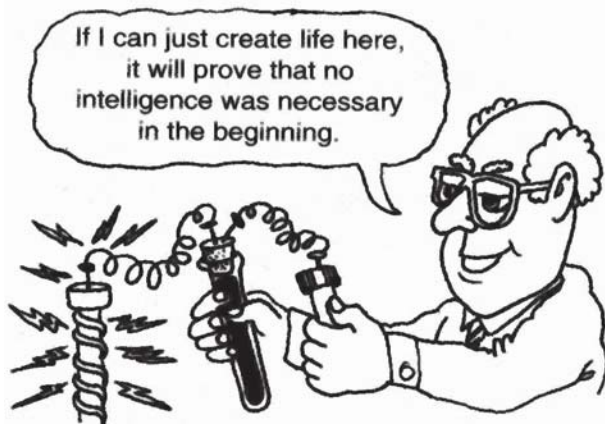


TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 2 - 2nd Quarter - Issue #8



CREATION CORNER Proteins and DNA

Your body is wonderfully made. All the different parts and their functions are amazing. Yet it was not long ago that scientists discovered that a complicated set of codes governs how your body is structured and how it works.

That master code is called DNA.

You also have very complicated proteins in your body. Without them you could have no muscles and could not move a finger. Indeed, without protein, you would not really have a finger!

Here are a few facts about DNA and protein, which disprove the theory of evolution.

Evolution teaches that you came about by chance. Some seawater slopped together one day, and made itself into some small creatures. Later, these little animals made themselves into bigger, far different creatures. The result is all our millions of plants and animals we see about us today.

There are many, many facts that show that

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evolution is a false theory. But the truth about DNA and protein, alone, is enough to finish it off.

There are billions of cells in your body. Each cell has a complete code within it. It is the DNA code. Also called your gene pool, it contains the whole plan for your body.

There is no possible way that this code could have been made by chance. It is far too complicated. Only someone with highest intelligence could have made the code and placed it in your body. That person is God.

In addition to DNA, each cell in your body also needs a translation package, messenger RNA, a biological compiler, an index, and a cell switch, in order to make the DNA usable. Each of those special units is also in the cell.

There is no way they could made themselves, and there is no way they could have been made by chance.

To add to the difficulty, each characteristic in your body is controlled by several different DNA genes! So they all had to be there, perfectly in place, from the very beginning. There is no way one could be made, and then years (or even minutes) later, another could be made. Every-

thing had to be there—all at once.

Evolutionists teach that, if it is impossible for something to happen, it will happen if you give it enough time. That is the basic teaching of evolution. But it is untruth. If something cannot happen, it will never happen.

If I throw a book into the air, will it change into a live pigeon? No. If I throw it into the air a million billion times, will it happen? Never. Dirty seawater is said to have made living creatures. But that never happened. It could not possibly happen. The DNA code could not be made by ocean water moving about.

Every species of plant or animal has different DNA codes. They are all unique, and all extremely important. None of them could be made by chance. Since it is impossible to make one DNA code by chance, how much more impossible would it be to make the millions of codes found in all the kinds of plants and animals?

Protein is made of thousands of amino acids. Using million-dollar laboratories, with lots of expensive chemicals, scientists are able to make amino acids. But what they make is always dead. It has no life in it.

The scientists can no more make life than you can make a live bunny rabbit out of sawdust or grass clippings.

Although it is impossible to make even the smallest creature—even if someone could do it, it still would not be alive. Only God can give life to something.

Just as it is impossible to make one DNA molecule, it is impossible to make one strand of protein. That is what is in your arm muscles. Each strand contains thousands of amino acids, arranged in exact order.

So it is just as impossible to make protein, as it is to make DNA. No one can do it, and dirt, sand, or seawater cannot do it either. But it is also just as impossible to make sugars, fats, and enzymes by chance.

So everything in a plant or animal has to all be there—all the DNA, protein, sugars, enzymes, and all the rest. If it is not, the creature soon weakens and dies.

