

For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

—REVELATION 7:17



The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

—PSALM 121:8

Accuser of the Brethren

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night." Revelation 12:7-10.

We must keep in mind that these verses are prophecy and therefore are yet to be fulfilled. The first part of this chapter tells us that it will be in the middle of the week, which is one-half of the seven year tribulation period. Daniel 9:27.

As we can note from the four verses above, Satan is and always has been the **accuser of God's people**. He still has access to heaven until the prophecy be fulfilled in the tribulation time. Job 1:6-8.

The warfare between good and evil as recorded is most interesting reading. At the beginning Satan tempted Eve, she ate, and Adam with her. They were both cast out of the Garden. Satan enters Cain. The result,

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NIGHT SCENES IN THE BIBLE

Elijah's Night in the Desert

"But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for

scrawny tree. Haggard and weary and travel-worn, the unhappy fugitive has flung himself upon the ground in utter despair, wishing that he might sleep in that solitude and never wake again. He has had enough of life, with all its vain hopes and bitter disappointments. The world is so given up to wrong and falsehood and misery that to him it is no longer worth living in. And who is this weary and broken spirited man daring to offer in bitterness of soul such a dreadful prayer in the desert? It is Elijah. It is one of the greatest and mightiest of all the prophets of Israel. After Moses, he was the one man who stamped the imprint of his own strong character most deeply upon the heart and hopes of the Hebrew nation. Up to the time of this strange flight into the desert, he had seemed to be the very incarnation of courage, fire, and energy. No threat or peril could put him in fear. No hardship could exhaust his endurance. No temptation could turn him aside from his duty. It will be interesting and profitable for us to learn, if we can, how so great and courageous and faithful a man could have given himself up to complaint, despondency, and flight. The inquiry will lead us to review one or two points in his remarkable history.

At his first appearance in the sacred narrative he shows himself suddenly at Samaria, in the ivory palace

TREASURED VERSES

Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake, and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.—MARK 8: part of verses 34 to 38.

I am not better than my fathers." I Kings XIX:4.

It is night in the desert of Arabia. A day's journey out on the billowy sea of sand ridges and stony hills lies a living man, alone upon the bare earth, under the shelter of a low,

of Ahab, the apostate king. He stands in the presence of the startled monarch with awful look and uplifted hand; and he solemnly swears by the living God that there shall be neither rain nor dew in the land of Israel, for years to come, except according to his word. It was a time of rebuke and blasphemy, and the inspired reprover of the nation's sins seemed like an embodiment of the Divine anger which they had provoked. He bursts upon the scene of action as suddenly as a meteor blazing forth from the midnight heavens. He delivers his word of doom and then disappears. The message which he brings is as abrupt and awful as the appearance of the messenger. Everything mysterious, and everything known of the man and of his history, conspire to invest his name with the most profound and fascinating interest. One of the greatest of the prophets, he steps forth upon the scene of action full grown from the darkness of the past, and he disappears, at the close of his career, in a chariot of fire. The sacred chroniclers, who are so careful in genealogies, tell us nothing of the parentage of Elijah. His name is announced without father or mother, without beginning of days or end of life. It is now nearly twenty-nine hundred years since he disappeared without dying; and the devout in Israel to this day still expect his return. They still place a seat for him in their solemn feasts and set the door open for the prophet to come in. The word Tishbite, so often applied to his name, gives us no information for nobody knows what it means. Of one thing only can we be certain in respect to his origin.

He came from the wild and mountainous land of Gilead. From the abrupt western wall of its pasture grounds the shepherd looked down three thousand feet into the twisted and terrible gorge of the Jordan. In one of these wild gorges, where a furious torrent comes leaping down the rocky terraces of the highlands, Jacob wrestled all night with the mysterious stranger on his return from Padan-aram. In these haunted and terrible solitudes, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah and made

him the deliverer of Israel in the days of the Judges. In this wild region of exiles and outlaws, David took refuge from the unnatural rebellion of his son Absalom. Whether Elijah lived as an exile or a native among such people we do not know. But he shared their home and learned their habits of living. He had been accustomed to the savage and solitary life of herdsmen and mountaineers. He had climbed rocky heights and battled with storms and traversed the wilderness till his frame was like iron. He could run before the chariots without resting and lead the way for the horsemen on foot. He would be remembered as a Hercules or a Samson in strength if he had not been one of the first of the prophets in faith and inspiration. He could traverse the desert like an Arab, sleep on the bare earth, lodge for months in the rocky bed of a dry torrent, live as a fugitive and an outlaw in the wilderness until the ravens became his daily visitors and wild beasts were more familiar than the face of man. And yet in the deep loneliness of such a life, Elijah looked on himself as standing ever in the presence of the Lord of hosts. Amid all the perils and hardships to which he was exposed, he never forgot his sacred commission as the servant of the Most High. Everybody knew him when he made his sudden and startling appearances in the desert, on the hill-top, in the highway or by the Great Sea. The awful solemnity of his look made men fear he had come as an avenging angel to call their sins to remembrance. But no one could tell whence he came, or where he hid himself, or how his life was sustained. He was made familiar with the sublimities of nature that he might the better assert the power and majesty of Jehovah in his works, and thus rebuke the nature worship of his time and confound all false gods. No silver tongued orator skilled in courtesy and speech could fitly bring the word of the Lord to the proud and pagan queen, to the weak and wicked king. The time and mission demanded a sterner speech, a more awful and commanding authority. And in Elijah the message found the man. Fresh

and fearless from the mountains of Gilead, Elijah remembered the history which Israel had forgotten. The deliverance from Egypt by a strong hand; the march through the waves of a divided sea; the guiding pillar of cloud and fire that went before the countless host; the bread from heaven that failed not for forty years; the mount of the law veiled in darkness and girt with its coronet of fire; the allotment of Canaan to the conquering tribes; the pomp and solemnity of the tabernacle and temple worship; the oracular responses from the mercy-seat; the brightness of the Shekinah shining in the Holy Place; the Divine messages that had been given to Samuel and David and Solomon,—Elijah knew them all. He believed that the apostate house of Ahab and of all Israel was as much in the hand of the living God as were their fathers in the wilderness.

