

# TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

## TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 3 - 3rd Quarter - Issue #2



### CREATION CORNER

#### “Woodman, Spare That Tree”

“Woodman, Spare That Tree” is the name of a well-known poem. This story tells how it came to be written.

General George P. Morris, the author of this famous poem, gives the history of its origin in a letter to a friend, dated New York City, Feb. 1, 1837. Riding out of town a few days ago, in company with a friend, an old gentleman who had spent many years traveling in foreign countries, he invited me to turn down a little woodland pass, not far from Bloomingdale.

“Your object?” I inquired.

“Merely to look once more at an old oak tree planted by my grandfather long before I was born, under which I used to play when a boy, and where my sisters played with me. There I often listened to the good advice of my parents. Father, mother, sisters, all are gone. Nothing but the old tree remains.” And a paleness spread over his fine countenance, and tears came to his eyes.

After a moment's pause, he added, “Don't think me foolish. I don't know how it is, but I never ride

#### CONTENTS:

CREATION CORNER

STORY LESSON

STORY

WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON

out without turning down this lane to look at that old tree. I have a thousand memories about it, and I always greet it as a familiar and well-remembered friend.”

These words were scarcely uttered when the old gentleman cried out, “There it is!”

Near the tree stood a man with his coat off, sharpening an ax. “You are not going to cut that tree down, surely?”

“Yes, I am, though,” said the woodman.

“What for?” inquired the old gentleman with choked emotion.

“What for? Well, I want the tree for firewood.”

“What is the tree worth to you for firewood?”

“Why, when down, about ten dollars.”

“Suppose I should give you that sum,” said the old gentleman, “would you let the tree stand?”

“Yes.”

“You are sure of that?”

“Positive.”

“Then give me a bond to that effect.”

We went into the little cottage in which my companion was born, and which is now occupied by the woodman. I drew up the bond. It was signed, and the money paid over. As we left, the young girl, the daughter of the woodman, assured us that while she lived the tree should not be cut. These

circumstances made a strong impression on my mind, and furnished me with the materials for the song I send you, named:

**“Woodman, Spare That Tree.”**

Woodman, spare that tree!  
Touch not a single bough!  
In youth it sheltered me,  
And I'll protect it now.  
'Twas my forefather's hand  
That placed it near his cot;  
There, woodman, let it stand;  
Thy ax shall harm it not.

That old familiar tree,  
Whose glory and renown  
Are spread o'er land and sea,  
And would'st thou hew it down?  
Woodman, forbear thy stroke!  
Cut not its earth-bound ties;  
Oh, spare that aged oak  
Now towering to the skies.

When but an idle boy,  
I sought its grateful shade;  
In all their gushing joy,  
Here, too, my sisters played.  
My mother kissed me here;  
My father pressed my hand—  
Forgive this foolish tear,  
But let that old oak stand.

My heartstrings round thee cling  
Close as thy bark, old friend;  
Here shall the wild bird sing,  
And still thy branches bend.  
Old tree! the storm still brave!  
And, woodman, leave the spot!  
While I have hand to save,  
Thy ax shall harm it not. = ^ .. ^ =

**STORY LESSON**

**PROPHETIC LESSONS**

**Thousands Saved by a Bible Prophecy**

TO some people the prophecies of the Bible don't seem to be of any practical benefit. They look on them with indifference. They think it is of little concern whether these prophecies are believed or not.

And yet on one occasion the lives of thousands of men and women were saved by a brief prophetic warning of just three score words. The prophetic words of the Master Teacher meant everything to them, and they will mean everything to you too if you will heed them. In Matthew 24 we have recorded the majestic outline of future events, spoken by Christ on the Mount of Olives. So exact and up to date are portions of this prophecy, that it might have been spoken yesterday instead of the distant year Of AD 31.

How wonderful is the “sure word of prophecy”! It is a living thing. It travels with the unfolding of history through the ages, and when the time comes, it speaks the meaning of current events to ears that hear. The passing centuries are no barrier to the span of divine prophecy. When the hour comes, it brings forth the event foretold ages before.

