael said unto him, *Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?* Philip saith unto him, *Come and see*” (Jn.1:46).

Philip was a Godly Jew, but like most Jews looked down at the poverty stricken town of Nazareth. They saw nothing worthwhile in that destitute place. Perhaps we may say (and very reverently so) that it was considered rather a slum in Israel. No one of wealth or importance to the nation of Israel could come from that impoverished town, they thought. How very wrong dear Nathanael was—the very One whose coming he looked for in faith—Messiah—was living in Nazareth. We read in 2 Cor.8:9: “*For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich*”. Our blessed Lord, the eternal Son of God, set aside His infinite and eternal glory, came into this world into the most humble of circumstances, appearing as perhaps the poorest of men. Only faith could see beyond the natu-

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unless otherwise noted.

ral eye. Christianity, today, is not popular. Sadly real Christians seek to make of it a glorious, wealthy, and popular life style. But the divine true riches found in our blessed Saviour come by faith, not sight and they are not inviting to the natural heart. Dear reader, do you have doubts about the Lord Jesus Christ, His beauty and His glory? Oh do *come and see*!

Come: Nothing Hidden

“*Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?*” (Jn.4:29).

The dear woman in John 4, completely unsatisfied by the husbands she had lived with, the man she was presently living with and perhaps we may say, was totally unsatisfied with her whole life. She was a moral outcast even to the Samaritans who lived

(Cont. on page 12)

(Cont. from page 11)

where she did and knew her best. But this dear soul living in such unhappiness and dissatisfaction, thirsting for a life of joy and fulfillment, met One who knew everything about her and yet brought joy and refreshment to her heart. Are we surprised that she would invite all who knew her to come to this Man who knew all about her that even her neighbors did not know? Every truly born again believer may with joy carry this same message to all around—*come see a Man who knows all about me but loves me anyway.*

Come: Mankind’s End

“*And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see*” (Jn.11:34).

As we have already mentioned, here we have the ultimate contrast between our blessed Lord’s invitation to *come and see* and mankind’s invitation to *come and see*. We read in Scripture that the *wages of sin is death* and that *the soul that sinneth it shall die*. Dear Lazarus was but one of countless numbers of souls who have proven the truth of God’s warning to mankind. All that those who loved Lazarus could do now was invite the blessed Saviour to come and view the grave—the result of man’s fall into sin. The power to heal or prevent death was and is, totally beyond man’s ability. Dear reader, you must leave this world sometime, through death. Yet, if Christ is your Saviour, you have eternal life, a life with Him in glory forever. Won’t you come—make that choice today?

Come: Divine Power

“*And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth*” (Jn.11:43).

Man looks for power, yet knowing that there is something he has no power to control—death. As much as he delights in displaying whatever power he has created, it is as nothing in light of eternity. But here we have God manifest in flesh, infinite in power, calling forth the dead to life. Our loving God alone is able to do this. Turn to Him while there is time.

Come: Divine Provision

“*Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine*” (Jn.21:12).

The Lord Jesus is, as has often been said, an ‘all the way home Saviour’. No one can begin to the fathom to glory, beauty, peace and joy of heaven with Him. Yet even now, as we walk through this life, our blessed Lord Jesus would constantly invite us to walk in communion at His blessed side and enjoy the rich provisions He has made for His own. Where are you dining today, dear reader? □

Truth and Tradition

How we need and how we want a *perfect standard* to guide us in every step and area of our pathway through this wilderness! Such a ‘perfect standard’ may only be found within the covers of our precious Bible, the divine, living Word of God!

How we should bless God for it! How we should praise His Name for His mercy in that He hath not left His Church dependent upon the ‘*ignis fatuus*’ (trans.—“optical illusion”) of *human tradition*, but upon the *steady light of Divine revelation!*

We do not want *tradition* to assist *revelation*, but ***we use revelation as the test of tradition.*** We should just as soon think of bringing out a flickering candle to assist the sun’s brilliant beams, as of relying on human tradition to aid Divine revelation.

