

TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 3 - 2nd Quarter - Issue #11



CREATION CORNER

THE KINGBIRD

The kingbird is not bigger than a robin. He eats flies, and worms, and bugs, and berries. He builds his nest in a tree, near some houses. When there are young ones in the nest, he sits on the top of a tree near them. He watches to see that no bird comes to hurt them or their mother.

If a hawk, a crow, or even an eagle comes near, he makes a dash at it. Though he is so small, he is brave, and he is also very active. He never fails to drive off other birds from his nest.

He flies around and around the eagle, and suddenly strikes him with his sharp bill. He strikes at his eye, and then darts away before the eagle can catch him. Or he strikes from behind, and is off again before the eagle can turn round.

In a short time, the great eagle is tired of such hard blows, and flies away. He is very glad to get rid of his foe. Is not the little fellow a brave bird? Because he can drive off all other birds, he is called the KINGBIRD. = ^ .. ^ =

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PROPHETIC LESSONS

Prophecy Speaks and Cities Fall

OUR purpose is not only to make clear that the only true explanation of world development is found within the covers of the Bible but also to show that fulfilled prophecy is an antidote of doubt and infidelity. It is just as McKinley declared: "History is the unrolled scroll of prophecy." These words are far more true than many realize.

For instance, notice that the ruins of ancient capitals testify to the marvelous accuracy of the Scriptures of truth. Tyre is an excellent example. I visited the site of this ancient city recently. For two thousand years Tyre grew in importance until she was mistress of the sea as was Babylon of the land. She was the commercial center of the world. Carthage, the rival of Rome, was only a colony of Tyre-Tyre the beautiful, the rich, the learned, into which flowed the fine gold of Tarshish, the precious stones of Aram, the spirited horses of Armenia, the beautiful ivories of Damascus, the fine linen of Egypt, the flocks of Arabia, the rich perfumes of Sheba, the slaves of Javan.

In short, Tyre was the London of Asia. Ships

from all nations anchored in her harbor, and their passengers bartered in her streets. While Tyre was at the height of her glory and power, while it would seem she must stand for ever, along came Ezekiel, who prophesied about 590 BC, saying: "They shall destroy the walls of Tyrus, and break down her towers. I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea; for I have spoken it, said the Lord God. They shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water. And I will make thee like the top of a rock: thou shall be a place to spread nets upon; thou shall be built no more: For I the Lord have spoken it, said the Lord God." Ezekiel 26: 4-14.

Immediately after the giving of the prophecy, Nebuchadnezzar besieged Tyre, and after thirteen years of effort, took the city and destroyed it, wreaking fearful vengeance on buildings and people.

Perhaps some will maintain that it cannot be proved that this prophecy was made before Nebuchadnezzar besieged Tyre. While personally, from a close study of the facts, I believe it was, I shall not refer merely to that siege. Though the prophecy began with the king of Babylon's siege its marvelous predictions looked down more than two thousand years into the future—in fact, even to our day, as we shall see.

While the ruins of the old city remained after Nebuchadnezzar had finished with it, the prophecy declared that the timbers and rocks and even the very dust should be cast into the sea, and men would dry their nets in the midst of the sea. This prediction was not fulfilled by the king of Babylon, and it certainly seemed improbable it would ever be fulfilled, for if Nebuchadnezzar in his anger had taken full vengeance and had not thought of this, who was likely to care enough about the ruins of a deserted city to be so violently destructive? It would be the frenzy of madness. Meanwhile there stood the prophetic words awaiting fulfillment.

Two and a half centuries passed, and still the ruins stood, a challenge to the accuracy of prophecy. Then through the East the fame of Alexander the Great sent a thrill of terror. He marched swiftly to attack new Tyre in 332 BC. Reaching the shore he saw the city he had come to take with half a mile or more of water surg-

ing between them, for it was built upon an island. Alexander's plan of attack was speedily formed and vigorously executed. He took the walls, towers, timbers, and ruined houses and palaces of the ancient Tyre, and with them built a solid causeway to the island city. So great was the demand for material that the very dust was scraped from the site and laid in the sea.

