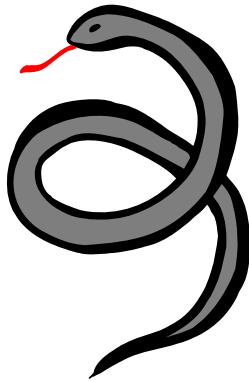


TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 2 - 1st Quarter - Issue #11



CREATION CORNER

CAUTION

It is interesting that most animals have an instinctive fear of snakes—even if they have never seen one before and even if they live in a country where no poisonous ones are to be found. I have especially noticed this in cats.

You may have seen it happen also; a cat will spot a piece of rope or cord lying on the floor or hanging out of a box or something. His attention is riveted to it and he starts to tiptoe up to it, oh so cautiously. His neck is stretched out, his whiskers are forward, his ears focused intently and often even some of his hair begins to stand on end. He sniffs as he approaches the ‘thing’ very slowly.

If at this point, you are able to cause the cord or rope to move, the cat will hiss and leap back instantly. Then he will begin to approach again. Finally if it doesn't move, he will put out a paw and quickly dab at it and leap back; he will do this several times getting bolder as it continues not to move or harm him.

Finally, fully satisfied that the thing is not a snake, he will sniff it over and walk away from it. He never seems to act like he feels silly for having been afraid of a cord or a rope. In fact if he finds another snake-like object tomorrow, he will do the whole performance again.

I don't think the cat is silly either; God has given him this reaction to protect him. If he did come across a dangerous snake, this caution would save his life.

I wish we were as smart when it comes to being afraid of ‘that old serpent, the devil’. I wish that whenever we would see the least sign that the devil might be involved with something that we want to do, or hear, or see, or play, or somewhere we want to go—that we would jump back and study it out carefully, using the Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy and much prayer to sniff it out; and if we see the least sign of the serpent in it—we will run away from it, quickly.

CONTENTS:
CREATION CORNER
HISTORY
TRUE-STORY-TIME
STORY LESSON
MISSION STORY
WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON

HISTORY

Early America

It is very sad to tell, that when the persecuted peoples from England and Europe fled to America, and began setting up their little colonies there, that they had not learned the lesson from the persecution they themselves had suffered. No, not at all, because most of them immediately set up religious laws and persecuted any who differed from them, as viciously as Rome ever did.

In order to be allowed to live in some of these early colonies, one had to be member of the church and obey them in all things. Religious liberty was unknown in America until Roger Williams, who had to flee religious persecution in the cold winter and live among the Indians, later established Rhode Island, the first colony with religious freedom. He said he would rather live amongst Christian savages than the savage Christians.

It took a long while for the idea of religious freedom and separation of church and state to come about. George Washington at one time was arrested for traveling on the Sunday. Virginia had a death penalty for Sunday breaking! (It is still on the books)

Patrick Henry is famous for his concise and passionate statement during the struggle for American Independence. His cry "Give me liberty or give me death!" is still ringing in the ears of every true American. But many don't know the background behind that powerful statement.

As Patrick Henry rode his horse into the town of Culpeper, Va., in March 1775, he was shocked by what he saw. The town center was crowded with people. As he approached, he heard the sound of a whip laced with metal, mercilessly lashing the back of some poor victim, the sight horrified him. He said, "When they stopped beating him, I could see the bones of his rib cage."

As the blood flowed, Patrick asked someone what this man had done to deserve such cruel punishment. He was told that he was a Baptist preacher that had refused to take a government license to preach. Three days later he was scourged again. This time he died.

In those days, before there was religious liberty in America, Virginia was an Anglican colony in which church and state were mixed together similar to the way it had been in Europe. Though many

people came to America for religious liberty, they often granted it only to themselves, not those of other faiths,

This martyr for liberty never knew of his impact on Patrick's mind, or how very influential he was in gaining independence from Britain, and freedom of religion for all Americans. Baptists believed that the only valid preaching license was the Bible text, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15.

They believed that God had directed that Bible truth must be preached in Culpeper and all of Virginia, and the other colonies too. He gave his life in the cause of liberty of conscience. God needs more men and women who will hold to their convictions regardless of the consequences, like this unnamed Baptist preacher, whose influence is still being felt today.