The priests of Baal had set up the worship of Nature on every high place and under every green tree. The heathen Jezebel had imported the lascivious rites of Ashtaroth, the Sidonian Venus, from her home by the Great Sea. The people had been taught that these pagan deities ruled the elements of earth and fire and water by their mystic spells. But Elijah still believed that the sun and the clouds, the hills and the valleys, were in the hands of Jehovah, the God of Israel, as they were when Moses smote the rock in the wilderness and living waters gushed out—as they were when Joshua commanded and the sun stayed from going down, and Samuel prayed and the Lord sent thunder and rain in the time of harvest. Now at length a trial of terrible severity must be made. The wicked sovereign and the deceived people must be brought to recognize the power of their fathers' God. There must be a distinct and positive committal of the word of the prophet, that all may know by whose authority he speaks. For this purpose Elijah suddenly presents himself before Ahab. As he stands before the passionate and guilty king, he utters a word of woe which we would suppose would doom him to instant death: "As the LORD God of Israel

liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years but according to my word." The startled monarch has not recovered from his surprise in time to order his arrest, before the dread minister of the Divine vengeance has disappeared and can nowhere be found. This awful man, who can chain the clouds and make the heavens like brass, has come out of his solitude into the ivory palace of Samaria and spoken a word of vengeance which shall fall like consuming fire upon every family in the nation. Elijah has locked up the treasures in the whole kingdom of nature and "carried off the key." And now let apostate Ahab and pagan Jezebel make full proof of the power of their gods to unsay the prophet's word. They have altars and priests and sacrifices to the sun and moon and all the host of heaven. They are many, and against them all the bare word of Elijah stands alone. Let them take their time. The prophet of Jehovah is safe and he can wait. If they can make the heavens give rain, or if the ordinary course of nature goes on of itself, then the word of the Lord has not come by Elijah. Elijah must have been a man of great faith to be willing to stake his very life upon the truthfulness of what he had spoken. He could see many natural indications to the contrary. Coming from Gilead, he had seen the gushing brooks, the green hills of Samaria; and they said to his doubting heart, "No, this land cannot be burned with drought nor wasted with famine." But he resisted the doubt. He obeyed the Divine voice which sent him forth to stand before Ahab. If it cost him his life, he would show his apostate people that Jehovah was God in Israel. Ahab tells his pagan queen Jezebel what Elijah said. The priests of Baal hear of it, and the curse the prophet of Jehovah by the gods of Tyre and Sidon. By and by the shepherd finds that the brooks are getting lower among the hills. The vintager looks at his vines, and turns to the sky with increasing anxiety every morning. A whole year passes and another begins, and there is no rain. A second and third is completed, and the inexorable sky is still covered day

and night with the same dry and dusty haze, out of which no clouds form and no dew falls. The flames of sacrifice burn red on all the high places around Samaria and Jezreel, and the priests of Baal make the night hideous with their cries. But the clouds refuse to form, and no spells of the false prophets can unsay Elijah's word. And all this terrible calamity was brought on Israel in mercy to save them from the worse evil of denying and forsaking their fathers' God. So Elijah believed, and strong in that faith he waited through the long and terrible years of the famine for the heart of his apostate people to be turned back again by affliction.

"And it came to pass **after** many days, that the word of the LORD

HYMN OF THE MONTH

The Palace of Prayer

There's a wonderful life giving story,
Of a place of beauty most rare;
How the angels of peace come from
glory,
Meeting us in the palace of pray'r.

When confusion of earth would con-
found me,
When my spirit is weary with care,
Heaven's quiet comes gently around
me,
When I enter the palace of pray'r.

When the shadows of sorrow come
o'er me,
When my burdens are heavy to bear,
Angel voices in mercy implore me
To enter the palace of pray'r.

So I'll live near this palace of bless-
ing,
To its courts I will often repair;
For I feel my dear Savior's caressing,
In the beautiful palace of pray'r.

Chorus:

In the wonderful palace of beauty,
and love,
We may leave ev'ry sorrow and care,
ev'ry care,
And receive a new vision of duty
from above;
Jesus meets us in the palace of pray'r.

came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, show thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth." With him, to receive the word of the Lord was to obey. He had been outlawed and hated and hunted down by all the power of the king for three years, and the whole nation had been put under oath that the prophet could be nowhere found. And now, unbidden by the king, without explanation or apology, Elijah comes forth from his seclusion. Himself assuming to be the monarch, he sends Obadiah to say, "Behold, Elijah is here." If Ahab wants to see him he can come. The prophet will not go to him. And when the king makes haste to come, Elijah demands a solemn convocation of all Israel and of the prophets of Baal at Carmel. For three years Ahab had been sending spies throughout Israel and the surrounding kingdoms to find Elijah that he might put him to death; and now that he meets him face to face he is so awed and unmanned by the presence of the prophet that he only obeys at once when commanded, as if Elijah were king and Ahab were the subject. Swift couriers are sent throughout all the kingdom with the summons, and every village and family sends its representative to the great assembly. The place of gathering was already sacred and it was in sight of a large portion of the kingdom. Clouds of dust arise as the gathering multitude stream across the great plain of Jezreel toward the wooded heights of Carmel. When the day is fully come, there is a flowing in of the straggling multitude toward one central position—for, behold! Elijah, with awful look and shaggy mantle, is there. The one man on whom a whole kingdom had laid the weight of its desolation and its agony, stands before them unterrified, defenseless, alone. On the highest ridge of the mountain, where the altar of Jehovah had once stood and had been thrown down in full view of the great plain and the temple of Baal in Jezreel, the prophet comes forth and takes his stand. In the open light of day, with eager thousands to see and hear, Elijah cries aloud, "How long halt ye be-

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NEWS

Bluffton, Indiana

"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought (aught) against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." Matthew 5: 23, 24.

Marriage vows were exchanged on Sunday, January 9, by Helen Gerber and Roy Gerber. A dinner and reception for relatives and friends was held at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jehu Gerber, following the wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Heyerly are patients in the Springfield, Ohio, hospital following a serious automobile accident on Tuesday, January 4. They will be confined to the hospital at least the month of January.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Kipfer and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Drayer and daughter, Donna Jean, spent the week-end of January in Elgin, Illinois.

Misses Freda and Irene Kipfer spent the week-end of January 9 visiting with Miss Alvina Greuter in Chicago, Illinois. Alvina Greuter in Chicago, Illinois, is recuperating from a recent major operation.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Meyer are parents of a baby girl, Constance Joan, born January 9.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gerber and family from Latty, Ohio, and Mr. and Mrs. Eli Gerber of Goshen, Indiana, were among those who visited our congregation Sunday, January 9.