By this military stroke Alexander signally fulfilled two prophecies that had been given centuries before: "I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock." And "They shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water." Ezekiel 26:4,12.

The island city was ruthlessly reduced to ashes thus answering the prediction of Zechariah 9:4: "She shall be devoured with fire."

Considering the suddenness of the downfall the words of Isaiah, penned nearly four centuries earlier, convey an added significance. As the ships of Tyre, returning from a two- or three-year voyage, reached the harbor, the mariners looked out in astonishment to behold not a stately metropolis, but heaps of ruins and tottering walls; hence the prophetic picture: "The burden of Tyre. Howl, you ships of Tarshish; for it is laid waste, so that there is no house, no entering in." "Howl, you ships of Tarshish, for your strength is laid waste." Isaiah 23:1,14.

Now twenty-four centuries have passed away and what are the facts? The place of old Tyre is just a bare wilderness that has been scraped like the top of a rock. The island city of Tyre is also gone. The sole tokens of her ancient splendor and strength are scores of columns of red and grey granite one can see lying broken and strewn amid the rocks that once formed the island city of Tyre.

The causeway built by Alexander the Great to reach the island city of Tyre, has since silted up and on it a small fishing town has been built and I saw the fishermen drying their nets on the ruins of ancient Tyre. They are literally drying their nets on what was once the midst of the sea!

Every year, every day, every minute that Tyre remains in utter ruin and that the fishermen continue to dry their nets on what was once the midst of the sea, disproves the statement of skeptics that the prophecies are vague, or that they were written after the event. Some may say,

“It’s a good guess.” Ah, no, my friends, that is not a sufficient answer. In fact it is an exceedingly lame answer in view of the fact that no person outside the Bible has made a solitary correct forecast covering hundreds of years concerning any city of earth.

Only Bible writers were able to foretell with perfect accuracy events two thousand years in the future. Believe it or not, there has never been a single failure in Bible prophecy. The prophets of God, with never a single mistake in hundreds of prophecies, unerringly stated the facts. From the public platform before thousands in many lands I have repeatedly asked anyone to point out a single instance in which the prophet said that a people or a city, or a nation was to be utterly destroyed and that people, city, or nation is in existence today. Nineveh, Tyre, Babylon, Assyria, and scores of others are in the exact condition in which the Bible said they would be. I have seen prophecy fulfilled to the letter in these ancient places. We can know that the Christian Scriptures on this point are unassailable.

Take as another example Babylon, the grandest city that ever pressed the earth. For wealth and magnificence it has had no equal. The metropolis of “the golden kingdom” was a marvel of plan and execution. In vivid language the doom of the great city was foretold. “Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees’ excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there. But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures.” Isaiah 13:19-22.

When Isaiah delivered this message he might have been considered insane; and he died long before his words were fulfilled. But, literally and accurately was the word of the prophet fulfilled: “It shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. . . . It shall never be inhabited . . . neither shall the ‘Arabian pitch tent there.’” Verses 19, 20.

Writing of this “desolate metropolis,” a nineteenth century traveler said: “The name and remnant are cut off from Babylon. There the Arabian pitches not his tent; there the shepherds make not their folds.”

And again: “While the lion in one part of

Babylon is howling his testimony to the truth of God’s Word, the bittern in a pool in another part, and the ‘doleful creatures’ in another, the heaps and burnt mountains in still others, are warning the traveler over its ruins to ‘take heed’ to the ‘sure word of prophecy.” Burnsidess – 1950
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TRUE-STORY-TIME

THE GENTLE HAND

“Blessed are the Peacemakers”

When and where it matters not now to relate—but once upon a time, as I was passing through a thinly peopled district of country, night came down upon me almost unawares. Being on foot, I could not hope to gain the village toward which my steps were directed, until a late hour; and I therefore preferred seeking shelter and a night’s lodging at the first humble dwelling that presented itself.

