

# teemit For CHILDREN

## Bible Lesson Quarterly

Year 3 - 3rd Quarter - "GOD'S MESSENGERS, THE PROPHETS"

In this series of lessons we are going to look at the lives of some of God's True Prophets.

For our Bible lessons we are going to use the King James Version of the Bible, just like the boys and girls used to use to learn to read from in the pioneer days.

There will be some texts to look up for each day and you should practice your memory verse until you can say it without looking. Don't forget to learn the text too.

### Weekly Bible Lesson #1: "TRUE AND FALSE"

**MEMORY VERSE: "Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." Amos 3:7**

#### Sunday

**Text: Genesis 3:8 "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden."**

Way back in time, in the lovely Garden of Eden, our great Creator would come and talk with Adam and Eve face to face. How wonderful it must have been! How they must have looked forward to those times of fellowship when, the day's tasks finished, they could spend time with the Master.

But a cruel enemy changed all that! The enemy was sin. Yes Satan, in the form of a serpent, tempted Eve to doubt and disobey God, but it was her choice to sin. And it was Adam's choice soon after to listen to Eve and then choose to doubt and disobey the loving Creator also.

Sin has no excuse to exist, but sin brings

some terrible results. The very evening after Adam and Eve had chosen to listen to Satan and so to join the rebellion against God that he had started in heaven, the results could be seen.

In our verse it says they heard the voice of God, and instead of running to great Him with joy, they were afraid - and hid themselves. See, already they had lost much of their knowledge of God; surely they did not really think that they could hide from the One who knows all things?

Think of what happens when children who have loving parents, do something they are told not to do. Then when Mommy or Daddy shows up, the children feel afraid and want to hide. WHY? Is it the parent's fault? No, of course not! It is the fault of the children and the wrong they have done. It is the result of sin.

**Thought** - How sad, to see our first parents hiding from the One who loved them the most!

**Monday**

**Text: Numbers 12:6** “And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.”

Now what was God to do? Right away, as soon as there was sin, there was a Saviour. The promise of Genesis 3:15 tells us that God had plans to give mankind a second chance to choose obedience rather than rebellion. Jesus would pay the terrible cost of this second chance and be the way of overcoming sin. But what good would it do if man did not know about it?

God could no longer talk face to face with man. God’s presence is a consuming fire to sin. God would have to set up a system by which He could still communicate to man and guide and counsel him and not consume him.

God began to use several methods to communicate; He used the angels to carry messages. He also chose certain people that he called prophets. He would give the messages to the angels, who would carry them to the prophets, and the prophets would pass the messages on to others. Adam was a prophet; then later we find Enoch, and then Noah.

Sometimes when God sends a message to a prophet, He has an angel speak to that person in a voice they can hear. Sometimes He has an angel give them a dream. Sometimes God uses an angel to give them a vision, which is like a dream, but it happens when the prophet is awake. Visions are very interesting and we will learn more about them later.

**Thought** – One of the main reasons Jesus was born on earth as a man, was so He could communicate directly to man about the Heavenly Father. Did you know that Jesus was also a prophet?

**Tuesday**

**Text: Matthew 24:4,5** “And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.”

Well, if God was going to use angels to send messages to prophets, it did not take long for Satan to decide he could play that game too. He could use himself or his angels to give false messages to people and use these false prophets to fool people into doing wrong. It would be just like he did in Eden when he used a serpent to fool Eve.

Notice in our text that Jesus told His disciples that they needed to watch out, because Satan would even send angels and wicked men that would claim to be Jesus Himself! How are we to know the true from the false?

Thankfully the Bible has lots to say about this. If we truly study the Bible and listen to what it has to tell us, we can escape being fooled. The Bible tells us about false christs; if they tell you that Jesus is in the desert somewhere, or in some secret room someplace, we are to not listen or go to see.

Why? Jesus tells us that when He comes the second time it will be “as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matthew 24:27

When Jesus comes the second time, all life on this earth will end, the faithful will go to heaven with Jesus and the wicked will all be killed by His brightness. (Remember that God is a consuming power to sin, and if people have refused to let Jesus take away their sins, they will die with those sins.)

It is important to remember that Jesus will not walk on this earth in His second coming, instead, His people will be taken up in the air to meet him.

**Thought** – So if you see someone walking around down here, even if they are doing miracles, and they say they Jesus Christ; go

away from them, they are not telling the truth!

### Wednesday

**Text: Deuteronomy 13:1-3** “If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams.”

When it comes to prophets, it is a little different, but still we have tests so we can KNOW if a prophet is true or false. Here in our text is one of those tests. If a prophet comes along and starts telling you to worship other gods, or in other ways than we know from the Bible are right, we can know he is false, even if he does miracles to ‘prove it’.

Miracles are certainly NOT a test of a true prophet of God. Why? Because the Bible warns us, “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” Matthew 24:24

Revelation 16:14 tells us about “spirits of devils, working miracles”. Our only safety is in us knowing what the Bible says - so well that Satan can’t fool us.

It is interesting that towards the end of the 1800s and into the 1900s, there was a lot of ‘criticism’ of the Bible. As these men who thought themselves so smart, began to pull apart the Bible, many began to listen to their lies, and as a result began to turn away from the Bible.

So Satan began to send heathen men from India and places like that, into the ‘Christian’ countries, and there he helped them to do some amazing miracles and signs. It became very popular to listen to the ‘swamis’ and the ‘Yogis’ and the ‘Gurus’ from the East.

And as soon as these folk did their miracles, what did they tell people? They began to tell them all kinds of things that the Bible says are lies.

Things like people being born into other lives over and over again. Things like saying Jesus was just another swami or yogi like them. They teach them to sit around and meditate by making their minds go blank and staring at their own belly-button or something – and this is supposed to help them.

I read about a ‘Christian’ lady who went to see a swami in India and he told her this very thing; that Jesus was just the same as he was. How did he prove it? He (with the help of Satan’s angels) made a picture of ‘Jesus’ appear on the film in the lady’s camera. What did she do? Sadly, she did not know her Bible, so she believed him and stopped being a Christian.

**Thought** – Remember, Satan did 2 miracles to try and fool Jesus in the wilderness. He carried Him to the tip-top of the temple, and he also gave Him a vision of the splendor of the world. But Jesus used scripture and drove Satan away.

### Thursday

**Text: Deuteronomy 18:21-22** “And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.”

Only God can really tell the future. BUT we must remember that Satan can sometimes make it appear that he does. How does he do this?

He often makes predictions that he can make happen. For example, if he says you are going to be in a car crash, unless Jesus

stops him, he can make that car crash happen!

Suppose he tells you that you will fall in love with somebody, he can work to bring you and that someone together and then easily give you both the 'feelings' that you are in love. Satan deals in feelings; false feelings and lies.

There are many people who claim these days to be prophets, or 'psychics' as most are now called. What about them? Well first we can look at their life and see if they follow what the Bible says, do they obey God and teach people to obey the Ten Commandments? They don't? Well we really don't need to look any further- they are not true prophets.

But we will look further to make a point. What about these Psychics and their 'prophecies'? Are any of them 100% accurate? No! In fact one man did a study that showed they were wrong more than 90% of the time!

But just suppose, you found one that was right 90% of the time- would he be a true prophet? No he would NOT! A True Prophet of God must be right 100% of the time. So should we listen to these people? No way! Because whether they know it or not- they are working for the devil to deceive people!

**Thought** - Did you know that Bible Prophets are right 100% of the time?

### Friday

**Text - Ezekiel 33:7** "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."

**Isaiah 58:1** "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."

What is the real job of a prophet? Just what it was in the beginning, it is to carry messages from God and give them to the

people.

What kind of messages does God send to His people? Does He want to tell them whom a certain movie star is going to marry? Does He want to tell them how to pick the race-horses? Does He want to tell them what kind of dress will be the fashion next year?

Of course not! Real Prophets of God have no time for worldly things, their job is to warn people about their sins and tell them how to be saved. They bring messages to comfort and encourage God's people when they are doing right. They also warn against doing wrong. They also bring messages that warn of dangers to come.

Not all of God's Prophets foretell the future; in fact this seems to have been only a small part of the work of most of them. But still there are some amazing prophecies in our Bible that have predicted future events for hundreds even thousands of years into the future!

Only God can do this and He offers it to us as one of the proofs that He is God and we can trust in Him to keep His word.

**Thought** - The two most amazing prophets of the future events were Daniel and John. In fact they actually both wrote something that together really makes up one prophetic book: Daniel and the Revelation. = ^ .. ^ =





## Weekly Bible Lesson #2: "TRUE PROPHETS"

**MEMORY VERSE: "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."**

**1 Corinthians 10:11**

### Sunday

**Text: Jeremiah 25:4 "And the LORD hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear."**

This week we will learn more about the tests and signs of a true prophet of God. It is interesting that false prophets and 'psychics', are usually admired and popular, but what about real prophets?

All down through the history of the world, as we see it in the pages of the Holy Bible, we see a sad pattern. Notice our text for today; God puts it into human thinking. He shows us Himself, as anxious to get a message to us. So anxious that He gets up real early and sends a messenger to us. Six different places in the Bible God uses these words about 'getting up early to send a message'.

What a loving God we have! He is willing to do anything in His great power, to help us to overcome sin, and be able to go to heaven with Him. But here is the sad part in the rest of the text: "But ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to listen."

God gives us the power of choice, and if we refuse to listen to Him, He does not force us. There is nothing more to be done than God has already done for us, all heaven was poured out to save us in the Gift of Jesus, the 'Son' of God, and here we see God 'getting up early', sending messenger after messenger to teach us, to warn us, to make promises to us.

What is the story of most of the prophets God sent? Most of them were hated, made fun of, ignored, persecuted, put in prison, punished, and even killed in terrible ways.

Jesus told the story in Luke 20:9-16, and He also warned that unless people repent and listen to His messengers, and obey, they will in time be destroyed. It isn't God's choice at all, but the choice of hard-hearted, sinful humans.

*Thought* - Oh readers, I urge you to read and learn about the messages of God to us, remember they are for you, just as much as if God put your name there!

### Monday

**Text: Daniel 10:16-18 "And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength. For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me. Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me."**

False prophets today are known by many names; psychics, channelers, fortune-tellers, mediums and so on. Many of them go into a trance-state and claim that this state is the same as a vision. But there are some amazing differences between a true Vision from God, and a 'trance'.

When a person goes into a trance, one of the fallen angels possesses his mind, and the person does not know about his surroundings during this time. This unawareness is also true of a real Vision from God, but everything else is different.

In a trance the person often grimaces (makes strange faces), may groan or twitch and their eyes are closed. In a true Vision, the prophet has a bright, radiant expression and their eyes are open.

At the start of a True vision, usually the prophet will fall gracefully to the ground. Then when the angel strengthens them they often arise and even walk around. People in a trance usually remain in the position they were in when they tried to go into the trance.

This is a big difference also- false prophets will go into the trance and seek to have a vision, while true prophets never do, they are given visions only when God sees fit, and they never try to have one on their own.

There is one sign that Satan cannot imitate, and we find it in our text. When in vision, the true prophet DOES NOT BREATHE! Yes that is right- he or she does not breathe the whole time the vision is happening, and yet they often talk anyway. (try to talk without breathing; you can't)

Now Satan can make his false prophets breath very shallow and almost look like they don't breathe, but careful examination will show some breathing. You see, only the God of Heaven, the source of all LIFE can keep a human alive while they are not breathing. Satan cannot do this, as he has no power to give life, he is a fraud and a counterfeit.

Ellen White, whose life and work we will look at next week, often was in vision for hours, and yet even when doctors examined her, they found she did not breathe while in vision!

**Thought** – Once you learn about the true prophets from the Bible and the writings of Ellen White, you will not be fooled by Satan's cheap and ugly counterfeits.

## Tuesday

**Text: Isaiah 58:1 "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."**

A very good way to tell a false prophet from a true one is what they tell you about. One of the reasons that false prophets are often loved, and true ones hated, is because true prophets tell the people about their sins and urge them to stop sinning and return to obeying God. False prophets flatter the selfish, sinful heart and entertain people.

True prophets only give messages that concern our salvation and our relationship to God. They always exult Jesus and the Bible and point people to them. They never tell you about worldly stuff like movie stars, fashions, entertainment, or who is going to marry whom.

Any true prophet will be very wrapped up in the Bible and the writings of the prophets that have gone before them, and they will never give messages that contradict the words and messages of former prophets.

There is a trick Satan is playing these days on the true people of God, and I hope you will really watch out for it. Someone comes along and starts telling us a prophecy of the future or some different doctrine. Then when we go to the Bible and the writings we call the 'Spirit of Prophecy', we find it does not agree with what this person is saying.

Now when we tell them, or those that are listening to them, "Hey, this does not agree with the other prophets", they tell us, "Well you see, that other prophet didn't know this, God has only just revealed it to me."

Now this is ALWAYS a lie and not true. Do you think that God didn't know about everything that is going to happen until the end of time? Of course He does! And it is God that gave the messages to the other prophets. God never changes His mind and says something to contradict Himself. The best thing to do when someone tells you this is to tell them kindly they are wrong, and then leave and not listen any more to them.

If you keep trying to convince them, you may get confused yourself. It is safe to stay with the Inspired Word of God and reject anything that does not agree. God is not go-

ing to change His message now and give us ideas that the other prophets have said are wrong.

**Thought** – It is really important that once you see a message or messenger that says anything not agreeing with former inspired writings, to stop reading or listening to them. Don't be fooled into trying to 'pick out what is good', as Satan will trick you for sure.

### Wednesday

**Text: 2 Corinthians 10:5 “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” Luke 6:26 “Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.”**

True prophets do not talk about themselves or praise their selves. They always exalt God and Jesus and speak of themselves as only a servant or a tool in the Hand of God. True prophets never 'have visions' or do anything to show off to others, they never 'parade' their work before others to get attention for themselves.

False prophets tend to be much more common than true ones. Look at this story in 2 Chronicles 18:5, “Therefore the king of Israel gathered together of prophets four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear?”

Here we see a king who kept a huge group of false prophets who would tell him what he wanted to hear. When the King of Judah asked if there were not any other prophets, hear what Ahab said in verse 7: “There is yet one man, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he never prophesied good unto me, but always evil.”

You see, the true prophet did not flatter the king, but kept warning him of his sins and he didn't like it! Here that one true

prophet stood there and said the opposite of all those four-hundred false ones. And what happened? Whose word came true? The one true prophet's word came true.

People don't like to be told they are wrong, they like people to flatter them and say nice things about them. But God loves us enough to tell us the truth and He will set us free from all sin and save us, if we will only listen and choose to obey Him.

What happened when the king did not listen to the prophet he hated? That king died in battle a lost man, when if he had listened, he would have lived.

**Thought** – Remember, even if hundreds of people are teaching and believing ideas and things that are not in the Bible, their word will fail, and God's Word will come true. You are always safe to believe God's word.

### Thursday

**Text: Jeremiah 14:14 “Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.” 2 Chronicles 20:20 “Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.”**

What happens to people who refuse to listen to a true prophet and choose rather to listen and believe false prophets? We have many stories in the Bible that tell us clearly what will happen to them, they will end up being destroyed and lost. God cannot help or bless them and they are never truly happy. They may hear the words that make them feel good- but down inside they know these words are false but they refuse to give in to God.

What does God say about these people? Hosea 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected

knowledge, I will also reject thee.”

○ Notice they are destroyed for lack of knowledge- but did they not have knowledge? They sure did! But they refused the knowledge that God sent them and they end up destroyed.