Miss Norma Steffen spent the week-end of January 9, visiting friends in Detroit and Bay City, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Gerber and daughter, Phyllis, Rev. and Mrs. John Yergler, and Mrs. Amelia Bain visited with Mr. and Mrs. Gerber's son, Donald, on Sunday, January 9, at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hodel and daughter from Roanoke, Illinois, visited in our community over the week-end of January 16.

The engagement of Ben Habegger and Arlene Bahler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bahler of Remington,

Indiana, was announced Sunday, January 23.

Rev. Victor Stavenik and Rev. Otto Norr conducted evening services here Thursday, January 20.

Visitors on Sunday, January 23, from various congregations, included Rev. and Mrs. Victor Stavenik and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gerber and family.

The Misses Dorothy and Phyllis Haab and Marcella Steffen from Milford, Indiana, visited in our community over the week-end of January 30.

Richard Reineck, Truman Baumgartner, Glen and James Moser, Richard Yergler, Hubert Isch, and Robert Gerber spent the week end of January 23 with Private Donald Gerber at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky.

Glennis, Harold, and LeRoy Steffen and Dina Fay, Katherine, and Violet Steffen spent Sunday, January 30, in Princeville, Illinois.

Private Donald Gerber spent the week-end of January 30 with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Gerber, and was granted an extended leave when his father became seriously ill Sunday, January 30, and passed away February 2, 1921, in Indiana.

Bremen, Indiana

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt (consume), and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt (consume), and where thieves do not break through nor steal." Matthew 6: 19, 20.

Sunday, January 9, the engagement of Miss Emma Lou Zimmer of South Bend and Louis Gerber of Wyatt was announced.

A shower was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Laidig, Jr., on January 13, in honor of Miss Doris Scharlach, who will be married to Richard Zeltwanger soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Buck are the happy parents of a baby boy, born January 15. Mrs. Buck was the former Wilma Frey from Remington.

We enjoyed having the following visitors with us on January 23: Rev. and Mrs. Otto Norr from Leo, Mr. and

Mrs. Reuben Scharlach and daughters, Amelia and Doris, from Remington, and Mr. and Mrs. William Stoller from Latty, Ohio.

"The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." Proverbs 10:22.

Burlington, Oklahoma

"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Matthew 6:6.

Rev. and Mrs. Jesse Schrock and son spent Sunday, January 9, in our vicinity. They were en route to Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. George Miller, Sr., have returned from Excelsior Springs, Missouri.

Rev. Joseph Aberle spent Sunday, January 16, in Wichita, Kansas.

Mrs. Ada Miller had the misfortune of falling on a flight of stairs and received a serious back injury, which will confine her to her bed for many weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Roth left for Mesa, Arizona, for an extended vacation.

On their thirty-third wedding anniversary Mr. and Mrs. Fred Michel were pleasantly surprised Sunday, January 16, by many friends and relatives. The evening was spent in visiting and singing.

Mrs. Sam Ott underwent surgery at Alva, Oklahoma, recently and is improving at this writing.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Kircher announce the birth of a daughter, Rebecca Sue, born January 25.

Mr. and Mrs. Noah Domnick visited in Harper, Kansas, several days recently.

Chicago, Illinois

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless (pray for) them that curse (persecute) you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Matthew 5: 43, 44.

Rev. George Yergler was with us on Sunday, January 9, baptizing three souls. They were Mr. and Mrs. Frank

Fisher and Esther Lehman. The many visitors included Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Anliker, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Weigand and family, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Weigand, Jr., and others from Oakville, Iowa, Miss Mattie Fisher, Miss Minnie Haecker, Mr. and Mrs. Will Maibach and also others from Peoria, Illinois. We spent a blessed day.

Gaius Braun of Syracuse, New York, attended our Thursday evening services on January 13. We all enjoyed his interesting talk.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Farney from Kiowa, Kansas, have been visiting their daughter and husband for several weeks.

Walter Stoller of Morton, Illinois, was in our midst on Thursday evening, January 20.

A dear mother and beloved sister, Minnie Lehman, passed away on Friday, January 21, at the age of 77 years. Rev. Al Fisher held services at the funeral home on Sunday, January 23. Burial took place on Monday at Wolcott, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Heinsman of Peoria, Illinois, spent the week-end in Chicago and was in our congregation on Sunday, January 30.

"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Ecclesiastes 12:14.

Cissna Park, Illinois

"Wherefore laying aside all malice (wickedness), and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire (long for) the sincere milk of the word (the spiritual milk which is without guile), that ye may grow thereby (thereby unto salvation):" 1 Peter 2:1, 2.

Miss Margaret Yergler became the bride of Harold Heinold of LaCrosse, Indiana, on December 5. The marriage was solemnized by Elder Geo. Yergler of La Crosse, Indiana.

Arlene Winger, Aldine Knapp, and Iola Knapp were added to our fold on January 16. Elders David Mangold and Frank Woertz were with us. Also visiting us were John Mangold, Joseph Zimmerman, and Richard Zimmerman of Roanoke, Illinois. We also had visitors from Congerville, Illinois.

Funeral services were held on December 21 for Andrew Rocke. Services were conducted by Rev. Dan Stoller of Latty, Ohio, and Rev. Andrew Koehl of Fairbury, Illinois.

Funeral services were held on December 22 for Richard Walder, three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Walder. Richard was fatally injured in a car accident. Services were conducted by Rev. Arthur Gudeman of La Crosse, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bauer are the parents of a son, born, January 5.

Croghan-Naumberg, New York

"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality (variance), and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." James 3:17, 18.

Eddie and Emanuel Luginbuhl of Rockville, Connecticut; Mr. and Mrs. Gaius Braun, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Braun, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brothers of Syracuse, New York, were with us Sunday, January 9. The Brauns gave an interesting account of their recent tour of Europe.

Mr. Alvin Farney had the misfortune of having one of his fingers amputated; he injured it several weeks ago in a chain saw. Misfortune also came to Mrs. George Lehman, when she fell on the ice, breaking her wrist.

Miss Gertrude Schambach of Elgin, Illinois, is spending several weeks with her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. David Schambach.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Virkler spent several days at Rockville, Connecticut, visiting, Mr. and Mrs. Will Schneider and family.

