

TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 3 - 3rd Quarter - Issue #7



CREATION CORNER

Flowers & Bees

Did you know that bees live longer in winter than in summer? I wonder how many of you can guess why it is. They live about six months in winter, while in summer they only live three or four months. This is because they work so hard during the warm months, gathering the honey and pollen, and storing it in the cells of wax, which they have made, while in winter they do little work except for to keep the hive warm.

Bees would all die if there were no flowers, and many of the flowers could not make seeds if it were not for the bees. I will tell you now why that is true. Do you know what pollen is? It is the soft, yellow powder found in flowers that covers your nose sometimes, when you smell a flower. The pollen is the male or daddy part of the seed.

Most blossoms have a little seed case, or pod, underneath them. When the flower is first open, there are tiny baby seeds in this plant. These are the female, or mommy part of the seed. Of course you know that seeds are sup-

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posed to grow into plants; but before these baby seeds can make plants, they must be "pollenized."

That means that pollen must be brought to them. Some-times pollen must be brought from another blossom, or even another plant. How do you suppose the pollen from one flower reaches the seedpod of another flower?

Each blossom has a pistil and some stamens. The pistil is in the center of the blossom, and looks like a tiny green stick with a sticky ball on the end. Around it are the stamens, which look much like the pistil, only they are shorter, and instead of a ball on the end, they have little flat pads, which are covered with yellow pollen.

When you look at a flower, see if you can find the pistil and the stamens. Down in the cup of the flower you will find some sweet nectar. The bees want the nectar to make honey, and they want the pollen to make bee-bread.

Let us go out in the garden and watch them. Along comes a bee, buzzing about here and there. Suddenly he dives into a blossom head first, because he smells nectar. The stamens shake their yellow dust, the pollen, on him, and it clings to his fuzzy little back and to his legs. He

doesn't get very much nectar from one flower, so he buzzes on to the next. Diving into that flower, he brushes against the sticky ball on the end of the pistil. The pollen that he has brought on his coat from the first blossom, is rubbed off, and clings to the little sticky ball. This tiny ball is really the opening of the seed case where the baby seeds lie, and the pollen soon fertilizes the little seeds.

Then the petals fade, and drop off from the flower; and soon the little seeds become hard and dry. The pod also dries, and bursts open, and the ripe seeds fall to the ground, ready to grow new plants.

The little bee gathers all the honey he can carry in his special honey-stomach, and then flies back to the hive, which is his home. He goes straight to the comb, which has already been made, and empties his sweet burden into an open cell. When the cell is full of honey, the busy workers cover it over with a "cap" of wax.

You see that if it were not for the bees, the flower seeds would die; and if it were not for the flowers, the bees would not have any honey. So bees and flowers always go together. = ^..^ =

HISTORY LESSON

The Counterfeiter: 5. The Counterfeit Memorial

EVERY student of the Scriptures is acquainted with the memorial God set aside to commemorate His work as creator. The record of the memorial of creation is found first in Genesis 2:1-3. "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made."

So necessary did the Creator feel this day to be for the physical and spiritual good of the human race that at the time when His instructions were put in writing-when Moses led the children of Israel out of Canaan-the command for this memorial was, along with the rest of the Ten Commandments, both spoken and written by the Creator Himself. It is set forth in Exodus 20:8-11: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and

do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it."

Lucifer made an immediate attack upon this memorial, substituting for it a day that still bears the pagan name given to it by the Babylonians. Turning to the 1928 edition of Webster's New International Dictionary, we read: "Sunday-so called because this day was anciently dedicated to the sun or to its worship."

Dedicated by whom, and how anciently? we at once ask. When we go to the encyclopedia to find out who named the days of the week as we have them today, we find that, just as we expected, the ancient Babylonians named this day, and dedicated it to the sun. But we learned in the first article of this series that the sun was only a symbol, the real being who was worshiped being Lucifer himself. When we find the sun god pictured with horns, hoofs, a tail, and a pitchfork, being addressed in worship as "the evil one," "the destroyer," and "the great dragon," we need have no doubt as to who it is that is being worshiped.