Dusky twilight was giving place to deeper shadows, when I found myself in the vicinity of a dwelling, from the small, uncurtained windows of which the light shone with a pleasant promise of good cheer and comfort. The house stood within an enclosure, and a short distance from the road along which I was moving with wearied feet.

Turning aside, and passing through the ill-hung gate, I approached the dwelling. Slowly the gate swung on its wooden hinges, and the rattle of its latch, in closing, did not disturb the air until I had nearly reached the porch in front of the house, in which a slender girl, who had noticed my entrance, stood awaiting my arrival.

A deep, quick bark answered, almost like an echo, the sound of the shutting gate, and, sudden as an apparition, the form of an immense dog loomed in the doorway. At the instant when he was about to spring, a light hand was laid upon his shaggy neck, and a low word spoken.

“Go in, Tiger,” said the girl, not in a voice of authority, yet in her gentle tones was the consciousness that she would be obeyed; and, as she spoke, she lightly bore upon the animal with her hand, and he turned away and disappeared within the dwelling.

“Who’s that?” A rough voice asked the question; and now a heavy-looking man took the dog’s place in the door.

“How far is it to G——?” I asked, not deem-

ing it best to say, in the beginning, that I sought a resting place for the night.

“To G——!” growled the man, but not so harshly as at first. “It’s good six miles from here.”

“A long distance; and I’m a stranger and on foot,” said I. “If you can make room for me until morning, I will be very thankful.”

I saw the girl’s hand move quickly up his arm, until it rested on his shoulder, and now she leaned to him still closer.

“Come in. We’ll try what can be done for you.” There was a change in the man’s voice that made me wonder. I entered a large room, in which blazed a brisk fire. Before the fire sat two stout lads, who turned upon me their heavy eyes, with no very welcome greeting. A middle-aged woman was standing at a table, and two children were amusing themselves with a kitten on the floor.

“A stranger, mother,” said the man who had given me so rude a greeting at the door; “and he wants us to let him stay all night.”

The woman looked at me doubtingly for a few moments, and then replied coldly, “We don’t keep a public house.”

“I’m aware of that, ma’am,” said I; “but night has overtaken me, and it’s a long way yet to G——.”

“Too far for a tired man to go on foot,” said the master of the house, kindly, “so it’s no use talking about it, mother; we must give him a bed.”

So unobtrusively that I scarce noticed the movement, the girl had drawn to her mother’s side. What she said to her I did not hear, for the brief words were uttered in a low voice; but I noticed, as she spoke, one small, fair hand rested on the woman’s hand.

Was there magic in that touch? The woman’s repulsive aspect changed into one of kindly welcome, and she said, “Yes, it’s a long way to G——. I guess we can find a place for him.”

Many times more during that evening, did I observe the magic power of that hand and voice—the one gentle yet potent as the other. On the next morning, breakfast being over, I was preparing to take my departure when my host informed me that if I would wait for half an hour he would give me a ride in his wagon to G——, as business required him to go there. I was very well pleased to accept of the invitation.

In due time, the farmer’s wagon was driven into the road before the house, and I was invited to get in. I noticed the horse as a rough-looking Canadian pony, with a certain air of stubborn endurance. As the farmer took his seat by my side, the family came to the door to see us off.

“Dick!” said the farmer in a peremptory voice, giving the rein a quick jerk as he spoke. But Dick moved not a step. “Dick! you vagabond! get up.” And the farmer’s whip cracked sharply by the pony’s ear.

It availed not, however, this second appeal. Dick stood firmly disobedient. Next the whip was brought down upon him with an impatient hand; but the pony only reared up a little. Fast and sharp the strokes were next dealt to the number of half a dozen. The man might as well have beaten the wagon, for all his end was gained.