Misses Ella and Augusta Einbeck have returned home after spending several days at Peoria and Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Ernest Ballasy, Jr., who has worked for Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Virkler for the past four years, has given up his farm work and returned to his home at Tenick, New Jersey.

"Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Deuteronomy 6:4, 5.

Fairbury, Illinois

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers (manifold) temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." (James 1:2, 3).

Funeral services were held Saturday, January 8, for Herman Lehman, aged 73 years. Rev. Joshua Broquard conducted the services.

Mrs. Anna Kiefer is confined to her home in Fairbury because of illness.

The engagement of Miss Arlene Leonhardt, daughter of Mrs. Anna Leonhardt, to Earl Kilgus, son of Elder and Mrs. Henry Kilgus, was announced Sunday, January 9.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Ifft are the parents of a son, Larry Dean, born January 18. Mrs. Ifft was the former Emma Schmidt.

Francisville, Indiana

"For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised . . . Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts." Psalms 96:4, 8.

Rev. and Mrs. Phil Sauder and family of Cissna Park, were here on January 2. Rev. Sauder had charge of services. Visitors from Tremont were also here to enjoy the blessings of the day.

Visitors on January 9, were Mr. and Mrs. John Heinold, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Heinold and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Bucher and family and Misses Mary Ann Heinold and Betty Marti, all of La Crosse.

Mr. and Mrs. John Schambach and family of Elgin, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Schambach and daughter, and Miss Perseda Aeschliman of Remington and Miss Irene Hodel of Roanoke were visitors January 16.

Visitors on January 23 were Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Bucher and family of La Crosse, and Mr. and Mrs. Victor Beer and daughter of Milford.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1.

Fire, the origin of which has not been determined, almost completely gutted the lower floor of Joe Gray's Bakery early Sunday morning on January 9. Damage will run into many hundreds of dollars. The Grays and their two small children live in

the second-floor apartment above the bakery. Mrs. Gray was formerly Miss Esther Gutwein.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Osburn are the parents of a son, Ronald Lee. Mrs. Osburn was formerly Miss Dorothy Getz.

Miss Annabell Yaggie underwent an operation for appendicitis on January 14.

Rev. and Mrs. Conrad Gutwein and Mr. and Mrs. Emil Pelsy left December 22 for the west coast visiting friends and relatives en route. Mr. and Mrs. Pelsy returned after four weeks' viist but Rev. and Mrs. Gutwein remained for a longer stay. Their daughter Helen and her husband Andrew Hild who reside in California plan to return with them to make their home here.

Hanock and Morris, Minnesota

"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels." Isaiah 61:10.

Seven friends have given their hearts and lives to Jesus. They are Joseph Moser, Mr. and Mrs. Noah Nohl, Ila and Vila Zeltwanger, and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Zeltwanger.

Miss Violet Luthi became the bride of Leonard Wulf from Lester, Iowa, February 3. A wedding dinner was served in the afternoon, with a reception for friends and relatives in the evening, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Luthi. After their honeymoon, they will make their home in Morris.

Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Schlupp and son of Lamar, Missouri, are visiting with her father, Mr. Fred Spohr, and her sisters and brothers.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Schmidgall are spending a few weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Pfister of Ft. Scott, Kansas.

Lamont, Kansas

"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." II Corinthians 8:9.

Peter Fankhauser suddenly became

ill and was taken to the hospital on January 27 and dismissed on February 2. We wish him a speedy recovery.

We enjoyed the visit of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Getz and son Ronnie of Remington, Indiana, who had been at Hot Springs, Arkansas.

A nice crowd gathered at Samuel Anliker's home to enjoy an evening blessing in singing hymns. Mr. and Mrs. Phil Getz were present.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Anliker visited Katie Strauch, who has been unable to attend church services for quite some time due to failing health.

Leo, Indiana

"Take heed that ye do not your alms (righteousness) before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 6:1.

Eli Conrad, a life-long resident of Grabill and well known to many of us, left this life Wednesday, January 26.

Grabill had visitors from Francesville, Milford, and Bluffton, Indiana. They were canning meat for relief work in Europe at the Grabill Canning Factory. Twenty-eight quarters of beef were canned.

On February 2, helpers from Mansfield, Leo, Bluffton, Milford, Roanoke, Cissna Park, Remington, Wolcott, and La Crosse met at Francesville to pack and ship boxes of food and clothing for European relief.

Rev. and Mrs. Otto Norr visited Francesville, Wolcott, and Bremen, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wysong and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sauder and children visited with us on January 30. Louise Stavenik, who came with them, will spend several weeks with her sisters, and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Stavenik.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schwartz and Mr. and Mrs. Phil Clauss left for a vacation and visit on the west coast. They will see Portland, Oregon; Altadena, California, and many other points of interest.

At this date those who are convalescing are Lula Robathan, Persida Conrad, and Catherine Schott. We pray for each a recovery blessing that they might live to serve and participate in the blessings bestowed on us

by our Bountiful Father in Heaven.

"Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." James 4:13-15.

Lester, Iowa

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Leuthold and son and Mr. and Mrs. Emil Metzger attended the funeral of Joan Moser at Hiawatha, Kansas, on January 30.

A large number attended the funeral of Mrs. Louisa Benninger at West Bend, Sunday, January 16.

Ezra and Art Knobloch, Lawrence Wulf, and Raymond Feucht spent several weeks visiting relatives in various parts of Illinois and Iowa.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. John DeHaan on January 4.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Metzger of Sabetha, Kansas, spent several days in the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Metzger.

Phil, Florence, and Verna Mogler, August Knobloch, Jr., and John Geisel spent the week end of January 23 at Sabetha, Kansas.

Mansfield, Ohio

"Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers (not to be contentious), but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men." Titus 3:1, 2.

Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Graf and little daughter and Miss Wilma Hartzler of Akron, spent Sunday, January 16, in our midst. In the evening there was a singing at the Robert Beer home.

Mr. and Mrs. John Fuhrer visited relatives and friends in Bluffton, Indiana, and Junction, Ohio, over the week end of January 16.

Mr. and Mrs. Lucas Sabo have returned home after an extended visit in California.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Pierce have taken two small children, a girl seven months old and a boy twenty-five months old, into their home. Mr. Pierce was raised by Mr. and Mrs. Herman Groh and attended the Leo Sunday School.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sauder, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wysong, and Miss Louise Stavenik spent Sunday, January 30, at Leo.