But what about those who choose to listen to God and believe His prophets? Well we have many stories about them also, and we find that often when they do believe the prophet, they do certain things. They repent, often with great sadness and weeping that they have sinned against God. They make a choice to change their actions and start right away to stop doing wrong and to do right and obey the counsel of the true prophet from God. Then God helps them to make these changes, and blesses them when they do, and they have joy and peace and God is with them. This is a real joy and peace and not a false one based on lies.

○ Remember, if God tells you about your sins, it is because He wants to set you free from them. God never tells you to do something or not to do something, just because He wants to be bossy! Please think about that!

God has given us some extra counsel that we really need these days, but people look at it and decide to reject it. They decide they don't want to give up their meat eating and their rich dairy foods and sweet candy and so-called 'treats' of unhealthy things.

They decide that it is too hard for them to stop going to theaters, watching entertainment and playing games and sports we have been warned are harmful. They talk about sin as if it were fun and describe foods that God has advised us to give up, as 'sinfully delicious'.

○ Friends, sin is deadly and is not fun or delicious! Anything God has asked us to give up, is because it is harmful and will hurt and destroy us. God's professed people are today suffering and dying of nasty diseases they never would have had- if they would have believed and obeyed the messages He 'rose up early and sent'!

**Thought** – What about us, can we be false prophets without knowing it? Yes we can. When we know about Bible truth and the soon coming of Jesus and about His holy Sabbath day, and yet we act and live in a way that makes people think these things don't matter at all, we are a kind of false prophet.

### Friday

**Text: Psalm 74:9 “We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long.”**

**Lamentations 2:9 “Her gates are sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars: her king and her princes are among the Gentiles: the law is no more; her prophets also find no vision from the LORD.”**

Really, there are two kinds of true prophets if we look carefully in the Bible. Sometimes one prophet does both jobs. What are these 2 jobs?

1<sup>st</sup> there are prophets who are there to counsel and guide and help the people in their walk with God. We see many of this kind in the Bible, even in the early church in New Testament times. God used them to provide encouragement and help with hard problems in the church. But this kind are never found ounce a people have turned away from obedience to God.

God's Law and God's Prophets are always found together! You see God has actually promised the guidance of His prophets would be always with his true people. Whenever God's people have been walking in obedience to His laws, we find the true gift of prophecy common among them.

But when they have rejected His laws and refused to obey and have gone into wickedness, we sometimes see a different kind of Prophet. It is the kind of prophet God sends with a warning message to turn away from



wickedness and start again to obey or else terrible trouble will fall on them. Sadly enough, this kind is more common in the Bible stories.

Moses was one of these much of the time, Noah also, Elijah was one, Isaiah and Jeremiah were these kind and so was John the Baptist. These prophets often gave time prophecies warning of something to come. They are usually feared and hated, and often die as martyrs- killed by those who will

not listen to God's warnings.

When people listen and obey these prophets and return to serving God and obeying His Law, often their job is then to encourage and help the people as they do this. If their messages are rejected, the warning comes to pass.

**Thought** - Our last-days messenger gave both kinds of messages. We would do well to heed the warnings and follow the counsel. Then we can enjoy the promises and God's blessing. = ^ .. ^ =

### Weekly Bible Lesson #3: "TIME PROPHECIES"

**MEMORY VERSE: "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matthew 24:44**

#### Sunday

**Text: Genesis 6:3 "And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years."**

One of the most interesting types of prophecy found in the Bible are the 'Time Prophecies'. These tell an event and then tell us when it will happen or when it will end. They are scattered all through the Bible and when we see how they always come true, they really boost our faith.

Our text is the first one in the Bible and it was given at the time that God called Noah to build the ark. It was in plain language, where many other time prophecies are given in a code where a 'day' really means a year.

One thing about time prophecies is God gives them to a prophet and usually a prophet comes along to announce the end of the time period. In this case, it was the same prophet, Noah, who announced both ends.

We can learn many things from this time prophecy. Most of the world had rejected the Creator God and followed the ways of Cain, making up their own religion to suit their selfish hearts. The result was they had no protection against Satan and his cruel,

wicked ways. They just got worse and worse until the earth was full of cruelty and violence and there was danger that the true and faithful would soon all be killed.

So God set a time line; 120 years, and told Noah to build a boat and preach the warning. He did both, and at first, many people believed him and there was some who came back to God. Some of these remained faithful and died before the time of the flood. Most, however, soon got over being worried and went back to their false worship, worse than ever.

Some had gone to their religious leaders and scientists to ask about the idea of a flood. They were told it was nonsense and Noah was crazy. They preferred to believe people rather than God's Word, so they laughed at the Preacher of truth.

**Thought** - At the end of the 120 years, the flood came and the laughing stopped.

#### Monday

**Text: Genesis 15:12-14 "And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. And he said unto Abram, Know**

**of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance."**

Abraham was also a prophet, and God gave him a message about what would happen to his family way in the future. He was told that they would go into Egypt and that they would be made slaves there and after 400 years they would go out with a lot of riches. Then they would return to possess the land of Canaan, where Abraham was then living as a stranger.

The years passed, and we all know the story of Joseph and how God used him to save the land of Egypt and also his own family during a terrible time of famine. Pharaoh invited Joseph's people to come and live in Egypt and gave them the land of Goshen to live in with their flocks and herds.

If you study history in worldly schools you soon learn that Egypt was a very powerful and rich country in ancient times. Seldom though do you learn why. Egypt was also a country that worshipped idols, animals, the sun and so on and not the God of heaven. Sadly, many people today who study Egypt, think that if they were so great, their worship must be good and so they try and learn about it and copy it,

But what made Egypt become great? It was God through Joseph that did it. You know the story of how Pharaoh had dreams and no one could tell the meaning until Joseph was brought before him and told him what God was warning him about.

Joseph became second ruler in Egypt and through wisdom from God set up great grain banks and food storage. When the famine came, Egypt alone had food for sale. All nations around came to Egypt and bought food. This made Egypt very rich.

God did this so the story of Joseph and the true God of heaven could be known by all these nations and Egypt in particular.

Remember it was God who allowed the famine and His reason was to try and get these idol worshippers to see their false gods were powerless and invite them to worship Him. How many did learn, we don't know, but most just refused to learn.

*Thought* – It wasn't long before Egypt was the richest country in the world.

## Tuesday

**Text: Exodus 12:41 "And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt."**

For thirty years all was well. After Joseph died, there came a time when a Pharaoh came to the throne and he was not at all interested in anything to do with the God of Heaven. You see when people have truth come to them and they refuse it, they become more wicked than they were before. So this guy decided to make good use of the Hebrews and he made them into slaves.

This is the second way that Egypt became great- they had a whole nation to work for them for free. But they did not have the blessing of God. Why did God allow this to happen? Because the Hebrews had become involved in- you guessed it- pagan sun worship and idolatry. They married with the heathens and so God was not able to bless and protect them anymore.

The slaves built the great cities, pyramids and tombs that honored the false gods of Egypt, and they groaned under their heavy burdens. Because of the false ideas the people who study ancient Egypt have, it is thought the time that Egypt was great is much longer than it really was. Really they became rich and powerful under Joseph and they fell way back once Israel left under Moses.

Yes, Moses was the prophet raised up to announce the end of the 400 years told to Abraham. History shows that on the very day

of the end of those years foretold, Israel marched out of Egypt, leaving it a ruined and desolated land. The time prophecy announced by Abraham was fulfilled and Moses was the prophet who announced the end of it.

God had done all He could to show Egypt and the heathen nations that their paganism was only a pack of lies, but only a few individuals listened, most just kept on anyway.

**Thought** – God never does anything in vain and in heaven there will be people from Egypt who DID learn about the true God and did believe Him.

### Wednesday

**Text: Jeremiah 25:11** “**And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.**”

**Jeremiah 29:10** “**For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.**”

Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, gave the time prophecy that Judah would be captured and forced to serve Babylon for 70 years.

Why did Jeremiah have such a hard time? From the time God chose him as a young man to the end of his life he preached the warning that if Judah did not turn away from the heathen idolatry they had gotten into, and turn and worship the God of Heaven, and keep His Sabbath day, that they would be taken captive by Babylon and Jerusalem would be burned and the temple become heaps.

Did the people listen? They did not. In fact at one place there were false prophets saying that Nebuchadnezzar would not attack Jerusalem when Jeremiah was saying the opposite and the Prince was actually already camped outside the city! How blind

are those who don't want to see.

So Judah went into captivity in Babylon and Jerusalem was burned and the temple became heaps. Some of the faithful helped some of the heathen to learn about the true God. We know about Daniel and that Nebuchadnezzar actually ended his life as a worshipper of the God of heaven and will be saved.

But what did most of Babylon do? They refused to learn and kept on with their sun worship and wicked ways. Did Judah learn her lesson? Some of them did. It is shown that the Jews never did worship idols any more after that captivity.

But many of them did something that was even worse. They studied the Babylonian system of magic and brought back many ideas of sacred symbols and numbers and so on and they mixed them with their own religion. So even though they didn't worship the images, they still had the same paganism.

At the end of the seventy years, the people of Judah were allowed to return and Jerusalem and the temple were rebuilt. Ezra was one of the prophets who helped at the end of the time prophecy.

**Thought** – God wants us to worship him as He directs in His Holy Word, and not ADD anything or leave out anything. When the people of God turn away from Him, they always do it by first ADDING something 'new' to the worship of God.

### Thursday

**Text: Daniel 9:25** “**Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.**”

Down through the centuries after the fall in Eden, the faithful looked for and longed for the coming of the Promised Seed that would bruise the serpent's head. During the

seventy years of captivity in Babylon, Daniel the prophet was given a most amazing Time Prophecy.

It started with the final decree to rebuild Jerusalem and it actually gave the very year that the Messiah would begin His work and the year He would die. It is called the prophecy of the 'seventy weeks'.

It was part of the 2300-day prophecy that tells us actually when the final judgment time for the earth began, in 1844. The first part of that prophecy shows the seventy weeks that were allowed to the Jews.

God was giving them time to repent and return to Him so He could bless them and use them to tell the gospel to the world. But although some individuals did serve the Lord and will be saved, most just kept mixing in the ways of the world and the false religions of the Pagans and the philosophy of the Greeks until they didn't even really know God any more. The very scriptures, which they were the keepers of, they could no longer understand.

So when the time came for Messiah the Prince to begin His work, few recognized Him at all. But was there a prophet around to announce the fulfillment of this Time Prophecy? There surely was: John the Baptist was on the job and what did he say? "Prepare ye the way of the Lord!"

And when Jesus was Baptized, John announced, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." And when Jesus started to preach, what did He say? "Repent, for the time is fulfilled!" What 'time'? The time prophecy of Daniel!

"And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined." Daniel 9:26

And precisely in the middle of the week, Messiah was 'cut off', crucified in the spring of AD 31, and in AD 70 the city was destroyed.

**Thought** – Jesus was also a prophet and He was God's Word to mankind.

### Friday

**Text: Daniel 8:14 "And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."**

This is the Longest Time Prophecy of all! Daniel announced it and it started in 457 BC in the fall. It ended in 1844 in the fall and it shows us that the final judgment of God's people is happening right now. This is the last thing to take place before Jesus comes to take His faithful ones home.

Was there a prophet around to announce when this prophecy ended? Yes indeed, God gave the prophetic gift to Wm. Foy and he did some announcing, to Hazen Foss, (but he refused it) and finally the young girl, Ellen Harmon, though whom the Lord showed the answer to the Mystery.

Now I want you to see something very interesting:

Revelation 10:5-7 "And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, **that there should be time no longer:** But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets."

Here is an angel and when we study to know Who He is, we learn it is none other than Jesus Himself. He stands both on the sea and the earth, meaning the whole world, and makes an announcement, "Time no longer". What time?

Well it is the Time Prophecies. The longest one ended in 1844 and we are told there will never be another message based on 'time' after that. Jesus even makes a solemn oath that this is true. The 'Mystery' is



ended, the 2300-day mystery that was sealed up in the book of Daniel and opened at the 'end time', and no more time prophecies are to be looked for.

But, you say that you have heard lots of people figuring out time prophecies now and in the future? They take ones fulfilled in the past and 'reapply' them, or they don't know where they belong in the past and so put them into the future. They are doing it a lot these days and sadly, many who do not know their Bibles well enough, are listening and getting very mixed up.

Satan wants to keep the people of God confused and looking into the far future for Jesus return. But our probation could close suddenly with no warning. We could die today, probation for the world will soon close suddenly. We need to be ready for Jesus today; tomorrow may be too late! Think to yourself, "Am I ready to die today?" Talk to Jesus about it and ask Him to show you how to get ready and stay ready!

**Thought** - If someone comes to you telling a time prophecy for now or the future, you are wise if you don't listen to them.  
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### Weekly Bible Lesson #4: "THE PROPHET ELISHA"

**MEMORY VERSE: "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." Luke 16:10**

#### Sunday

**Text: 1 Kings 19:19, 20 "So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him. And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?"**

We have learned about the two main types of work the Prophets do;

They bring strong warnings of judgments when God's people forsake Him.

They encourage and help the people when they are trying to follow God.

Elijah's job had been the first of these and now as a check had been put to Jezebel and the terrible idolatry in Israel, some of the people at least, were returning to proper worship of the God of Creation.

Then God chose Elisha and called him from his work at his father's farm to serve Elijah. For several years he was Elijah's ser-

vant and pupil and worked for and with him. By doing faithfully the common ordinary jobs of life faithfully and well, he was getting ready for the larger work God would later give him to do.

You see if a person thinks highly of himself and is proud and always wanting to do 'something big and important', God can't trust him with heavenly power. He would get all puffed up like Satan and lose his eternal life. Elisha remained humble and teachable.

The day came when Elijah was translated to heaven and Elisha was asked what he wanted. He asked that a double portion of the Holy Spirit that had been with Elijah would be with him. Why? Did he want to be greater than Elijah? No, it was because he felt his unworthiness and felt he needed extra help if he was to do the job.

As Elijah ascended into heaven in a fiery chariot, he flung his mantle down to Elisha, a sign he was to take over the prophet's job. When Elisha returned from the scene of Elijah's translation, he struck the river water and it opened up for him to cross as it had for Elijah. The people knew that God had passed the prophetic work on to Elisha.

**Though** - It is by being faithful to God in little things that we get ready to be faithful in larger things.

### Monday

**Text: 2 Kings 2:19 "And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water is naught, and the ground barren."**

When Elisha came over the river and the waters opened up for him, the students at the school of the prophets saw it and knew that the Spirit of God was now with Elisha. Now they asked Elisha if they could send fifty men to look for Elijah, for fear that God had put him down again on some mountain or something.

Elisha knew this was a wrong idea and told them not to, but they begged and pleaded until he said, "OK, but you won't find him." They searched for many days, but of course found nothing and came back tired. Elisha did not go with them but stayed at Jericho where there was a school of the prophets.

Jericho had been cursed of God when Israel first came into Canaan. Where it had been a fruitful place with nice gardens and trees, it became dry and barren. The city had been rebuilt but the water problem was very bad. There was a spring there but the water was not fit for use. The men asked Elisha to help.

He told them to bring a new cruise (jug) with salt in it. Then he said, "Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land." 2 King 2:21 Then he took the salt and threw it into the spring. Right away the water changed and became pure and sweet. Believe it or not, that spring is still sweet and running well even today!

God sometimes enables His prophets to work miracles; however, God's miracles are ALWAYS to meet a genuine need, NEVER to

show off. I read of a heathen 'holy-man' who used to beg in India and sometimes he would make candy appear in his begging bowl for the children.

