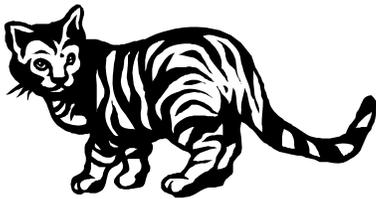


TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

To provide Bible based, true reading material for children and youth.

Year 1 - 4th Quarter - Issue #5



CREATION CORNER

The Incredible Cat! 3

This week I am going to share with you why I feel that the cat was an extra special gift from God to mankind. "Oh Granny Temcat", some people say, "That's just because you like cats."

There is more to it than that. You know that Satan has tried very hard to ruin and destroy anything and everything that God made for our blessing. And if he can't ruin it altogether, he turns his hatred against it. Do you know that, more than any other animal, the cat has been the one to receive more horrible unreasonable cruelty than any other animal. It seems like Satan delights in seeing them suffer; this is what makes me think that God must have made the cat to be a very special helper to man.

All other animals have had more than their share of cruelty, but none as much as the cat. I don't think that any other animal was ever decreed by law and Papal command to be tortured and killed as a holy deed to be done on holidays, but the cat was. (we will learn more next week) And the strange thing is, that whether the religions hated the cat or revered the cat—it still resulted in great cruelty to the poor innocent beasts.

Satan delights in cruelty, because the only way

he can hurt Jesus, our Creator Who loves His creatures, is by hurting the creatures. In fact if God did not have Special Forces at work in this world to protect the birds and animals and you and me, the devil and his nasty bunch would have wiped all out long ago.

I want to urge all readers to do whatever you can in your daily lives to prevent and expose cruelty to any animals. Never stand by in silence and allow cruelty to take place, if you can't stop it, get someone to help you, and if nothing else cry out against it. If more people refused to allow cruelty and neglect to go on, conditions could be improved for the animals that brighten our lives. Also don't donate money to help research that uses animal in their cruel experiments to invent new drugs. It isn't necessary to do it these days, but the nightmare goes on anyway.

If you have, or care for pets, always be faithful in checking on their needs, their water and food dishes should be clean and filled and their pans kept fresh. Never leave your home or go to bed without first checking on your pets to make sure they are provided for. It is such a sad thing to see a pet staring at an empty water dish, hoping someone will remember him.

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Just this week a friend who rescues cats, told me of the finding of a kitten by someone who heard a weak noise in a garbage bin and on tracing the noise to its source found a small box all taped shut. Inside the box was a poor kitten with its legs taped together so it could not move.

What a terrible cruel thing for someone to do. The happy part is that that kitty was found and now has a happy home with the person that rescued it. I think God's angels help some of these poor creatures. The Bible says the animals cry unto God when they are suffering.

Our attitude toward God's creatures is a big part of our getting ready for heaven. Nobody who hates or neglects or is cruel to animals is going to be in heaven unless he first repents and lets Jesus change him and take away all that is like Satan in his character. Always remember, Satan invented cruelty and we must never be found helping him!

In the days of the ancient Egyptians, not too long after the tower of Babel spread the people out in the earth, they were honoring the cat because of its skill as a mouser! This was because the storage bins of grain they had would attract mice. (Remember the story of Joseph?) But what started out as a sensible friendship between man and the cat, the way God meant it to be, turned into a kind of idolatry.

They began to worship cats as gods. They made a goddess called Bast, or Bastet, and believed it was the one who gave them bountiful harvests, fertility and happiness and it was symbolized by the cat. Like it says in Romans 1, they didn't choose to remember the true God of heaven, but instead they worshipped the creatures. By 950 B.C., Egyptians had week-long festivals in Bast's honor. They even named an entire city, Bubastis, for her.

The cat goddess, they made up to 'protected the dead', was called Pasht - a name that may be the origin of our word "puss".

The Egyptians were so crazy about cats that anyone who injured or killed one was sentenced to death. (A truly wise Egyptian didn't put his or her cat out for the night!)

To give you an example of how much they were valued, when a house caught fire, the cats were saved first. And when a cat died, Egyptians shaved their eyebrows as a sign of mourning.