A stout lad now came out into the road, and, catching Dick by the bridle, jerked him forward, using, at the same time, the customary language on such occasions, but Dick met this new ally with increased stubbornness, planting his fore feet more firmly and at a sharper angle with the ground.

The impatient boy now struck the Pony on the side of the head with his clinched hand, and jerked cruelly at his bridle. It availed nothing, however; Dick was not to be wrought upon by any such arguments.

“Don’t do so, John!” I turned my head as the maiden’s sweet voice reached my ear. She was passing through the gate into the road, and in the next moment had taken hold of the lad and drawn him away from the animal. No strength was exerted in this; she took hold of his arm, and he obeyed her wish as readily as if he had no thought beyond her gratification.

And now that soft hand was laid gently on the Pony’s neck, and a single low word spoken. How instantly were the tense muscles relaxed—how quickly the stubborn air vanished!

“Poor Dick!” said the maiden, as she stroked his neck lightly, or softly patted it with a child-like hand. “Now, go along, you provoking fellow!” she added, in a half-chiding, yet affectionate voice, as she drew up the bridle.

The pony turned toward her, and rubbed his head against her arm for an instant or two; then, pricking up his ears, he started off at a light, cheerful trot, and went on his way as freely as if

no silly crotchet had ever entered his stubborn brain.

“What a wonderful power that hand possesses!” said I, speaking to my companion, as we rode away.

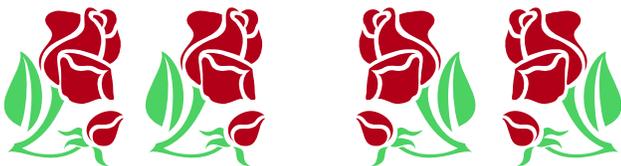
He looked at me for a moment, as if my remark had occasioned surprise. Then a light came into his countenance, and he said briefly, “She’s good! Everybody and everything loves her.”

Was that, indeed, the secret of her power? Was the quality of her soul perceived in the impression of her hand, even by brute beasts! The father’s explanation was doubtless the true one. Yet have I ever since wondered, and still do wonder, at the potency which lay in that maiden’s magic touch. I have seen something of the same power, showing itself in the loving and the good, but never to the extent as instanced in her, whom, for want of a better name, I must still call “Gentle Hand.” Timothy S. Arthur (b. 1809, d. 1885)

Boys and Girls, we can all have this ‘Gentle Hand’--indeed, we must have it if we are to be like Jesus, His hands were always gentle and His ways kind, even when they were nailing Him to the cross! Choose always to be patient, courteous and gentle no matter what you may ‘feel’ like--and send up a prayer for strength to be like Jesus. He will never fail to give you that strength. Then we will be able to say with David: “Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great “ Psalm 18:35 = ^..^ =

Beautiful

Beautiful faces are they that wear
The light of a kindly Spirit there;
Beautiful hands are they that do,
Deeds that are noble, good and true;
Beautiful feet are they that go,
Swiftly to lighten another’s woe;
Beautiful lives are those that show
The Love of the Saviour here below. = ^..^ =



Year 3: 2nd Quarter: “GIVE US A KING”

WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 11: “THE SORROW OF SIN”

This series of Bible Story Lessons is about Israel’s Kings. 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: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” Ecclesiastes 12:13

Sunday

Text: 1 Kings 11:6-8 “And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.”

As we learned, Solomon at first when he became King, was determined to do what was right. Twice God appeared to him. Each time God promised him blessings IF he would obey Him, but He warned of what would happen if he did not.

Slowly Solomon’s heart turned away from God. So many people came to admire him and his work and to bring gifts and flatter him with

their words. Each time Solomon chose to do something that God had warned not to do, the gap between him and God became larger.

As the distance between him and God grew larger, Satan pressed in more and more with his temptations and soon Solomon did not bother to seek God in prayer any more or to serve Him. It is interesting that as soon as we turn away from doing what we know is right, even a little, the devil pushes in so it becomes harder to see God and we lose all desire to serve Him.