Everything has to be in very good condition—right from the start. Many scientists tell us it would be impossible for evolutionary methods (which means just by accident over a long period of time) to make even the smallest germ,

much less raccoons, whales, roses, and boys and girls.

Only God can make a living creature. Only He can make your puppy dog. He is the one who made you. Thank Him every day for what He has done. Give Him your future, and live a clean, honest life, obeying Jesus and He can help you live a far happier life than you could otherwise live. = ^ .. ^ =

HISTORY

AD 622-632 the War Years

At the time that Mohammed entered it, Medina was called Ytreb; a few years later its name was changed (by order of Mohammed himself) to Medinat al-Nabi or “City of the Prophet.” Medina was like a watered garden with hundreds of orchards, palm groves, farms, and farm animals.

The Mohammedan era truly began with the He-gira (his escape to Medina). Mohammed entered Medina in triumph, being eagerly welcomed by his followers, who now regarded him as a ruler as well as an apostle and prophet.

At the first ceremony he held with the people, he arose and proclaimed “Allah is most great!” Then he descended the stairs backwards and bowed to the ground three times. Then turning to his followers, Mohammed told them to do this till the end of time. Thus prostration to the ground became an example his followers followed in years to come. Islam means “to surrender”; and its adherents are Muslims, “the surrendered ones.” then a sermon was given (which might be very secular). If you were to enter a Muslim mosque, this would be what you would do.

Some of the people honored Mohammed, but others didn't. The Christians, Jews and half the Arabs were quite sceptical, so Mohammed made an agreement with them to let them all be one nation and free to follow their own religion. They accepted this but later, the prophet began to use fear and force to make people obey himself. The sword was to serve him as his most faithful servant in building up Islam. Forcing submission to Allah by threats and bloodshed.

He declared that the period of long suffering and patience was past and that his mission, and that of every Muslim male, was to enlarge Islam by the sword. The duty of Muslims was

to destroy the temples of the infidels, to overthrow the idols, and to pursue the unbelievers to the remotest quarters of the world.

Mohammed's new message was that the sword is the key of heaven and of hell. He said that a drop of blood shed in the cause of Allah, a night spent in arms, is of more avail than two months of fasting and prayer. Whoever dies in battle, his sins are forgiven and he goes right to Paradise.

The Muslims were told that no man could die in battle until the appointed moment. Until that moment arrived, he was safe from the enemy's darts; but, when the time came, he would drop dead in his own house or expire in his bed, if not on the battlefield. It is no wonder that, under such teaching, the soldiers of Islam have always been famous for their recklessness.

Mohammed promised Paradise as the reward of the valor of his followers, and also the riches of this world were also to be divided among them. Thus the new religion attracted the wandering Bedouins of Arabia— not so much for the idea of the spirituality of Allah, as from the opportunity and sanction it gave the Mohammedans to gather up the wealth, women, and slaves of those they conquered; Sort of 'holy' robbery.

The prophet who had exhibited such gentle qualities as a religious teacher now displayed the character of the warrior. He had finally obtained a position at Medina and was able to act on men with other forces than poetry.

Now the man who, for forty years, had been a simple citizen, leading a quiet family life and, for thirteen years afterward, had been a persecuted, patient teacher of Allah—passed the last ten years of his life raising and organizing an army of warriors, who later would conquer half the civilized world. Mohammed, who had always been so kind-hearted and affectionate, was now capable of the greatest cruelty toward those who resisted his purpose. The Jews had helped him in many ways in the past, but they refused to receive him as a prophet. So he denounced them and slew many of them. = ^ .. ^ =

OLD TIME STORIES

Doers or Dreamers

Amy was a dear little girl, but she would always waste time, instead of doing her tasks at once, as she ought. In the village in which she lived, Mr. Thornton kept a store where he sold fruit of all kinds, including berries in their season. One day he said to Amy, whose parents were quite poor, "Would you like to earn some money?"

"Oh, yes," replied she, "for I want some new shoes, and papa has no money to buy them with."

"Well, Amy," said Mr. Thornton, "I noticed some fine, ripe blackberries in Mr. Green's pasture to-day, and he said that anybody was welcome to them. I will pay you thirteen cents a quart for all you will pick for me." [This would be about like a dollar today.]