Was this a genuine miracle or a trick of Satan? It was from Satan, as the candy is not good for the children and did not meet a real need for them. Also this man taught heathenism and not the Words of God.

**Thought** - It is important to realize that a true Prophet or servant of God does not work miracles just when they feel like it. God had already told Elisha in his prayers that He was going to heal the water and what Elisha was to do. He just followed directions.

### Tuesday

**Text: 2 Kings 2:23,24 "And he went up from thence unto Bethel: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head. And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them."**

Elisha was traveling on his way to one of the other Schools of the Prophets in Bethel. As he was going along the dusty roads he passed near a city and a gang of naughty boys came out of the city and started to make fun of him and mock him.

They said, "Go up thou Bald Head!" and by this they were making fun of the truth that Elijah had gone to heaven. They no doubt had heard their parents making fun of this story and refusing to believe it.

These boys did not go to the School of the Prophets, they were from homes that still continued in the Heathen Idolatry and rejected the True God. God saw that if something was not done about this rudeness, the work of His prophet to help Israel would be greatly hindered. So the Holy Spirit told

Elisha to pronounce a curse against these rude fellows. It is important to understand that Elisha did not just get 'mad' and do this on his own; it was what God told Him to do. Elisha himself was a kind and patient man.

God was about to teach a lesson that would not be forgotten. Right away something happened! Two she-bears came roaring out of the woods and attacked this gang of hoodlums and slapped and slashed at them as they scattered in horror. It ended up that 42 of them were injured by the bears and probably had the scars to remind them for the rest of their lives.

This one terrible event caused people to respect Elisha for the rest of His life. For fifty years he went in and out of the gate of Bethel, and to and fro in the land, from city to city, passing through crowds of idle, rude, dissolute youth; but none mocked him or made light of his qualifications as the prophet of the Most High.

Every child should be taught to show true reverence for God. Never should His name be spoken lightly or thoughtlessly. Never should we joke or make fun of anything to do with God, His Word, or His workers.

**Thought** – It is so interesting that Nature stands always ready to obey God and do what He asks it to do.

### Wednesday

**Text: 2 Kings 3:13,14** “**And Elisha said unto the king of Israel, What have I to do with thee? get thee to the prophets of thy father, and to the prophets of thy mother. And the king of Israel said unto him, Nay: for the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab. And Elisha said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee.**”

Ahab had died when he rashly went into a battle a true prophet of God had warned him not to go to and Ahaziah, Ahab's son had died when he inquired of heathen gods instead of the Lord. Now Jehoram, his son was king. The King of Moab rebelled against Israel at this time, and refused to send them the sheep that every year they had promised to send as taxes.

Jehoram, who was an Idol worshipper like his Mother Jezabel, went to Jehoshaphat, king of Judah and asked if he would come to war against Moab with him. Jehoshaphat asked if there were any prophets of God he could ask about this and he was told about Elisha, who they said, “Poured water on the hands of Elijah”; in other words, had been his servant and student.

So Jehoram, Jehoshaphat, and the king of Edom went together to see Elisha the prophet where he lived. Now what do you think Elisha said when these 3 kings came to call on him? Do you think he said, “Oh, my! Isn't this wonderful? Three kings coming to see me! I must be sure to make them feel at home and flatter them so they will like me!”

Oh, no! He said the words in our text, he told Jehoram to go home and ask his own heathen prophets and the gods of his parents. You see if Jehoram would have been ready to repent and follow God, he would speak kindly to him, but he was in open rebellion against God. Elisha went on to say that it was only because of Jehoshaphat, who did worship the True God, that he would even listen to these guys at all.

He asked for someone to play hymns while he prayed to God for guidance. Then he received some very strange instructions from God. He told them to dig a whole lot of ditches in the valley and in the morning there would be no rain or anything but the ditches would be full of pure water they and the animals could drink.

Then he said also that He would deliver Moab and his army into their hands and they were to destroy him and waste his land. Sure

enough in the morning at the time of the morning offering, the ditches were all full of water.

**Thought** – They hadn't asked for water; what did these ditches have to do with winning the war?

### Thursday

**Text: 2 Kings 3:22,23** “**And they rose up early in the morning, and the sun shone upon the water, and the Moabites saw the water on the other side as red as blood: And they said, This is blood: the kings are surely slain, and they have smitten one another: now therefore, Moab, to the spoil.**”

When the army of Moab came over the hills in the morning to attack, they saw a red reflection on all these ditches and right away they thought that the two kings had fought with each other and killed each other. “Come on!” They shouted, “Let's go and get all their stuff!”

They hurried down into the valley thinking to get riches and instead the army of Israel and Judah, who were hiding, and rushed out and attacked them. They kept attacking them and went into their land and destroyed just as God had said. A Great victory was won that day.

There are a couple of very strange texts in the Bible about last day events and they talk about the valley of Jehoshaphat. Here is one: “Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.” Joel 3:12

Why is the Lord telling us about the Valley of Jehoshaphat?

Well what happened there? The heathen thought they had all of God's people destroyed, didn't they? They thought they could just run down and steal away all of what they had and they were gone forever. Instead God had set a trap and a snare for them and they were defeated and driven away.

Notice too, this text talks about judgment

and when this thing happened at the time of Elisha, God had judged Moab and was about to bring them to their end. In Prophecy a ‘valley’ means a place of decision. The ‘Valley of Jehoshaphat’ refers to the time when the people of earth are making their final decision whether or not to obey God.

Those who reject God's warning and follow the false religion of Rome and try to force all to keep Sunday, and reject the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath, are going to think they have won. There will be a point when they are sure they are about to be rid of God's faithful ones forever and all they have to do is run out and take all their goods and lives.

This will be just before God pours His plagues upon them. God told the kings through Elisha, “And ye shall smite every fenced city, and every choice city, and shall fell every good tree, and stop all wells of water, and mar every good piece of land with stones.” 2 Kings 3:19 And this is just what will happen with the 7 last plagues, they will ruin the cities, throw down the trees, (governments and powers) and fill the land with stones, (the final huge hailstorm of the 7<sup>th</sup> plague).

**Thought** – Many happenings of the Old Testament have meaning for us in these last days.

### Friday

**Text: 2 Kings 4:1** “**Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.**”

There was a faithful man in Israel who served the True God and learned in the Schools of the Prophets. He died and left a widow with two young boys to raise. But sadly, he also left a large debt.

Soon the man the money was owed to, came to the house of this poor widow and



demanded his money back! The poor woman pleaded that she did not have the money to give to him. Well if she didn't have it soon, he was going to take her two fine young boys and sell them for slaves! Oh, how very sad! What could she do?

She headed to Elisha to ask the prophet for help. "And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil." 2 Kings 4:2

Notice he asked her what she had- she had a pot of oil for making bread. Not very much, not enough to sell and pay the debt, but a small pot of oil.

"Go and borrow from your neighbors lots of pots and jars and pans, as many as you can get. Then go into your house with your sons and shut the door. Then pour the oil into all those pots and pans."

They could have said, "Oh, that is silly!" and not done it, but she obeyed and did it. There they were in their house with the door shut and all these empty pots and jars all over the place. One pot was brought and the lady took her little pot of oil and poured into the big pot. It filled it up! She could hardly believe her eyes!

The boys brought her another one, and more and more; each one was filled from the little jar of oil. Finally, there were no more empty pots, they were all full! The woman hurried back to the prophet to tell him.

"Go and sell the oil", he said, "and pay your debt." And so she did.

So God worked through His prophet to help great ones like the kings, and little people like the poor widow, and people grew to know more about the True Creator God.

**Thought** - God did the same as he did many years later with a little boy's lunch, didn't He? = ^ .. ^ =

### Weekly Bible Lesson #5: "THE PROPHET ELISHA 2"

**MEMORY VERSE: "He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward." Matthew 10:41**

#### Sunday

**Text: 2 Kings 4:8-10 "And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread. And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually. Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither."**

Elisha traveled much among the people,

visiting the various Schools of the Prophets and teaching the ways and truth of God to the people. There was one area he often went through and a kindly woman who lived there, recognizing him as a true prophet of God, often invited him in for a meal on his journey.

Then she got the idea that if she had a small bedroom built on the wall of her house, that Elisha could come there to rest and relax whenever his duties called him to travel that way. Her husband was agreed, so the room was built and the next time Elisha came that way, he was shown it.

How happy was he for this kindness. How nice it was to be able to relax and rest in his own "home away from home". He wanted to

do a favor in return for the kindly woman, so he called her and asked what she would like. He told her he could give a recommendation for her to the king or rulers, but she merely said, "I dwell among my own people."

She was not looking for any honor or favor. But when Gehazi pointed out to Elisha that the lady had no child, he called her again and promised that the Lord would give her a little boy of her own. She feared to believe this could happen but sure enough a year later, she had her very own baby boy.

The little lad grew until he was able to go out into the fields with his father. One day the sun was very hot and the lad cried out with a terrible pain in his head and though his father hurried to have him brought in to his mother, the lad died. The Shunammite woman laid the body on the bed in the room she had given Elisha and called for a donkey and a servant to take her to the man of God.

When she arrived she grabbed Elisha by the feet and said to him, "Did I ask you for a son? Did I not say not to deceive me?"

Elisha realized the boy was dead and gave his staff to his servant and told him to run and place it on the boy. But the lady insisted that he come himself. So he followed the servant. The servant arrived first and did as he was told, but the boy did not wake.

When Elisha got there he prayed earnestly to God and stretched himself upon the boy and his flesh became warm but still he did not awake. Elisha returned again and stretched himself on the boy and he awoke, sat up and sneezed seven times.

Then the prophet restored him to his mother and there was great happiness in that home.

**Thought** - God will bless those who are kind to His workers.

### Monday

**Text: 2 Kings 4:38** "And Elisha came again to Gilgal: and there was a dearth in

**the land; and the sons of the prophets were sitting before him: and he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and seethe pottage for the sons of the prophets."**

There was a time of drought and food was scarce. Elisha came to the school at Gilgal and there was not much to eat available, so the big pot was put onto the fire and the students went out to gather wild herbs to make a kettle of soup.

One young man found some wild gourds and put them into the soup. He did not know that they were not edible. When the soup was all ready, they tasted it and knew that it was poisonous. How disappointed everyone was, here they were so hungry and now their soup could not be eaten.

But Elisha was guided by the Lord what to do. He asked for a handful of meal and threw that into the pot and the Lord took the poison out of the soup and they all ate of it with no harm.

Later a man brought an offering of the first fruits to the prophet; twenty loaves of bread and some heads of grain. Elisha told his servant to share it with the hundred men of the school.

"There is not enough here to feed a hundred men!" the servant complained. Elisha assured him that the Lord said there would be enough and some left over. So it was set before them, and they all had more than enough.

**Thought** - Remember the two times Jesus fed thousands from a small lunch?

### Tuesday

**Text: 2 Kings 5:1,2** "Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper. And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land

**of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife."**

Israel was still largely given up to worshipping idols like the heathen and so God allowed enemies to attack and cause trouble to them. In one of these raids, Naaman, a Syrian Captain of the army, carried away a small girl from Israel and took her home as a present to his wife.

The little maid waited on Mrs. Naaman and was very faithful in her work. She had been taught of the true God and told some things to her mistress. One day the lady was weeping because her husband had the dread disease of Leprosy! Then, the little maid told her that if only Naaman were in Israel, the Prophet of the Lord would heal him.

Even the King heard of it and he urged Naaman to go and gave him letters to the King of Israel and gold and beautiful clothes to take as gifts. So Naaman went into the land of Israel seeking to be healed of his dread disease.

Straight to the King of Israel went Naaman with his letter from the King of Syria. When the King of Israel read the letter asking him to heal Naaman, he was very upset and tore his clothes. "What am I going to do? I can't heal a man of leprosy! Am I God? The King of Syria wants to pick a fight with me!

Then Elisha sent word saying, "Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? Let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

So off Naaman went to the house of Elisha.

**Thought** – It was only because the little maid had been a faithful worker and true in all her ways that the family of Naaman believed her and listened to her story.

### Wednesday

**Text: 2 Kings 5:9,10 "So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him,**

**saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean."**

Elisha did not come out to meet Naaman, but instead sent a message to him to go and wash seven times in the river Jordan and be clean. The Warrior was angry, "What does he think? That I need a bath? That I am dirty?"

He thought Elisha would come out and make some kind of ceremony to call upon God and place his hand on him and heal him. "Don't I have better rivers in my own country? Can't I wash in them and be clean?" And so Naaman went away in a huff, intending to go back disappointed to his home.

But as they drew near the Jordan River, one of his servants spoke politely to him and said that if Elisha had told him some really hard thing to do, he would have done it. Was it not worth a try to obey the Man of God?

So Naaman ordered the chariots to go down to the river and into it he went. He dipped down into the water once, nothing happened.

Twice and three times, still nothing happened. But he kept on, until seven times and this time when he came up from the water his flesh was healed and his skin as fresh and clean as a little child!

**Thought** – Think of the blessing Naaman would have missed if he had not followed the Prophet's instructions!

### Thursday

**Text: 2 Kings 5:15,16 "And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant. But he said, As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused."**

Beaming with joy and gratitude, Naaman hurried back to the house of Elisha and

thanked him and praised the Lord. He urged him to accept the rich present the King had sent but Elisha would not take anything for the miracle the Lord had worked for Naaman. It was not Elisha, but God who healed the Captain.

Then Naaman asked for some earth of Israel to be given to him to take home and said that from then on he would kneel on this earth and pray to the God of Israel. Elisha bade him to go in peace.

But greedy eyes were watching what went on. Gehazi, Elisha's servant was coveting the riches and as soon as he could sneak away, he hurried after Naaman to tell him a big lie.

Naaman saw him coming and stopped. "Is everything alright?" he asked.

"Yes, but two of the sons of the prophets have just arrived and my master asked me to ask a talent of silver and two suits of clothes for them", the greedy man lied.

Naaman gladly gave him more than he had asked, two talents of silver and the two suits of clothes and even sent servants to carry them for him. Now that was a problem, but the greedy Gehazi figured it out. He took the gifts and hid them in a tower and sent the servants back.

Then Gehazi went back into the house of Elisha as if nothing had happened. But God had shown it all to Elisha and he asked the guilty servant, "Where have you been?"

"Nowhere!" Gehazi lied.

Elisha told him, that he had seen the whole thing. "Is this a time to receive money and gifts?" Solemnly he announced, "The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever." And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow. 2 Kings 5:27

**Thought** – Gehazi coveted what Naaman had, and the Lord gave him the leprosy Naaman had. Greediness is a snare. "A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape." Proverbs 19:5.

### Friday

**Text: 2 Kings 6:5,6 "But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed. And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim."**

The Schools of the Prophets were doing well and in one of the places there was so many students that they did not have enough room. The young men had a great idea, "Let's each carry a beam and go and cut down some wood and build a new school!"

Elisha agreed they should do that. Then they asked him to come with them and so he agreed to come. One of the boys wanted to help but he did not have an axe of his own, so he borrowed one.

Down by the river he was working hard to cut down a tree when the axe-head went flying off the handle and out into the river and sank out of sight. Now what could he do! He had no money to replace the valuable axe-head.

He called out to Elisha and told him what had happened. "Alas", he said, "for it was borrowed!"

"Where did it fall?" Elisha asked him and when the young man showed him the place, the man of God tossed a stick onto the water and lo and behold the heavy iron axehead floated to the top and stayed there until the youth could get to it and grab it.