Little by little Solomon left the Lord and soon he was worshipping with his heathen wives the evil gods of Ashtoreth, Molech and Chemosh. He burned incense to them and offered sacrifices, even some of his own children to these senseless idols.

How could the wisest man be so stupid as to do this? It is important to remember that Solomon's wisdom came from God, and when he left God he may have still been smart but he was certainly not wise.

The more light we have, if we turn away from it, the more darkness we will have in our lives. When an angel sins; he becomes a devil. When a man who knew God turns away-he becomes lost in terrible darkness.

Thought - If you ever feel that you don't want to pray or worship God, that is the very time you must turn to God in prayer right away, as this is the sign you are losing your hold on the Lord and Satan is coming between.

Monday

Text: 1 Kings 11:9-11 "And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded. Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant."

Solomon learned the emptiness of a life that seeks in earthly things its highest good. He made

altars to heathen gods, only to learn their promise of rest to the spirit is only a lie. Gloomy and fearful thoughts troubled him night and day. For him there was no longer any joy in life or peace of mind, and the future was dark with despair.

Yet the Lord did not leave him entirely to the path he had chosen. God sent messages of reproof and allowed stern judgments to come on him. So He tried to wake the king up to see the sinfulness of his course. He removed His protecting care and allowed enemies to harass and weaken the kingdom. "The Lord stirred up an adversary unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite. . . . And God stirred him up another adversary, Rezon, . . . captain over a band," who "abhorred Israel, and reigned over Syria. And Jeroboam, . . . Solomon's servant," "a mighty man of valor," "even he lifted up his hand against the king." 1 Kings 11:14-28

Finally, the day came when God sent a messenger to Solomon. The prophet delivered to Solomon the startling message: "Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son." Verses 11, 12.

Solomon woke up, as from a dream by this sentence of the judgment against him and his house. He began to see his folly in its true light. Very sorry and with mind and body enfeebled, he turned away from the empty and foolish pleasures of sin and worldliness, to drink once more at the fountain of life. For him at last the discipline of suffering had done its work. For a long time he had the fear of utter ruin because he had no power in himself to turn from his sin and folly.

In the message of the prophet, he saw the mercy of God and realized that the door was still open for him to return to God and repent. He took hold of the ray of hope. God had not utterly cut him off, but stood ready to deliver him from bondage more cruel than the grave, and from which he had had no power to free himself.

Thought - Remember this, sin may look bright and attractive, but once we get into it, we are held by it like being in a cruel trap. It does

no good to try and use our own strength and ideas to break free; only God can set us free from the chains of sin.

Tuesday

Text: Ecclesiastes 2:9-11 “So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me. And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.”

When a man who had known the Lord like Solomon had, turns away to darkness, very rarely does he ever turn back. It is more common for people who are in darkness and then they learn about God and turn to the light, there is more hope for them. But when a man sins against what he knows to be right -this is almost hopeless.

But Solomon DID repent and he repented with all his heart. He came back to the Lord and did all that he could to undo the evil that his example before the people had caused. In his old age he wrote books to try to instruct the people away from the folly and sin he had been involved in.

He wrote some psalms and the wonderful books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the mysterious poem, the Song of Solomon, which is sort of a prophetic story about Jesus.

If a person is truly sorry and repents of his sins, he will not have the attitude—“Oh well, God forgave me, I can forget all about what I did.” Oh no! He will repent more and more as the Holy Spirit shows him more of the terrible-ness of sin and its ongoing results and he will try with all his might to undo the damage his sin has caused to others and the Name of the Lord.

We can never fully undo what our sin has done, but if we don't even care enough to try, it is a sure sign that we have NOT really returned to God and we are NOT really forgiven or born again!

Thought – It is a good lesson to read the

entire story in Ecclesiastes. There is so much to be learned from Solomon's return from folly.

Wednesday

Text: Proverbs 21:9 and 25:24 “It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.”