Amy was delighted at the thought of earning some money; so she ran home to get a basket, intending to go immediately to pick the berries.

Then she thought she would like to know how much money she would get if she picked five quarts. She did some arithmetic and found out that she would get sixty-five cents.

"But supposing I should pick a dozen quarts," thought she, "how much should I earn then?"

"Dear me," she said, after figuring a while, "I should earn a dollar and fifty-six cents."

Amy then found out what Mr. Thornton would pay her for fifty, a hundred, and two hundred quarts. It took her some time to do this, and then it was so near lunchtime that she had to stay at home until afternoon.

As soon as lunch was over, she took her basket and hurried to the pasture. But some boys had been there already, and all the ripe berries were picked. She could not find enough to fill even a quart.

As Amy went sadly home, she thought of what her teacher had often told her—"Do your task at once; then think about it, for one doer is worth a hundred dreamers." = ^ .. ^ =

STORY LESSON

What Alcohol Does to Brains & Nerves

Did you ever see someone who was drunk? How did they act? Perhaps they were noisy and silly. Perhaps they were angry and tried to pick a fight with someone.

What made them drunk? You say whiskey, wine, or beer that he drank. Anything that contains alcohol will make a person drunk, for it is the alcohol that causes the problem.

You can often tell when a person has been drinking, even when not yet drunk, by their flushed face and red eyes. When a man drinks just enough alcohol to make his face blush a little, the extra amount of blood in the brain makes him think and talk more lively, and he can feel very cheerful and happy. This makes many people think that alcohol does them good. But if we notice what people say when under the influence of alcohol, we find that their remarks are very silly and careless. They say very unwise and foolish things, and feel sorry later when they become sober.

How does a drunken man walk? He staggers. Alcohol makes his brain and spinal cord become partly paralyzed, and not do their work properly, and when he tries to walk he reels and stumbles along, often falling down, and even hurting himself. The alcohol has put his spinal cord and brain in kind of a sleep so that he cannot make his legs do what he wants them to do. Now, if he drinks still more alcohol, he may become so drunk that he will "pass out" and look as if he is dead, that is why some say he is "dead drunk." It is very harmful to organs of your body to become dead drunk. Especially does it hurt the brain, destroying thousands of important brain cells that help us to think and function.

A small amount of alcohol does not make a man dead drunk, but it still poisons and paralyzes his brain and nerves just according to the amount he takes.

If a person holds a little alcohol in his mouth for a few moments, the tongue and cheeks feel numb. This is because the alcohol paralyzed them so that they cannot feel or taste. When taken into the stomach, it has the same kind of effect on the nerves of the whole body.

Alcohol is a Deceiver; a hungry man takes a drink of whiskey and numbs the nerves of his

stomach so that he does not feel hungry. Alcohol puts to sleep the sentinels which Jesus, our Creator has placed in the body to warn us of danger. A man who is cold, drinks alcohol and feels warm, though he is really colder. He lies down in his false comfort and can freeze to death. A tired man takes his glass of strong drink, beer, or wine, and feels rested and strong, though he is really weaker than before. A poor man gets drunk and feels so rich that he spends what little money he has. The alcohol steals away his good sense. Alcohol is always a cheat and a deceiver.

When a person drinks strong liquor regularly, they soon injure the brain and nerves, so that they are very irritated, and at night they cannot sleep well and have frightful dreams. They see all sorts of wild animals and horrid shapes in their dreams. Perhaps you have sometimes had nightmares from eating big late suppers or hard-to-digest food.

Did you ever have a dream when you were awake? If a man drinks a great deal he is likely to have a terrible disease known as delirium tremens, in which he sees the same frightful things when he is wide awake that he dreams about when he is asleep. This is one of the terrible effects of alcohol upon the brain and nerves.

You have seen how a drunk staggers when he walks. Did you ever see a man who walked just as though he were drunk when he was really sober? This is because part of the brain or spinal cord has been permanently injured or paralyzed. Alcohol is not the only cause of this disease, and so you must not think every person who staggers is a drunkard; but alcohol can cause this problem.