Like kings, cats were mummified and buried in gold coffins inside stone temples, along with saucers of milk and mummified mice, for that well-deserved snack in the afterlife.

In fact, so many beloved cats were ceremoniously buried in this way in ancient Egypt that a site excavated in Beni Hassan in the last century contained a whopping 300,000 cat mummies! (They must have been poor cats though—no gold coffins.)

Egyptians also believed that a cat's glow-in--the-dark eyes mirrored the sun, protecting humans from the mysteries of the night. And Egyptian women outlined their own eyes in black, most likely to mimic the beauty and power of those of the cat. This was where the practice of make-up began; from heathen animal worship. God wants us to love and enjoy His creatures, and care for them kindly, but He does not want people to worship animals. This also results in many cruel things happening to the innocent beasts, who are the helpless victims of man's foolishness.

There came the time when the Persians were attacking Egypt and the Persian army, well aware of their enemy's beliefs, shrewdly strapped cats to their own battle shields. This must have been terrible for the poor cats.

Rather than attack their goddess, the hapless Egyptians simply laid down their arms and beat a hasty retreat.

From Egypt, the cat was taken to Greece and Rome, probably by sticky-fingered Phoenician sailors, who dropped anchor in Egypt, and hid stolen cats in their ships, before setting sail for Mediterranean ports. The Egyptians followed in hot pursuit and tried to buy them back, but they just couldn't catch them all.

Cats showed up in China around 200 B.C. Fascinatingly, the Chinese actually learned to tell time by watching the eyes of their cats, which expand and contract according to the strength of the light.

By the sixth century, they turned up in Japan, where again they were mythologized and worshipped.

The emperor dubbed his adored cat Myobo No Omoto (which means "lady in waiting") and made her the fifth lady of his court!

Later, when silk became Japan's major industry and mice discovered the silkworm, the cat's value soared. Believe it or not, in Japan today, as in ancient Egypt, a dead cat gets both a funeral service and burial in an official pet cemetery!

In Great Britain, the cat's debut as a mouser was when Crusaders returning from the Middle East, accidentally brought with them hordes of

grain-eating black rats.

Their talent for reducing rodents to rubble became so valuable that, when a cat was slain or injured, its owner was compensated.

The amount, however, was calculated according to a pretty weird system of measurement. The owner would receive an amount of grain equal to the length of his cat when it was held by the tip of its tail so that its nose touched the ground. Next week; The Dark Ages. = ^ .. ^ =

HISTORY

The Protestant Reformation: 13 Persecution in France

John Calvin was still in Paris. He thought he was safe where he was, quietly studying and praying to get ready to carry the light of truth to the people. But one day friends came running in to warn him soldiers were on the way to arrest him.

Right then came a loud knocking on the entrance gate. He had to hurry! Some friends stalled the officers off at the door while others let him down on a rope from a window, like the apostle Paul. He hurried out of the city to the cottage of a peasant who was a friend. There he put on working cloths and putting a hoe over his shoulder he continued to travel on the roads as a farm worker. He travelled south until he was again in the area ruled by the Princess Margaret.

Calvin wanted to take the truth to the people who wanted to hear it so he went to Pointers where there was a university. There he preached in homes and public gardens and even in a cave in the rugged hills, where trees and overhanging rocks made it very hidden.

It was chosen as the place of meeting. Little companies, leaving the city by different routes, found their way to it and here the Bible was read and explained. Here the Lord's Supper was celebrated for the first time by the Protestants of France. From this little church several faithful evangelists were sent out.

Calvin still wanted to preach in Paris, but when he went there, he was unable to find a way to do it; all doors were shut to him. He left and barely escaped with his life.

Then the French reformers who were anxious that France be like some of the reformed countries, made a serious mistake. Instead of presenting the gospel truth to the people and letting them learn this way what God wants His people to do; they

sent out signs all over condemning the Catholic Mass.

One of the signs was fastened by some enemy, or very unwise friend, to the door of the king's bedroom! He was so angry he chose to put himself fully on the side of the Roman church and ordered all Protestants to be arrested and killed.