Rich and poor, the Lord helped all through his Prophet. Many times when the King of Syria was about to come and attack Israel, the Lord would show Elisha and he would send a message warning the King of Israel about where the Syrian was camped and how he planned to attack.

The King of Syria became so frustrated that he called together his leading men and asked them, "Will you please tell me who of



you is telling all my plans to the King of Israel?"

There was silence for a moment, but then a servant spoke up, "None of us, my Lord the king, but the Prophet Elisha in Israel

tells the King of Israel even the words you say in your bedroom!"

**Thought** - Nothing is hidden from Our God and nothing can ever surprise Him!  
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### Weekly Bible Lesson #6: "THE PROPHET ELISHA 3"

**MEMORY VERSE: "And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them." 2 Kings 6:16**

#### Sunday

**Text: 2 Kings 6:17 "And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."**

In last week's lesson we learned how the Prophet Elisha was given information from the Lord about where and when the King of Syria would attack Israel. This was an extremely great help to the King of Israel but the King of Syria was very angry about it.

Finally he decided he had better leave off trying to fight Israel and do something about the bothersome prophet. So he gathered his army and headed for Dothan, the very town where Elisha was staying, intending to capture him and perhaps even kill him.

They came quietly during the night and the next day when Elisha got up early there was the whole town surrounded with the armies of Syria, horses and chariots of war, and all. Elisha had perfect trust in the God of Heaven and he was not worried but his servant took one look at the situation and he was SCARED!

"Alas! What will we do?" he cried. Then Elisha asked for the man to be allowed to see with his eyes what Elisha already knew was there. God gave a special vision to the servant and he saw horses and chariots of fire round about the town where they were.

As the army of Syria prepared to march up to the town to grab Elisha, the prophet

quietly prayed a request to God. "Please smite them with blindness"

Instantly the whole army was blind; they could not see anything. Then Elisha went down and spoke to the leaders and told them, "This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek."

So he led them right into Samaria the capitol city of Israel where the king and his army were located. When he got there he prayed the Lord would give their sight back. What was their surprise and terror when they opened up their eyes and found themselves in Samaria surrounded by the Kings soldiers?

The king of Israel asked Elisha, "Shall I smite them?" But Elisha said not to harm them, because these were prisoners of war. Instead he told them to give them food and drink and send them back home in peace.

So the King made a great feast for the enemy army and after they had eaten and drank, they were sent back home. For a long time after that, the Syrians did not raid Israel.

**Thought** - Elisha did what Jesus taught and Paul recorded in Romans 12:20 "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head."

#### Monday

**Text: 2 Kings 6:24, 25 "And it came to pass after this, that Benhadad king of**

**Syria gathered all his host, and went up, and besieged Samaria. And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, behold, they besieged it, until an ass's head was sold for fourscore pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a cab of dove's dung for five pieces of silver."**

Hazael had died and Benhadad, his son reigned. He was determined to destroy Israel once and for all. He went up and surrounded the city of Samaria and the people could not come out to get any food. Soon people were starving and even bird droppings were sold for a high price for people to eat.

The King of Israel went for a walk on the wall of the city and a woman came crying to him, "Help! Oh King!"

The King replied, "How can I help you? I can't help you. What is wrong anyway?"

The woman then told the king a terrible story about how another mother had said to her, "Let us eat your baby today and tomorrow we will eat mine." So they ate the one baby but the next day the other woman had taken her baby and hid him away.

When the king heard this ugly tale he was overcome with rage and sorrow. He tore his robes and dressed in sackcloth and the people saw him on the wall dressed in sackcloth. Now Elisha had warned about this terrible situation and so the King blamed the prophet for it. He sent a messenger to Elisha's house to cut off the prophet's head.

Elisha was sitting with some of the elders in Israel when Elisha told them, "Behold this son of a murderer has sent to take away my head!" He told them to grab the man and hold him and his master would soon arrive.

Before long, sure enough, the messenger was heard coming and they grabbed him and the master came. Then Elisha told them, "Thus saith the LORD, To morrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria."

This meant there would be lots of food

sold cheaply, and the famine would end. But one of the leaders, the King's right hand man, refused to believe the word of the prophet. "Maybe if the Lord makes windows in heaven this might happen!" he said rudely.

Then Elisha told him, "You will see it happen, but you won't get to eat any of it!"

**Thought** – It is not wise to refuse to believe God's Messengers!

## Tuesday

**Text: 2 Kings 7:3, 4 "And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die? If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die."**

There were four lepers who were huddled in the entrance to the gate of the city. They too were starving but were not allowed in the city. They got to talking and decided that they would go into the Syrian camp and ask them for mercy. Maybe they would be given some food, and if the Syrians killed them, they would not be any worse off than they were now.

So off they went in the darkness to the camp. Coming to a tent they listened, but heard nothing, so they sneaked in. There was food all ready, but not a man to be seen. They ate and drank and gathered up gold and clothes and went and hid them, then they went into another tent and did the same.

Soon they realized the camp was empty, the Syrians were all gone. What they did not know is that the Lord had made the Syrians hear a great noise in the evening and they cried out that the King of Israel had hired the Hittites and the Egyptians to come and attack them. The Lord made them terrified and they ran like scared rabbits, out of their

tents and away across the land throwing away clothes, pots and weapons and everything as they ran.

When the lepers realized the camp was empty, they decided they had better get the news to the King so everyone could be helped. They headed back to town and called to the watchman and told him the camp was deserted. He told the others and the message went to the king, who sent a few men to see if it were so and was not a trap. They found it was truly so.

Then the Israelites went out and gathered all the food and valuables from the camp. Soon the food was being sold cheaply, just as the prophet had said.

What about the man who did not believe? Being the King's right-hand man, he was in charge of the gate to try and control the people. When the people heard about the food, they all rushed through the gate and the man was knocked down and trampled to death, so he saw it happen, but did not get to eat any of it.

**Thought** – When the Lord makes you scared, you are REALLY scared!

### Wednesday

**Text: 2 Kings 8:1** “Then spake Elisha unto the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go thou and thine household, and sojourn wheresoever thou canst sojourn: for the LORD hath called for a famine; and it shall also come upon the land seven years.”

Elisha had sent warning to the kind woman, who had given him a room in her house to use, that there was going to be trouble and famine and she should go and live somewhere else for seven years. So she did.

After that time she went back and went to appear before the king to ask for her land and houses to be returned to her. Now God had worked it out that on that very day, the King had asked Gehazi, Elisha's servant, to

tell him all about the wonderful things that the prophet had done.

“And it came to pass, as he was telling the king how he had restored a dead body to life, that, behold, the woman, whose son he had restored to life, cried to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life.” 2 Kings 8:5

Right then it was that the woman came into the court to ask for help from the King. How excited the King was to meet her and learn the story was indeed true. So it was ordered that all the property be restored to her and an officer was even given to make sure she got everything back. Even the value of what grew on the land while she was away was all restored to her.

**Thought** – God repaid this woman kindness to His prophet, many times over.

### Thursday

**Text: 2 Kings 13:14** “Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof.”

Through the ministry of Elisha, God had continued to pour out His love and counsel to the rebellious and wayward nation of Israel. For many years the prophet traveled around and helped both small and great, teaching to all who would listen, the way of the Lord.

Now he was old and sick and when the young king Joash heard he came to visit him. The words that he said in the verse show that even though he was an idolater and did not worship the True God, he recognized that the old Prophet was more valuable in the defense of Israel than even his armies and horsemen.

Why did God do so much for these wicked kings who still refused to follow Him? We

can find the answer only in the amazing mercy and patience of God. As long as there is any hope to wake people up, He strives to lead them to repentance.

Now this young king, an Idol worshipper, was weeping at the thought of Elisha dying, and instead of roughly ordering him away, Elisha told him to do something. He would give him one final blessing. He put his hand on his hand and told him to shoot an arrow westward out of the window. So he did. "This is the arrow of the Lords deliverance for Israel from Syria," Elisha told him.

Then the prophet said to take the arrows into his hands and beat them on the ground. But the young king only struck them three times and stopped. The prophet was angry with him and rebuked him. "Why didn't you strike more than that? If you would have beaten them five or six times, you would have defeated Syria completely, but now you will only conquer them three times."

So Elisha died and was buried. His words came true to the king, who defeated Syria only three times and never fully overcame them.

**Thought** – It is strange that many would recognize the power of the prophet, but would not give their hearts to serve the True God of the Prophet.

### Friday

**Text: 2 Kings 13:21 "And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet."**

Years later this strange event happened, a dead man cast into the tomb of Elisha came to life again. Why God did this miracle, we do not know, but perhaps He wanted once again to draw attention to the teachings of his faithful messenger.

Elisha's work had ended after the visit of

the young King Joash. He had been faithful to the end. Never had he lost his trust in the power of God. Always he had gone forward in faith and God had opened the way before him.

"And yet Elisha did not get to follow his master in a fiery chariot. Upon him the Lord permitted to come a lingering illness. During the long hours of human weakness and suffering his faith laid fast hold on the promises of God, and he beheld ever about him heavenly messengers of comfort and peace. As on the heights of Dothan he had seen the encircling hosts of heaven, the fiery chariots of Israel and the horsemen thereof, so now he was conscious of the presence of sympathizing angels, and he was sustained. Throughout his life he had exercised strong faith, and as he had advanced in a knowledge of God's providences and of His merciful kindness, faith had ripened into an abiding trust in his God, and when death called him he was ready to rest from his labors." {PK 263.3}

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Psalm 116:15. "The righteous hath hope in his death." Proverbs 14:32. With the psalmist, Elisha could say in all confidence, "God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for He shall receive me." Psalm 49:15. And with rejoicing he could testify, "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth." Job 19:25. "As for me, I will behold Thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness." Psalm 17:15. {PK 264.1}

**Thought** - We must never think that just because someone is sick and the Lord does not heal him or her, that they have no faith. Even the faithful Elisha, who performed more miracles than any other recorded prophet, died of a lengthy and lingering illness. This did not mean that God was not with him. God always has a purpose in what He allows, but we do not always understand it. = ^ .. ^ =



**Weekly Bible Lesson #7: "THE PROPHET ISAIAH"**

**MEMORY VERSE: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18**

**Sunday**

**Text: Isaiah 1:4 "Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward."**

In last weeks lesson we learned how the Prophet Elisha taught and helped the people of the nation of Israel for many years. Now we are going to look at the Prophet Isaiah. Isaiah was a prophet calling for repentance, giving warnings and yet offering encouraging promises to any who would listen to the Word of God sent by the mouth and pen of the Prophet.

Isaiah's ministry was to Judah and his work continued more than fifty years. He saw the reign of four kings, some were good and served God, but most were not and did not. He was finally martyred by being placed in a log and sawn through, under the wicked King Manasseh, who shed much blood of the faithful.

The Book of Isaiah is 66 chapters and Isaiah is classed as a Major Prophet. He tells the story of the life of Jesus, hundreds of years before He was born, almost as clearly as the Gospel writers and is called the 'Gospel Prophet'.

In fact so clearly is the life of Jesus and His death described in the 53<sup>rd</sup> of Isaiah and other chapters, that the Jews have declared it a cursed book and not to be read. They also have pronounced a curse on any who would figure out the Time Prophecy of Daniel which points to the time of the Messiah's ministry. None are so blind as those who refuse to see! Be sure to read for yourself, Isaiah 53.

The prophecies of Isaiah do not only reach to the time of Jesus, but into our times as well and on into eternity. (see chapter 66) There are many prophecies that describe the condition of the church in our day, which is much the same as the apostasy in Judah back then. One could study the Book of Isaiah for a whole lifetime and still have wonderful things to discover in it!

Here is another amazing fact, and one that many are trying to cover up these days. When the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in 1948, a whole book of Isaiah the prophet was found among them. That copy was written over 100 years before Christ, so no one can say the Book of Isaiah was actually written AFTER Jesus' life.

Also that copy is found to be almost exactly word for word the same as our 'old fashioned' King James translation shows it to be! It does not agree with the modern translations based on the manuscripts of Rome.

**Thought** - Remember the story of the man from the Queen of Ethiopia's court that Phillip was sent to talk to? He was reading a scroll of the Book of Isaiah and was learning the amazing prophecies describing the life of Jesus. When Phillip told him how these prophecies were fulfilled, he gave his heart to Jesus and was baptized. He went back home and taught others, and a Christian church was established that followed the Bible and the true gospel of the apostles. This church remained pure for centuries and kept the true Bible Sabbath.

**Monday**

**Text: 2 Chronicles 26:3,4 "Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in**

**Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah did."**

**2 Chronicles 26:16 "But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense."**

It was during the reign of Uzziah that Isaiah was called by God to be a prophet. Uzziah was made king when he was just a teenager, and for a long time he did what was right. He also showed himself to be wise, as he got older, and did much to strengthen Judah and the army, so that the nation was very prosperous in his days.

Sadly he fell into another trap of the devil. You know if Satan cannot keep us ignoring God and doing wickedness, he tries to get us to be presumptuous and so disobey God that way. This big word means to get too proud and bold and to try to do things that we have no business doing. Uzziah did it this way:

He decided one day that he wanted to go walking not only right into the temple, but right into the Holy Place where only the Priests descended from Aaron were allowed to go. He wanted to go in and burn incense before the LORD right in front of the veil of the Most Holy Place. When he came to do this, the priest and his helpers stopped him and told him he could not do this, and to get out of there, right away.

But Uzziah got angry and standing there with a censer in his hands tried to force his way to go and do this. How dare anyone tell him, the KING, what he could or could not do? But as he was arguing and trying to force his way to the altar, God smote him and the leprosy came out on his very forehead.

Then the priests thrust him out of the place and he hurried to go also, as he had been struck by God for his rash and foolish

actions. All the rest of his life he had that leprosy on his head and he could not return to his palace, but had to live in a separate house.

*Thought* – We need always to be careful to humbly obey God in all things, and never think we are someone special, and can do whatever we like before God!

## Tuesday

**Text: Isaiah 1:21-23 "How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them."**

Even though Judah was prosperous during the time of King Uzziah, and he did serve God, the people did not serve God with all their hearts. They went to their feasts and attended the sacrifices just as a form, something to do to please God. But they did not turn away from sin in their lives, they did not seek to have the character of God and they did not stop worshipping idols and the hosts of heaven in the groves.

In other words, they kept many pagan customs and mixed them in with the true worship. Also as they were well off, they became more harsh and greedy. They would not care for the poor or bother to help the widows, Oh, no! They would just try to get as much for themselves as they could and yet they thought they were just fine in the sight of God.

So when Isaiah began to tell them what God really thought about them, and that they really didn't know Him and He was not pleased with them, they didn't like it one bit! When he told them that God was even disgusted with their feast days and didn't want their sacrifices, they were very angry.

You see; God wanted the offering of a lamb for sin, to show the people how terrible sin was, and that it led to death. He wanted them to see that their sin would cause the death of the Son of God, to save them, and to want to get rid of sin out of their lives. But the people just felt that the lamb was a price they paid to make up to God for their sin. The gift they made excused their sins. To them it was sort of a bribe to God.

God did not want their bribes and gifts offered to Him, as if he were a heathen devil-god to be appeased. He wanted them to learn His ways, give Him their whole hearts and learn to do right because it is right! All their religious ceremonies and 'going to church' was only an insult to God, if they did not obey His Word.

