

# TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

## TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 3 - 3rd Quarter - Issue #12



### STORY LESSON

#### The Fruit of a Kind Word

Mr. James Buchanan Murray was the most popular and beloved man in the whole city. He possessed a youthful face. No frown ever disturbed his brow. He went calmly to his business in the morning, greeting every one with a cheery word and a sunny smile. At the same time, he was just what he seemed to be--a prosperous business man.

Mr. Murray was extremely modest, so he was rather embarrassed when called upon at the luncheon of the Commercial Club to tell the secret of his rise in the business world, of his success in life.

"All that I have accomplished," he said, rising, "all that I am, I owe solely to the fact that in early youth, I realized that the underlying principle of life is just plain, simple kindness, a kindness that comes from the heart. Life is, after all, made up of little things. As we advance in years, we learn that the things we once prized so highly were in reality not of so great importance. Just how I came to realize this so early I can best explain to you by telling you the story

of a boy I knew then.

"Jim was an orphan, and the butt of the whole town. He was twelve years old, small and undersized, and he never remembered having a kind word spoken to him in his whole life. He was accustomed to harsh words, suspicion, and rebuffs. As a consequence of his hard life, he was a shrinking, pitiful little figure, and the more he dodged people, the more suspicious they became; and the more suspicious they became, the more he sneaked away and kept out of sight.

"The only earthly possession of which Jim could boast was a dog that cringed and shrunk almost as much as his master. Jim was not cruel to his dog except in words, and that is really the worst form of cruelty, even to a dog. A harsh, unkind word can cause more misery and heartache than actual physical cruelty.

"One day, as Jim came down the street, he saw a bundle slip from the overloaded arms of a little lady just in front of him. As she stooped to pick it up, the others rolled down. Jim sprang to her assistance, gathering up the bundles and replacing them in her arms. 'Thank you, dear, you are a nice little boy,' she said kindly, and went on her way after giving him a bright smile.

"Jim was amazed. A queer, choky feeling

### CONTENTS:

STORY LESSON

HISTORY

STORY

WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON

passed over him. They were the first kind words he had ever heard in his whole twelve years of existence. He stared after her. He knew she was the busy little dressmaker, who lived in a small cottage on the outskirts of the town. He watched her out of sight.

"Then he whistled to Tige and made straight for the woods and a stream that wound around the town. He sat down on the bank of the stream and did some thinking. 'Thank you, dear, you are a nice little boy,' he pondered. 'Come here, Tige,' he commanded. And Tige slunk to his feet. Then Jim lowered his voice in imitation of the little lady and said, 'You are a nice little dog.' The effect on Tige was electrical. He pricked up his ears, and if a dog could stand at 'attention,' Tige did. 'Uhum ! even a dog likes it,' said Jim. 'Well, Tige, I don't blame you ; it is nice. I won't yell at you any more.' And Tige wagged his tail joyously.

"The boy continued to think, and the dog sat and watched him. Finally, the boy pulled from the odds and ends in his pockets a piece of broken mirror and looked at himself. He saw nothing but grime and dirt. He went down to the water's edge and scrubbed it off carefully, almost painfully. Then he looked again. He scarcely recognized himself. He was surprised. He stood erect and looked up instead of down for the first time since he could remember. A feeling of self-respect awoke within him. At that moment, the course of his life was changed. He determined to be worthy of the kind words, and to pass them on."

Mr. Murray paused. There was no sound in the great dining room. His tone, low and sweet, almost reverent, had aroused a feeling very nearly like awe in the hearts of his hearers. They had forgotten the luncheon.

"Gentlemen," he continued, "I was that boy. This--your city, my city--was that little town of forty years ago. Our plant stands on the spot where that gentle woman stood when she planted in my life the first seed of kindness. She sleeps out yonder in what was then the cemetery of a country church. As a tribute to her memory I have told you this story." -Author Unknown.  
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## HISTORY LESSON

### Master Counterfeiter: 10 HEATHEN CUSTOM In the Christian Church Strange Weeds in the Garden of God

THERE are many strange weeds growing to-day in the garden of God, weeds whose roots extend back to Babylonian devil worship and whose fruits can scarcely be other than always have been borne by such plants. Since Christ declared, "Every plant, which My heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up" (Matthew 15:13), perhaps we would do well to examine a few of the strange practices and customs that we as professed Christians find ourselves engaging in during certain seasons of the year.