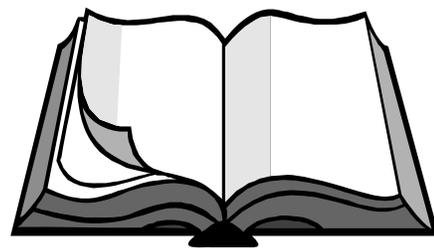
A poor wretch who was used by the faithful to carry messages to tell when meetings were going to be held, was tortured and to save his life, agreed to betray the Protestants. He would give a signal showing the Papal legate where the reformers lived. They were all arrested and put in chains and the terrible procession went all through the city collecting the faithful.

Then they were tortured and burned. But they were really the victors. As people saw the peace and serene joy that lighted up the martyr's faces, they knew there was power in the gospel they believed in. There is no better pulpit than a martyr's stake!

The most terrible lies were told about them, that they were planning to kill all the Catholics, and murder the King. There was no evidence for these lies but it did not matter to the church leaders. But by doing this, France brought trouble on herself. Many of their best teachers and educated people fled away from Paris and it found that many important jobs were empty.

Finally the foolish king, Francis 1, determined to stop the reformed faith, even made a law that no printing of papers or books was to be allowed in France! Poor Paris; 'Thou that killeth the prophets and stonest those sent to you', dark times lay ahead for her.

Next week we will learn about the terrible St. Bartholomew's Massacre! = ^ .. ^ =



TRUE-STORY-TIME**“For He shall Save His People From Their Sins!”**

“ ‘Stop, I need your help!’

It was in Detroit, Michigan, years ago. It was early evening and I was about to walk into the building where I was holding revival meetings. A man walked up to me and said, ‘Are you Mr. Finney?’

“ ‘Yes,’ I replied.

“ ‘Please, when you get through tonight—will you come home with me. I need to talk to you.’ “ ‘All right, I will. You wait for me.’ I walked inside—and some of the men stopped me.

“ ‘What does the man want?’

“ ‘He wants me to go home with him after the meeting tonight.’

“ ‘Don’t do it. He’s known to be dangerous.’

“ ‘I’m sorry, but I promised and I shall go with him.’

“ ‘When the service was over that evening, I went with the man three blocks down the street and then into an alley, and stopped. The man unlocked the door and said, ‘Come in.’ Walking into the room, I found the man locking the door behind me, and then reaching into his pocket he pulled out a revolver and held it in his hand.-

“ ‘I don’t intend to do you any harm,’ he said. ‘I just want to ask you a few questions. Did you mean what you said in your sermon last night?’

“ ‘What did I say? I have forgotten.’

“ ‘You said, ‘The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.’

“ ‘Yes, God says so.’

“ ‘Then he said to me, ‘You see this revolver? It has killed four people. It is mine. Two of them were killed by me, two of them by my bartender in a brawl in my saloon. Is there hope for a man like me?’

“ ‘Yes. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin. Christ can forgive you and help you obey the Commandments of God.’

“ ‘Then the man said, ‘Brother Finney, another question. In the back of this partition is a saloon. I own it, everything in it. We’ll sell every kind of liquor to anybody who comes along. Many times I have taken the last penny out of a man’s pocket, letting his wife and children go hungry.

Many times women have brought their babies here and pled with me not to sell any more booze to their husbands, but I have driven them out and

kept on with the whiskey selling. Is there hope for a man like me?’

“ ‘God says, “The blood of Jesus Christ His Son, cleanseth us from all sin.” [1 John 1:7].

“ ‘Another question, Brother Finney. In back of this other partition is a gambling joint and it is as crooked as sin and Satan. There isn’t a decent wheel in the whole place. It is all loaded and crooked. A man leaves the saloon with some money left in his pocket, and we take his money away from him in our gambling hall. Men have gone out of that gambling den to commit suicide when their money, and perhaps entrusted funds, were all gone. Is there any hope for a man like me?’

“ ‘God says, “The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin.’