**Thought** – There are people today who feel the same way, they think that because Jesus died on the cross, sin does not matter and they don't even have to seek to get it out of their lives. They say, "It was all done at the cross", and they can do as they please and still go to heaven. But no one who still has sins in their lives, that they have not repented of and stopped doing before their life ends, or when Jesus comes, will enter heaven!

### Wednesday

**Text: Isaiah 1:12-15 "When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood."**

Now the sad thing is that when the people had these ideas that their offerings and rituals were a favor they did to God and sin was not a serious matter, most of the Priests of the temple also had them and even encouraged the people in their sins! Why would they do this?

Well you see; the Priests got to keep for themselves the main part of the offerings the people would bring to the temple. So the more lambs and animals the people brought, the more wealth for the Priests. And the more the people sinned the more animals and offerings they brought. So sin was good business and many of the Priests became corrupt and delighted in sin, as it made them rich.

Now there were some faithful Priests, but as time went on, most of them got pushed aside or gotten rid of by the corrupt ones. Things got so bad that only the priests, who would promise to share the wealth with the High Priest, would get to minister in the temple at all. In the time of Jesus the High Priest was a vicious and powerful man who got the office by paying a huge amount of money and often by killing others who also wanted the job.

But the message of true prophets has always been the same, 'Turn away from sin! Stop sinning and do right! God does not want your offerings as bribes, He wants your hearts and lives turned over to Him, so He can take away your sin!'

Often the prophet was sent to stand right in the door of the temple and tell the people to stop bringing these offerings to 'bribe' the Lord, as they were an insult to the God of Heaven. Now you can imagine what the corrupt priests thought about this! So they hated God's messengers and often had them killed.

**Thought** – Things are the same today, the true messengers of God tell the people they must put away sin or they will be lost. These true messengers are most often hated. But because people want to be saved IN their sins, most ministers find it more profitable

to preach that sin is OK and not to worry about it, because Jesus' death on the cross paid for it all, and we can sin and still go to heaven as long as we go to church and pay money.

### Thursday

**Text: Isaiah 2:6-8** "Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers. Their land also is full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures; their land is also full of horses, neither is there any end of their chariots: Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made."

It was in the last year of the reign of Uzziah that Isaiah was called to be a prophet, to rebuke the sins of priests and people, and to encourage the few faithful ones who were still trying to honestly serve God in spite of being scorned and persecuted for it. He felt very hopeless about it and wondered how his work could make any difference in the terrible apostasy that seemed to be everywhere.

The rich would oppress the poor and even the judges that were commanded by God to protect the needy and poor, would rule on the side of the rich to get bribes. There was no real justice in the courts and truth seemed not to matter.

All the people thought about was making money and buying more houses and land and business profits. Because of riches, the people went in for indulging pride and appetite, having feasts and parties, revelry, entertainment and drunkenness. It seemed that they were trying to be just like Sodom and Gomorrah.

Isaiah did not feel he would get anywhere trying to take God's messages of reproof to

such people. He knew that all he would get was hate and anger and stubborn resistance to his message from God. The task seemed hopeless. Should he just give up and leave Judah to follow undisturbed their heathen ways and still think they were God's special people?

**Thought** – Isaiah little knew how precious to God's faithful children down through the centuries has been his Book containing God's messages. Thousands of years after his death, we are still being blessed by it and if you will read it for yourself, asking Jesus to help you understand it, you will be blessed and taught too.

### Friday

**Text: Isaiah 6:1-4** "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke."

Discouraged thoughts were crowding through Isaiah's mind as he stood near the entrance of the temple. Suddenly the gate and the inner veil of the temple seemed to be uplifted or withdrawn, and he could see inside, right into the holy of holies, where even the prophet's feet might not enter.

He saw a vision of the Lord sitting upon a throne high and lifted up, while the train of His glory filled the temple. On each side of the throne hovered the angels, their faces humbly covered, as they ministered before their Maker and sang together, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory," until post and pillar and cedar gate seemed shaken with the sound,



and the house was filled with their praise.

As Isaiah saw all the glory and majesty of his Lord, he was overwhelmed with a sense of the purity and holiness of God. How sharp the contrast between the matchless perfection of his Creator, and the sinful course of those who, with himself, had long been numbered among the chosen people of Israel and Judah! "Woe is me!" he cried; "for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." Verse 5.

He realized that in himself was no good thing and unless the Lord should do something for him, there was no way he could carry out the job of a prophet. As he cried out in despair and distress, and angel was sent to him to fit him for his task.

The angel took a burning coal from the altar and touched the prophets lips with it. "Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged," he said to Isaiah.

Then the voice of God was heard saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" humbly Isaiah responded, "Here am I; send

me." Verses 7, 8.

But then he asked the Lord how long he would have to bear this message and would any of the people listen to him? He was told that his message in behalf of erring Judah was not to be borne in vain. His mission was not to be wholly fruitless.

Yet the evils that had been multiplying for many generations could not be removed in his day. Throughout his lifetime he must be a patient, courageous teacher—a prophet of hope as well as of doom. The divine purpose finally accomplished, the full fruitage of his efforts, and of the labors of all God's faithful messengers, would appear. A remnant should be saved.

**Thought** - It has always been this way, even during times when it seems there are many who claim to belong to Jesus and who are planning to be in heaven, only a few really know and obey God. Only those who truly turn away from sin and give all their heart to God will ever see heaven. Only a Remnant, but you and I can choose to be in that Remnant. If we will seek to know and obey Jesus with all our heart, today and always, one day we will stand with that Remnant!  
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### Weekly Bible Lesson #8: "ISAIAH 2"

**MEMORY VERSE: "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee." Isaiah 44:22**

#### Sunday

**Text: Isaiah 44:28 "That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid." Isaiah 45:1 "Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut."**

One of the most amazing prophecies in

the Bible is found in Isaiah. At the time Isaiah was writing it, Judah had not even gone into captivity and yet God is here showing, by name, the very person who would be the one to make it possible for the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild it, after it had been destroyed. It would be more than a century before this man, Cyrus, was even born!

This prophecy was telling how Cyrus and his armies would be able to capture the Great city of Babylon, the most impossible city to capture in the whole world. It was told that the gates would not be shut. If they were shut

there is no way the city could have been captured, but on that fatal night during Belshazzar's foolish, drunken feast, the gates from the river were left open. Cyrus entered through them and Babylon was captured.

In the time of Daniel's escape from the lion's den, Cyrus' attention was brought to the prophecies and power of the God of Israel, through Daniel. Imagine how amazed he was to find his very name recorded in Hebrew Prophecy! He saw how he had taken the city in the very way the Lord said he would.

The angel Gabriel, and even Jesus Himself, were there to impress Cyrus with the desire to do as God wished him to do, and allow the Jews to return and rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple.

"As he read the message addressed to him by the Ruler of the universe, "I girded thee, though thou hast not known Me: that they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside Me;" as he saw before his eyes the declaration of the eternal God, "For Jacob My servant's sake, and Israel Mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known Me;" as he traced the inspired record, "I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build My city, and he shall let go My captives, not for price nor reward," his heart was profoundly moved, and he determined to fulfill his divinely appointed mission. Isaiah 45:5, 6, 4, 13. He would let the Judean captives go free; he would help them restore the temple of Jehovah. In a written proclamation published "throughout all his kingdom," Cyrus made known his desire to provide for the return of the Hebrews and for the rebuilding of their temple." {PK 557.2}

**Thought** - There are people today that try and tell us that God does not really know the future. They even write books full of such lies as this. But this prophecy, and many others like it, show that God does know the end from the beginning. He is never surprised by anything and so we can trust in Him to

take care of us always!

### Monday

**Text: Isaiah 63:9 "In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them: in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bare them, and carried them all the days of old."**

Part of the message, which Isaiah was called to tell to the rulers and people, was about the character of God. Because of the influence of paganism and heathen ideas, the idea had come in that God was a harsh tyrant and the sacrifices and ceremonies were meant to somehow 'keep Him happy' so He would bless them.

Even from the time that God had lead Israel out of Egypt, they had false ideas about what God was really like. Except for a few faithful ones, here and there down through the ages, man has mostly believed the lies of Satan, who has led men to look upon their Creator as the author of sin and suffering and death. Those who believed Satan's lies, imagined that God was hard and exacting. They thought He was just watching so He could denounce and condemn them.

Satan deceived men into believing that God was unwilling to receive the sinner so long as there was a legal excuse for not helping him. The law of love by which heaven is ruled, he had presented to men as a restriction upon men's happiness, a burdensome yoke from which they should be glad to escape. He declared that it could not be obeyed and that God would punish some and excuse others, just according to His mood. These lies are still believed today, even by professed 'Christians'.

Israel had no excuse to not know what God was really like. Over and over He had shown them and told them about His love for them. Remember what Moses was shown when he asked to see God's Glory?

Exodus 34:6,7 "And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The

LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty.” What was His glory? It was His character.

Why do so many seem to prefer to think of God as a harsh tyrant? It is because they want an excuse to rebel and disobey Him. You see, if we do something wrong to someone, and we don't want to be sorry for it, we will make up a lie in our minds that the other person was mean, or something like that, so we can feel alright about the wrong we do to them.

When we know what God is really like, we see there is no excuse for anyone to sin against Him!

**Thought** – Think carefully about how you understand God's character. How do you see Him? Is He like a loving Father to you, or like some harsh being on a throne just waiting to punish you? How we see the character of God, affects our whole life, now and forever.

## Tuesday

**Text: Isaiah 53:6,7 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.”**

As we learned last week, the 53<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Isaiah tells about the life of Jesus when He was on the earth. It clearly shows Him as a suffering sacrifice, an innocent Lamb, slain to bear the punishment that was due to sinners.

He took our place under the load of sin, and bore it all until it crushed out His life on Calvary. Was it the nails and the cross that killed Jesus? No, the thieves were nailed

to the cross too, and they were still alive in the evening. In fact people crucified often lived for days.

The order came in the evening from the priests, to break the men's legs so they would die quickly and could be taken down before the Sabbath. Once their legs were broken, they were unable to push themselves up so to be able to breath and they died very soon. But just like the Passover Lamb, no bone of Jesus was ever broken.

“Who killed Jesus, many years ago?

Who was guilty of a crime so low?

Why did He have to die? What is the reason why?

Who killed Jesus? I would like to know.”

What killed Jesus? Your sins and mine! Verse 5 “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

**Thought** – We are told that Jesus would have gone through all that, if only one person would be saved. That one person could be you or me. When you see what Jesus did, remember it was for you, and His promises and love are all for you personally too.

## Wednesday

**Text: Isaiah 1:1 “The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.”**

Hosea 1:1 “The word of the LORD that came unto Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.”

Micah 1:1 “The word of the LORD that came to Micah the Morasthite in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.”

Conditions were very bad in Judah, as we learned last week. Isaiah was bearing his

messages and few of the people listened to him. God also had at least two other prophets bearing messages from Him in the land at the same time. Hosea and Micah. They also left books, which are in our Bible, for us to read today.

During the reign of Jotham, things improved a little, as he “did that which was right in the sight of the LORD” but “the people did yet corruptly”. 2 Chronicles 27:2. The people did not turn from their wicked ways and idol worship and paganism continued to be practiced along side of the worship of the God of Heaven.

Jotham had a prosperous reign, but when he died things got very much worse. Ahaz, his son came to be king at the young age of 20 years. He openly followed paganism and worshipped idols. He even offered his own children to idols as burned offerings. During his reign, rulers and leaders who before had at least outwardly followed the Lord, began to really push the practices of idolatry on the people.

Isaiah and the other prophets put forth message after message of loving warnings from God. The Great God of the Universe humbly pleaded with the people to repent and return to Him and He would forgive and heal them.

Why did God keep pleading and trying to help these people when nearly all of them were doing terrible things before His eyes and would not listen at all to His messages?

For the sake of the few who remain faithful, and for the sake of some who do hear and return to the Lord, God keeps pleading and blessing a people who deserve only to be destroyed! But soon God allowed enemies to attack from Syria and Israel and the kingdom suffered much decline under Ahaz.

**Thought** – Why does God hate sin? Because He knows that any sin at all, unless put away, would eventually destroy the whole Universe!

### Thursday

**Text: Isaiah 7:14-16** “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good. For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings.”

Ahaz was a wicked king, and yet God offered to help him against his enemies and even gave him one of the most precious promises about the Messiah. Of course the prophecy was for all the people and for us as well. It is the prophecy telling that the Messiah would be born to a virgin and He would be called ‘Immanuel’ which means, “God with us.”

God promised Ahaz that the enemies banded together would not be able to harm him, if he would only trust in the God of Heaven and obey Him. Imagine how kind and generous God was to offer to help this wicked king!

It would have been so good if Ahaz would have trusted in the word of God, but he did not. Instead he sent a present to the Assyrian king asking him to come and help him fight against Syria and Ephraim. Ahaz preferred to lean on the arm of men rather than to trust the word of God.

The Assyrians did help, and things improved, but only for a short time. The rich treasure Ahaz had sent as a present to the Assyrian king, caused that greedy king to decide they wanted more of such riches. Soon they attacked Judah as well. Now Ahaz had double trouble.

Did he repent and turn to God? No, he hated God more and more, because he could



not have his own way. One of the last things he did before he died, was to have the doors of the temple closed, so no one could worship God at His temple any more!

**Thought** – Think about what the words, “God with us”, mean to you and me. What if God got fed up and turned away from all of us forever? We would be lost with no hope, helpless victims of Satan’s cruelty.

### Friday

**Text: Isaiah 8:3, 4 “And I went unto the prophetess; and she conceived, and bare a son. Then said the LORD to me, Call his name Mahershalalhashbaz. For before the child shall have knowledge to cry, My father, and my mother, the riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria shall be taken away before the king of Assyria.”**

God told Isaiah to do some strange things to make living prophecies to the people. His wife was also a prophetess, and they had children. One boy was named Shearjashub, and another Mahershalalhashbaz. How would you like to have that for a name?

Isaiah told the people; “Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.” Isaiah 8:18. The names of these children were prophetic warnings.

When he was told by God to go out and meet Ahaz in a certain place, he was to have

his son, Shearjashub with him. This name means, ‘A Remnant will return.’ Mahershalalhashbaz, means ‘hastening to the spoil’, in other words, enemies were coming to attack Judah and take away her treasures.

At one time Isaiah was told to do something that must have been hard for him to do, but he obeyed God totally and did it faithfully. Read about it here:

“At the same time spake the LORD by Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, Go and loose the sackcloth from off thy loins, and put off thy shoe from thy foot. And he did so, walking naked and barefoot.” Isaiah 20:2

And he did not do it just one day either:

Isa 20:3 “And the LORD said, Like as my servant Isaiah hath walked naked and barefoot three years for a sign and wonder upon Egypt and upon Ethiopia...”

He did it for three whole years! This was to warn that the Egyptians, whom Judah was counting on to help them, were going to be taken away naked as slaves by the Assyrians.

**Thought** - God used every means to try and get His messages across to the people, and Isaiah faithfully carried the messages, whether in writing, by voice, or even object lessons. One thing that God will not do though, is to force anyone to obey Him. He pleads and warns and encourages all to come to Him and promises to save them from sin, but each must choose for himself if he will accept God’s salvation - or stay in rebellion and be lost. = ^ .. ^ =



**Weekly Bible Lesson #9: "ISAIAH AND HEZEKIAH"**

**MEMORY VERSE: "Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets. 2 Kings 17:13"**

**Sunday**

**Text: 2 Kings 17:12-14 "For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing. Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets. Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God. 17:1,2 "In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began Hoshea the son of Elah to reign in Samaria over Israel nine years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him."**

We learned how Ahaz was a stubborn and wicked king. Even though the Lord offered to help him if he would obey Him, he refused and the last act of his life was to close up the temple of God so none could worship there.