When a man is under the influence of alcohol, is his character good or bad? Most men behave badly when they are drunk, and after they have been drunk a great many times they often behave badly all the time. A great many people who are shut up in prisons would not have been sent there if they had never learned to drink. Since Jesus wants us to have good characters, it is wise for us to avoid anything that will hurt us and cause us to do bad things.

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MISSION STORY

Fulton in Fiji: Tests and Trials

January came and went, February came and went and still no money came. But money or no money, John Fulton and John Cole continued visiting and preach-ing in the surrounding vil-lages. But the money still did not come. With both of the missionary families expecting little ones, it was an added worry for the brave mis-sionaries.

One day John Fulton said thoughtfully, "Here it is March and still no money from the General Conference! Nine months without money is a long time. My poor wife is finding it hard to keep up her strength on only native foods. What can we do? It is just too embarrassing to go to the store and say, 'Charge it,' when we have owed them money so long. And we can't expect the poor Indian milkmen to sell us milk on credit. How poor Susie longs for a drink of real cow's milk!"

"Fanny too," added John Cole.

"You know, it will be time to take Susie to the hospital any day now."

"Yes, and I do hope these months of priva-tion won't affect the baby."

"I surely hope not," sighed John Fulton.

Susie's time to have her baby came on April 3, and John took her to the hospital. "Yes, she's a bit pale and run down," said the doctor, "but we will hope for the best for both the baby and the mother."

John waited nervously; at last the doctor called him in and pointed to a little baby boy apparently lifeless, lying on the table. "I'm sorry, Mr. Fulton, but there's not much hope for the baby, and I'll have to work hard to save Mrs. Fulton's life," he said.

John was stunned, and just stood there for a moment. "This just can't be!" he murmured to himself. Then he saw a slight movement in the baby's body. He picked it up, and asked a Fijian nurse to bring some very warm water. Then he placed the baby first in very warm water, then in cold and kept on, and soon the baby began to breathe, and then to cry! The baby was alive!

With God's blessing Susie also pulled through and they called the new baby George Lorin Fulton, born the day before his mother's birthday.

"There's just one other thing I would like for

a birthday present," sighed Susie, "a check from the General Conference. Oh, John, how much longer can we wait?"

The days dragged on halfway through April, the tenth month without money. And then one day John met a man who said, "Oh, Mr. Fulton, I was at the boat when the mail was unloaded and I saw a package with your name on it. Bet-ter go and see what it is."

A package! Wouldn't Susie be surprised! Who could have sent it? He hastened his footsteps and was soon at the post office. John took up the package, thanked the clerk, and hurried home as fast as he could go. He quickly told Susie the good news.

"Children!" called Susie. "A present from America! Come quickly and see what it is." The children rushed into the house and crowded around while John removed the wrapping—the package contained beans and prunes!

"Beans!" moaned Susie. "If only it could have been a cow!" "Or a doll," Aganisi put in.

But brave, courageous Susie recovered quickly and said, "Never mind, children, let us thank God for more beans and prunes." And they did. As they rose from their knees, Susie looked lovingly at the disappointed children and added, "Never mind, last month I wrote to Grandma Newton in America and told her how hard up we are. And I'm sure we will get a nice present from her soon."

The month of May came, but still no money! "Fanny," said Susie one day "this is the elev-enth month with no money. Don't you think the Lord has tested us enough?"

Fanny bravely replied, "The Lord is still with us. Look at the way He helped our husbands find the spring! Look at the interest there is in the meetings! Look at your lovely little baby, Georgie! I hope my baby will be just as good and healthy when my birthday comes."

"Oh, it will be, Fanny," comforted Susie.

"My birthday is May 10. So we will soon know," replied Fanny.

On May the tenth John Cole took Fanny to the hospital, and a lovely, fat, healthy, baby boy was born! "Let us call him Tavita," said Fanny. "That is Fijian for David."