C.H.M., Adapted □

Prayer

“*Pray without ceasing*” (1 Thess.5:17).

There are few things connected with our life more wonderful than prayer. It is the breathing of the hidden life—the expression of the soul’s communion with God. “*The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof*”...so prayer is the sound that indicates this mysterious operation in the soul has taken place—as was said of newly converted Saul of Tarsus, “*Behold, he prayeth*”. Prayer is one of two tangible links with the unseen. The other is the Bible.

Gems from My Reading □

Answers To February Bible Challenger

- 1. ChariotsJudges 4:3
- 2. Armies of the aliensHeb. 11:34
- 3. ProphetessJudges 4:4
- 4. TarryJudges 5:28
- 5. IssacharJudges 5:15
- 6. Victory 1 Cor.15:54
- 7. IronJudges 4:3
- 8. TentJudges 4:22
- 9. Yet night.....Prov. 31:15

“*Awake, awake, Deborah: awake, awake, utter a song: arise, Barak, and lead thy CAPTIVITY captive, thou son of Abinoam.*”(Judges 5:12).

J.S. □

‘Family’ Meditations

“My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother...My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not” (Prov. 1:8,10).

What a vital and wonderful group of principles for enjoying a happy, secure Christian home and preserving our precious children who are found here.

1) “My”—how important that each member of the home and family realize that they are individually loved, unique and irreplaceable.

2) “hear”—this reminds us of our blessed Lord Jesus of whom we read prophetically in Isaiah 50:4: “The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.” Wise is the father/mother who lovingly speaks daily to each child. The world has many ways of communicating dear dad and mom. Don’t allow any of your precious children to go through a day without hearing loving and tender words from your heart and mouth.

3) “Instruction”—there are many things that children *hear* from their parents. May God grant that what Christian families hear daily is spiritual instruction spoken clearly and lovingly to each child.

4) “father”—the one who leads and molds gives instruction. The character of this instruction should be by example and by loving words. Commanding is, at times surely necessary, but living what you say, dad, is beyond price in the training of your children.

5) “forsake not”—all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life is set to cause the loving words of a godly mother to be forsaken by her children. Wise parents who win the hearts of their children in love, will not suffer the agony of seeing one forsake what is good, for evil.

6) “law”—a mother’s law? Yes indeed! Not harsh, dictatorial commands, but a manner of life lived and words spoken before your precious children which does not waver. The *law of gravity* does not change—certainly there should be no change in the *law* of a mother.

7) “entice”—let us all realize and remember that this world and its wicked prince, Satan, constantly entice your children into paths of folly and sorrow. Do not become dull to the underlying terrible effects of what may, at first glance, seem harmless. Children are easily enticed and need constant loving, watchful care *and* healthy alternative choices.

‘Musings on Marriage’

“Isaac...took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her...” (Gen.24:67).

Perhaps we may wonder why the Holy Spirit has seen fit to record this wonderful marriage in this manner. In our culture today, we think in terms of a young man and young woman falling in love and then being married. And certainly this is the appropriate way, pleasing we may say, to our blessed God.

Yet here we read that Rebekah became Isaac’s wife *and* then we read that *he loved her*. These few words suggest sweet thoughts about the marriage union. Historically, Isaac knew nothing about Rebekah, nor she about him (other than what Abraham’s servant told her and her family). While we do not suggest such actual physical arrangements today, we do see here the perfect guidance of Jehovah in all that took place.

We may say, morally, that Isaac’s father made all the necessary arrangements, in faith and in a manner that would be honoring to God. Such dependence on and faith in the kindness and goodness of God (the Father of each Christian) displayed by a young man (or a young woman) will certainly not go unrewarded.

Abraham knew the desire of heart of his son Isaac and believed God that the promised seed would come through his beloved Isaac. Thus he commands the servant to go back to his people rather than the ungodly around whom Abraham lived, to select a wife for Isaac—a wife of God’s choosing. Surely those today who seek only God’s choice of a life’s companion will likewise not be disappointed.