We can read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and we shall find only one holyday given by God to the Christian church. That day is the weekly Sabbath, given by God at creation (Genesis 2:1-3), commanded in the Decalogue (Exodus 20:8-11), kept by Christ (Luke 4:16) and the apostles (Acts 17: 2), and extending on throughout eternity in the earth made new (Isaiah 66:22, 23). The holydays connected with the sanctuary service before the coming of Christ all passed out of existence at the death of Christ, being nailed "to His cross" as Paul expresses it in Colossians 2:14. It is natural and reasonable that the sanctuary service, with its holydays, should cease at Christ's death, for it merely pointed forward to the work of Christ. It was not necessary to continue slaying the lamb after the Lamb of God had been slain, neither was it necessary to continue keeping the holydays connected with such a service. Whence, then, come all these holydays we find in the church to-day? Let us see.

### Easter

Every student of the Scriptures knows that the single reference (Acts 12:4) to Easter in the Bible is a mistranslation of pascha, everywhere else translated "Passover." Besides, there is no mention of the pascha as being a holyday binding upon the Christian church, Paul merely mentioning it casually in passing, just as he mentions in Acts 17:23 that he noticed an inscription "TO THE UNKNOWN GOD" while walking down the street. The Encyclopedia Britannica, 14th edition, art. "Easter," declares: "There is

no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament, or in the writings of the apostolic Fathers.”

The word itself comes from “Eastre,” the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, and from there it goes straight back to Ishtar, the Babylonian goddess of spring, of love, and of immorality. The most savage and obscene rites of all ancient devil worship occurred at this season of the year. Most of the pagan days the church adopted carry with them some custom or practice that marks their origin, and Easter is no exception. The rabbits and eggs always associated with this day are but symbols of the organs of fecundity formerly sacrificed at this season by the savage Huns. They symbolize the power to produce offspring, and reveal but a fraction of the immorality formerly connected with paganism’s great spring festival. The British Museum possesses an inscribed egg of veined marble which Sargon dedicated to the sun-god of Sippara; and even the colors we use on our eggs today were formerly sacred in sun worship.

As was pointed out by Sir Isaac Newton, Easter, as well as practically every other of the church’s holydays, is related to the movements of the sun or other heavenly bodies rather than to any event, occurring in the Christian church. As the “first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox,” the day clearly shows its astral origin. It is at that season of the year when the sun has reached the halfway point between midwinter and midsummer.

Our hot cross buns at Easter time, declares Chambers in his “Book of Days” art. “Semnel Cakes,” were formerly by the pagan Saxons in honor of their goddess Eastre. The ceremony of the new fire, also occurring on Easter in some parts of the Christian world, back likewise to the sacred fires of demon worship, fire being consider the sun spirit upon earth.

The Easter celebration of the sun’s return to give new life to the earth was originally almost universal throughout paganism. Among the ancient Aztecs of Mexico, says Frazer in his book, “The Golden Bough,” human beings were sacrificed to the sun-god on Easter day. Then, as now, the celebration was preceded by a long fast, and was followed by a feast of viands and flesh. Both the Mohammedans and the Buddhists have retained their spring festival of immorality; and

to this day decent people of the East, endeavor to stay off the streets at the time of these pagan celebrations, which come at approximately the same time as the Christian Easter.

### **Christmas**

Christmas is another festival in the Christian church that antedates Christianity by hundreds of years, and that is of pure pagan origin. Like Easter, it brings with it numerous trappings that are a certain guide as to its source. Among the ancients, the mistletoe was sacred to the sun because of its yellow color, and was believed to possess miraculous healing powers. Kissing under the mistletoe likewise is pre-Christian, and was but an early step in the night of revelry and drunken debauchery with which the pagans celebrated the death of the old sun and the birth of the new at the time of the winter solstice.

Holly berries were also sacred to the sun-god among the demon worshipers of the Old World. The yule log is in reality the sun log, for “yule” means sun or wheel (an ancient symbol of the sun) in some languages today, and our English word “wheel” comes from this source. Even the lighting of fires and candles as a Christmas ceremony is but a continuation of the pagan custom of encouraging the waning sun-god as he reached the lowest place in the southern skies.