Oakville, Iowa

"Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things." Titus 2:9, 10.

Rev. and Mrs. Gus Scheitlin, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Eisenmann, Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Anliker, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Anliker, Mr. and Mrs. George Kuntz, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Gerst, and Mr. and Mrs. Ortie Rocke went to Tremont, Illinois, on Sunday, December 12.

Visitors from Cissna Park, Illinois, were Mr. and Mrs. Emil Feller and Mr. and Mrs. Will Knapp and their son, Lynn. They came to visit Mr. John Landes, who has been sick for almost a year.

Rev. and Mrs. Fred Grimm from Taylor, Missouri, were in Burlington for Thursday evening services, December 30.

January 9, our elder, Noah Schrock, visited the Taylor, Missouri, congregation. There are quite a few converts there.

January 15, Rev. and Mrs. Gust Scheitlin and Mr. and Mrs. Philip Moser went to West Bend, Iowa, to attend a funeral on January 16 for a loved one that was called from this earthly turmoil.

January 30, visitors from Winthrop, Minnesota, were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Messner and their son Leo.

"But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain." Titus 3:9.

Peoria, Illinois

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil (him that is evil):

but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." Matthew 5:38, 39.

The wedding of Miss Dorothy Wiegand and Alf Bachtold was solemnized by Elder Emil Schubert on Sunday, January 9, before a large congregation of relatives and friends. Their new home is now in Forrest, Illinois.

Misses Ruth and Mary Aberle accompanied by Emma Beckley of Remington, Indiana, La Vina Kloter of Rockville, Connecticut, and Elizabeth Kammerer of Peoria, left January 15, by auto for a five weeks' trip to the west coast.

The engagement of Miss Dorothy Gieger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Gieger, and Wilbur Hoerr, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hoerr, was announced, Sunday, January 23. No wedding plans have been made.

Mr. Charles Clauss, who suffered a stroke, has been seriously ill but is somewhat improved at this writing.

Misses Lillian Schmidt and Charlotte Steiner left by train January 24, for a few weeks' stay in California.

Mr. and Mrs. James Hoerr are the parents of a daughter, born January 15. The mother is the former Virginia Moser of Morton.

The engagement of Eunice Wiegand of Peoria and James Weutrich of Morton was announced January 30. No wedding plans have been made.

Princeville, Illinois

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16.

Miss Caroline Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Miller, and Walter Joos, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Joos, were married Sunday, January 16. Mrs. Clifford Grimm of West Bend, Iowa, was matron of honor for her sister; the bridegroom's brother, Robert Joos, served as best man. After the ceremony, a reception was held at the bride's home for relatives and close friends.

Miss Lucy Klumpp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Klumpp, and Bruce Schmidgall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Schmidgall of Mackinaw, were united in marriage January 23. The ceremony was followed by a reception

and supper at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. Aaron Stahl.

Miss Katherine Menold, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Menold of Princeville, and Alvin Farney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Farney of Roanoke, were united in marriage by Elder David Mangold of Roanoke, Illinois. Following the ceremony, a reception and supper were held at the home of the bride's parents. The couple left for California for their wedding trip. Guests were from Roanoke, Peoria, Morton, Cissna Park, Illinois, and Francesville and Bluffton, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bauman and Mrs. Emma Maibach of Rittman, O., and Mrs. Minnie Klaus and daughter, Emma, of Eureka, were callers in Princeville, Wednesday, January 26.

Miss Della Strietmatter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Strietmatter, submitted to an appendix operation January 26. She is recovering nicely although still confined to the hospital at this time.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Knobloch are the parents of a daughter, born Sunday, January 30. The new little Miss has two brothers to welcome her. The mother is the former Lucille Endress.

Mr. and Mrs. James Ringger, newly-weds, are getting settled in their home on a farm near Princeville.

Remington, Indiana

"Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely." Psalms 147:1.

On New Year's Day the Wolcott congregation gathered with us for morning services.

Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Scharlach, Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Bahler and son, Walter, and Earl Zeltwanger visited in Chicago on Sunday, January 9.

Funeral services were held at the grave for the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alpha Knochel. Rev. Andrew Nussbaum was in charge.

Many from the Remington and Wolcott congregations have been gathering at various homes for weekly singings.

On Sunday, January 23, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bahler announced the engagement of their daughter, Arlene to Mr. Ben Habegger of Bluffton. We

wish them the Lord's richest blessings.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Schieler and children and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Bahler spent Sunday, January 30, with the Forrest, Illinois, congregation. They were evening guests of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bachtold and family.

On January 27, Misses Betty and Letty Frey held a bridal shower in honor of Miss Doris Scharlach and Mr. Richard Zeltwanger, who will be married February 6.

Roanoke, Illinois

"The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory." Psalm 64:10.

Ben Beer of Roanoke passed away at his home on December 31. Funeral services were held in Roanoke, on January 3.

A group of young people from Laty, Ohio, were visitors the week-end of January 1. On Saturday evening they were the guests of Emma and Marie Klaus; on Sunday, they made a call at the home of Helen and Verna Martin and were at Silas Hodels for supper.

On Sunday, January 9, John Martin, Margaret Farney, Delores Wittmer, and Frances and Gene Fehr were proved and baptized. Elder David Mangold was assisted by Elder Joseph Klopfenstein of Gridley, Illinois. Also visiting that day were Revs. Walters and Sauder of Cissna Park, Illinois.

Sam Goetzinger of Goodfield passed away at his home on January 11. Funeral services were held on January 13.

Mr. and Mrs. Emery Getz are the parents of a baby daughter, born on January 14. She has been named Ann Elaine. The mother is the former Mabel Sauder of Roanoke, Illinois.

A group of young people visited at La Crosse, Indiana, on January 16. They made a call at the home of Mary Ann Heinold and were supper guests at the home of Bert Bucher.

On January 18, a singing was enjoyed in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Leman.

On January 22, Mr. D. B. Hodel fell

and broke his ankle, but is reported doing fine.

Elder Frank Woertz of Goodfield assisted Elder David Mangold on January 23 when Elizabeth Leman, Carolee Leman, Helen Martin, and Lewis Blunier were baptized. Also visiting us in the morning was Rev. Albert Scheitlin of Elgin, Illinois.

Announcement was made on January 23 of the engagement of Mardell Leman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Leman, to Joseph Aeschliman, son of Mrs. Fred Aeschliman of Roanoke. The couple plan an early spring marriage.