When Rebekah answered the question “*Wilt thou go with this man*”, her answer seems also to be one of faith—“*I will go*”. How happy when dear young Christians today are fully confident of and resting in God’s leading and guiding—willingly following Him by faith in the lifelong decision of a companion.

When the time came that the servant and Rebekah returned, we do not read of Isaac complaining or of his expressing unhappiness with the one God had provided for him. In simple, beautiful faith he evidently immediately took Rebekah and she became his wife—then we read, “*and he loved her*”. We understand that in natural circumstances today, true love between a man and woman naturally leads to marriage. But it is also true that love in marriage grows deeper with passing time. Partners in a healthy marriage will find love deepening over the years—the *best wine* coming later. □

Meditation on 1 Timothy 4:12-14

vv 12-14 “*Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.* 13) *Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.* 14) *Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery*”.

The enemy seeks to attack us on three fronts. He attacks our personal lives, our family life, and our assembly life. We have personal conflicts and no two of us are exactly alike. Your conditions are different than mine, but together we all contribute to each other and bring our own individual life into the assembly, which has a great affect on others.

Being a blessing wherever we are, as individuals, is an exercise we ought to have before the Lord. Sometimes our individual contributions for others is sad because of our sad personal lives.

“**Let no man despise thy youth**”. If Timothy displayed a godly character others would see its fruit and reality in his life. How thankful one is for all that the dear older brethren taught him when younger—but I learned much, too, from my peers. When a young person, I saw other young people who wanted to please the Lord and that had an influence in my life.

“**Be thou an example of the believers**”. Paul desired not only that Timothy would “know” the truth (which is so important) but that it would be seen practically lived in his life as an example of the believers.

“**in Word**”—that is, the things we say and talk about display where our hearts really are for “*out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh*”. The Godly Israelite was to talk about the things of the Lord and when he walked by the way, when he sat down, when he rose up—a habitual thing. Dear ones, what is the subject of our conversations and words? It is so easy to talk merely of worldly things. We also easily fall into the habit of gossip. We don’t do such things towards those we really love—we say the best about them. Remember that “love covereth a multitude of sins”.

“**in love...in spirit**”. How often we have heard it said of someone, “They display such a nice spirit”. The Spirit beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. Our spirit should not be a fault finding spirit, rather it should be a generous spirit, a kindly thoughtful spirit. This is one of the characteristics of the children of God.

“**In faith**”. We lack in this brethren. That confidence in God which I should have to confess Him when difficulties rise. But so often I think of ways to get out of them rather than having that confidence in God. How sweet to meet somebody who tells you, “don’t worry I’ll pray about it with you”.

“**In purity**”. Today there is a terrible lack of purity. At work or school or daily life, everything that is impure will be brought before you. We must not get caught up in the current of such impurity for it is to have no place in our life or vocabulary. If Timothy was to be an example and help, he had to watch that. “*Keep thyself pure*”. Daily ask the Lord to preserve you from those things that the flesh responds too.

“**Give attendance to reading exhortation and doctrine**”. Let’s be careful what we read. We cannot be established in the truth of God otherwise. Take time to read ministry of those God has used to minister truth.

Above all, **remember the importance of reading the Word of God**. Never give up reading that. “*Thou hast magnified thy Word above all thy Name*”. Be careful what you read is sound in doctrine. “*They continued steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine*” ... “*Thou hast fully known my doctrine and manner of life*”. Doctrine is first, then comes fellowship.

“**Neglect not the gift that is in thee**”. How often dear young people throw all their ability into getting along and getting ahead in this present world. But how nice it would be for each of us to use the ability we’ve been given to help and encourage the saints of God.

We may find that if we throw all our ability into work, we will get a raise. Yet, sadly, if I raise my voice in the meeting it doesn’t even seem to be appreciated. But Remember God is the one who keeps the record. Seek the good of other Christians.