“Time like a mighty river, deep and strong, In sullen silence rolls its tide along.” And this living word of prophecy tells where we are in the stream of time.

Christ was on the Mount of Olives with His disciples. Below spread such a view as was never seen again after the Roman armies came. The center of all was the temple. Secular writings are eloquent of its grandeur. The front walls were plated with gold, dazzling to behold in the sunshine. The historian says that elsewhere its stones were of such pure whiteness that at a distance it appeared to the stranger like “a mountain covered with snow.” So massive was the masonry that the disciples thought that nothing could ever lay it low.

But the disciples had seen Jesus weeping over the city. Of what value were architectural beauty, massive structure, and the round of religious ceremony, when men were rejecting light and following their own traditions, thus making void the holy law of the Most High?

Christ knew that those religious teachers were rejecting the light of life. He knew the cry would ring out in the streets of the holy city, “His blood be on us, and on our children.” He had told His disciples repeatedly that He was going up to Jerusalem to be put to death by men. They could not comprehend it; but so it came to pass. The ancient prophecy had foretold it.

All prophecy had pointed to that day when the supreme sacrifice for sinful man would be made. Yet, as Jesus said, the people of Jerusalem were

too busy with earthly things and the empty forms of religion to know that they faced the crisis of the ages. "If thou had known," He cried over Jerusalem with weeping, as the hour of fulfillment drew near. Christ wept for the people, not for Himself, for He saw the inescapable future. On the cross He prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

It was not as a martyr that He went to death, but as sinless substitute for guilty humanity. Ages before, prophecy had foretold: "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:5.

We had our part in that wondrous moment in old Jerusalem and how cheap and passing seem all earthly considerations in comparison with the eternal glories opened to us in His sacrifice upon the cross!

Most people in Christ's day were too busy to pay attention to what the "sure word of prophecy" had said of their time. Graetz, the Jewish historian, marvels that so little attention was given to these things: "How great was the woe caused by that one execution! He is the only mortal of whom one can say without exaggeration that His death was more effective than His life. Strange that events fraught with so great an import should have created so little stir at the time of their occurrence in Jerusalem." "History of the Jews," Vol. IV, page 165.

Too busy to listen! Too intent on things of the moment to listen to the voice that speaks for eternity! That was the fatal error of the people in that time of crisis. With that sad failure grieving His heart as the moments were slipping by toward Calvary, Christ, in His prophetic outline on Olivet, sought to prepare believers in future generations to "know the times" and "the seasons."

The Savior's prophetic discourse was given in reply to two questions asked by the disciples as they were looking down on Jerusalem. They had heard that Jerusalem was actually to be destroyed, and they evidently associated such an almost unthinkable catastrophe with the end of all earthly kingdoms.

We read in Matthew 24:3: "And as He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

True to Christ's prophecy, forty years later the

city that had cast away God's protection found itself compassed with the Roman armies. Every detail of Christ's prophecy was fulfilled. Of the immediate sign of its fall, and as a signal to the believers round about to escape for their lives, Christ had said: "When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (who so reads let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains. Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house. Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. But pray you that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day." Matthew 24:15-20.

Daniel's prophecy had made it clear that Roman armies would be the agent of destruction. Now Luke's record of Christ's words gives the last sign for flight even more plainly when he says: "When you shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies." It was in the year AD 66 that the Roman army, under Cestius, encompassed the city. They fought about the holy temple, attempting in vain to enter.

It was the signal to the Christians. But how could they flee, as Christ had commanded. The attackers encircled the city. The furious war party in the city, the Zealots, would have prevented any attempted flight. Just here came the providential stroke of deliverance. Cestius suddenly drew back. Josephus says:

"He retired from the city, without any reason in the world." ("Wars of the Jews," Book 2, chapter 19.) The Christians knew the reason. Christ had said, "Flee." And, as the Zealots opened the gates and set out in pursuit of the retiring Romans, the watchful believers knew their moment had come. They fled to the mountain regions beyond.