A baby daughter, Elizabeth Ann, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Fehr on January 24. The mother is the former Mary Elizabeth Walters of Eureka, Illinois.

Wolcott, Indiana

"So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me." Ezekiel 33:7.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schwab are the parents of a son, David Le Roy, born January 7.

Rev. and Mrs. Will Furrer and children spent January 9, at Morton.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bauman and Lillian and Mrs. Maibach of Rittman, Ohio, were here for afternoon services on January 23.

Funeral services were held here on January 24 for Mrs. Minnie Lehman, who passed away at her home in Chicago. Surviving are one daughter, Estella, four sons, Carl and Eugene of Chicago, Edward and Irvin of here; also 15 grandchildren.

George and Robert Stoller of Sabetha, Kansas, spent a few days here with relatives.

"Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing." Psalm 100:2.

"Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." Ecclesiastes 11:1.

NOTICE

Offerings will be accepted and forwarded for Bibles for the world. Forward your offering to the Silver Lining or write for further information.

—The Silver Lining Staff.

Dear Brothers, Sister and Friends:

By the mercies of God we have harvested a most bountiful crop again, so let us remember anew the poor and needy in unfortunate Europe.

From many letters and reports from abroad we are glad to advise that your contributions in the past have not been in vain, but have dried many a tear and kindled thankfulness and praise to God in many despairing hearts.

Yet the need for your liberal support of our Relief Activities continues very urgent. From those nearest the situation abroad and from scores of pitiful letters, they testify of continued need and we believe if you could read only a few of these letters, your heart would be moved to compassion and liberal and cheerful giving, which the Lord loves.

Willing and cheerful giving is to the glory of God. As it is written: "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31), and sacrifice is pleasing in the sight of God: "For with such sacrifices God is well pleased" (Heb. 13:16). Under the law, tithing was a commandment, under grace "the ministry of giving is Grace" in which we should also abound and prove the sincerity of our love (II Cor. 8:7-12).

We are confident you have not become "weary in well doing" and that the Lord has made you willing to share your blessings by your free-will offering at this time.

Humbly your servants,

The Com. for European Aid

O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth, unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky;
We Praise Thee for the radiance
That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age.

W. W. How.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee." Isaiah 26:3.

PREPARATION

We make great PREPARATION for seemingly great events that are to take place in our lives. We will spend months on planning, weeks on actual physical labor, great sums of money (oftentimes we go much deeper than just from our abundance). In many cases we will sacrifice much for the coming event, and in some cases we will be subject to ridicule and abuse. But the PREPARATION goes on at any cost.

There is one that has prepared a place for you, dear friend. He has made the PREPARATION. He has done a perfect job. This was not accomplished without effort. We believe that it was in the plan of God long before the creation of man. John tells us that God is a Spirit, but he also tells us in the same gospel that the Word was God and that the Word was made flesh. Oh, what He had to suffer while here on earth, He labored always, and many a day after much labor He would go apart and pray. He was a tireless worker and we know that in all His efforts there was not one selfish thought. All that He did was for PREPARATION. He took much abuse and ridicule, but above all He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. There at the cross, my friend, He completed the PREPARATION, there He paid the price, there He gave His all. What for? Yes, that everyone that believeth on Him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you." "I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14. This, as in John 3:16, is a conditional promise. For in the very first verse of chapter 14, He says, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." Do you believe in God? Then, why not believe in His PREPARATION. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (II Corinthians 5:21) You

might say, why all this PREPARATION?

God is a righteous and a just God, One who has never told a lie. He told Adam almost six thousand years ago, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." (Genesis 2:17) For as with God "there is no respect of persons" (Colossians 3:25), this sentence of death to Adam had to be passed on to every person that is a descendant of Adam. Check up on yourself; this sentence was meant for you too. Now, PREPARATION presents itself again, for God tells us that "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." (I Corinthians 15:22) Again, we are reminded that God is not a respecter of persons, so when He sent His Son here on earth to die, He died for all. Yes, friends, He died for YOU, and YOU will be raised again. "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation (condemnation)." (John 5:28, 29) We believe that these two resurrections are one thousand years apart, but as sure as death is today, that sure are these resurrections. The question is, which one of them will include YOU? "The dead in Christ shall rise first." (I Thessalonians 4:16-part)

God has completed His part of this PREPARATION. We ask you, dear friends, have you given any thought to your part in the PREPARATION for the life beyond the grave? Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, has come all the way down from His heavenly abode, and as was previously stated, He has completed His part of the PREPARATION. What are you going to do about your part? The God that knew the ending long before the beginning and made all this PREPARATION can look right into the very depth of your heart. He is the One that can make the PREPARA-

TION complete in you. It must be a heart PREPARATION; you cannot do this yourself, for you know not your own heart.

We recommend JESUS CHRIST to you, friends. For He is all sufficient, He has paid the price, He has shed His blood, He has died for you, and He was raised again for you. He has completed His part of the PREPARATION. He has made your part of the PREPARATION so simple and plain. If you have no Bible handy, get one, then open it up to Romans, where one of the greatest preachers of all time tells you how to be SAVED. Read verses nine and ten in chapter ten, don't only read them once or twice or three times, but read them over thirty, forty, fifty or more times. Let these words of life sink deep into your heart. God then will finish the PREPARATION.

In the New Testament God offers to the lost salvation, and to the saved rewards for their faithful service. This PREPARATION that has been made and completed in Christ Jesus for the lost is only the beginning for His saints. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (II Corinthians 5:10) This, dear ones, is meant for us, so let us each and every one review our own lives and compare them with the example of living that our Lord and Saviour left while here on earth. We know that on this side of heaven we can never attain to this life of perfection, but we can strive for it. We know not our Saviour by sight, but we know Him by faith through the records of the New Testament, which have been kept for us, telling us of His perfect life and PREPARATION. Let us build on that one foundation, Jesus Christ. And let us be careful that we build with gold, silver, and precious stones, as our works will be tried by fire, and the wood, hay, and stubble works will burn. Think what a rejoicing there will be to receive some of the rewards for faithful service. Let us never forget, only the things that are done for Christ will last.

Paul Von Tobel, Jr.

GOD'S WORD

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."—St. John 1:1.