Patrick penned his famous words, which became a rallying cry of the Revolution. "What is it that Gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH!"

Today, people are foolishly clamouring to return to having the State support the wishes of the church. We have known freedom of religion, we take it for granted, and so have forgotten the horrible situation that occurs when a man can be fined, imprisoned, tortured and killed, merely because his honest religious beliefs differ from the majority.

If we forget the lessons of history, we will be forced to relive its mistakes. — Thanks to Hal Mayer of Hartland College for part of this article. = ^ .. ^ =



TRUE-STORY-TIME

The Jungle Band: Erick B.Hare

How dear to my heart are the scenes of the jungle
When fond recollection presents them to view!
The people contented in dark superstition
To live and to die. 'Twas all that they knew.
We longed, how we longed, to preach them the gospel,
To teach them the truth that we all hold so dear,
But, 'fraid of the white man and all that came with him,
They fled in confusion whene'er he drew near.
We tried and we tried to preach them the gospel;
But what can you do when they're governed by fear?

We took them the pictures, the magic night pictures;
We cared for the sick and bound up their sores;
By blowing our cornets, we called them together,
And soon had a meeting. And this is the cause:
The boys all declared that they wished they had cornets
To help preach the gospel to great and to small.
To Australia's fair land, our Thara went on furlough,
And told there the story,—the jungle boys' call:
They wanted some cornets to help spread the message,
And win souls to Jesus who died to save all.

The folks in the homeland were touched with the pleading,
The one gave a trumpet, and one gave a drum,
And one sent a check, and another a trombone,
And in a few months the whole thing was done.
Six cornets, a eupho, and two E-flat basses,
Two tenors, four trombones, a new baritone.
We packed them in boxes—in iron-bound boxes—
And sent them to Burma—a long way from home—
To the boys in the jungle, who wanted some cornets
To help preach the gospel where'er they might roam.

A band in the jungle! A brass band with cornets!
The news spread abroad to those governed by fear,
And uncles and aunties, and nieces and nephews,
And grandmas and grandpas came running to hear.
The drum beat enthralled them. The beautiful music
Was sweeter to them than their dirges so drear.
They now dared to listen to singing and preaching,
To tales of the gospel proclaimed far and near;
And some came to church, and some sent their children.
The band in the jungle had conquered their fear.

Up mountain and valley, 'cross rivers and streamlets,
Away went the band with its message of cheer.
The road was oft dreary, and rough was the pathway,
But on marched the band with Thara in the rear.
Oft split were the basses, oft dented the cornets,
Or lost was a valve cap, or broken a spring;
But there in each village, their courage still flying,
The cracks stopped with soap, and the joints tied with string,
The band in the jungle, without the least grumble,
To poor, waiting people its message would bring.

How dear to my heart is the band in the jungle!
The dear boys that play it through thick and through thin,

With all of its noise, and all of its jumble;
Its cornets all soldered and patched up with tin;
The sore feet, and blisters, the marches at nighttime,
To miss the hot winds and the dust by the day;
At night when I kneel at my bed and am praying,
All rush to my memory, and lead me to say,
Oh, Lord, bless the band, the band in the jungle;
And bless the dear boys who blow it away.
And when the old cornets, the patched-up old cornets,
Are worn out and useless and thrown away,
Lord, gather the souls the boys have been winning
By blowing the band in the jungle. I pray. = ^ .. ^ =

STORY LESSON

Taking Care of your Skin

Many years ago, at a great celebration, a little boy was covered all over with varnish and gold leaf, so as to make him look like an angel. The poor little boy looked very pretty for a short time, but soon he became very sick, and in a few hours he was dead. There were two reasons: The chemicals from the varnish went into his skin, and the pores of his skin were stopped up, so that they could not put out the poisons from his body.

Did you ever know of a boy who had his skin varnished? Probably not, but there are people who do not wash their skin as often as they should, and the sweat, oil, and dead skin form a sort of varnish which stops up the little ducts and prevents the air from getting to the skin, like a coat of varnish would do.