Other historians also add their support as to the source of the day of the sun. Salomon Reinach, the French historian, declares in his "Orpheus, a History of Religions," English translation, page 39: "In their calendar, the Babylonians distinguished between propitious and unpropitious, working and nonworking days. Among the latter, it is believed were the first days of every septet, to the number of four per lunar month. This constituted the Babylonian Shabbatum, analogous to the Biblical Sabbath."

The Century Dictionary and Encyclopedia declares, under the article "Sunday": "The name Sunday or 'day of the sun' belongs to the first day of the week on astrological grounds, and has been so used, from far beyond the Christian Era, and far outside Christian countries."

Day Dedicated to the Sun

The best possible source for deciding this matter permanently, however, would be a Babylonian temple text in which the first day of

the week is specifically dedicated to the sun. Such a temple text, translated in detail on pages 71-75 Sayce's "The Religion of the Ancient Babylonians," lists each day of the week for an entire month. On this temple text we read:

"1st day. Dedicated to Anu and Bel [both sun-gods]. A day of good luck, ... He shall make his freewill offering to the sun, the mistress of the world. . . He offers sacrifices. The lifting up of his hand finds favor with the god.

"8th day. The feast of Nebo [identified by scholars as being another manifestation of the sun-god]."

"15th day. Sacred to the Sun, the Lady of the House of Heaven.

"22nd day. Festival of the Sun, the mistress of the palace.

"29th day. The day of the resting of the moon-god. The day when the spirits of heaven and earth are adored," (The moon-as also the planets-was considered as an emanation of the sun. The Babylonians had but one god, declared Sayce on page 268 of the book quoted above.)

In Mithraism, the name by which Babylonian sun worship was known in Persia, and later in Europe, Sunday, the first day of the week, was the weekly -holyday for centuries preceding Christ. Likewise in Buddhism the first and fifteenth days of each month are sacred, many Buddhists keeping the intermediate Sundays also." Lark in "Religions of Old Korea", Page 75.

The pagan origin of the sun-day is generally recognized, though seldom spoken of, by the leading scholars of the church. Declares Cardinal Gibbons:

"You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify."-"The Faith of our Fathers," page 111. Baltimore: John Murphy & Co., 1893.

Bernard Conway of the Paulist Fathers, in his "Question Box," page 179, gives a similar testimony: "If the Bible is the only guide for the Christian, the Seventh-day Adventist is right in observing Saturday."

Going With the Crowd

I once asked the man at the head of the Bible Department in a Midwestern denominational

college the reason for the existence of two weekly days of worship in the Christian church. The doctor replied: "I am surprised that Protestants did not start keeping the seventh day of the week when they broke away from Catholicism. We all know that Sunday is not the Bible Sabbath, and we know who changed the day. But everybody else keeps Sunday, so I am going to do the same."

In the Sunday School Advocate for Dec-31, 1921, we read: "In the very long ago the people of the world began to give names to everything, and they turned the sounds of lips into words so ,that the lips could speak a thought. In those days the people worshiped the sun because it was kind to them and gave them heat and light. By and by, after many words were made to tell of many thoughts about many things, the people became Christians and were ruled by an emperor whose name was Constantine. This emperor made Sunday the Christian Sabbath, because of the blessing of light and heat, which came from the sun. So Our Sunday is a sun-day, isn't it?"

The Catholic Church, to whom Prot-estants are indebted for their sunday, frankly admits the pagan origin of many of the church's holydays, but claims the Power to sanctify these products of paganism. Cardinal Newman declares: It is not necessary to go into a subject, which the diligence of Protestant writers has made familiar to most of us. The use of temples, and these dedicated to particular saints; . . holy water; asylums; holy days and seasons, use of calendars, processions, . . are all of pagan origin, and sanctified by their adoption into the church. "Development of Christian Doctrine," page 373. London: Longmans, Green, & Co., 1906.

Without questioning the sincerity of the church's leaders, most surely every Christian has strong reason to question the power of any human being, or of any group of human beings, to sanctify or to make anything holy, least of all the day set aside by the master counterfeiter as a memorial of his power and authority; "the venerable day of the sun" established by the worshipers of the great serpent in ancient Babylon. Since the sunday has been established upon human, not upon divine authority, and since we are told in Matthew 15:13 that "every plant which My heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up," surely the seeker for truth

will do well to search the Scriptures for light on this question.