“ ‘One more question, and I will let you go. When you walk out of this alley you turn to the right and you’ll see a brown-stone house. It is my home. I own it. My wife is there, and my eleven-year old child, Margaret. Thirteen years ago I went to New York on business. I met a beautiful girl. I lied to her. I told her I was a stockbroker, and she married me.

“ ‘I brought her here, and when she found out my business it broke her heart. I have made life a hell on earth for her. I have come home drunk, beaten her, locked her out, made her life more miserable than that of any brute beast. About a month ago I went home one night drunk, mean, miserable. My wife got in the way some how, and I started beating her. My daughter threw herself between us. I slapped that girl across the face and knocked her against a red-hot stove. Her arm is burned from shoulder to wrist. It will never look like anything decent. Brother Finney, is there hope for a man like me?’

“ ‘I took hold of the man’s shoulders, shook him, and said, ‘Oh, son, what a black story you have to tell! But God says, ‘The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin!’

“ ‘The man saw it. He looked at me a long moment and then said, ‘Thank you, Brother Finney. Thank you very much. Now I know. Pray for me. I am coming to church tomorrow night. And I am going to do some changing.’

“ ‘I left that back room and went home. The next morning, about seven o’clock, the saloon man finally got finished with his business at his office and leaving it headed across the street to his home. His necktie was awry. His face was dusty, sweaty, and tear-stained. He was shaking as though he were drunk.

“But let’s go back to that room. That night he had taken the swivel chair in the office and smashed the mirror, the fireplace, the desk and the other chairs. He had smashed the partition on each side. Every bottle and barrel and bar mirror in that saloon was shattered and broken up. The sawdust was swimming ankle deep in a terrible mixture of beer, gin, whiskey, and wine. The stench that rose from that rotten mess was terrific. In the gambling establishment on the other side the tables were smashed. The dice and cards smoldered in the fireplace.

“And then he had cried for hours there alone on his knees with God.

“And so with it all over, he staggered across the street as the sun arose, walked up the stairs of his home, and sat down heavily in the chair of his room. His wife called the little girl, ‘Maggie, run upstairs and tell daddy breakfast is ready.’ The girl walked slowly up the stairs. Half afraid, she stood in the door and said, ‘Daddy, Mamma said breakfast was ready; to come down.’

“ ‘Maggie, darling, daddy doesn’t want any breakfast. ‘ “That little girl didn’t walk; she just flew down those stairs. ‘Mamma, daddy said, “Maggie, darling, and he didn’t—.’

“Maggie, you didn’t understand. You go back upstairs and tell daddy to come down.’ Maggie went back upstairs with the mother following her. The man looked up as he heard the child’s step, spread his knees and said, ‘Maggie, come here.’

“Shyly, frightened, in a tremble, the little girl walked slowly up to him. He began crying as he lifted her up, placed her on his knee, pressed his face against her chest and wept. The wife, standing in the door, didn’t know what had happened. After awhile he noticed her standing there and said, ‘Wife, come here.’

“He sat her on his other knee, threw his large arms around those two whom he loved, whom he had so fearfully abused, lowered his face between them, and sobbed until the room almost shook with the impact of his feelings.

“After some minutes he began to control himself, looked up into the faces of his wife and girl, and said to them:

“ ‘Wife and daughter,—you needn’t ever be afraid of me any more. God has brought you a new man, a new daddy home today.’

“That same night that man, his wife, and child, walked down the aisle of the church, gave their

hearts to Christ and joined the church.

He spent the remainder of his life trying to help other people. Many were the young people that he warned to flee from liquor and cigarettes and gambling—for he well knew the terrible hole that they would bring a person into.” Charles G. Finney.
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STORY LESSON

Drinks: Good and Bad

Water is the drink that God originally designed for man. It is the only drink, which will really satisfy thirst. Other things we drink are mostly of water; lemonade is lemon juice and water. Wine, beer, cider, and such liquids contain alcohol and many other things, mixed with water.

Why do we need water? Well our bodies are made of 75-80% water and it is used in every process or work the body does. If we wet a sponge and leave it, in a few hours it becomes dry, as the water evaporates into the air. Our bodies are losing water all the time, and we need to drink to keep ourselves from drying up.