After he died, his son, Hezekiah came to the throne in Judah and surprisingly enough, he was a true worshipper of the God of Heaven. He must have had a godly mother! He got busy to open the house of God again and put things to rights. But many of the people continued their false worship anyway, often in secret.

A man named Hoshea came to be king over the 10 tribes of Israel who had broken away in the time of Rehoboam. At first he tried to make a deal with the King of Assyria when he came to attack Israel, he paid a lot

of money and riches to him, but he also broke his deal with Assyria and then they came and attacked and destroyed Israel completely, carrying away both the King and the people. This was in the fourth year of Hezekiah's rule. Nothing was left now but Judah.

Why did God allow Israel to be wiped out forever? Had he not promised to protect them and that they would be His special people for always?

Yes, indeed He had, but the promises of God's blessings have two sides to them, what God is willing to do is one side. The other side is what the people must do if they expect Him to do His part.

Both Israel and Judah had sinned terribly against God. You can read all about why God destroyed Israel and let trouble come to Judah in the 17<sup>th</sup> of 2 Kings. They never turned back from the idol worship that Jeroboam started and finally God removed them out of His sight - forever.

Now something interesting happened; after the Assyrians had removed the Israelites from the capitol Samaria, they sent some people from other heathen nations to come and live there. But the Lord would not have it. He sent LIONS into the city and killed many of the people.

So the king of Assyria sent some of the Israelites back to teach those at Samaria how to honor the God of Heaven so that the lions would go away. They did this but the religion of the Samaritans was a mixture of true and false and so it remained until the days of Jesus.

**Thought** - If we expected to have God's Promises and God's Blessings, we must fulfill the conditions. God cannot and will not bless those who refuse to obey His word and

listen to His prophets.

### Monday

**Text: Isaiah 36:1,2 “Now it came to pass in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah, that Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the defenced cities of Judah, and took them. And the king of Assyria sent Rabshakeh from Lachish to Jerusalem unto king Hezekiah with a great army. And he stood by the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller’s field.”**

Ten years after the fall of Israel, the armies of Assyria were back again, this time they were after Judah. They attacked and captured many of the defenced cities and finally here they were camped outside the city of Jerusalem to try to force it to surrender.

Up came Rabshakeh and boldly and defiantly called for the city to give up and surrender. He made a big mistake though; he openly defied the True God, and declared He could not defend the city against him and his troops. He declared loudly that it was useless for them to trust in the God of Hezekiah to help them.

The ones, who received this message from the Proud Assyrian, tore their cloths and hurried to tell the King. He tore his cloths, put on sackcloth, and hurried to the temple to pray. He also sent messengers to the prophet Isaiah to tell him how these Assyrians had defied the God of Heaven and maybe, just maybe, God would take action to save the little bit of the kingdom that was left.

Isaiah sent a message from God to Hezekiah telling him to be not afraid, that God had heard the proud boasts of Rabshakeh, and that he would hear a rumor and return to his own land, and while there he would be killed by the sword. He did hear the rumor and went away.

Then Sennacherib, the King of Assyria, sent a rude letter to Hezekiah blaspheming

God and promising to return and destroy the city. That was not smart.

Hezekiah took the letter and spread it before the Lord in the temple and God sent a message by Isaiah saying that God heard the blasphemy of the Assyrian king and that He would defend Jerusalem and the daughter of Jerusalem would shake her head at Sennacherib and despise him.

Isa 37:33 Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it.

Thought – It is wise and good to take all of our troubles, small and large before the Lord. He will help and guide us but we have to ask for that help and want it.

### Tuesday

**Text: Isaiah 37:36 “Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.”**

Imagine the surprise of this haughty, boastful king of Assyria when the next day when the bugle was blown to awake the soldiers in the camp only a few straggled from their tents. The rest were dead! A hundred and eighty-five thousand men of them!

Now when you see pictures of cute little babies with wings on and people tell you that these are what angels are like, you don’t believe it! This was one angel sent from God to do what God said to be done, and he struck all those people dead, just like what happened in Egypt when the angel slew the first-born.

Now Sennacherib had no choice but to go home, but even there his troubles did not end. His sons sneaked up on him while he was worshipping his idol god, and they killed him. Truly it is not a smart idea to fight against the God of Heaven.

It is important to notice the difference

between Ahaz and Hezekiah. God even sent the prophet to Ahaz offering to help him if he would just listen to the prophet and trust God. But Ahaz would not listen. Instead he sent to other kings and asked them for help and despised the God of Heaven.

Now Hezekiah, as soon as he was in trouble, prayed to God and sent to the prophet to ask God for help. And God helped Hezekiah, and He did not use man's help at all. Assyria did not come back to attack Jerusalem all the years that Hezekiah reigned.

**Thought** – It is better to have the help of God than the help of people.

### Wednesday

**Text: Isaiah 38:1, 2 “In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live. Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD.”**

Years went by and Hezekiah did that which was good in the sight of the Lord, but still the people of Judah did not completely stop their heathen worship. One day Hezekiah was ill and God's message came to him from Isaiah the prophet to get ready to die.

Hezekiah did not want to die right then and so he wept and prayed to God to spare his life. Actually, God, as always, did know what was best, and it would have been good if Hezekiah had just got ready and died at that time. But God did hear his prayer and He kindly sent Isaiah back to the king with the message that He would allow him to have another fifteen years to live. Then God said that as a sign that this was true, He would send the sun back in the sky 15 degrees.

Isaiah then told the king's attendants to put a plaster of figs onto the sore the king had and it would get better. So it did.

What an amazing thing happened when

the sun went back! Totally impossible according to men's science, but it was done. Now just imagine all the heathen sun worshippers all over the place watching the sun and all of a sudden- it jumps backward a space! They wondered what it meant, and soon the word spread out that the God of Heaven had done it as a sign to Hezekiah, king of Judah.

Now this word came to Babylon, which was only beginning to grow into a world power under Merodach-baladan its king. He sent a gift and a letter to Hezekiah and asked the messengers to find out all about this wonderful God who could do such a wonderful thing.

**Thought** – Was there some magic in the figs that were put onto Hezekiah's sore? What was the power that cured the king? Always remember God can use the simplest things to help us if we believe and obey Him.

### Thursday

**Text: Isaiah 39:5, 6 “Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of hosts: Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD.”**

Now when this group of important men came to the palace in Jerusalem from the far away city of Babylon to see Hezekiah, he was very pleased. He accepted their gift but sad to say he did not tell them all about the wonderful God of heaven that had done the miracles.

God had given Hezekiah a chance to do really important missionary work, but he blew it altogether. Instead of telling them about the God of Heaven, he boasted about what a great king he was and began to show off.

He took the men to his treasure rooms and showed them all his riches. He gave them rich feasts and entertained them. He showed



them all his military defenses and fancy buildings. He even showed them his perfumes and fancy clothes. Then he took them out on a tour and showed them every fancy thing in the whole kingdom.

Never did he wake up to the foolishness and selfishness of what he was doing. You see, God's way would have been for Hezekiah to have died before he made this terrible mistake. Then we would not have any bad mark against this king in his whole life. Now he was dishonoring the very God of Heaven who had spared his life and showing off just like some heathen king would do.

The time of the visit of the nobles from Babylon passed and they returned to their king, not knowing any more about the God of Heaven than they did before they made the trip. In fact, they decided that the sun going backward was not the doing of Hezekiah's God, but just some freak of nature. This had been a test to Hezekiah to show praise and gratitude to God for what He had done for him, but he flunked it, royally!

As soon as they left, Isaiah was sent to ask Hezekiah, "What did they see in your house?"

"Oh, I showed them all my treasure," boasted the foolish king. Sadly Isaiah told him that all the things he showed to those men would one day be all taken away to Babylon, and even his descendants would be eunuchs and slaves in the service of the King of Babylon.

Hezekiah then woke up to the foolishness of his pride and showing off. He was sorry, and all Jerusalem was sorry too. God was so kind and merciful to Hezekiah, he was told these things would not happen in his lifetime.

**Thought** – When you visit with people or have them visit you, do you try to tell them about your wonderful Jesus? Or do you just show off and talk about worldly things?

## Friday

**Text: 2 Chronicles 33:9 "Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen."**

Now the question arises, would God punish the future generations for the foolish mistake Hezekiah had made? Not if they did what was right, He certainly wouldn't. But God knew that most of the people were only too glad for an excuse to do wrong and when the good king Hezekiah died, they got their chance.

Manasseh was now King, and only twelve years old. He was not like his father, Oh No! He was determined to push forward terrible evils and most of the people followed him. Manasseh was into witchcraft and consulted with magicians and wizards. He put idols into the Temple of God and offered even his children as burnt offerings to the sun god. When people who once knew truth, turn to error, they become more wicked than those who never knew the truth.

But there were many who had fully turned to the Lord during the time of Hezekiah. They had developed strong characters to do right and when these evils came to the land, they would not go along with them.

This enraged the proud young king, and he determined to get rid of all who would dare speak against him. A terrible persecution came, and many perished of the true followers of God. Isaiah was among the first. He was put into a log and sawn in two. How cruel! But he will have a place in heaven.

In spite of this, other prophets faithfully continued their warnings. Fearlessly they spoke to Manasseh and to his people; but the messages were scorned; backsliding Judah would not heed. Then the Lord permitted their king to be captured by a band of Assyrian soldiers, who "bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon," their temporary capital.

Amazingly the terrible treatment woke up

the king and he repented and realized he had been wrong. He was converted and pleaded with God to show mercy on him. Remarkably, God did show mercy on him and forgave him. He even allowed the king to return to his throne in Jerusalem.

Manasseh now served the Lord, but it was too late to save the kingdom. Soon he died and his own son Amon came to the throne, full of the wicked example of his father. He

was so evil that his own servants killed him and put the boy, Josiah on the throne instead.

**Thought** - How amazing is the mercy of God that when even a wicked person like Manasseh truly repents, God will hear his prayer and forgive him. Imagine how surprised Isaiah will be to meet Manasseh in the Kingdom! = ^ .. ^ =

### Weekly Bible Lesson #10: "JOSIAH AND JEREMIAH"

**MEMORY VERSE: "Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number." Jeremiah 2:32**

#### Sunday

**Text: 2 Kings 22:1,2 "Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left."**

As we learned last week, Josiah, the eight-year-old son of Amon, came to the throne after his father died for his wickedness at the hands of his own servants. The people executed the murdering servants and then put the boy Josiah on the throne. By this time the northern kingdom of Israel had been destroyed and the land of Judah was all that remained of the once great nation of Israel. How great they could have been if only they had listened to God's messengers and obeyed His Word.

Josiah was to rule for thirty-one years, the faithful ones in the kingdom began to hope for better days, for the new king, though only eight years old, feared God, and from the very beginning "he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left." 2 Kings 22:2.

Born of a wicked king, he had tempta-

tions to follow in his father's steps, and few helpers to guide him in the right way. But Josiah determined to be true to the God of Israel and chose to do right. He decided he would obey all the counsel God had given to guide the kings of Israel, and so God was able to bless and help him.

Although many prophets had been killed by Manasseh, including Isaiah, God sent more during the time of Josiah. Habakkuk was one of them. It was during the reign of Josiah the word of the Lord also came to Zephaniah. And in the thirteenth year of Josiah's reign, God called Jeremiah to the task.

The messages of these prophets as well as the determination of King Josiah to obey the Lord started a revival that helped delay the fall of Jerusalem.

**Thought** - Even when one is a child, they can determine to obey the Lord.

#### Monday

**Text: 2 Kings 22:10,11 "And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiyah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes."**

Now one of the first things Josiah did was to order the temple to be cleaned up and repaired. As the priests were doing this they found a copy of the Book of the Law, which had been lost and hidden away for many years.

In the early years of Hezekiah, he had commanded that this book, actually part of our Bible, should be read to the people every week. But through carelessness it was lost and as wickedness increased, there was little interest in finding it.

Now Hilkiah the priest found this book and gave it to Shaphan the scribe, to take to the king. Josiah asked him to read it and he listened closely. Now he felt really bad and tore his clothes as he realized how terribly far they had gone from the true Word of God.

The king called for the priests to come and then he sent them to ask of the Lord if there was any hope for Jerusalem to be spared. They went straight to Huldah the prophetess and asked her to ask the Lord about this for the king.

Soon the answer came from God through the prophetess. God said that because of all the wickedness, of the people His wrath would fall on Jerusalem. But He also said to Josiah, that because he had humbled his heart and wept before the Lord, God had heard him and the terrible destruction, which surely was coming, would not happen in the time of his reign. This greatly encouraged the king.

**Thought** – There is a power in the reading of the true Word of God that is not found in any other book! Read from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy every day and you will find that power.

## Tuesday

**Text: 1 Kings 13:2 “And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee**

**shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men’s bones shall be burnt upon thee.”**

Josiah was another man whose name was foretold long before he was born. If you remember the story of the man of God who came to prophesy against Jereboam and his altar in the words of our text. Now these words were about to be fulfilled.

When Josiah got the message from the Prophetess, he called a meeting of all the leaders and elders in Judah and he himself read the book of the law to them. Then he stood by a pillar and solemnly made a covenant before God to keep what was written in that book and to obey God. The Elders and people stood also and vowed the covenant with him.

He then wasted no time but put the priests and temple workers to work to remove all the stuff used for heathen worship out of the temple of the Lord and burn them and carry away their ashes.

He got rid of the heathen priests of Baal and got rid of the groves and fancy gardens where the people worshipped the idols. He got rid of those who did wicked and unclean acts in the name of pagan worship.

He destroyed the place where the people and even the kings had offered their children to Baal. He burned up the chariots of the sun, and got rid of the horses the kings before him had given to the sun god. He kept right on going, breaking down false altars, smashing the idols and even destroying the heathen temples that Solomon had built for his wives’ gods.

Then he came to a place where stood an ancient altar surrounded with the graves of those who had worshipped and burned offerings to heathen gods. This was the very altar of Jereboam, who had set up idols in the nation of Israel to prevent them from going to Jerusalem to worship God. Josiah ordered that the bones of the people be dug up and taken out of their graves and burned on the altar and then he saw the grave of the

prophet of God.

“What is that?” he asked. And then he was told the story of the man of God and the prophecy he had made that mentions Josiah by name and said he would do the very thing he had just finished doing, burn men’s bones on that very altar. Josiah ordered that grave was not to be disturbed, but he went on his way breaking down altars and idols throughout the land.

**Thought** – Josiah didn’t just talk about doing right, he got busy and did something about the wicked idols and altars and destroyed them. If you have wrong things in your home, be like Josiah and get them out and destroy them!

### Wednesday

**Text: 2 Kings 23:19, 20** “And all the houses also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke the LORD to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Bethel. And he slew all the priests of the high places that were there upon the altars, and burned men’s bones upon them, and returned to Jerusalem.”

Josiah did not even stop with Judah, he went to Bethel and then even on to Samaria and destroyed the heathen idols, groves and priests. Then he returned to Jerusalem. Josiah also arrested the witches, wizards and fortunetellers and had them executed.

Then he ordered that the Passover be celebrated. The temple was all prepared and the people came to celebrate the Passover in the way the Bible said to do it. It was a wonderful time of revival.

Josiah was an amazing king. The Bible tells us: “And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like

him”. 2 Kings 23:5

But the Lord still said that Jerusalem would be destroyed. Why was this? Would not the Lord be merciful to those who repented? Yes, He would and He was, but God knew that most of the people had only followed Josiah because he was king, but they had not themselves turned from their paganism in their hearts. As soon as Josiah would be gone, they would go right back to it.