The commonly accepted belief that Sunday was set aside by divine command or example as a day commemorative of the resurrection of Christ has no Biblical foundation. Christ was crucified on Fri-day, the sixth day of the week; He rested in the grave on the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week; and He arose to resume His duties on Sunday, the first day of the week. And, although the greatest and most frequently referred to event in all history—the vicarious sacrifice of Christ, His death that the sinner might not have to die—occurred on Friday, still it seems never to have entered the mind of the Christian church to set aside the sixth day of the week as a weekly day of rest.

The Christian church regards two weekly days of rest, Sunday and the Sabbath. One of these days must be a counterfeit; the other must be God's holyday of worship and rest. One, as we have seen, originated among the devil worshipers of ancient Babylon, and entered the Christian church by way of Mithraism; for we find that Constantine was an ardent votary of this branch of demon worship before his so-called "conversion."

We also find that the next day after he passed his law calling for men to revere "the venerable day of the sun," he passed another law regulating the manner of cutting animals open and examining their entrails to foretell the future. Also, after his "conversion," he murdered his wife, and also his son, who he thought was becoming too popular with the army, his crimes finally raising such a stench in Rome that it appears that this "Christian" emperor, who passed the first law setting aside Sunday as a holyday, had to flee to a new capital, which he built and named after himself—Constantinople.

Christ's and Paul's Example

The Sabbath, on the other hand, has the authority of the entire Bible behind it. It was established by God at creation (Genesis 2:1-3); it is commanded in the Decalogue (Exodus 20:8-11); it is the sign by which one may know that he is a child of God (Ezekiel 20:12, 20); and it is to continue to be God's holyday even after the destruction of sin and the establishing of the new earth (Isaiah 66:22, 23).

In Luke 4:16 we read that it was the "cus-

tom" of Christ, our example, to worship upon the Sabbath day; in Acts 17:2 we read that it was the "manner" of Paul to do likewise. The nearest suggestion that can be accepted in favor of the first day is found in 1 Corinthians 16:2, regarding the gathering of money, food, and clothing for the poor at Jerusalem, a collection that was to be laid aside "by one's self, at home," as reads the Greek. Since on his previous visit of a year and a half to Corinth Paul was found worshiping in the synagogue "every Sabbath" (Acts 18:4,11), it would indeed be inconsistent for him now to ask the Corinthians in his letter to them to start holding religious gatherings on the first day of the week, as some people claim he did.

In the very last book of the Bible we find a call to return to the worship of the Creator, which of course includes honoring His Sabbath day: Revelation 14:6,7 "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

Matthew 15:13 "Every plant, which My heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." Those who trace their beliefs and practices to Babylonian devil worship should know the real meaning of the call found in Revelation 18:2-4 "Babylon the great is fallen. . . . Come out of her, My people." From Murl Vance – 1940 = ^ .. ^ =

OLD TIME STORIES

The Emperor's Seeds

The story is told of an emperor in the Far East who was growing old and knew it was time to choose his successor. Instead of choosing one of his assistants or his children, he decided something different. He called young people in the kingdom together one day.

He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next emperor. I have decided to choose one of you." The youth were shocked! But the emperor continued. "I am going to give each one of you a seed today, one very special seed. I want you to plant the seed, water it and come back here one year from today with what

you have grown from this one seed. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next emperor!"

One boy named Ling was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly told his mother the story. She helped him get a pot and planting soil, and he planted the seed and watered it carefully. Every day he would water it and watch to see if it had grown.

After about three weeks, some of the other youths began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow. Ling kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, 4 weeks, 5 weeks went by. Still nothing.

By now, still more of the others were talking about their plants, but Ling didn't have a plant, and he felt like a failure. Six months went by; still nothing in Ling's pot.

He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Ling didn't say anything to his friends, however. He just kept waiting for his seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the youths of the kingdom brought their plants to the emperor for inspection. Ling told his mother that he wasn't going to take an empty pot, but his mother said he must be honest about what had happened. Ling felt sick to his stomach, but he knew his mother was right. He took his empty pot to the palace.

When Ling arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other youths. They were beautiful—in all shapes and sizes. Ling put his empty pot on the floor and many of the other youths laughed at him. A few seemed to feel sorry for him and just said, "Hey, nice try."