Here is an experiment you can do. Go close to a mirror, or if you have a small hand-mirror, hold it close to your mouth and nose. Breathe out on the mirror and you will see steam on it. We are breathing all the time, think about how much water is given off in that ‘steam’?

Water is very necessary for many things the body does, digestion, making blood, and our brain function. Still another use for water is to dissolve and wash out waste through the sweat of the skin, and in urine. If the body does not have enough water—it can’t keep itself clean and running smoothly. The greatest single thing anyone can do for better health and a smarter mind is to drink more water.

Water that has a lot of minerals in it is called ‘hard water’ it is not so good for the body. The best water to drink is distilled water, which is pure soft water. But even hard water is better to drink than no water at all.

What about juice and soda pop and stuff? How clean would your clothes get if you washed them in soda pop? Your body does best with pure, soft water.

It is harmful to drink very cold water, especially when your body is hot. If that’s the only water you

have, the bad effects may be lessened by sipping it slowly.

Many people drink tea or coffee, and think that these drinks are good foods; but they are not foods at all. Tea, coffee and cola contain a poison called caffeine (caf-feen'), which, in a pure form, is very poisonous. Even a little is enough to kill a cat or a dog. This poison does much harm to those who drink tea, coffee or cola drinks.

Alcohol (al'-co-hol) All of you know something about alcohol. It will burn if we light it. It is clear and looks like water. The native American Indians, years ago, used to call it "firewater." Alcohol is not a food; It is not grown like fruits and grains; neither is it found in nature for our use, as air and water.

Where does it come from? When a baker makes bread he puts some yeast, a kind of fungus, in the dough to make it "rise," so the bread will be light. The yeast eats some of the sugar and starch in the flour and changes it into alcohol and gas. The gas bubbles up through the dough, and this is what makes the bread light. This is called fermentation (fer-men-ta'-tion). The small amount of alcohol made in the bread goes away as the bread is well baked.

Any liquid or moist substance, which contains sugar will ferment if yeast gets into it and it is kept in a warm place. You know that canned fruit sometimes spoils. This is because it ferments. Fermentation is a sort of decay. When the juice of grapes, apples, or other fruit is allowed to stand in a warm place, it "works," or ferments, and produces alcohol. Wine is fermented grape juice; hard cider is fermented apple juice.

Beer, ale, and similar drinks are made from grains. The grain is first moistened and allowed to sprout. In sprouting, the starch of the grain is changed to sugar. The grain is next dried and ground, and is then boiled with water. The water dissolves the sugar. The sweet liquid thus obtained is separated from the grain, and yeast is added to it. This causes it to ferment, which changes the sugar to alcohol. The grain does not contain alcohol in the first place, it is produced by fermentation.

All fermented liquids contain more or less alcohol, mixed with water and a good many other things. Rum, brandy, gin, whiskey, and pure alcohol are made by separating the alcohol from what it is in. This is done by a 'still' and is called distillation. This is how we get pure water also, but the water is good for us, and the alcohol is not.

To learn how a still separates alcohol, make a

little experiment. When a kettle is boiling on the stove and the steam is coming out at the nozzle, take a dry glass and put some ice in it. Then, being careful not to burn yourself, hold it near the steam. Little drops of water will stick to the side of the glass.

Alcohol boils at a lower temperature than water, so when they heat the stuff that has the alcohol in it, it quickly goes into the air and is caught in tubes and allowed to drip into bottles. By distilling the liquid several times the alcohol may be almost pure.

Strong alcohol has a deadly effect upon all living things. If you pour alcohol on a plant it will die very soon.

A man once made a cruel experiment. He put some minnows into a jar of water and then poured in a few teaspoonfuls of alcohol. The minnows tried very hard to get out, but they could not, and in a little while they were all dead, poisoned by the alcohol. Another man once gave alcohol to some pigs with their food. They soon got sick and died.