The sweat glands and ducts are like little sewer pipes made to carry away some of the impurities of the body. There are so many of them that, if they were all put together, they would make a tube two or three miles long. These little sewers drain off almost a quart of impurities in the form of sweat every day. So you see that it is very important for the skin to be kept clean and healthy.

A bird takes a bath every day. Dogs and many other animals like to go into the water to bathe. Some of you have seen a great elephant take a bath by showering the water over himself with his trunk. To keep the skin healthy we should bathe frequently.

When we take a bath for cleanliness it is good idea to use a little soap, so as to remove the oil which is mixed up with the dry sweat, dead skin, and dirt which may have become attached to the skin.

It is not good to take extremely hot baths all the time, but they are very helpful in treating certain sicknesses. A frequent warm bath or shower is

the best way to keep the skin clean and healthy.

The skin should be protected by proper clothing that covers our arms and legs as well as our body. Being outdoors in the sunshine and fresh air is healthy for our skin, but we should not stay uncovered in the hot sun until we get sunburned. Having our rooms too hot in the wintertime can make our skin dry and itchy.

The scalp and hair should be kept clean by frequent washing with shampoo and daily brushing. The habit of biting and picking the fingernails, keeps the nails broken and unhealthy. The nails should be kept clean and carefully trimmed with a pair of nail clippers.

Cosmetics like powder and eye paint and lipstick are very harmful to the skin as they clog up pores and the chemicals in them go into the skin. People who use them a lot can ruin their skin permanently.

The oils in many of these lipsticks and face paints come from smelly old dead animals that are boiled down in huge kettles until this grease rises to the top; then it is skimmed off of the smelly mess and sold to the cosmetic people. Now do you really want that on your face?

The use of harmful things like alcohol and tobacco also makes the skin dull and unhealthy. Next time you see an older woman who smokes, notice how leathery her skin looks. Cleanliness and a good natural diet with lots of fruits and vegetables, is the secret to having beautiful and healthy skin.

= ^ .. ^ =

MISSION STORY

Little Woman with a Big God: Erick B.Hare

THE house was strangely quiet as they approached it. But for a stray chicken or two scratching near the paddy pounder, a full-grown sow with a litter of little squawkers, grazing in the sunshine, and a lone dog barking his challenge, there were no customary signs of life. No fire in the fireplace, no one turning the cotton gin, no children playing around. Indeed, the ladder itself was drawn up and hung on a floor joist.

“There’s nobody home,” suggested Moogar.

“Yes, there is—she’s inside,” replied the man who had been looking three or four days for a jungle doctor to treat his wife, and at last had been directed to the Karen pastor’s wife. “She smells so bad no one will stay with her. We’ve offered rice to the spirits, we’ve sent an offering to the Phongyi,

we have rubbed her with bewitched oil—nothing’s any good—but if you’ll only—” and he unhooked the ladder for the party to ascend into the house.

Moogar reached for a handkerchief and felt funny all over; they were not inside yet, but already she could smell the cause of the poor patient’s loneliness and she trembled a little. Because after all she was only a little woman, she could easily stand under my outstretched arm; and sitting down to compose herself, she waited till the man opened the door and called for her.

“Whatever did you do? Whatever is the matter?” she exclaimed, as she forced herself, in spite of the terrible odor, to the patient’s side, and from out of the bundle of disheveled rags and blankets came the trembling, faltering reply:

“You know over there near the waterpots, where we throw the slop, and pour the rice water, and bathe, and underneath where the pigs wallow? Well, on account of the heavy rains the bamboos had rotted, and without realizing it, I was carrying up a heavy waterpot, and while putting it down, the floor gave way and down I went.

The cruel ragged splinters of the broken bamboos tore the skin off my legs, and cut my body—oh, how it hurt! And it landed me in all that slime. The pigs fled for their lives, and I was left to pick myself up slowly as best I could. In no time there was a crowd around me, and everyone thought it a huge joke—all except me.

“By the time I was washed and dressed again, I could almost have forgotten about it, except I was sore and cut and scraped—and little thinking, I fried the curry for the evening meal—and that was the mistake. Now the “fry smell” has gone all through my body, and all those scraped and cut places are loathsome and foul-smelling sores. Please look, and see if you can help me.”