For thirty-five years they had kept Christ's prophecy in mind. It is to be understood also that for all these years they had prayed that the time of their flight might not be in the winter nor on the Sabbath day; not in the cold of winter, for the flight required such haste that Christ's prophecy told the man on the housetop or in his garden not to try to gather any extra clothing.

History shows that such haste was necessary. The moment the Zealots returned, the gates were closed and desperate preparations were begun for the next encounter. No Christian could have escaped then.

They were to pray that their flight be not on the

**TRUE-STORY-TIME****A Story by Elder W. B. Hill 1859**

Sabbath, for that was the holy day of rest and worship. That prayer, enjoined by Christ was answered. Graetz, the Jewish historian, has computed the days involved showing that Cestius must have withdrawn from the city on Wednesday, October 7. And so you see, their flight was “not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day.”

Before long the invading forces of Rome returned to the siege, and after fearful scenes of famine and bloodshed, the city was ultimately taken, the temple burned, and the Jewish survivors sold as slaves. But, and note this point, history records that not one Christian perished in the siege of Jerusalem. All had been saved because they heeded that one prophetic statement. To them, prophecy was important; and if we would make the eternal port in safety, we also must heed its warning and appealing voice.

The final siege and overthrow of Jerusalem took place in AD 70 under Titus. He vainly tried to save the temple, but the fury of the resistance defeated his attempt and the temple was burned. The gold plate, melted by the fury of the fire, ran through the foundations, and we are told that these foundation stones were literally torn up in search of the precious metal. Thus were the words of Christ fulfilled to the very letter: “There shall not be left one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down.” Matthew 24:2.

The sure word of prophecy had been fulfilled.

Friends, the same earnest, loving voice, which brought warning, deliverance, and life to thousands at the dark hour of Jerusalem’s downfall, whispers across the ages to us in this troublous time: “So likewise you, when you see these things come to pass, know you that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Watch you therefore, and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” Luke 21:31-36.

The Jewish nation despised the prophetic word of Christ, their city and temple were destroyed, and their people either slain or scattered to the four winds. The Christians, who heeded and trusted these words, found life and salvation. We may find the same protection from the Word of God that lives and abides for ever. Burnsides – 1950 = ^ .. ^ =

My father ran a tannery and shoe shop, as well as a farm. When I was fifteen, I entered the shop to learn the shoemaker’s trade. When I was sixteen, I went from house to house among the farmers, making boots and shoes for the family, a custom in vogue in those days.

At one place where I was working there were a number of young men preparing to go to the Michigan lumber woods. I got a great fever to go too; not to the lumber woods, but to Port Huron where I thought I could perfect myself in trade.

I was confident father would not be willing for me to go, so, foolish boy, I decided to go without his knowledge. ... I had scarcely any money, and I soon discovered the rest were nearly as bad off. We got a free ride from Port Sarnia, because it was the day of the opening of the Grand Trunk railroad to that point. Everybody rode free that day.

We did not find Michigan the land of promise we expected. Times were hard, and work scarce and hard to get. I finally got a job of shoemaking with a drunken Irishman. Getting tired of this I went into the country, but met with no better success. As a last resort I went to Detroit, about sixty miles distant, but there was no work. Everywhere there were more men than work.

Night found me in large city with no supper, no money, and no place to stay. I began to feel like the prodigal son. I was directed to the Russell House to stay all night. A flight of stone steps lead from the street to the first story, where the office was situated. I went up, weary and tired, rather a forlorn looking specimen of humanity. The floor was carpeted, the waiter boys were in broadcloth, and everything was grand. I asked the clerk if I could stay over night. He said, “No.” Of course they had no room for such as I. He directed me to the Railroad Hotel.

As I was descending the steps, I saw a crowd of roughs standing around. One cried out, “Let us go to Michigan Avenue.” Another said, “Let’s wait until this greenhorn gets down the stairs.” I said to myself, “He means me of course. Shall I go down, or go back?” I decided to go on. As I came down, they surrounded me, tumbled me about, and thrust their hands into my pockets; but they were innocent of filthy lucre. (they didn’t get anything) After a while they let me go without doing me any harm.