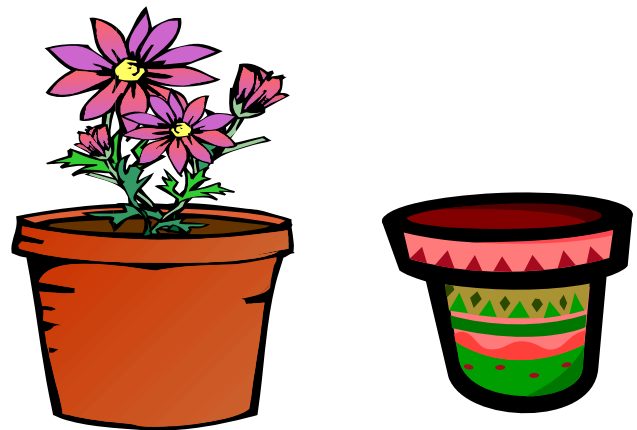
When the emperor arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted the young people. Ling just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees and flowers you have grown," said the emperor. "Today, one of you will be appointed the next emperor!"

All of a sudden, the emperor spotted Ling at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered his guards to bring him to the front. Ling was terrified. "The emperor knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me killed!" When Ling got to the front, the emperor asked his name. "My name is Ling," he replied. All the

youths were laughing and making fun of him. The emperor asked every-one to quiet down.

He looked at Ling, and then announced to the crowd, "Behold your new emperor! His name is Ling!" Ling couldn't believe it. Ling couldn't even grow his seed. How could he be the new emperor?

Then the emperor said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone here a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds, which would not grow. All of you, except Ling, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Ling was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new emperor!" Author Unknown = ^..^ =



Year 3: 3rd Quarter:
"GOD'S MESSENGERS: THE PROPHETS"
WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 7: "THE
PROPHET ISAIAH"

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: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18

Sunday

Text: Isaiah 1:4 "Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward."

In last weeks lesson we learned how the Prophet Elisha taught and helped the people of the nation of Israel for many years. Now we are going to look at the Prophet Isaiah. Isaiah was a prophet calling for repentance, giving warnings and yet offering encouraging promises to any who would listen to the Word of God sent by the mouth and pen of the Prophet.

Isaiah's ministry was to Judah and his work continued more than fifty years. He saw the reign of four kings, some were good and served God, but most were not and did not. He was finally martyred by being placed in a log and sawn through, under the wicked King Manasseh, who shed much blood of the faithful.

The Book of Isaiah is 66 chapters and Isaiah is classed as a Major Prophet. He tells the story of the life of Jesus, hundreds of years before He was born, almost as clearly as the Gospel writers and is called the 'Gospel Prophet'.

In fact so clearly is the life of Jesus and His death described in the 53rd of Isaiah and other chapters, that the Jews have declared it a cursed book and not to be read. They also have pronounced a curse on any who would figure out the Time Prophecy of Daniel which points to

the time of the Messiah's ministry. None are so blind as those who refuse to see! Be sure to read for yourself, Isaiah 53.

The prophecies of Isaiah do not only reach to the time of Jesus, but into our times as well and on into eternity. (see chapter 66) There are many prophecies that describe the condition of the church in our day, which is much the same as the apostasy in Judah back then. One could study the Book of Isaiah for a whole lifetime and still have wonderful things to discover in it!

Here is another amazing fact, and one that many are trying to cover up these days. When the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in 1948, a whole book of Isaiah the prophet was found among them. That copy was written over 100 years before Christ, so no one can say the Book of Isaiah was actually written AFTER Jesus' life.

Also that copy is found to be almost exactly word for word the same as our 'old fashioned' King James translation shows it to be! It does not agree with the modern translations based on the manuscripts of Rome.

Thought - Remember the story of the man from the Queen of Ethiopia's court that Phillip was sent to talk to? He was reading a scroll of the Book of Isaiah and was learning the amazing prophecies describing the life of Jesus. When Phillip told him how these prophecies were fulfilled, he gave his heart to Jesus and was baptized. He went back home and taught others, and a Christian church was established that followed the Bible and the true gospel of the apostles. This church remained pure for centuries and kept the true Bible Sabbath.

Monday

Text: 2 Chronicles 26:3,4 "Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah did."