It was no time to smile at the poor woman’s superstition about the “fry smell” causing the infection. Something must be done. The dirty clothes were slowly removed, revealing the most impossible sight poor Moogar had ever seen. She tried to look, but the terror of it shut her eyes. She tried to touch, but the thought of it made her shudder. “Oh, sister,” she said, “what can I do? I dare not touch; I dare not look.”

But the pain in those eyes, the disappointment of lost hope in that saddened face, stirred her soul to its depths, and stroking the careworn brow she continued: “I’m only a little woman, I can’t do much, but I’ve got a big God. He knows everything and

can do everything. For Christ's sake, I'll ask Him what to do, and then do my best."

Oh, what a glorious thought—a big God who can do everything! The sickening, foul-smelling room seemed lighted with His presence.

The fire was lighted, hot water prepared, the floors swept, the sores washed and dressed with simple ointment. It seemed to take hours, but at last the first treatment had been given. The patient had been bound in clean bandages, and dressed in clean clothes; the dirty blankets were put to soak, and the old rags burned; but Moogar lingered just a moment, to say, "Sister, this is all I can do; but let's ask my big, big God to do the rest," and together they bowed in prayer.

"Outside the reaction came," she afterwards told me. "Oh, how I dreaded to think of the next trip! That night I couldn't swallow my food, because you know I'd never seen anything like it. I'm not even a nurse. All I know is what I've learned in bringing up my own seven. But that taught me to rely on our big God. Really," she said, warming up to the subject, "I've seen God work miracles. Things I couldn't even diagnose have answered to the simplest of treatments. This poor woman was quite well again in about two weeks, and has promised to come to Sabbath school."

"Then you saw that man standing on the steps while we were having meeting last night? Oh, I never saw anyone so swollen in my life. It seemed he must surely burst. Every breath seemed that it must be the last. I made my husband learn to treat the men patients (and you would have thought he was handling snakes when he first started; he was simply frightened of it). But I told him we had a big God on our side, and—well, we pulled him through.

"Since we have come to this village, the Buddhist priest has moved out,—and we are called upon for everything. I wouldn't dare to take the responsibility by myself; but with our big God, Thara, oh yes, that makes all the difference!"

And Moogar could have talked on for hours, telling of her cases; but seeing the hour was late, and I was tired after a long journey, she left me to retire. And on my knees I breathed a prayer for another jungle hero—the little woman with the big God. = ^ .. ^ =



Year 2: 1st Quarter:
"THE WONDERS OF REVELATION"
WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 11:
"3 ANGELS & THEIR MESSAGES"

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: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12

Revelation 14

Sunday

Text: Revelation 14:1,3 "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads... And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth."

It is interesting that often before a new prophecy scene is shown in Revelation, we are given a glimpse of the time when all the faithful will be in heaven and how happy they will be, singing and shouting praises to Jesus as they realize their trials are over and they have won the victory through the power of the blood of the Lamb.

So here we see a special group, the 144,000. They are the faithful remnant who will stand through the times of trouble and live to see Jesus come in the clouds and go home with Him without

ever dying. There will be many, many more people who will be raised from the dead and go home to heaven also.

It tells us that they 'sing a new song'. In prophecy a 'song' means that they have had a special experience. That's why no-body else can learn this 'new song', because nobody else has had an experience quite like this group.

They have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation; they have endured the distress of the time of Jacob's trouble; they have lived through the time when Jesus was no longer pleading for sinners in the heavenly sanctuary and have seen the terrible seven last plagues fall on the earth.

They have seen famine and war and sickness hit the earth like never before. They have seen what happens to men when the Holy Spirit leaves them forever and they are left completely controlled by Satan. They then will look and act like demons!

But this group of living faithful ones will have Jesus in their hearts. They will act and think like Him. They will have the Holy Spirit and holy angels with them to protect and strengthen them through this time, but the wicked will have nothing. They refused all efforts by God to save them, so they are left to the rule of Satan, which they chose to have.

Why do these things have to happen? Well, it is so the whole universe will see what sin really is and what it results in. Never again will anyone think that God's Law should be thrown away.