It is most interesting to read the Proverbs and Ecclesiastes and at the same time remember the lessons Solomon learned the hard way. There is no real happiness in disobeying God.

Notice these two texts, there is several places where Solomon tells us that it is better to be poor than to have wealth and trouble and fighting going on around you. And without God ruling in our hearts, we will always have fighting and trouble, because we have no power in ourselves to stop it.

No money can buy peace of mind and heart, but anyone who truly gives their heart to the Lord and chooses in His power to always obey Him, will have that priceless treasure. Notice these words from a song:

Had I wealth and love in fullest measure,
And a name revered both far and near,
Yet no hope beyond, no harbor waiting,
Where my storm-tossed vessel I could steer;
If I gained the world, but not the Saviour,
Who endured the cross and died for me,
Could then all the world afford a refuge,
Whither in my anguish, I might flee?

O What emptiness!— without the Saviour
'Mid the sins and sorrows here below!
And eternity, how dark without Him!
Only night and tears and endless woe!
What, tho' I might live without the Savior,
When I come to die, how would it be?
O to face the valley's gloom without Him!
And without Him all eternity!

Thought – In Jesus we have everything; without Him we have nothing worth having!

Thursday

Text: Galatians 6:7 21:42 “Be not deceived; God

is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”

Solomon’s repentance was real; but the harm that his example of evil-doing had done could not be undone. During his apostasy there were in the kingdom men who remained true to their trust, maintaining their purity and loyalty. But many were led astray; and the forces of evil started by bringing in idolatry and worldly practices could not easily be stopped by the penitent king.

His influence for good was greatly weakened. Many felt they could not trust his leadership. Though the king confessed his sin and wrote out for the benefit of after generations a record of his folly and repentance, he could never hope entirely to destroy the bad influence of his wrong deeds.

Using the king’s sins as an excuse, many continued to do evil, and evil only. And in the downward course of many of the rulers who followed him we see the results of turning to sin.

In great sorrow as he thought on the evil of his course, Solomon had to declare, “Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.” “There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, as an error which proceedeth from the ruler: folly is set in great dignity.” “Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savor: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor.” Ecclesiastes 9:18; 10: 5, 6, 1.

Among the many lessons taught by Solomon’s life, none is stronger than the power of influence for good or for ill. However small our circle of family and friends, we still have an influence for good or bad. Even if we don’t see it, it affects others in blessing or cursing. It may be heavy with the gloom of discontent and selfishness, or poisonous with the deadly taint of some cherished sin; or it may have the life-giving power of faith, courage, and hope, and be sweet with the fragrance of love. But one way or another the influence will be there!

People can be lost because of the effects of our example. As the seed sown produces a harvest, and this in turn is sown, the harvest is multiplied. In our relation to others, this law holds true. Every act, every word, is a seed that will bear fruit. Every deed of thoughtful kind-

ness, of obedience, of self-denial, will reproduce itself in others, and through them in still others. So every act wrong deed and selfish word is a seed that will spring up to be a weed to harm yourself and others. Then their example will affect more and so on. Thus the sowing of good and evil goes on for time and for eternity. {adapted from PK 86.2}

Thought – Be sure to pray to Jesus to show you what your influence on others is and to give you power to make it tell for the good.

Friday

Text: Ecclesiastes 12:1 “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.”

Solomon’s later writings show that as he realized more and still more the wickedness of his course, he gave special attention to warning the youth against falling into the errors that had led him to waste Heaven’s choicest gifts.

With sorrow and shame he confessed that in the prime of manhood, when he should have found God his comfort, his support, his life, he turned from the light of Heaven and the wisdom of God, and put idolatry in the place of the worship of Jehovah. And now, having learned through sad experience the folly of such a life, his yearning desire was to save others from entering into the bitter experience through which he had passed.

With touching sadness he wrote concerning the privileges and responsibilities before the youth in God’s service: “Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun: but if a man live many years, and rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh is vanity. Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity.” Ecclesiastes 11:7-10.