I used to wonder why it said “*if a man desire the office of a bishop he desireth a good work*”. Its not the thought that if a man wants to be an ‘overseer’ he just wants to be important. No! What God is saying is “if you have a care for my people, I call that a “good work”.

“**to neglect the gift ... the laying on of the hands of the presbytery**”. It is important to have the fellowship of our brethren in what we do for the Lord. The laying on of hands means that Timothy had walked in such way that he had a good report of the brethren and they were happy to express fellowship with him because of his godly walk.

G.H.H., Adapted, Condensed □

The Book of Romans

Chapter 9:1-14

v 1,2 *“I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart”.*

We now come to a division in the book of Romans, where it speaks more as to the effect of the Gospel upon men’s lives, rather than the doctrine of the Gospel. With Paul, the reception of the gospel had the effect of bringing him into sorrow concerning his kinsmen after the flesh—Israel. They, as a nation, had rejected Christ as their Messiah, and Saviour. All believers in Christ have in some measure at least, a sorrow of heart for their unbelieving relatives.

vv 3-5 *“For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: Who are Israelites; to whom [pertaineth] the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service [of God], and the promises; Whose [are] the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ [came], who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.”*

For Paul, this sorrow was great. He, at least, momentarily could wish himself accursed from Christ for Israel, if that could save them. Of course it couldn’t. We do see however faith in the gospel makes a believer’s love for his natural family increase. For the first time in our lives we learn the true meaning of love.

All of the things Paul speaks of here, adoption, glory, (earthly) covenants, the law, service of God, (the tabernacle, and Temple) and national promises, all pertained to Israel. While they were known as God’s earthly people.

During that time, we Gentiles “at that time”... “were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and *strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world*” (Eph. 2:12).

This was the Gentiles portion, as long as God owned the nation of Israel as His own people. This was not so, however, before God chose Jacob, and called him Israel. Enoch, for instance was not an “Israelite” but neither was he a nation, or a Gentile. Nations came into existence at the time of Babel (Gen.10,11).

Abraham would become a great nation, “*And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a bless-*

ing:” (Gen. 12:2), and also, “*Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?*” (Gen 18:18). So we do find even “*at that time*” of Israel’s day, many individual Gentiles were blessed, but the blessing was not as belonging to Gentile nations, but rather, as brought into blessing by means of Israel. Israel alone had the covenants, Law, etc. given to them as a nation.

vv 6,7 *“Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they [are] not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, [are they] all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.”*

Israel, after the flesh (the natural dependents of Jacob, (Israel) who of course was of Abraham) were not all of Israel. Esau, also was as much of Abraham, as Jacob. But promises were made to Isaac (by means of Rebecca) before Jacob or Esau were born, “*And Jehovah said to her, Two nations are in thy womb, And two peoples shall be separated from thy bowels; And one people shall be stronger than the other people, And the elder shall serve the younger*” (Gen. 25:23). Esau was born first. But God had already chosen Jacob. A sovereign act. Abraham was grandfather of both, blessing from God does not come through natural birth, but through the sovereignty of God. Israel had nothing to boast in, nor trust in save this sovereignty, for this was decided before Israel, (Jacob) was ever born.

vv 8 *“That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these [are] not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.”*

All depended upon promise—unconditional promise—from God. The Apostle Paul connects this promise to Christ. by faith. “*Know then that they that are on the principle of faith, these are Abraham’s sons*” (Gal. 3:7). “*But to Abraham were the promises addressed, and to his seed: he does not say, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed; which is Christ*” (Gal. 3:16).

vv 9,10 *“For this [is] the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son. And not only [this]; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, [even] by our father Isaac”.*

Naturally Sarah, Abraham’s wife was too old but

she had promise from God, she would bare a son. “By faith also Sarah herself received strength for [the] conception of seed, and [that] beyond a seasonable age; since she counted him faithful who promised” (Heb. 11:11). Then the promise to Isaac.

vv 11-14 “(For [the children] being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth; It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. What shall we say then? [Is there] unrighteousness with God? God forbid”.