Just a day or two later John Cole became seriously ill. He couldn't keep anything on his stomach. The beans and the stress and strain were too much for him. His poor body just

couldn't take it any longer. He had to go to bed.

John Fulton went to see him every day. One day he said, "I'm going in to town today, Fanny. Is there anything I can do for you there?" "Brother Fulton," said Fanny, "I wonder if you would mind trying to get me a box of oatmeal. It is the only thing John can keep in his stomach."

John Fulton didn't answer at once. It was several months since they had tried saying, "Charge it," at the two stores in town. The manager of one of the stores had been real nasty, and said he wanted the bill all paid up before they charged any more. The manager of the other store was kinder, but it so embarrassing to say, "Charge it," when they had paid nothing for eleven months.

John Fulton stood there for a moment thinking. He looked at his shoes, which he carried in his hands. The soles had long since worn through, and for several months he had been going barefoot. But he carried his shoes with him when he went to town and put them on before meeting any English people. Then he looked at John, lying flat on his back. Tears came to his eyes, and he said softly, "I'll try, Fanny."

He got to the store and only the manager was there. There was nothing he could do but tell the manager the problem. "I'm sure the money will come eventually," said John, "and we've tried not to charge more than the bare necessities. But now John Cole is sick in bed. He must have some oatmeal. If you wouldn't mind charging it."

The manager's heart was touched. Tears glistened in his eyes. "I know you are honest men, Mr. Fulton," he said. "And I believe your money will come someday. Tell me, how much do you owe the other store?"

John told him the amount. The kind manager went to his cash till and said, "Mr. Fulton, I want you to take money to payoff that other store, and I want you to walk around here and take all the groceries you can carry. And of course you can charge it."

"No, no, not the money!" said John. "The other man can wait for that as well as you can. But the groceries-I cannot thank you enough, May God bless you for it." John Fulton carried home two armloads and divided them between the two families.

May the twenty-fourth came; Jessie's fifth

birthday. But they had no cake or presents. The money had not come yet.

Then came the month of June and another steamer from America. John forced himself to go to the post office and ask for mail. The disappointment month after month had left him discouraged, but this time there was a letter from the General Conference! And a letter from Grandma Newton, and a letter from the General Conference for John Cole! John's heart beat fast. He raced home. First he ran breathlessly to John Cole's house and gave him his letter. Then he rushed into his own home, shouting, "Susie, I think it's come at last! There's a letter from the General Conference, and a letter from Grandma Newton too!"

Susie dropped what she was doing, excitedly called the children in, and then tremblingly opened Grandma Newton's letter while John opened the letter from the General Conference.

"Is it good news, John?" asked Susie. But John couldn't speak. He just waved the check before them all and tried his best to say, "Eleven months' pay!"

Susie was not so choked up as John, and waving a ten-dollar bill before them all, said, "Good news! Good news! Grandma Newton has sent us a cow!" The children clapped their hands, and danced up and down in delight.

First we will pay the tithe and our bills," said father, "and then we must get a pair of shoes for each of us!"

"And then we will buy a cow," said Susie, "and we will have all the real milk we want to drink" "Goody! Goody!" shouted the children.

After many days of testing and trial, the days of plenty had come, But poor John Cole did not get better. "I'm afraid, Mr. Cole, you will have to go back to America to get back your health," counseled the doctor. "But I don't want to go and leave the Fultons here all alone," protested John.

"If you don't go, you will die," warned the doctor.

"I'd rather die than go back," John replied firmly.

"And then you'd be no good to the Fultons or to anybody," answered the doctor. "If you go back now, and regain your health, you may be able to come back again. You have many years of service ahead of you, if you are wise now."

Finally, in August, 1897, when little Tavita

was just three months old, the Coles sailed for America. The parting was hard for both families, even though they all knew it was the only thing to do. = ^..^ =



Year 2: 2nd Quarter:

“FAVOURITE BIBLE STORIES”

**WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 8: “SAMSON,
THE WEAK STRONG-MAN”**

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: “He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.” Proverbs 16:32

Sunday

Text: Judges 13:6,7 “Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of God came unto me, and his countenance was like the countenance of an angel of God, very terrible: but I asked him not whence he was, neither told he me his name: But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.”