The Word which we know as the Holy Bible is the personal possession of God. It is eternal in nature even as its author is eternal. It shall endure when the things pertaining to this mortal life will have passed away. The Word was given by inspiration of God to men upon earth, and it is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for instruction, and for correction in righteousness. But God Himself is the Author of this book, and it contains His mind, His thoughts, His love and promise. To all who believe its sacred contents, it breathes blessing and consolation. To those who reject its counsels, it pronounces judgment and condemnation.

In the time of the creation the Lord spoke, "Let there be light!" This was on the first day, even before the sun and moon and stars were created. By the Word of God, light came into the world. By His Word light enters into our hearts and soul. For as we read, "The entrance of thy words giveth light." How often has a cloud of heaviness hung upon us, and by reading and believing His Word, we found the light of His grace and comfort streaming into our hearts and lives.

When Saint John wrote His blessed gospel long after Christ had ascended to heaven, as history relates, he took a long range view and thought of Christ, not so much as the babe of Bethlehem, but as the eternal Christ, the second member of the Godhead, whose life was bound to God with eternal unity and purpose. He states that Christ was the Word "and the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." Thus as Christ lives, so does His Word live. It reveals itself to us as the living Word by the many tokens of comfort, and guidance, and revelation we find in it as we read the sacred pages. Thus Christ and the Word are interchangeable, for both are alive and will endure forevermore.

The Word is even as a tree we cher-

ish. Each year a tree puts out new growth, new branches, new form, new life, new character—yet it is still the same tree we have known in former days. So is the Word of God to them who love its truths. The Word is the true vine or tree. If we abide thereupon, we will bring forth much fruit and therein is our Father glorified. Yet it is evident that by the works of the law can no man be justified. We are not saved by good works, but through faith in Christ, and by a true and living experience of salvation, we are saved unto good works. This can only be accomplished as we depend upon Christ and follow the teachings of His Word.

How zealous were the prophets of old to relay only the actual message of God, and they would begin their declamations by saying, "Thus saith the Lord." Anything short of His words would be of human origin and transient and fallible in nature.

The wonderful Word of God is so complete that people of all walks of life may find comfort and instruction. As Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, so is His Word, for therein we may find the way, the truth, and the life. We may read it to become wise, practice it to become holy, and believe it to be saved.

God's word is the living seed which He wishes to implant into every soul upon earth. The world is the field, and the inhabitants thereof are the objects of His love, and by the power of His word He wishes to bring them back into union with Him.

In Isaiah we read, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper **in the thing** whereto I sent it." The Word becomes effective in our lives only as God its author blesses it and gives the increase.

The Psalmist said, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." It speaks the same message to all people. How must it thrill the soul-hungry of all nations and climes!

How ought we to pray that the seed of faith which is sown into the hearts of our children and worthy friends

might come to fruition. For Jesus said, "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin." The Word reveals every man's true inner condition, and we may see ourselves in the light of God's word. For he who reads and believes in Christ and His word shall find remission of sin.

Christ has left His word as a sacred trust and possession in the hands and hearts of His true followers upon earth, and they are to proclaim it by being lights and true examples in their respective stations of life. When opportunity presents itself, we may be witnesses of His saving grace with meekness and fear. A Christian has further obligations concerning His Word—we may help to fulfill the command of our Lord in publishing His Word to the nations of the earth. Evidence of the famine foretold by the prophet for the Word of God is felt even now in the many nations who are desiring the Word.

God's word is a weapon of defense. It is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, with which we fight our spiritual battles. We read, "the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." The seeking soul can anchor his hopes upon the Word, which is full of promise. It is the Word which says, "him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

The Word of God is to be read thoughtfully, prayerfully, and meditatively. In the Acts, seventeenth chapter, we read of the noble Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed; also of honorable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few."

Herein lies a wonderful truth. On the strength of their reading of God's word we have here a wonderful example that souls were converted. As they found the truths they had heard written in God's word, they felt convinced that it was God's message to them, and they gave their lives as a living sacrifice.

God's word is prophetic. God has given a more sure word of prophecy, especially in the New Testament, and at His appointed way and time every prophetic statement will be fulfilled. The prophecies of greatest present import are the spread of the word of God to all nations, and the other is of equal importance, namely, the return of the Jews to Palestine. We read that Jerusalem shall be trodden down until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. What a momentous statement! With the formation of the state of Israel, could it be that the times of the Gentiles is about to expire? Jesus said in His word, "when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh!"

Therefore we would say unto the unsaved the words of God spoken through Isaiah: "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." Word of life the fountain flowing, Purely from the throne above,

Life and strength to him imparting,
Who accepts the word in love.
As a blossom that is blighted,
By the sun's own heat severe,
Thirsting in the barren valley,
Stoops to drink it's waters clear.

Henry Beer.

ACCUSER OF THE BRETHREN

(Continued from page 1)

Abel is murdered. The sons of God at Satan's instigation marry the daughters of men. Noah is tempted to drink, yields, and Ham sins. The people multiply and Satan fills their hearts with pride; the tower of Babel is built.

Then God called Abraham, through whom the promised **seed of the woman**, the second Adam, should come, who was to bruise Satan's head.

Satan made enmity between Esau and Jacob. He caused Potiphar's wife to tempt Joseph, seeking to get him out of the way. When the time came for **Moses**, the deliverer of the children of Israel, to be born, Satan put in the heart of Pharaoh to order all male Hebrew children destroyed at birth. The sin of David was Satan's

work, and at one time the **royal seed** was narrowed to one child. (II Chronicles 22:10-12)

When the time came that Christ was born, it was Satan who prompted Herod to destroy all the male children at Bethlehem under two years of age. It was Satan who tried to overcome Christ when weakened by fasting in the wilderness, and who suggested that Christ throw himself from the pinnacle of the temple. The attempt of the people to throw Christ from the hill-top at Nazareth was an attempt of Satan to destroy Christ. Satan fought through the priests and the Pharisees and succeeded in getting Judas to sell his Master.

The history of the **Christian church** is one long story of the conflict between Satan and God's people. Paul writing to the Thessalonians said, "Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us." (I Thessalonians 2:18) Paul's thorn in the flesh was the messenger of Satan to buffet him.

Satan saw that he could not stamp out the church by violence and persecution, changed his tactics, and is now trying to seduce her into conformity to the world, and to try to better an **Age** that God has doomed to destruction. His present purpose is to build up a **magnificent civilization**, and he has deceived many into believing that it can bring in the Millennium without Christ by the betterment of society. Satan's hope is that the Christian people will neglect the work of **soul-saving**, and thus delay the evangelization of the world (Mark 13:10), and postpone the return of the Lord.