There are people who think alcohol is good for food because it is made from fruits and grains which are good for food. This is a serious mistake. A person can live on the fruits or grains from which alcohol is made, but no one can live on alcohol. If he tried, he would soon starve to death, if he weren't poisoned first. People have often died when drinking whiskey in place of food or water.

People do not use alcohol as a food, but for the effects which it produces, which are not like a food, but a poison. It dulls their minds and makes them foolish and this feels good to them.

Some, who would not drink strong, distilled liquor, think it's OK to use wine, beer, or cider. This is a great mistake. These liquids contain alcohol, as do all fermented drinks. A person will become drunk or intoxicated by drinking wine, beer, or cider, the same as rum or whiskey, they just drink more, and even a little alcohol harms the body.

Do you know what the word 'in-toxi-cated' really means? Well people use it to mean drunk, but it really means poisoned! Alcoholic drinks make people unhealthy and shorten their lives, and they cause much poverty, crime, accidents, and misery.

People who drink alcohol are not as healthy as those who don't; they do not live as long as they could if they did not drink alcohol. If a beer or liquor drinker gets sick, or has an accident, it is harder for his body to get well again.

Alcohol also hurts your brain, and without a

clear mind, we cannot get to know the truths that will allow Jesus to get us ready for heaven. We must put no poison into our body-temples!

Once a person gets the habit of drinking wine, cider, or other fermented drinks, he soon wants stronger drink, and starts to use whiskey or other strong liquors. It is not safe to use any alcoholic drinks, either fermented or distilled. The only safe plan is taste not! touch not! More next week.
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BUILDING FOR JESUS

“Behold I Come Quickly!”

We live in very exciting times! It is likely that many of us alive today may well live to see Jesus come! The devil knows his time is running out and so he has a million ways to keep us from remembering or caring that our time to get ready is also running out!

When I was a child I used to feel afraid of the idea of the end times and Jesus’ return. Why was this? I guess it was because I didn’t know Jesus as my personal friend and Master like I do now. How do you get to know Him?

Well, you learn about Him by reading the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy remembering that they are His love letters to you. When we have a ‘best friend’ or a lover and they write to us, we are so excited and read the letter over and over.

So it is with Jesus letters to us, when we start realizing that they are to us personally, just as if there were no one else to read them, then they become very exciting. We say, ‘What is Jesus saying to me? What is He promising to me? What does He want me to do?’

When we pray before we read, asking the Holy Spirit, Who is really the Author of the Bible, to be our personal Teacher, then it becomes a real adventure.

Then to get to know Jesus, you must spend time talking to Him. You know how you love to talk to your friends? Well once you learn to tell everything to Jesus, all your joys and sorrows, and what you like and what you are afraid of, your love for Him will grow. Remember, if you have a problem, tell it to Jesus first and ask Him what He wants you to do and He will let you know in some way.

The devil is getting so many people these days by keeping them too busy so they have no time to seek the Lord. He knows that you cannot learn to trust someone you don’t know, and you can’t get to

know someone if you don’t take time to be with them. So he gets young people all caught up in games, sports, entertainment, music, clubs, church events, homework, and friends. You get up in a rush and rush from one thing to another all day until you fall into bed at night so tired, you can hardly say, “Now I lay me down to sleep”.

I warn all readers young and older, that if we want to be ready for Jesus’ coming and live a joyous life with Him, both now and for eternity, we have to cut out some of our busy-ness, and all of our worldly entertainment!

Nothing is more important than your Eternal Salvation. If you can’t honestly say in your heart that you are looking forward to Jesus’ coming; if you still feel fearful or rebellious inside, then you MUST go to Him and tell Him all about it.

Remember you can’t change you own heart; it is naturally rebellious; but Jesus will write His laws in our heart and put His mind in us, so we will learn to love what He loves and to hate what He hates. You just have to ask Him.

He promises ‘Ye shall seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with ALL you heart!’ And when you find Jesus, you have everything that really matters in life! = ^ .. ^ =



Year 1: 4th Quarter: “BIBLE PICTURE STORIES” WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 5: “WATER”

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.

MEMORY VERSE: “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” Revelation 22:17.