Christmas, as a celebration of the birth of the sun, not the Son, was widespread among the ancients. The Arabians celebrated the birth of the moon, considered as an emanation of the sun, on December 4 To this day, the most important state observance in China occurs on December 21, the sacrifice of the winter solstice. In Rome, the pagan Brumalia occurred on December 25, long before the birth of Christ. Christmas was a holyday in Mithraism, the Persian form of demon worship. Centuries before the birth of Christ, the Egyptians likewise celebrated Christmas much as it is celebrated today.

The real origin of the day, however, is in ancient Babylon, history recording the sacredness with which the winter solstice was celebrated in the cradle of demon worship. Whence, then, we wonder, did day enter the Christian church? We find no reference whatsoever to it in the Scriptures, and in Schaff-Herzog’s Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, art. “Christ-

mas,” we read that there is not even sufficient data to tell the month of Christ’s birth, much less the actual day. There is no historical evidence of the celebration of Christmas in the Christian Church before the fourth century A. D.

The following quotation from Schaff-Herzog throws a great deal of light on how this and other pagan festivals entered the church of Christ:

“How much the date of the festival depended upon the pagan Brumalia (December 25), following the Saturnalia (December 17-24) and celebrating the shortest day in the year and the ‘new sun’ . . . cannot be accurately determined. The pagan Saturnalia and Brumalia were too deeply entrenched in popular custom to be set aside by Christian influence. The recognition of Sunday (the day of Phoebus and Mithras as well as the Lord’s day) by the emperor Constantine as a legal holiday, along with the influence of Manicheism, which identified the Son of God with the physical sun, may have led Christians of the fourth century to feel the appropriateness of making the birthday of the Son of God coincide with that of the physical sun.

“The pagan festival with its riot and merry-making was so popular that Christians were glad of an excuse to continue its celebration with little change in spirit and in manner.

“Christian preachers of the West and the Nearer East protested against the unseemly frivolity with which Christ’s birthday was celebrated, while Christians of Mesopotamia accused their Western brethren of idolatry and sun worship for adopting as Christian this pagan festival.”

What can be said of Easter and Christmas can also be said of many of the other holydays of the church. St. John’s Day was celebrated anciently as the time when the sun reached the highest point in the sky in midsummer, being known in Babylon as the Feast of Tammuz. What is now celebrated as the “Annunciation of the Virgin” was celebrated in pre-Christian days as the feast of Cybele, the Babylonian mother sun-goddess. The Babylonians had an assumption of a virgin, and the Chinese to this day have a similar festival to the Assumption, which they celebrate at about the same time of year. Halloween was originally a day of rank spirit and devil worship, though today it is consid-

ered as a holyday in many European countries. The goblins and witches, which always accompany this day in popular celebration, show unmistakably its pagan origin.

Thus instead of the one Holy day established and authorized by God, the Christian church has almost an innumerable number of holydays, which she has accepted from ancient demon worship. These days are not holy, and never can be. Only a divine or holy being can make anything holy. If all the people in the world should set aside next Tuesday as a sacred holiday, and should keep it faithfully till the end of the world, it would never become a holyday, particularly if it were a day formerly dedicated to devil worship, and still kept in the same manner as did the devil worshippers.

These spurious, counterfeit holydays represent a compromise with paganism, an attempt on the part of the church to convert the heathen by meeting them halfway. But the Scriptures clearly teach that there must be no compromise with the evil one on any point. Paul gives the warning: “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.” 1 Timothy 4:1, 2.

In Revelation 12:9 we read that the “great dragon, . . . that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan, . . . deceiveth the whole world.” We have learned that this deception came into the Christian church by way of the open demon worship of the ancient Babylonians, who worshiped the sun as the incarnation of Lucifer, even addressing it in prayer as the “evil one” and the “serpent.” Knowing this, how can we fail to heed the warning of Revelation 18:2-4: “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils. . . . For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. . . . Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues”! Murl Vance: 1940 = ^..^ =

## TRUE-STORY-TIME

### THE WALL OF RESENTMENT

A story tells of a merchant in a small town who had identical twin sons. The boys worked for their father in the department store he owned, and, when he died, they took over the store.

Everything went well until the day a dollar bill disappeared. One of the brothers had left the bill on the cash register and walked outside with a customer. When he returned, the money was gone.