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord." James 5:7.

Dear reader, are you a **Christian** and a believer in the **Blessed Hope**? Are you looking for the speedy coming of the Lord, doing all you can to hasten His return? If not, I beseech you to drop everything and settle the question of whether you will be **caught up** to meet the Lord in the air when He comes.

The unbeliever when urged to give his heart to the Lord may say, "I am young and there is plenty of time."

He may put off the time of decision, but it is not a matter of time for the salvation of his soul. Jesus may be back anytime. It is a question of being ready to meet Him.

"Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." Mark 13:35-37.

Ralph Kipfer.

The little Indian girl stood on the station platform, and a group of restless travelers, glad of whatever broke the monotony, had gathered in a circle about her, examining her wares. On every hand the desert stretched away, meeting the bare, black mountains, their sides scarred by gorges and barren of vegetation. Against their somber background the bright clothing of the Indian maid showed to good advantage.

"You pay two prices for what you buy here," said the man with his hat on one side, who had the air of knowing it all. "But the tourist is robbed everywhere. You might as well make up your mind to be cheated in the first place."

"This is not cheat," the Indian protested. "I make the baskets myself and they take many days."

"Of course, they all declare they are selling cheap," said the man with his hat on one side. "And why should not they cheat if they can. I'd do the same in their places." He looked at a man on the other side of the crowd and winked unpleasantly.

The next remark of the Indian girl was unexpected. "For what shall it profit a man," she said in slow English, "if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul. That is what they taught us at the mission school, and I will not lie that I may sell my baskets, even though I go hungry."

It was a silent company that climbed aboard the Pullman at the conductor's signal. "It was not long for a sermon," said the man with his hat on one side, "but it's the kind of one you can't forget in a hurry."

NIGHT SCENES IN THE BIBLE

(Continued from page 3)

tween two opinions? If Jehovah be God, follow him. But if Baal, then follow him." But there is no one that dares to answer him. Again the lonely prophet of Jehovah speaks, and challenges the priests of Baal to join with him in rearing two altars and laying on the sacrifice and each calling upon their own object of worship, and the God that answers by fire let him be God. And now the people are emboldened to answer, "It is well spoken." The priests of Baal cannot escape the trial. They rear their own altar, lay on the wood and the victim, and then they begin to chant and howl in wild idolatrous worship from morning till noon saying, "O Baal, hear us." It is past midday, and still, hoping to gain time and find some device by which the fire can be kindled, they continue their cries, cutting their flesh, but all in vain for the frantic and fainting priests of Baal. There is none to answer nor any that regards. The people become weary of the vain repetitions and terrible demonism of idolatry. And now it is time for Elijah to take his turn. Again he lifts his voice and calls the people to him with calm and solemn deportment. Elijah rebuilds the altar of Jehovah with twelve stones, according to the twelve tribes of Israel, lays on the wood and the victim for the sacrifice, and then causes it to be flooded with water three times over. And then, at the hour of the evening sacrifice, the prophet stands forth alone and calls upon the name of Jehovah, the everlasting God. "Let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word." His calm and simple prayer is more impressive than the foaming fury and the wild cries of a thousand priests of Baal. No sooner had he spoken than the rushing flame descends from the clear heavens like the lightnings flash and the very stones of the altar are burnt up with the devouring fire. The multitude on the mountain fall on their faces to the ground, unable to look upon the great light; and they cry with one voice, "Jehovah is God, the Lord he

is God." In the wild excitement of the moment, they rush upon the false prophets with one accord, drag them down to the river Kishon, and there Elijah himself, the terrible and strong servant of Jehovah, slays them with his own hand, according as it is commanded in the law of Moses. And now that the people have confessed their fathers' God and the false prophets are slain, it is time for the rain to come and for the parched earth to revive again with returning life. Elijah goes up from the terrible sacrifice to the top of the mount to pray. He continues his supplications until his servant has come six times from his outlook over the sea to say there was nothing in sight but the coppery and cloudless sky where the sun had gone down. At the seventh time he can only say there is a handful of mist hanging on the horizon. But it is enough. Elijah can already hear the sound of the coming tempest. And now the prophet warns Ahab to hasten down to the plain and mount his chariot and drive swiftly, lest the blinding storm and swollen stream make it impossible for him to reach Jezreel that night. Then after all the terrible excitement and exhausting toil of that day, this strange and strong man, Elijah, girt his mantle about his loins and ran before the chariot of the king all the way, fifteen miles across the plain to the gate of the city. Then he would not go in but stayed outside the walls and cast himself upon the bare earth in the midst of the storm for his night's repose. The prophet had put the king to shame before his people at Carmel; and he ran before his chariot as an act of homage to show he still acknowledged him as his sovereign.

We would suppose that no threat or violence could terrify such a man in the least. We would suppose he would be just the man to awe the furious queen in her own palace and rebuild the altar of Jehovah in the capital of the kingdom. But no. That very night, in the midst of the darkness and the storm a messenger came out from the city gate, roused the weary prophet and shouted in his ear the oath of Jezebel, sworn by all the gods of Tyre and Sidon that before another sun

had set she would do unto him as he had done unto the prophets of Baal. He springs to his feet, looks this way and that for a moment, and then flees for his life. Over the hills of Samaria and the mountains of Ephraim, across plain and valley he hurries like some conscience-smitten murderer. Nor does he dare to rest even in the farthest town of the kingdom of Judah. Leaving his only attendant behind him, without guide or provision for the way, he starts out. Then finding a low desert bush, he casts himself beneath it in such complete despair that he would rather die than live. Elijah's despondency was the more violent and depressing just because he seemed to be upon the point of overthrowing idolatry and revolutionizing the nation, and then soon found himself a fugitive and ready to die in the desert. And all failure is bitter and hard to bear when it follows close on the reality or the great hope of success. We must make up our minds to this. The world can go on without us and God's work can prosper without us. When we are most weary and discouraged and the world seems a desert, God's angel may be on the wing to bring us messages of mercy from the throne, even as the Lord strengthened Elijah in that night to fulfill his labors. Elijah's night of despair in the desert and his long contest with an apostate king and backsliding people made him the man to be taken to heaven in a chariot of fire.

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