Sunday

Text: John 4:14 “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”

Jesus compares Himself and His truth with Water—the water of life!

“And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.” John 6:35.

Water is the second most important thing for our life. Air is the most important; we die in minutes if we can't breathe. But we die in only a few days if we have nothing to drink.

Think about what it is like to be really thirsty. Most of us have been thirsty at times, but few really desperately so. There is an old song I used to like when I was little, about a man lost in the desert and searching for water to keep himself and his donkey alive. It tells about how he had thought he saw water and it was only a mirage; it wasn't really there.

If you look at hot pavement on a hot summer day at just a certain angle, you will sometimes see what looks like a pool of water there, but when you go closer it goes on ahead. That is a mirage.

The man in the song said it was the devil that put the mirage there to fool a poor lost man. And you know, he is right! The devil puts many mirages in our world today, and poor lost people, longing for the real water of life to save their poor lost souls, wander from one idea to another.

They think they have found the real thing, but it leaves them more lost and thirsty than ever before, and they go to something else. What they need, what we all need is Jesus! Once we really find Him and drink deep of His salvation, we don't chase mirages anymore!

Thought - We must find Jesus for ourselves and then when we really know Him we must show others what He is like, in both our words and our deeds, then some thirsty ones will see the real water and come to it!

Monday

Text: Exodus 19:10 “And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes.”

The saying, ‘Cleanliness is next to godliness’ is not in the Bible, but if you read the careful instruction given to the children of Israel by the Lord in regard to keeping their body, clothing, and surroundings clean and neat, you will clearly see that anyone who is obedient to God, will have habits of cleanliness and order. To come before God in dirty clothes or with dirty bodies is an offence to Him.

Also when we realize that we have holy angels with us, when we belong to Jesus, and they come from heaven where all is clean and orderly, we will want to do our best to have this in our homes as well.

In our text the children of Israel were getting ready for the Lord to come and speak to them. They were told to make everything bright and clean. They prepared like they would if a great King were coming to visit.

You know, we are to be children of the Heavenly King; He wants to visit with us every day, and the Holy Spirit and the Holy angels want to be with us all the time. And we need them all the time! It is only by the power of heaven that we can be changed and made ready for a place in heaven.

So we will want our homes, our rooms and our bodies to be as fresh and clean and tidy as possible so the heavenly family will enjoy being with us.

There is an extra special time when Heaven is close to us; do you know when that is? Yes, it is the Sabbath Day! So especially for that day, we should have everything very nice, like you would if you got a call from Jesus saying He was coming to spend the day with you; you would make everything neat and nice wouldn't you?

Thought - Remember that Jesus and the angels are with you always and especially on Sabbath He comes close to bless us.

Tuesday

Text: Revelation 22:1 “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.”

Can you even imagine what that water is going to be like? None of us have any idea how wonderful it will be. I once read about when the first white explorers found the Great Lakes (Canada) that the water was crystal clear and you could see down to great depths in it, we can't even imagine it. We have no idea how lovely the water in heaven and the New Earth will be!

It is pure water that Jesus says is like Him and His truth. Pure water is hard to find in our dirty old earth, so people who want to be healthy, drink distilled water, or special filtered water, because it has all the bad things taken out. You can get very sick if you drink bad water.

If you wash your clothes in muddy water, they will be worse won't they? So the false religious ideas of churches and religions often leave a sinner worse than he was before!

So where do we find that pure water to wash away all our badness and sins? It says right in the text; it comes from the throne of God and the Lamb!

We find it in the inspired writings of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. All other worldly things have impurities mixed in, and they can make us spiritually sick. We need that pure water of life from Jesus.

Thought - In Jesus' time on earth, He taught from the pure Bible truths, but people back then were so used to hearing from the false teachers, they thought His words were strange and new.

Wednesday

Text: Philippians 2:8 “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

Jesus likens Himself to the 'Water of Life'. There are many things we can learn from this idea. Water is cleansing; Jesus cleanses us from sin. Water is essential to life; Jesus is essential for eternal life.