2 Chronicles 26:16 "But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense."

It was during the reign of Uzziah that Isaiah

was called by God to be a prophet. Uzziah was made king when he was just a teenager, and for a long time he did what was right. He also showed himself to be wise, as he got older, and did much to strengthen Judah and the army, so that the nation was very prosperous in his days.

Sadly he fell into another trap of the devil. You know if Satan cannot keep us ignoring God and doing wickedness, he tries to get us to be presumptuous and so disobey God that way. This big word means to get too proud and bold and to try to do things that we have no business doing. Uzziah did it this way:

He decided one day that he wanted to go walking not only right into the temple, but right into the Holy Place where only the Priests descended from Aaron were allowed to go. He wanted to go in and burn incense before the LORD right in front of the veil of the Most Holy Place. When he came to do this, the priest and his helpers stopped him and told him he could not do this, and to get out of there, right away.

But Uzziah got angry and standing there with a censer in his hands tried to force his way to go and do this. How dare anyone tell him, the KING, what he could or could not do? But as he was arguing and trying to force his way to the altar, God smote him and the leprosy came out on his very forehead.

Then the priests thrust him out of the place and he hurried to go also, as he had been struck by God for his rash and foolish actions. All the rest of his life he had that leprosy on his head and he could not return to his palace, but had to live in a separate house.

Thought – We need always to be careful to humbly obey God in all things, and never think we are someone special, and can do whatever we like before God!

Tuesday

Text: Isaiah 1:21-23 “How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.”

Even though Judah was prosperous during the time of King Uzziah, and he did serve God, the people did not serve God with all their hearts. They went to their feasts and attended the sacrifices just as a form, something to do to please God. But they did not turn away from sin in their lives, they did not seek to have the character of God and they did not stop worshipping idols and the hosts of heaven in the groves.

In other words, they kept many pagan customs and mixed them in with the true worship. Also as they were well off, they became more harsh and greedy. They would not care for the poor or bother to help the widows, Oh, no! They would just try to get as much for themselves as they could and yet they thought they were just fine in the sight of God.

So when Isaiah began to tell them what God really thought about them, and that they really didn't know Him and He was not pleased with them, they didn't like it one bit! When he told them that God was even disgusted with their feast days and didn't want their sacrifices, they were very angry.

You see; God wanted the offering of a lamb for sin, to show the people how terrible sin was, and that it led to death. He wanted them to see that their sin would cause the death of the Son of God, to save them, and to want to get rid of sin out of their lives. But the people just felt that the lamb was a price they paid to make up to God for their sin. The gift they made excused their sins. To them it was sort of a bribe to God.

God did not want their bribes and gifts offered to Him, as if he were a heathen devil-god to be appeased. He wanted them to learn His ways, give Him their whole hearts and learn to do right because it is right! All their religious ceremonies and 'going to church' was only an insult to God, if they did not obey His Word.

Thought – There are people today who feel the same way, they think that because Jesus died on the cross, sin does not matter and they don't even have to seek to get it out of their lives. They say, "It was all done at the cross", and they can do as they please and still go to heaven. But no one who still has sins in their lives, that they have not repented of and stopped doing before their life ends, or when Jesus comes, will enter heaven!

Wednesday

Text: Isaiah 1:12-15 “When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.”

Now the sad thing is that when the people had these ideas that their offerings and rituals were a favor they did to God and sin was not a serious matter, most of the Priests of the temple also had them and even encouraged the people in their sins! Why would they do this?

Well you see; the Priests got to keep for themselves the main part of the offerings the people would bring to the temple. So the more lambs and animals the people brought, the more wealth for the Priests. And the more the people sinned the more animals and offerings they brought. So sin was good business and many of the Priests became corrupt and delighted in sin, as it made them rich.

Now there were some faithful Priests, but as time went on, most of them got pushed aside or gotten rid of by the corrupt ones. Things got so bad that only the priests, who would promise to share the wealth with the High Priest, would get to minister in the temple at all. In the time of Jesus the High Priest was a vicious and powerful man who got the office by paying a huge amount of money and often by killing others who also wanted the job.

But the message of true prophets has always been the same, ‘Turn away from sin! Stop sinning and do right! God does not want your offerings as bribes, He wants your hearts and lives turned over to Him, so He can take away your sin!’