We, as men, tend to fault God for His sovereignty, but insist on it for our own decisions of life. We daily choose things for ourselves. Election, is a sovereign act of God. We do not determine whom He can, or cannot bless. But we know that apart from His “election” we all would be eternally lost. He does not “elect” to damnation, but rather to blessing. He did not create man as a lost being. Rather, man chose to disobey God.

H.A.S., *To Be continued* □

The Gospel

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (Jn.3:16).

A banker in New York had a great desire to get the gospel message to the soldiers who were involved in the clean up after the Sand Hook storm and all the destruction that the storm left in its path. Because of the conditions he was not permitted, however, to carry the blessed gospel — glad tidings to them in person.

But then he had an idea. The Banker contacted a company which manufactured advertising novelties. He ordered them to produce for him several thousand small mirrors about three inches in diameter.

On the celluloid back of each of these mirrors he had printed the words of John 3:16 (the above verse); and then, printed beneath the words of this inscription was written these words:

“If you wish to see who it is that God loves, and for whom He gave His Son, please look on the other side.”

Gems From My Reading, N.H., Adapted □

What About the Rudder?

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psa.119:105).

Have you ever been driving and had your vehicle’s steering go out? What an awful feeling that must cause. Imagine any vehicle without some steering device. That doesn’t paint a pretty picture!

Please do not take what I’m about to say as a political statement, for it is meant rather as a moral statement. Today, many in our country loudly declare that we are a nation that sails under the banner of Christianity and I am thankful for that heritage.

But if the flag flying over our ship says “Christianity”, what about the rudder beneath the ship? The rudder is what guides the ship morally. Is the rudder of our nation’s ship the Bible, God’s holy Word?

My heart aches as I see reverence and respect for the Word of God—the Bible—waning more and more each year. It grieves me that more and more of our youth are being raised in total ignorance of the truths and precepts of His divine, precious Word. Are we not reaping the sad and destructive consequences of that? This generation is surely off course morally and our nation is daily straying even farther away from God’s Word.

Oh! Dear fellow lover of Christ, let’s make sure that the above verse is the true declaration of our own hearts. Three times in the gospels (Matt., Mark, and Luke) our Lord Jesus Christ, the divine, eternal Son of God said; “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Matt.24:35). May our lives and our mouths proclaim the divine, blessed truths of God’s Word!

Let’s also pray that more and more people will put the Lord Jesus at the helm of their personal lives. Let’s ground our children and grandchildren in the precious, unchanging truths of the Bible.

Please consider this verse in closing: “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word” (Psa.119:9).

F.P., *Lifelines, Adapted* □

True Deliverance

“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom.7:24,25).

Deliverance is found for the soul, just as salvation is found for the soul, not through self and the labors of self, but through Christ alone.

E.D. □

Mark, Chapter Six

Judges: Deborah

vv 41-44 “*And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, He looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all. (42) And they did all eat, and were filled. (43) And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes. (44) And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men*”.

From mans’ viewpoint, feeding 5,000 hungry men plus their wives and children with a lunch no doubt meant for one or two, was a silly and impossible task. Perhaps there were those who thought further and realized that they had *no ability* or *means* to feed this hungry crowd from their own provisions.

But for our blessed Lord and Saviour—God manifest in flesh—there was no difficulty. The Creator of all, now walking among His creation, mankind hungry because of sin, would feed them all. In doing so He also would teach His dear disciples how they too might learn to feed the hungry.

1) The Lord Jesus took *what was available* and *looked up* to the source of infinite provision, showing the vital importance of complete dependence upon God for every need.

2) The Lord Jesus blessed/prayed giving thanks to God for what He had. He displayed *perfect faith* that what was available in God’s hands was enough.