Now what does this text have to do with water, you ask? Well, there is something very special about water. If you pour a glass of water on your table, what will it do? It will run off the edges, right?

Water always seeks the lowest place; it cheerfully and without complaint, quickly goes to the 'lowest room'.

Jesus is the meek and lowly One; He is the humble God, who came down to the very depths to reach His fallen children.

When we are imbued with His Spirit, we will never be found seeking the highest place, but like the water, singing with joy, we will seek the way of lowly service.

If you have every sat beside a sparking, splashing stream, you have seen another spiritual lesson from water. When flowing over rocks and rough places, water sings joyously. So may we rejoice in troubles and hard times as well as when skies are bright.

When you are near flowing water in a falls or fountain, this singing, joyous water, seeking the lowest place, gives a healthy, fresh feeling to all around it. So the life of Jesus, and his true children filled with His Spirit, has a heavenly and refreshing effect on all around, if they do not harden their hearts to this blessing.

Thought - When Jesus lives in our hearts we will be humble and helpful, cheery and a blessing to those around us.

Thursday

Text: Genesis 2:10 “And a river went out of Eden and watered the garden.”

James 5:7 “Behold, the husbandman (gardener) waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.”

If you have a garden, you know that it needs to be watered by rain or in some way or it will dry up and die, won't it? Well The Bible promises us a special kind of rain. God calls the Holy Spirit the 'Early and Latter Rain'

We are God's garden and He sends the Holy Spirit, like rain to give us life and make us grow. Last week we learned about a tree that was always green and kept giving fruit. Why? Because it was planted by living waters and never dried out.

After Jesus went back to heaven, He sent a special gift of the Holy Spirit to be with all His true followers. It was called the 'Early Rain'. He never took it away again, but it is to come to everybody who truly repents and is born again, giving their whole hearts to Jesus.

This 'Rain' comes into our hearts, and works

to cause us to grow and bear good fruit.

If we don't have the 'Early Rain' in our lives, we are like old dried up sticks. Many people that think they are Christians, are just dried up sticks in the Garden of God. Why? Because they have never, ever given ALL their lives and hearts to Him; they are just fooling themselves.

If you don't know for sure that you have the Holy Spirit inside your heart, helping you to get rid of sin, and teaching you to be more and more like Jesus, then you need to pray and ask our Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus for it.

Jesus wants to give us all blessings, but we must want them, and ask for them. Ask Him to show you if there is anything in your life that would stop the Holy Spirit from coming into your heart. If there is, ask Him to help you get it out of your life.

Thought - It is through the Holy Spirit "Rain" that Jesus lives in our hearts and makes us ready for Heaven.

Friday

Text: Zechariah 10:1 "Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field."

Soon there is going to come a very special time in this old world's history. Soon there is going to be a group of people who really, truly love Jesus and have given all their hearts to Him. They will not want the things of this earth, that would stop them from belonging completely to Jesus.

They will not want entertainment and sports; they will not want parties and silly stories; they will not want fiction and cartoons. Why? Because they will be really getting to know Jesus and His truth, and it will mean so much to them that they will just want more and more of Him. All these devil-delights will not interest them anymore.

Even though these people will have much trouble and persecution from those who do not really love Jesus with all their hearts, they will still be the happiest and most joyful people in the entire world. They won't want worldly things because they know it is just junk, that is soon going to be gone.

God is going to do something special for these people. He is going to send what is called the 'Latter Rain' of the Holy Spirit. So they already have the Early Rain and this is what has helped them to become like Jesus, loving the heavenly things and hating the worldly things; and now a special extra rain is sent to do two things:

- 1- get them ready to go to heaven; and
- 2- give them power to tell all the world about Jesus and His Law, one final time.

They will go everywhere telling all that they must surrender to Jesus and let Him make them into obedient children of God. We need to be ready in our hearts for this special 'Rain'. And we need to ask 2 things:

- 1- Jesus make me ready and
- 2- Jesus send that special Rain because we really need it down here in this dark old world!

Thought - I choose to have those rains, both the Early Rain now and the Latter Rain when God decides it is time to send it—don't you? = ^ .. ^ =