Thought - I know of people who have stopped following the truth because the time of trouble and things like that made them feel afraid, and they didn't want to think about it. But God's true people will have all the help and protection they will need at this time. The wicked will have nothing.

Monday

Text: Revelation 14:4,5 "These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God."

Now here in these verses we have some important clues about what the faithful are going to do. It says they are 'not defiled with women'. In prophecy a 'women' is a church, but this says women, plural. In our day we are seeing churches

from all over the world gathering together, claiming to worship God, but really seeking to force people to worship man and obey councils and pastors instead of God's Word.

We have the World Council of Churches and other groups that try and get everyone to follow one set of ideas and these ideas actually come from the Roman Church. They are not God's truths and to obey them, we must disobey God.

The true ones will have to leave all church tradition and the rules of men and stand faithful only to Jesus and His Holy Word. They will say to these 'churches' and pastors that try and force people to obey man's laws, "Show us from the Bible where we are wrong and we will obey the Bible." They will say like Peter, "We must obey God rather than man."

They 'follow the Lamb, wherever He goes'. This means that no matter what troubles result from obeying God's word, and keeping His holy Sabbath day, these wise virgins obey God faithfully. It is in His strength they have gotten the victory over all their sins, and now in His strength they stay faithful to the end.

'In their mouth was found no guile'; 'guile' means to lie, or be dishonest. It means that these people do not tell anything but the truth. They are not claiming to be good when they really are doing wrong. They are not hypocrites, and they don't hide truths of the Bible, just because to preach them would make some people angry.

This verse proves to be wrong those who try and tell us that God's people don't have to overcome and stop sinning and they will still be sinning right up to when Jesus comes. Instead, they will have the character of Jesus and act just like He did. They will be 'without fault'.

Thought - Jesus needs people who choose to really live like He did; in total obedience to God's Law.

Tuesday

Text: Revelation 14:6,7 "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

Here comes the first angel and his message. This message went out with great strength through the earth in the early 1800s and especially in 1843-1844. The longest time prophecy in the Bible found in Daniel 8:14 was coming to its end and the Holy Spirit stirred up deep interest all over the world.

It is still going out as each angel adds his message to the messages of the ones before him. So at the end, three messages are going out and later we learn that a fourth one joins the three.

The message told that God's Judgment was to begin in 1844 and people thought that this meant the 2nd coming of Jesus in 1844, but it does mean His coming is very close.

What does this message tell us in brief? Put God 1st in our lives; Honour God above men; Honour Him as Creator! Honour Him as Redeemer! Fear Him and obey Him! Keep all His commandments including the 4th! Did you know that the 4th commandment is the only one that tells who God is and why He has Authority? It tells us why we should obey Him.

This message about the judgment, the Law of God and how He is the Creator of all things, is to go to all the earth. Everybody is to hear about it and make their choice; to worship and obey God, or to keep right on doing whatever they feel like and obeying their own made up rules. It is sad that most people will refuse to listen to God and truly worship Him, but at the same time they will claim they are worshiping God.

Each one of us has to decide what we will do; will we obey God and keep His commandments or not? Remember the 144,000 who are 'without fault'? They are the ones who choose to obey and Jesus gives them the power to do it.

Thought - In different places in the Bible, God tells us He created all things and this is the reason He, and He alone is the only real God there is.

Wednesday

Text: Revelation 14:8 "And there followed another angel saying "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

In 1843 and 1844, especially as the message was linked with the cry, "Behold the Bridegroom Cometh! Go ye out to meet Him!" It went with great power. October 22 1844; the prophecy of the 2300 days would come to its close marking the start of God's investigative judgment, where all who have ever claimed to serve God will have their life records examined to see if they will be taken home when

Jesus appears.

These messages set off a train of reactions. People began to show their true colors. Did they really love Jesus and long for Him to return? Or were they more in love with worldly pleasure?

As the 'Adventist' preachers put forth the warning, all over the world churches at first revived and came alive. But then a division occurred; those who wanted to see Jesus come, became more Godly in their lives and those who wanted a life of worldly pleasure, became more worldly. Then the worldly ones began to hate the Godly ones. This is the way it always is in this sinful world, and it is that way now also.