Josiah reigned for 31 years and when only 39 he was killed in battle when he had gone up to fight against the forces of Egypt. He was brought back and buried with great sadness in his own sepulcher.

**Thought** – God has forbidden people to be witches or wizards, or to have anything to do with them. Whether they know it themselves or not, they are the servants of Satan. Even to read or watch stories about these things, even if we don’t believe in them, makes a highway for Satan to come in to deceive and tempt us.

### Thursday

**Text: Jeremiah 1:6-8** “Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.”

Jeremiah was a young Levite being trained for work in the temple. He was just a youth when God called him as a prophet. He felt he could not do this job, “Ah, Lord God, I am a child,” he said. But God said, “Say not I am a child.” Then God touched his mouth and told him He had put His words in Jeremiah’s mouth.

God gave him an interesting message for himself. He told him that he would have to speak the messages of rebuke to the people



and the leaders and that he was not to let the rejection of those messages, or the anger and hatred bother him but to keep right on speaking and writing the messages God would give him.

God even gave him a special promise of help: "And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee." Jeremiah 1:19.

For forty years, Jeremiah was to stand as a witness for truth and righteousness. In a time of gross apostasy he was to show in life and character the worship of the only true God. During the terrible sieges of Jerusalem he spoke the messages from God. He was to predict the downfall of the house of David and the destruction of the beautiful temple built by Solomon. And when imprisoned because of his fearless words, he was still to speak plainly against sin in high places.

He is known as the weeping prophet. Despised, hated, rejected of men, he was finally to witness the literal fulfillment of his own prophecies of impending doom, and share in the sorrow and woe that should follow the destruction of the fated city.

In the messages of Jeremiah we can see clearly that if only the people would have returned to God with an honest heart, He would not have allowed Jerusalem to be destroyed. But no matter how kindly and earnestly God spoke to the people and begged them to return to Him, they hardened their hearts and stopped their ears.

**Thought** – It is not enough to just follow a good leader, we need to each one know God personally and serve Him with an honest heart.

## Friday

**Text: Jeremiah 4:23-25** "I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled."

Jeremiah was shown many things beyond his own days as well. He saw not only the destruction of Jerusalem and the carrying away into captivity of the Jews, he also saw and predicted when they would be allowed to return and rebuild.

In our text above we see something even more amazing, he was shown what this old earth will look like during the time when no one is left alive on it except the devil and his angels! These texts show the earth after Jesus has come and taken the faithful to heaven. All the wicked are killed by the brightness of Jesus coming and the terrible earthquake has broken the cities down. In fact as he looks, he sees the hills and mountains still shaking.

Where else do we see some of these same words? Notice: "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." Genesis 1:2

This was before life was created on this earth. Now Jeremiah sees it again brought back to darkness and emptiness. The word 'void' means empty. For one thousand years it will stay like that, and Satan and his nasty bunch will have nothing they can do except walk up and down and see the mess they made of things.

I hope each one of us will be at home with Jesus in heaven during those days when the earth is again dark and empty.

**Thought** - If the messages of Jeremiah go all the way to the time after the 2<sup>nd</sup> return of Jesus, we know they also apply to us today. = ^ .. ^ =

**Weekly Bible Lesson #11: "JEREMIAH, TEARS AND TRIALS"**

**MEMORY VERSE: "And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee." Jeremiah 1:19**

**Sunday**

**Text: Jeremiah 16:1, 2 "The word of the LORD came also unto me, saying, Thou shalt not take thee a wife, neither shalt thou have sons or daughters in this place."**

Remember how Isaiah had children whose names were prophecies to Israel? Well, God asked something different of Jeremiah, He told him not to marry and have any family. Why was this? Because of the times Jeremiah would go through, it would be so much easier for him to be single.

You may have noticed these days that so much of people's attention is caught up with the opposite sex. Dating, trying to meet other people who are looking for mates and so on is the big subject with all too many, even so-called Christians. Jesus warned that just before His return, people would be all caught up in marrying and getting married, and they would be like the people before the flood and like the filthy people in Sodom.

So many get the idea that they just have to get married, they just can't manage on their own and so they dash off to do this. Often later they regret and are just as eager to break up the marriage. Then do they learn to leave this subject with God? Ah, no, not usually, they dash off again and get into another unwise marriage.

Jeremiah was content to obey God, and God made Jeremiah content to remain unmarried. No matter what our circumstances are, God will keep us and protect us from sin, if we choose His ways and trust in Him. Marriage is not wrong in itself, but each person needs to seek God to know what is right for them. We can safely leave this choice to God, and trust Him to lead us and to keep us pure.

There are indeed times when it is wise to stay unmarried. Paul was not married either,

and though he did not say marriage was wrong, he also said there were times it was better to be unmarried. Never, never should we think it is so important to be married, that we would marry one who does not believe the truths for these last days!!

**Thought** - God does not want His people all caught up in the world's idea of dating and flirting with one another. It is much more important to seek God than a husband or wife.

**Monday**

**Text: Jeremiah 19:1,10,11 "Thus saith the LORD, Go and get a potter's earthen bottle, and take of the ancients of the people, and of the ancients of the priests; 10,11,Then shalt thou break the bottle in the sight of the men that go with thee, And shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Even so will I break this people and this city, as one breaketh a potter's vessel, that cannot be made whole again: and they shall bury them in Tophet, till there be no place to bury."**

Jeremiah did not have an easy job being the Prophet of the Lord. Over and over, God sent messages to the leaders and the people by Jeremiah, and he went and told the messages faithfully. They were not sweet messages full of flowers, Oh, No! They were warnings that unless the people repented and changed their ways, the nation would be destroyed!

Sometimes Jeremiah was sent to stand in the very doors of the temple and give these terrible warnings. Sometimes he was sent to the gates of the city and in our text we see him told to get a clay bottle, and then take some of the leaders to the place that had

been where they worshipped idols and sacrificed their children, called Tophet. (This name means the place of drumming, as the beat of drums *always* goes with devil worship)

At that place he was to break the bottle and tell them that because of their evil ways, God would break them and their city. Terrible times were coming unless they repented and returned to God.

Did the people listen? They heard, but they didn't listen. They hated Jeremiah for his hard words, but inside they could not deny that his words were true! But they felt they were just fine as a people, they were proud and determined to do their own ways. They loved their pagan holidays and celebration worship. How they wished they could get rid of Jeremiah!!

**Thought** – It is easy to go to church, have lots of fun times, celebrate holidays and ceremonies, feel real good about ourselves- yet not know God at all.

## Tuesday

**Text: Jeremiah 20:1,2 “Now Pashur the son of Immer the priest, who was also chief governor in the house of the LORD, heard that Jeremiah prophesied these things. Then Pashur smote Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the high gate of Benjamin, which was by the house of the LORD.”**

It wasn't long before Jeremiah began to be punished, beaten and fastened in stocks. Did this make him afraid to speak the words from God?

Oh, No! When this chief ruler Pashur came to take Jeremiah out of the stocks, thinking that now, the Prophet would be afraid to speak evil of him anymore, Jeremiah just told him to his face, “The LORD hath not called thy name Pashur, but Magormissabib.” What does that funny name mean? It meant, ‘surrounded by fear’. The prophet just went right on telling him what

terrible things were going to happen and that Pashur would go captive to Babylon and die there.

Never did Jeremiah give into fear of the rulers but there were times when he poured out his sorrow to God. None of us like to be hated all the time. He told God how he tried to be quiet and just keep the words God gave him to himself, but then it was like a fire in his bones. He had to speak the truth the Lord gave him.

He told God how it was so hard to have all the people just watching to catch something to throw at him, and twisting his words to mean something else. His life was a lot like what Jesus went through later. He even told God that he even wished he had never been born. But still he loved the Lord, and His truth and God gave him strength to keep on going.

Soon the King sent men to ask him if God would fight for them and deliver them from the Babylonian enemy. Jeremiah told him that God said, “And I myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and with a strong arm, even in anger, and in fury, and in great wrath. And I will smite the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast: they shall die of a great pestilence.” Jer 21:5,6.

He advised the king to surrender to Nebuchadnezzar because God could not defend them as they were so wicked. But anyone who surrendered would have their lives spared. If the king would surrender, then the city would be spared and not burned.

How angry the king and all the rulers were to be told this. Jerusalem was later burned to the ground, where if the king had listened, it would not have been burned.

**Thought** – We are always safe to talk over our trials and sorrow with Jesus. He is the only One who can really help us anyway.

## Wednesday

**Text: Jeremiah 28:15-17 “Then said the prophet Jeremiah unto Hananiah the prophet, Hear now, Hananiah; The LORD**

**hath not sent thee; but thou makest this people to trust in a lie. Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will cast thee from off the face of the earth: this year thou shalt die, because thou hast taught rebellion against the LORD. So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month."**

There were many false prophets at the time of Jeremiah. While the true prophet of God was warning that the city was going to fall and unless they surrendered, they would really suffer, the false prophets were saying, "Don't worry! We are God's special people. God will take care of us. Nebuchadnezzar can never conquer our city."

One day God told Jeremiah to make wooden yokes, like the harness they put on an ox to have him pull a load. He was to go to the kings round about, give each one a yoke, and tell each one that if they would surrender to Nebuchadnezzar and serve him, they would not die.

When he came to give the yoke to the King Zedekiah of Judah, there was a false prophet named Hananiah, there who was telling the people that the Lord told him that within two years all the things the Babylonians had taken away from the temple would be brought back and they would never be captured by Babylon.

Did Jeremiah get angry with this false prophet? No, he said, "Amen, the Lord do this." But he warned, "The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the LORD hath truly sent him." Jer 28:9

Then Hananiah even had the nerve to take the wooden yoke off of Jeremiah's neck and break it to pieces. He told the people that God would break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar off of them like he broke Jeremiah's wooden yoke.

Jeremiah told him he was lying to the people and the Lord had not sent him. He told the false prophet that his lies would

make things harder for the people, like making a yoke of iron for them. He also warned that because of his lying in the name of the Lord, Hananiah would die, and soon, he did die.

*Thought* – We cannot judge if a prophet is true or false by how sweet his message sounds to our ears. Usually those who tell us things we enjoy hearing, are false prophets. Better a true message from God, even if it hurts, than a sweet, lovey message from Satan.

### Thursday

**Text: Jeremiah 36:2,3 "Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day. It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin."**

God told Jeremiah to write all the prophecies down in a book. So he did. By this time the King was very angry with him, for telling him that Jerusalem would be captured. But the prophet just kept telling the truth.

He got the scribe Baruch to help him and he wrote the word of the Lord into a book. Then he sent Baruch to read it in the temple. When he did this, the princes and rulers all heard about it and asked for it to be read to them. So it was read to them.

Then they said they would tell the King about this. The rulers took the scroll and told Baruch and Jeremiah to hide. Now it was King Jehoiakim at that time and they went and told him about the words of the scroll, but they hid the scroll in the home of the scribe.

The King demanded to hear the scroll read to him, so it was brought and read to



him. Now this king was very wicked and stubborn, when he heard a few pages, he grabbed his penknife and cut the pages off and burned them in the fire set before him as the weather was cold. He did this until the book was all burned up.

Then he sent out to capture Jeremiah and Baruch but the Lord hid them. Then the Lord told them to take another scroll and write the book again and write even more in it, and so they did.

What happened to this king who took the Word of God and cut it up and burned it? God said he would die and not even be properly buried, but would be thrown out like a dead donkey! He was rejected by God, and his name does not even appear in the list of Jesus ancestors. God does not excuse people who cut parts out of His word!

**Thought** – It is important to realize that all the modern versions of the Bible cut out many words from the true Bible, and change many others. Those who make these false Bibles and who tell others to read them, may be popular now, but will one day be cast out like a dead donkey also!!

### Friday

**Text: Jeremiah 38:12,13 “And Ebedmelech the Ethiopian said unto Jeremiah, Put now these old cast clouts and rotten rags under thine armholes under the cords. And Jeremiah did so. So they drew up Jeremiah with cords, and took him up out of the dungeon: and Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison.”**

Many times Jeremiah was threatened with death, but because he remained true the Lord protected him as He had promised. Finally the cruel rulers got permission from the king to imprison Jeremiah and they lowered him into a dungeon. Actually, this was like a sewer, and there was poor Jeremiah sunk in the muck.

Poor Jeremiah, surely this looked like the end for him. But God found a friend for his

servant right in the court of the King. Ebedmelech the Ethiopian servant found out what had happened and he hurried to the King and pleaded for Jeremiah to be rescued.

So the king sent Ebedmelech with thirty men to the place where Jeremiah was in the dungeon. This servant man did a very kind thing, he took some old rags and let them down to Jeremiah so he could put them under his arms and the rope would not hurt him as they pulled him out of the filthy hole.

God later sent a special message to Ebedmelech, telling him that because of his kindness, he would be protected by God when Jerusalem fell. So Jeremiah was rescued.

Now the king pretended not to believe in Jeremiah, but really he did. He secretly called Jeremiah to talk to him. He asked him to tell him the words of the Lord. But Jeremiah said to him, “If I tell you, you will only put me to death!”

So the King promised not to harm him. Jeremiah then pled with the king, telling him that if he would only surrender to Nebuchadnezzar as the Lord said, he would not die and the city would not be burned. Many lives would be spared if only the king would listen to the prophet.

But he did not; instead he tried to escape and was captured. His sons were killed and his eyes put out. He was taken to Babylon and there executed. All this would not have happened if he had stopped being stubborn and listened to the Lord.

Jeremiah was treated kindly by Nebuchadnezzar and allowed to go wherever he wanted to. He chose to stay with the people left in the land of Judah.

**Thought** - Even after every word that Jeremiah had told the people had come true, most still refused to listen and obey the Lord! Let us not be stubborn like that today!!  
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### Weekly Bible Lesson #12: "EZEKIEL"

**MEMORY VERSE: "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."**

**1 Corinthians 10:11**

#### Sunday

**Text: Ezekiel 1:4-6 "And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire. Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings."**

Remember how Jeremiah's message was to tell the people that God was going to allow them to be captured and the city destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar? Well, first some of the people were captured and taken to Babylon. In one of the early batches was the young prince Daniel, who later became a prophet for the Lord.

Later as the city fell and many were taken captive to Babylon, one of them was a priest named Ezekiel. Jeremiah lived at the same time but he did not go to Babylon.

The Word of the Lord came to Ezekiel as he was sitting on the banks of the river Chebar and praying and thinking sadly about all the things that had happened to his people. Ezekiel was weighed down with sad memories and fears. The land of his fathers was desolate. Jerusalem was destroyed. The prophet himself was a stranger in a land where ambition and cruelty reigned supreme. As on every hand he saw tyranny and wrong, his soul was distressed, and he mourned day and night.

All at once God showed him a wonderful site. He saw a whirlwind seeming to come from the north, "a great cloud, and a fire

infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the color of amber." A number of wheels, overlapping one another, were moved by four living beings. High above all these "was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it." "And there appeared in the cherubims the form of a man's hand under their wings." Ezekiel 1:4, 26, 10:8.

The wheels were so complicated that they seemed to be in confusion; but they moved in perfect harmony. Heavenly beings, sustained and guided by the hand beneath the wings of the cherubim, were driving these wheels; above them, upon the sapphire throne, was the Eternal One; and round about the throne a rainbow, the symbol of God's mercy.