Israel had again fallen into sin. They were now in their own land, but had gotten into worshipping idols and copying the heathen, so God allowed the Philistines to come into the land and oppress them. When trouble came, some of the people woke up to their sin and began to

seek God and cry to Him for help.

An angel appeared to the wife of Manoah and told her she would have a little boy and he was to be special and do a great work for God in freeing Israel from its enemies. She had no children, so she was glad to hear about this.

He gave her special instructions that she or the child were not to drink wine or strong drink and eat only pure clean foods. The child was never to have his hair cut and would be a Nazarite; this means he was especially given to the Lord for a special work. The lady ran to her husband and told him all about it and he prayed for the angel to be sent again so he could talk to him also.

The angel came again and repeated the instruction to Manoah and his wife. He asked if they could prepare a meal for him, but he told them, I will not eat your food, and if you want to offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to God.

They brought the food and set it on a rock as a burnt offering and the angel went up to heaven in the fire of the offering.

Now they really knew it was a messenger from God and they fell on their faces and worshipped God. They were determined to obey God faithfully as the angel had said. And they did just that. Soon a baby boy was born and they called him Samson, which meant a 'little sun'.

Thought - True temperance means we don't use anything harmful, and we don't overuse the good things either.

Monday

Text: Judges 14:2,3 “And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife. Then his father and his mother said unto him, Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well.”

Samson grew to be the strongest man that ever lived. But his strength was more than just his muscles; he had special strength from God. Sadly, when the boy Samson grew up, he wasn't as interested in carefully obeying the instruc-

tion of God as his mom and dad were. He often demanded his own way.

One day he came home and demanded that his father go and arrange a marriage for him with a Philistine girl. His father told him this was wrong but he insisted anyway.

The marriage took place and trouble soon started from it. At the wedding Samson told a riddle and offered thirty suits of clothes to those who could solve it. "Out of the strong came forth sweet and out of the eater came forth meat".

One day a young lion had attacked him, and in the power of the Lord he caught the lion and tore him to pieces with his bare hands. When he returned a long time later, the carcass had dried up into sort of a shell and some bees had made a nest there and filled it with honey. This was the riddle's answer. But the Philistines got Samson's bride to ask him the answer to the riddle and tell them. She did this and they told Samson. He was enraged.

He went and killed thirty Philistines and gave their clothes to the men. Then he left his bride and went home for a while. He went back later and found his wife married to someone else. He was so angry that he caught three hundred little wild foxes and tied them together in pairs by their tails. He tied a firebrand to each pair and let them go. They ran terrified through the fields and set all the crops of the Philistines on fire.

The Philistines were so angry that they killed his former wife. But again he revenged himself and killed many of them. Then he tried to find someplace where he could have peace but the Philistines threatened the people of Israel unless they would turn Samson over to them. They tied him all up and turned him over to the enemies, but he broke those ropes like they were nothing, and taking the jawbone of a donkey, he killed a thousand Philistines.

Thought - Revenge and violence only lead to more trouble.

Tuesday

Text: 2 Corinthians 6:14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

What a different story the life of Samson could have been if he had obeyed God in the matter of his personal relations. Many people make the same mistake today.

Most of you are too young yet to be getting married, but the idea of boy-friends and girl-friends gets into our heads very early. I want to tell you about a favourite trick of Satan; he likes to get people that love Jesus and want to serve Him, to make close friends and marry people that don't believe all the truth about the Bible and God.

Remember, the same power that gets people to be bad, can make them be very nice and sweet if Satan chooses. He can make a non-believer so nice and attractive and he can play with our feelings and give us the idea that this is the nicest person and we would be so happy to have them for a friend or marry them.

But just as he can make the person so sweet and nice, he will make them very different once you are married to them. It makes it oh, so hard, to completely live for Jesus, when your husband or wife thinks differently about this.