He asked his brother, "Did you see that dollar bill on the cash register?" His brother replied that he had not. But the young man kept probing and questioning. He would not let it alone. "Dollar bills just don't get up and walk away! Surely you must have seen it!" There was subtle accusation in his voice. Tempers began to rise. Resentment set in. Before long, a deep and bitter chasm divided the young men. They refused to speak to each other. Then they finally decided they could no longer work together and a dividing wall was built down in the center of the store. For twenty years hostility and bitterness grew, spreading to their families and to the community.

Then one day a man in an automobile licensed in another state stopped in front of the store. He walked in and asked the clerk, "How long have you been here?"

The clerk replied that he'd been there all his life. The customer said, "I must share something with you. Twenty years ago I was 'riding the rails' and came into this town in a boxcar. I hadn't eaten for three days. I came into this store from the back door and saw a dollar bill on the cash register. I put it in my pocket and walked out. All these years I haven't been able to forget that. I know it wasn't much money, but I had to come back and ask your forgiveness."

The stranger was amazed to see tears well up in the eyes of the middle-aged man. "Would you please go next door and tell that same story to the man in the store?" he said. Then the man was even more amazed to see two middle-aged men, who looked very much alike, embracing each other and weeping together in the front of the store. After twenty years, the brokenness was mended. The wall of resentment that divided them came down. It is so often the little things- like resentments- that finally divide

people. And the solution, of course, is to let them go. There is really nothing particularly profound about it. But for fulfilling and lasting relationships, letting them go is a must. Refuse to carry around bitterness and you may be surprised at how much energy you have left for building bonds with those you love. = ^ .. ^ =



**Year 3: 3rd Quarter:**

### **"GOD'S MESSENGERS: THE PROPHETS"** **WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 12: "EZEKIEL"**

This series of Bible Story Lessons is about God's Messengers, His Prophets. For our Bible lessons we are going to use the King James Version of the Bible. Just like the boys and girls used to use to learn to read from in the pioneer days.

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

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

**1 Corinthians 10:11**

#### **Sunday**

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

Remember how Jeremiah's message was to

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

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

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

All at once God showed him a wonderful site. He saw a whirlwind seeming to come from the north, "a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the color of amber." A number of wheels, overlapping one another, were moved by four living beings. High above all these "was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it." "And there appeared in the cherubims the form of a man's hand under their wings." Ezekiel 1:4, 26, 10:8.

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

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

of control in our lives. At times like these, trust in God and wait for His guidance.

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

### Monday

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

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

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

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

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

value heaven more than worldly things will be among these faithful ones. That their feet are “strait” shows that they walk that “strait and narrow” path of righteousness. Mat. 7:14.

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

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

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

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

## Tuesday

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

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

Wings also protect, and these ‘creatures’ have

wings covering their bodies. They are ‘Under His Wings.’ They carry the message of God’s truth and they carry it pure and straight and they carry it fast under the power of God!

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

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

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

## Wednesday

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

Ezekiel’s book has some of the most amazing picture prophecies of the whole Bible in it. Be sure to read the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> chapters carefully. Here Ezekiel sees Jesus. We know it is Jesus if we look carefully at Revelation and Daniel and we see how He is described there, this bright Being is the same one seen by Daniel and John.

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

Ezekiel was taken to the temple where he used to work and he was shown the reason why

God had destroyed it. What was he shown? Well read carefully and you will see many things.

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

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

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

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

### Thursday

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

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

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

Who is this man in linen? It is Jesus, who right now is doing the special work of the High

Priest on the special time of judgment in heaven. He is studying the records and the lives of all the people in 'Jerusalem'. What is 'Jerusalem' in this vision? It is all those who claim to belong to Jesus. All those who claim to be 'Christians'.

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

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

### Friday

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

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

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

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

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

"O ye dry bones, hear the word of the

LORD." Yes, he was not to tell them some entertaining story, or sing lovely music to them, or even tell them jokes; he was to tell them "Hear the Word of the Lord!"

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

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

What was Ezekiel to do? God told him to 'prophecy' to the wind, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So he did, and they all came to

life and stood up on their feet a great army of people.

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

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

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



"And set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones."  
—Ezek. xxxvii. 1.