There is an old spiritual that says, 'Ezekiel saw a wheel, way up in the middle of the air; a wheel with in a wheel, way in the middle of the air.' It was a most bright and amazing scene. Everywhere things seemed to be moving and in great confusion and yet when he looked closer he could see that the Great God on the throne, was really in charge and directing all the movements of the angels and wheels. There are times when to us everything seems confusing and out of control in our lives. At times like these, trust in God and wait for His guidance.

**Thought** - There are people today who try to tell us that Ezekiel saw a flying saucer from some other planet. This is not at all true. This was a vision from God to give information about God's work for man. Ezekiel understood the meaning God was showing him.

## Monday

**Text: Ezekiel 1:9, 10** “Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward. As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.”

The prophet here sees four living creatures. Each one has four faces. We can see that these are shown to mean something, not to describe a real animal or creature. They are a symbol of something, just as the ‘wheels within wheels’ were a symbol also.

One of the ways we learn about God’s truth, especially prophecy symbols, is to look carefully in the Bible and find all the places where something similar is talked about. By putting these things together, we can learn more about what the symbols mean.

By careful study we can learn many things about this vision. First, is there somewhere else that we see four symbolic creatures something like these? Yes. It is in Revelation 4:7,8 “And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”

We don’t have space in this lesson to tell all the things these creatures show us. They represent God’s true and faithful people. Read Ezekiel 1 carefully and then notice this information. The feet are strait and have the sole of a calf. A calf was used as a sacrificial animal. These men have sacrificed all for Christ and their fellow man. Those who only give what they “have to” will not be part of this group - only those who value heaven more than worldly things will be among these faithful ones. That their feet are “strait” shows

that they walk that “strait and narrow” path of righteousness. Mat. 7:14.

V. 9. “Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward.” These “creatures” have the True Word of God and so are together in their mission as shown by the joining of their wings. Again, they follow that strait pathway laid out by our Savior.

Now, for the faces; the first face is the face of a man. These are men, but these men also have the face of a lion, that is, the Lion of the tribe of Judah; they reflect Christ. On the left side, they have the face of an ox, a beast of burden. These are men who have a true burden for their brethren and a great desire to honor God.

Last, they have the face of an eagle. An eagle in prophecy, among other things, represents power and vision. As overcomers, these men have “power with God and with men and have prevailed.” Gen 32:28. The vision these men have received is the testimony of Jesus Christ, the Spirit of Prophecy.

**Thought** – It is very important when we study Bible to always ask God in the Name of Jesus to send the Holy Spirit to help us to understand truth. Also we should not try to guess about what things mean in prophecy without looking carefully at what the Bible says itself.

## Tuesday

**Text: Ezekiel 1:14** “And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.”

And now the wings. Wings represent many things: In Exodus 19:4, wings “carried” the Israelites out of bondage; Eccl. 10:20 says, “that which hath wings shall tell the matter.” One of the things that wings represent is that they carry something, in the case of the 144,000, it is the final warning from God. Another thing that wings represent is speed as in Daniel’s vision concerning Alexander the Great. The final movements will be rapid

ones and the message of warning shall go out to the world very quickly by simple means.

Wings also protect, and these 'creatures' have wings covering their bodies. They are 'Under His Wings.' They carry the message of God's truth and they carry it pure and straight and they carry it fast under the power of God!

We want to understand that as our memory verse tell us, the things recorded in our Bible, are especially for us today. If they were only for the people back then, the Lord Jesus would not have protected and brought them to us today.

You will find as you get into reading the Bible and asking Jesus to teach you, that you will see that the Bible is not some old book that doesn't mean anything today. Oh no! You will find it is alive and describing things happening right now in the church and in the world, clearer than even people today can describe them.

**Thought** – We can all choose to be part of those faithful ones that the four wonderful creatures show to us.

### Wednesday

**Text: Ezekiel 8:1,3 "And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I sat in mine house, and the elders of Judah sat before me, that the hand of the Lord GOD fell there upon me. And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north."**

Ezekiel's book has some of the most amazing picture prophecies of the whole Bible in it. Be sure to read the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> chapters carefully. Here Ezekiel sees Jesus. We know it is Jesus if we look carefully at

Revelation and Daniel and we see how He is described there, this bright Being is the same one seen by Daniel and John.

Here Jesus reaches over and picks up Ezekiel by a lock of his hair and carries him all the way to Jerusalem. Now we know that this was a 'vision' sort of like a dream-movie that Ezekiel was shown. He did not really fly to Jerusalem, but God could really take him on such a trip if He wished. We know it was not real because at that time the temple was all destroyed.

Ezekiel was taken to the temple where he used to work and he was shown the reason why God had destroyed it. What was he shown? Well read carefully and you will see many things.

He was shown priests worshiping heathen idols; he saw priests practicing heathen magic and worshipping animals. He saw that while they did the service of God, in their minds they were worshipping pagan devil-gods. He saw woman 'weeping for Tammuz' the heathen sun God. He saw them practicing a form of fortune-telling. He also saw them turning their back to God and worshipping the sun!

God destroyed the Temple and the city for these terrible wicked things. He will also destroy those who do these things today. Are they being done? Oh, yes! 'Weeping for Tammuz' for forty days, is what the churches call 'Lent' today. The magic and fortune-telling is practiced even by some ministers, who teach holding a weight on the end of a chain or string over food to learn if it is good. Also some do this to find water, or other things either in the ground or on a map. This is devil work!

Finally we know that nearly all the people in the church and the world are going to turn their backs to God's Sabbath and worship the 'Sun-day'.

**Thought** – God promised to always protect His chosen people, but He never promises to protect those who refuse to obey His Word!



**Thursday**

**Text: Ezekiel 9:4** “And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.”

The same vision of Ezekiel continues in chapter 9 and 10. In Chapter nine we see a kind of judgment taking place. Now remember that these visions have to do with the end of time and not the time that Ezekiel was writing them down. Jerusalem was already destroyed at the time he saw this vision.

He saw a man with a linen priest's garment on and a pen and ink with him. This man was to go through Jerusalem and mark those who were upset by the sin and wickedness in the city, and were crying about it and trying to warn others. Only these ones would be spared.

Who is this man in linen? It is Jesus, who right now is doing the special work of the High Priest on the special time of judgment in heaven. He is studying the records and the lives of all the people in 'Jerusalem'. What is 'Jerusalem' in this vision? It is all those who claim to belong to Jesus. All those who claim to be 'Christians'.

Jesus is 'setting a mark' or a seal on those who are the faithful ones. They will be saved in His kingdom. Where else do we see a 'mark or seal'? In Revelation we see angels holding the four winds of trouble, and another special 'angel'- 'Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.' Rev. 7:3 It is the same time of judgment we are seeing in both visions.

**Thought** – If we turn to Jesus with all our hearts and learn His truth and ask Him to forgive us and take sin out of our lives, we can have a wonderful life with Him now, and we will be 'sealed' to be saved in His kingdom.

**Friday**

**Text: Ezekiel 37:1,2** “The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.”

Ezekiel, like both Isaiah and Jeremiah, often felt it wasn't much good to tell people about the Words the Lord was showing him, because they just did not want to listen. One day Jesus took Ezekiel on another vision trip. This time he set him down in a valley that was all covered in dead bones.

Ezekiel says that the bones were very dry. They were like the people who he was trying to tell the Truth of God to, they were spiritually dead and dried up inside.

God asked Ezekiel a question, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And he answered, “O Lord GOD, thou knowest.” He could not think it could be possible. Neither did it seem possible that his messages to the people about the Word of God would do any good.

Then God told him to 'prophecy' to those dry bones. So He stood there and preached a sermon to the dry bones. What was he to tell them?

“O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.” Yes, he was not to tell them some entertaining story, or sing lovely music to them, or even tell them jokes; he was to tell them “Hear the Word of the Lord!”

Verse 5 “Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live.”

What happened when the Prophet preached to the bones? They all started to join together. Then there came flesh onto the skeletons and then skin over them. There they were, all whole bodies. But they were not alive!

What was Ezekiel to do? God told him to 'prophecy' to the wind, and say to the wind,

Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So he did, and they all came to life and stood up on their feet a great army of people.

There is great meaning for us today in this vision. When the True Word of God is preached, even to those who seem to be nothing but dry bones, they will 'come together'. Then when the 'wind' of the special last rain of the Holy Spirit is sent, there will be a great

army of faithful believers who will stand faithful for truth.

There is also seen in this chapter a promise that Jesus will also raise those faithful ones who have died, from their dusty graves, and take them to make up His Heavenly Kingdom when He comes.

**Thought** - May each one of us really hear God's Word, and preach 'Hear the Word of the Lord' to all dry bones today! = ^ .. ^ =

### Weekly Bible Lesson #13: "OTHER PROPHETS"

**MEMORY VERSE: "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."**

**Jeremiah 31:3**

#### Sunday

**Text: Hosea 1:1 "The word of the LORD that came unto Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel."**

Remember how Isaiah had children whose names were prophecies? And also how Jeremiah was told not to take a wife and have a family at all? Well, there was an interesting prophet named Hosea who lived around the same time as Isaiah, and God told him to go out and marry a prostitute! This was a woman who went out with other men for money.

So he married this woman, whose name was Gomer. Soon some children were born to them and the children were given names that were prophecies, just like Isaiah's children were. The first was called Jezreel, which meant "God will sow."

The next was a little girl named Loruhamah, "Not Pitied", for God was warning that He would not have pity on the wicked nation if it did not stop its heathen worship.

Then a boy was born and God named him, Lo-ammi, meaning "Not my People". God was saying that Israel would not more

be His special people.

Now something very sad began to happen in this strange family. Although Hosea was kind to Gomer and gave her food and clothes and everything she needed, soon Gomer decided she wanted to go back to her wicked life. Soon she was running out and leaving her husband and children while she went out with other men who were not her husband.

Now this whole story was used by God to tell the story of what the nation of Israel did to Him. He had taken them to be His special people and He had cared for them and loved them, giving them everything they needed. But they had wickedly decided they would rather go back to worshipping idols and enjoying the Pagan holidays. The Bible says that they even took the food and clothes God had given them and used them for their idols and heathen gods.

So did Gomer the wife of Hosea do, taking the food and clothes he provided for her and giving them as gifts to her lovers.

**Thought** - We should never forget that all the blessings and things we have to enjoy are all given to us by Our Heavenly Father.

**Monday**

**Text: Hosea 2:14, 15** “Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her. And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.”

The prophet here represents our loving God as he goes after the wicked woman who is his wife and pleads with her to return home to where she is loved and cared for.

Tenderly did God plead with Israel and Judah through the words of many prophets, inviting them to come back to Him. What did they do? Did they listen?

No they did not. They just did more and more wickedness. They even took God’s messengers and cruelly harmed them and even killed them.

What did Gomer do when Hosea went and pleaded with her to come back home to him and her children? She would not listen at all, she just wanted the worldly life with her lovers and Hosea returned sadly without her.

What happened to Gomer after this? She became so vile and wicked that even her ‘lovers’ didn’t want her any more. Finally she was taken to a slave market and put up on the block to be sold as a slave. But nobody wanted this aging and vile woman, even as a slave.

**Thought** – In the prophecy made by Moses to Israel before he died, he warned that if they turned away from the True God of heaven: “.. the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you.” Deut. 28:68

**Tuesday**

**Text: Hosea 3:1-3** “Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved

of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine. So I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley: And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee.”

God told Hosea what had happened to Gomer and Hosea went down to the slave market where he bought his wife back for 15 pieces of silver. Then he took her home and forgave her and took her again to be his wife.

This was an acted out prophecy of how when Israel, and each one of us for that matter, had sold out to sin and Satan, that Jesus came to buy us back from the slave market of the devil and set us free to be, not a slave, but His people again.

What a loving God we serve! Think of that selfish and lewd woman Gomer. Here she had a loving husband and children who wanted their mother, but she went away to follow her own ideas of what was fun.

She kept on doing this until not even her partners in sin could stand her any more. They hated her for what she had become and she found herself unwanted by anybody, even for a slave.

Now as she stood on that auction block in disgrace and shame, she sees a familiar face in the crowd. It is her own husband Hosea. Has he come to make fun of her too? Surely he could have no further use for her in such a state as she was in now.

But no, he pays the price to redeem the slave, and gently leading her by the hand, he takes her home. There she finds the true love of her children and husband.

**Thought** – Nothing the World has to offer is better than the love of our Savior!

### Wednesday

**Text: Hosea 4:6** “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”

Did Gomer stay with her loving husband after that? I am not sure; we can hope so. But what about Israel? We know what happened with them, even though the Lord pled with them over and over to turn from their idols and serve Him only, they did not.

Here we see that God is saying that the people are destroyed by a lack of knowledge. But notice why they have this lack, it is not because they didn't have knowledge given to them, Oh, no! It was because they rejected it!

Over and over, they refused to listen to God's Word, they would not remember His laws and so He warns that the day will come when they will finally be rejected and forgotten by God. Yes, even the patience of our wonderful Heavenly Father has a limit. There comes a time when He has to draw the line and that time came to Israel finally.

The Assyrians came in and took over the land. The people were killed and the ones that were left were scattered in the earth, sold as slaves. Often they were sold cheap and no one wanted to buy them, just like the prophecy of Moses had warned.

God would have bought them back, He would have loved them and cared for them always, but they thought their idol gods were better and served them until they destroyed themselves.

**Thought** – Let us determine to listen to God's Word and never, never to wear out the patience of our loving God!

### Thursday

**Text: Joel 2:1, 2** “Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy

**mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains:”**

There are 12 small books at the end of the Old Testament called the ‘minor prophets’. Not because they were not important, but their books are fairly small. Still these books contain some amazing lessons for God's people at these last days. We looked at Hosea and now we will see a few things from Joel.

We recognize the book of Joel as having many prophecies and warnings in it for our days. He warns people to get ready for the coming of Jesus, telling them that for those who are not ready, that day, called the ‘day of the Lord’, will be a terrible one.

It is also Joel that tells us about the special gift of prophecy that is for us in the last days.

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.” Joel 2:28, 29

Joel also tells about some of the same signs of Jesus' coming that He told about in Matthew 24: And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come”. Joel 2:30, 31.

Of course we know that all those have been fulfilled.

**Thought** – Isn't it wonderful to be living at a time when nearly all the prophecies have already happened?



**Friday**

**Text: Nahum 2:4 "The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings."**

This verse in Nahum certainly seems to be describing our modern day cars, doesn't it? How wonderful that one of God's prophets so long ago saw our own day and wrote warnings and counsels for us.

As you read the books of the Minor Prophets you will find that many if not all of them have information in them that tells something about our time down here at the end of the world. Clearly the message comes warning those who do evil to repent and encouraging those who turn to God to trust in Him.

We well know that the prophet Malachi, whose book is the last one in the Old Testament, tells us about tithes and offerings. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that

there shall not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:10

But there is ever so much more; it tells us that God does not like the idea of divorce. No not at all! It also tells us that God does not like any dishonesty. In Malachi we are also told about 'the prophet Elijah', who would come to announce the 'Day of the Lord'.

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." Malachi 4:5, 6

We know that was partly fulfilled in the work of John the Baptist at the time of Jesus, but it is also finding fulfillment today in the work of our special messenger Ellen White, who wrote ever so much instruction about how to have a Christian home and raise our children to love the Lord!

**Thought** - Yes, as you read those books written by the prophets of old, you will find many things that help us to understand our own times and how to get ready for Jesus soon coming. May all of us get ready, be ready and stay ready! = ^ .. ^ =