3) The food was shared in an *orderly manner*. No one received an inappropriate serving, yet *all could eat* as much as they needed, without reducing the supply. What one

After defeating the Canaanites, Deborah, a judge of Israel, and her helper Barak broke into a victorious song. The first letters of the following responses tell us something they sang of leading captive. [1] Numbers in brackets indicate the number of words in the answers, which are found in the King James Version.

1. The Canaanites, led by Sisera, oppressed Israel for twenty years in Deborah’s day. Their military strength was summed up by the fact that they possessed nine-hundred of these. [1]

2. Barak, who assisted Deborah in the defeat of Sisera is mentioned in the book of Hebrews as an example of one who through faith did such things as, “subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the ___” [4]

3. When we are first introduced to Deborah, what do we learn that she was? [1]

4. Anxiously looking out the window for her son’s return, the mother of Sisera asked “Why ___ the wheels of his chariots?” She consoled herself that his delay was due to the abundance of spoil he had taken from the battlefield. [1]

5. Which tribe of Israel did Deborah mention, whose princes where with her and Barak, being “sent on foot into the valley”? [1]

6. Israel was repeatedly turned over to their enemies due to their sin, until they cried to the Lord, whereupon He would provide a deliverer, such as Deborah. Similarly, death has been a constant enemy, introduced by sin. What will this enemy be swallowed up in one day, when mortality puts on immortality? [1]

7. Though facing Sisera with all his might, Deborah was bold, having the assurance expressed in Psalm 68: “The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels.” What were Sisera’s chariots made of? [1]

8. In her song of victory, Deborah referred to Jael as “blessed above women” because of her heroism in defeating Sisera. Where was it she slew the captain, using one of its’ nails, while he was sleeping? [1]

9. Proverbs 31 outlines attributes of a virtuous woman, many of which are illustrated in the life of Deborah. She described the deplorable conditions in Israel up to the point that “I Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel”. What time of day might such a woman be found rising, to give “meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens”? [2]

J.S. (Answers found elsewhere in this issue) □

soul received to satiate his hunger did not lessen what another needed to quell his hunger.

4) There was no waste allowed. What could not be consumed at that time was collected to be used another time. The one who had given all he had to serve the hungry surely received *an hundred fold* in return. What a beautiful illustration of God’s divine provision for souls! □

Feed The Flock _____

Love

For weeks, little Nicholas and his kindergarten classmates were memorizing songs for his school's upcoming "Winter Pageant". It was an exciting time.

Because the public school system had long before stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas", Nicholas' parents did not expect to hear or see anything other than seasonal/secular entertainment.

When it came, the Winter Pageant was filled with songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and other songs meant to create happy, good cheer. But nowhere was to be found or heard even the slightest hint of a divine innocent babe, a manger, or Christ's precious, sacred gifts of life, hope and joy.

Then it came time for Nicholas' kindergarten class to go on stage to sing "Christmas Love". All of his class was glowing with eager excitement about the song they were ready to perform.

Those in the front row, center stage, held up large cards containing a letter, spelling out the title of the song. For example, as the class would sing "C is for Christmas", a child would hold up the letter 'C'. Next came "H is for Happy," and so on until each child

holding up his or her portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love".

Everything was going smoothly—except for the sweet little girl holding the letter 'M'. Though completely unaware of it, she was holding it upside down so that it appeared to be a 'W'! She began to fidget from side to side and before long had moved away allowing an unintended space between letters.

The children and the audience began to snicker as the teachers desperately tried to calm everyone down. But it was too cute and try as they might, the laughter kept on until the very last letter was raised.

It was then that the students and the audience together saw the words. A sudden hush came over everyone in the room and eyes began to widen. The sweet little girl with the upside down 'M' in her hand was totally innocent and oblivious to what had suddenly become quite obvious to everyone else in the room. Perhaps there were more than just a few misty eyes in the crowd that night, for when the last letter was held up high, the message that all were able to read was very simple and clear— "CHRIST WAS LOVE."

*"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for **God is love**" (1 John 4:8). □*

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