Often the prophet was sent to stand right in the door of the temple and tell the people to stop bringing these offerings to ‘bribe’ the Lord, as they were an insult to the God of Heaven. Now you can imagine what the corrupt priests thought about this! So they hated God’s mes-

sengers and often had them killed.

Thought – Things are the same today, the true messengers of God tell the people they must put away sin or they will be lost. These true messengers are most often hated. But because people want to be saved IN their sins, most ministers find it more profitable to preach that sin is OK and not to worry about it, because Jesus’ death on the cross paid for it all, and we can sin and still go to heaven as long as we go to church and pay money.

Thursday

Text: Isaiah 2:6-8 “Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers. Their land also is full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures; their land is also full of horses, neither is there any end of their chariots: Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made.”

It was in the last year of the reign of Uzziah that Isaiah was called to be a prophet, to rebuke the sins of priests and people, and to encourage the few faithful ones who were still trying to honestly serve God in spite of being scorned and persecuted for it. He felt very hopeless about it and wondered how his work could make any difference in the terrible apostasy that seemed to be everywhere.

The rich would oppress the poor and even the judges that were commanded by God to protect the needy and poor, would rule on the side of the rich to get bribes. There was no real justice in the courts and truth seemed not to matter.

All the people thought about was making money and buying more houses and land and business profits. Because of riches, the people went in for indulging pride and appetite, having feasts and parties, revelry, entertainment and drunkenness. It seemed that they were trying to be just like Sodom and Gomorrah.

Isaiah did not feel he would get anywhere trying to take God’s messages of reproof to such people. He knew that all he would get was hate

and anger and stubborn resistance to his message from God. The task seemed hopeless. Should he just give up and leave Judah to follow undisturbed their heathen ways and still think they were God's special people?

Thought – Isaiah little knew how precious to God's faithful children down through the centuries has been his Book containing God's messages. Thousands of years after his death, we are still being blessed by it and if you will read it for yourself, asking Jesus to help you understand it, you will be blessed and taught too.

Friday

Text: Isaiah 6:1-4 "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke."

Discouraged thoughts were crowding through Isaiah's mind as he stood near the entrance of the temple. Suddenly the gate and the inner veil of the temple seemed to be uplifted or withdrawn, and he could see inside, right into the holy of holies, where even the prophet's feet might not enter.

He saw a vision of the Lord sitting upon a throne high and lifted up, while the train of His glory filled the temple. On each side of the throne hovered the angels, their faces humbly covered, as they ministered before their Maker and sang together, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory," until post and pillar and cedar gate seemed shaken with the sound, and the house was filled with their praise.

As Isaiah saw all the glory and majesty of his Lord, he was overwhelmed with a sense of the purity and holiness of God. How sharp the contrast between the matchless perfection of his Creator, and the sinful course of those who, with himself, had long been numbered among the chosen people of Israel and Judah! "Woe is

me!" he cried; "for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." Verse 5.

He realized that in himself was no good thing and unless the Lord should do something for him, there was no way he could carry out the job of a prophet. As he cried out in despair and distress, an angel was sent to him to fit him for his task.

The angel took a burning coal from the altar and touched the prophet's lips with it. "Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged," he said to Isaiah.

Then the voice of God was heard saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" humbly Isaiah responded, "Here am I; send me." Verses 7, 8.

But then he asked the Lord how long he would have to bear this message and would any of the people listen to him? He was told that his message in behalf of erring Judah was not to be borne in vain. His mission was not to be wholly fruitless.

Yet the evils that had been multiplying for many generations could not be removed in his day. Throughout his lifetime he must be a patient, courageous teacher—a prophet of hope as well as of doom. The divine purpose finally accomplished, the full fruitage of his efforts, and of the labors of all God's faithful messengers, would appear. A remnant should be saved.

Thought - It has always been this way, even during times when it seems there are many who claim to belong to Jesus and who are planning to be in heaven, only a few really know and obey God. Only those who truly turn away from sin and give all their heart to God will ever see heaven. Only a Remnant, but you and I can choose to be in that Remnant. If we will seek to know and obey Jesus with all our heart, today and always, one day we will stand with that Remnant! = ^ .. ^ =