Soon churches were closing their doors to the Advent Message. In 1844 a tremendous change took place; the main churches began to mock the message of the prophecy of Daniel 8:14. Then they began holding big feasts and entertainments at which the message and the messengers were made fun of. Then solemnly the 2nd angels message went forward; 'Babylon, the proud, worldly Churches, has fallen!' It was added to the 1st angel's message in the summer of 1844, and was sounded through the world.

This 'Fall' has kept on going, as the churches today are more interested in entertainment and feasting, than repentance and obedience to God. It includes all churches, and this is why the 144,000 will not be found obeying any of those man-made organizations, that are showing by their lives that they are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. Instead, they will 'Come out', by following the Word of God faithfully.

Thought - This message is being repeated in our day in Rev. 18:2. This time it is warning all to come out before it is too late!!

Thursday

Text: Revelation 14:9-11 "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and

whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”

This is perhaps the most solemn warning in the entire Bible! Surely it is serious and all people must be interested in what it means, because it affects us all! To understand this message it is necessary to do some background study.

As the Most Holy Place in heaven was opened in 1844 at the end of the 2300 days, God's 10 commandment law was revealed more clearly and students of the Bible found that they had been breaking the 4th commandment and didn't know it! Attention was brought to the 7th day Sabbath all over the world. This was the third angel's message beginning.

It is most interesting that each church had its attention drawn to the Sabbath question in the mid 1800s. From Catholic Priests to Baptists ministers, in each denomination, someone arose to proclaim that the Sunday was not the Bible Sabbath. Councils were held and in each case, although some individuals chose to keep the Sabbath, the churches decided to stick to the tradition.

This is part of the continued 'Fall of Babylon' and if you study the history of these churches, after they rejected the Sabbath, they became even more worldly in their practices. They also do not have the blessing of the Holy Spirit to help them correctly understand prophecy. This is because as you do correctly understand it, you see that you need to obey God and keep the Sabbath, and they have already decided not to do this. So they make up weird ideas about the prophecies that sound like a science-fiction movie.

The 'Mark of the Beast' is the changing of Sabbath to Sunday by the Beast power, Rome. Why does God tell us such terrible things will happen to those who 'receive this mark'? It is because to follow the ways of man and reject God's Law means there is no way God can save them. They will be lost forever.

Now you have to realize that God does not punish someone for breaking a law that he honestly knows nothing about, and never had a chance to learn about. The final test will be set up with 2 choices; obey God and keep His 7th day Sabbath and be persecuted by man; or, obey man-made laws to force people to keep Sunday and receive the 7 last plagues and be lost.

It seems hard, but when you really know God and His promises, you see that He is going to take good care of all who choose to obey Him. The Beast power will not be able to overcome them.

The Beast is not able to save anybody; it can't even save itself! The Bible tells us it will be destroyed. Choosing to obey man's power is to leave yourself with no help at all.

Thought - Only lovers of the truth, who are willing to obey it, will understand God's Word correctly. Verse 12 "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Friday

Text: Revelation 14:14,15 "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

In the last part of Revelation 14, we have another word-picture; it is about two harvests. It is telling us what is going to be the result of this test that God sets up to let people choose whether they will obey God or not.

Two groups are formed; first the wheat is gathered. In Matthew 13, God's true and faithful ones, the faithful are called 'Wheat'. They are prepared to go home with Him.

Then there are grapes; what an interesting word-picture for the wicked ones of the earth, the ones who have decided to do what they please and refuse to obey God. They are compared to fat, purple grapes. Grapes are full of wine, and these wicked are full of the 'Wine of Babylon', which is the false doctrines of Rome and the fallen churches.

The grapes don't go home; instead they are thrown into a wine-press and crushed. This means that these wicked ones, who after God has done everything in His power to get them to decided to obey Him, still refuse and instead choose their own wicked ways, will be crushed and destroyed by their own wickedness and the 7 last plagues.

Thought - It is most interesting that both the wheat and the grapes are 'fully ripe'. This means that there is no doubt any more about who belongs to Jesus and who does not. Sometimes we see someone and we are not sure about whether he loves Jesus or not, but in this final harvest, the grapes will act just like the devil and the wheat will act exactly like Jesus. All will see it clearly. = ^ .. ^ =