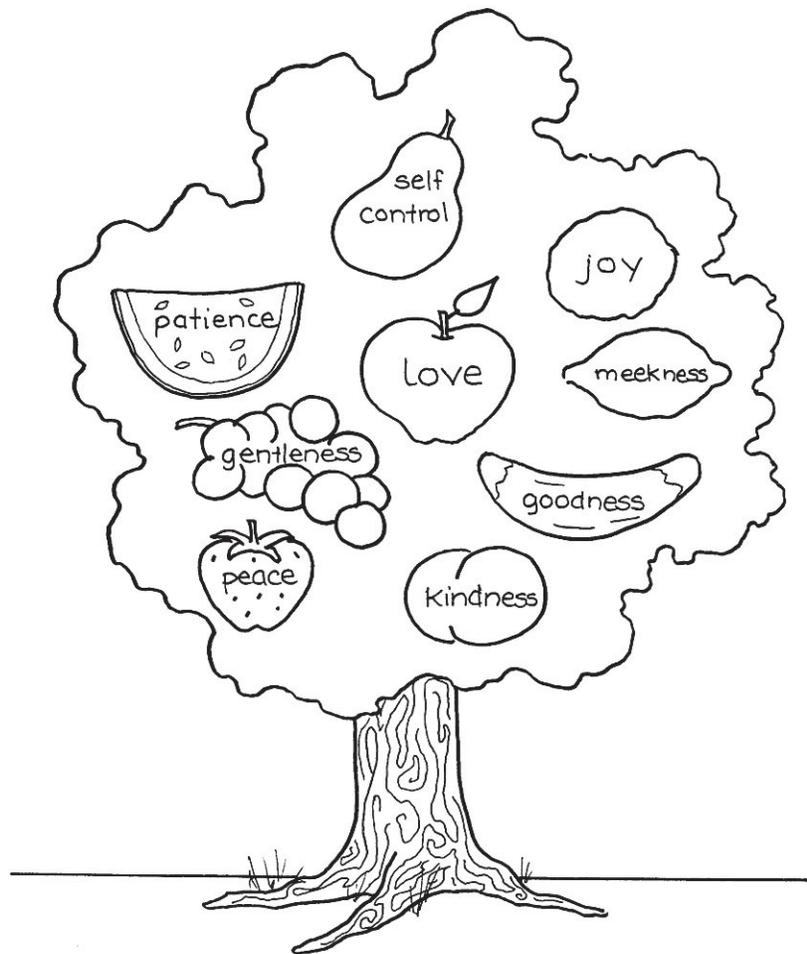
Those who listen to the warning of Solomon’s apostasy will shun the first approach of those sins that overcame him. Only obedi-

ence to the requirements of Heaven will keep man from turning away from God. God has given to us great light and many blessings; but unless this light and these blessings are accepted, they can't protect against disobedience and apostasy. When those whom God has given places of high trust turn from Him to human wisdom, their light becomes darkness. Their abilities become a snare.

Till the conflict is ended, there will be those who will depart from God. Satan will so shape circumstances that unless we are kept by divine power, they will ever so slowly weaken the protection of the soul. We need to ask at every step, "Is this the way of the Lord?" So long as life shall last, we need to be guarding the affections and the passions with a firm purpose. Not one

moment can we be safe except as we rely upon God, the life hidden with Christ. Watchfulness and prayer are the safeguards of purity. {adapted from PK 83.-84}

Thought - Young people, there are many wrong and wicked attitudes around us these days. One of them is that the young should do whatever they please and 'have a good time', and then later on when you get old, then you can ask to be forgiven and still be saved. Solomon did repent, and he will be saved, but Oh how terrible were the results of his sin, both in his life and the others around him! And oh how many youth never live to get older; and even when they do, they are broken in mind and health, and often even then they still have no wish to repent.
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Fruit of the Holy Spirit