People that have not given all their heart to Jesus, still belong to Satan, and are God's enemies, even though they don't know it. Satan can get them to do what he wants them to— and he will get them to make trouble for those who love and obey Jesus. Remember, Solomon was the wisest man and he became a fool—turned aside by his non-believing wives.

Thought - Ellen White warns us; "it is disobedience to God that fills so many hearts and homes with misery. My sister (or brother), unless you would have a home where the shadows are never lifted, do not unite yourself with one who is an enemy of God."

Wednesday

Text: Judges 16:2,3 "And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him. And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and

carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron.”

Now, the Bible says that Samson judged Israel for 20 years, so maybe he learned his lesson for a while. But soon he was back again, making friends with a beautiful Philistine woman. He had no business making friends with God’s enemies. He seemed to think that because he was so strong, he could get away with anything. He was very unwise to take these chances.

He went to visit her and while he was sleeping, the men of that city closed and locked the huge doors to the city. They thought they could keep him trapped, and gang up on him in the morning, and kill him.

In the night, Samson woke up and when he found the gates shut and locked, he picked up the gates, posts, bar and all, and carried them away and left them on top of a high hill. These gates likely weighed a ton or more. When the Philistines saw this, they were afraid to chase after Samson.

Thought - Samson had repented of his sin that night and God gave him strength to escape.

Thursday

Text: Judges 16:15-17 “And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth. And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death; That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother’s womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.”

Samson still didn’t learn his lesson and the story gets even worse! He fell in love with another wicked woman named Delilah whose name meant ‘the consumer’. She lived in a valley famous for vineyards and wine. Sad to say, Samson had broken that part of his vows also; he loved to drink alcoholic wine. This place was not too far from Samson’s home.

Now the Philistines offered her a lot of money if she would find out the secret of his strength.

So she asked him, and he told her a lie, that if she tied him with seven new cords, he would be weak. She did this and when the Philistines tried to grab him, he broke them like a thread.

Again she asked him and he told her if he was tied with new ropes, which he broke. Then she asked him again and he said if you weave the seven braids of my hair and fasten it with a pin to the beam, I will be weak. So again she did it, and when the Philistines tried to grab him he got up and went away with the beam dangling from his hair.

Now stop and think how foolish this man had become. Just because he wanted his own way, he kept coming to visit this wicked woman. He had seen three times that she had tried to get him captured and yet he boldly came again.

She nagged him again and again, and said how could he say he loved her, when he lied to her. Finally, no doubt when he was drunk, he told her the truth, if his hair were shaved off, he would be weak. This was the last vow that he had not yet broken, and now he sold his relation with the Lord, for the sake of a wicked woman. Of course Delilah quickly shaved his head as soon as he was asleep.

Thought - When we start to disobey God, we become very unwise.

Friday

Text: Judges 16:20, 21 “And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him. But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.”

Awakened by the wicked Delilah, Samson thought he could escape as before, but the Spirit of God had departed from him, and his enemies dragged him away and put out his eyes. Delilah got her money.

They locked him in prison and made him turn the heavy millstones all day long, grinding the grain to flour. Now in this terrible situation Samson began to think and repented before the Lord of his wicked deeds. He realized more and more, how he had dishonoured God in what he

had done. His hair began to grow again, but it is important to remember, that it was not really Samson's hair that made him strong; his strength came from God.

One day the Philistines were going to have a big feast to their god Dagon, the half man, half fish idol that they worshipped. They decided to bring Samson out of the prison so they could show him off like some kind of a caged lion. They were boasting how their idol god was greater than Israel's God, because after all, they had beaten Samson.

All the important men and powerful lords of the Philistines were there in the temple of Dagon for the feast. Thousands of people were

there, worshipping the idol.

Samson asked if he could lean against the pillars that held up the roof as if he were tired. He prayed in sorrow and repentance and asked God to give him strength one more time. Then he put his arms around those two central pillars and bowed himself saying, "Let me die with the Philistines".

The roof came crashing down, killing all the Philistines and Samson. The 'little sun' had set.

Thought - Physically, Samson was the strongest man upon the earth; but in self-control, he was one of the weakest. = ^ .. ^ =