I told the clerk of the Railroad Hotel I had no money. He gave me a bed, but no supper. In the morning the bell rang for breakfast and I was so HUNGRY; but I was minus the wherewith for a meal; so I started out again to look for work; feeling such a goneness as I had never experienced in all my life.

I traveled incessantly until noon, looking for work, but found none. I found an empty stomach was a great reminder of my father's house, where there was bread enough and to spare. At noon a brother shoemaker gave me a good dinner, to which I did ample justice. I became discouraged about finding work, and home, with its comforts and the loved ones there, never looked so desirable to me; but, alas, it was a long way off to a boy without a cent in his pocket; but after dinner I said, "I will arise, and go to my father," and started for home.

About dark I tried to find a place of refuge for the night. I soon found that this world has not much of a welcome for a moneyless man, or boy either. Nobody wanted to keep me, and to increase my difficulty, it began to snow furiously. I made up my mind that the next house I entered I would say nothing about staying all night, at first, but sit down, and await developments.

The next house proved to be an Irishman's. I went in, sat down by the stove, and chatted with them for awhile, and finally broached the subject of staying until morning. The old gentleman said that was impossible, as they had only one bed in the house; but the good old lady came to my rescue saying, "Would you turn the poor boy out into the storm?" They decided that I could have a quilt or two on a bundle of hay, by the stove, which would be better than a snow bank.

In the morning the man went off to drink whisky with some boon companions, and the poor wife told me her troubles, how her husband would come home drunk, and break even the stove to pieces. As I started on my journey the good woman blessed me by the Virgin Mary and all the saints. The snow was deep, and traveling was slow and difficult.

Toward evening I met an Irishman in the road, who took me for an Irishman's son, and invited me to partake of his hospitalities over night; which I gladly did. He lamented greatly that he was just out of whisky, and consequently could not entertain me so handsomely as he otherwise could; but as I never learned to drink Satan's firewater, I got along very well without the extra entertainment. Thus day

after day I plodded along toward home.

When I got nearly home, I learned that I was the last of the returning wanderers. The other boys had already returned to the paternal roof, which was a comfort to me, but oh, how ashamed I was to go home to father's. The nearer I got home, the slower I went, until, one evening after dark, I entered the old familiar kitchen.

All the folks were glad to see me, glad that I had reached home alive. I had learned the lesson, that there is no place like home for a boy, and that there are no friends like father and mother. Dear young friends, if you ever leave the blessed scenes of home, do so with the consent of your parents, with their counsel to guide you, and their blessing to follow you. = ^ .. ^ =

## STORY LESSON

### Two Important Words

It was Children's Day down at the church hall. A sudden hush settled over the hall as the boys and girls sat down and stopped talking to hear the speaker.

"Just a little thought for you to take home with you," said the man on the platform. "It's about two little words: BE READY." Then he walked over to a blackboard and wrote, BE READY TO HELP OTHERS.

"That's the first thing we should do," he said. "We should always be ready to help anybody in need. If we keep our eyes open we will see chances to help other people all the time."

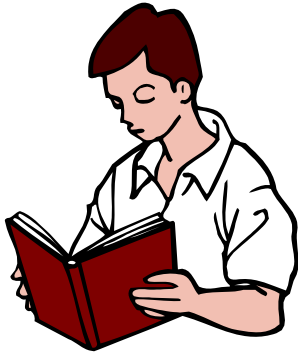
Then he wrote on the board: BE READY TO STAND AGAINST EVIL.

"That is something else we must do. So often boys and girls are tempted to do things that are wrong, things that will get them into trouble, or hurt other people. Every time temptation comes let us be ready to stand against it."

Then he wrote: BE READY TO MEET GOD.

"This is the most important thing of all," he said. "Someday we must all meet God. To be ready to meet Him we must rid our hearts of everything that is unlike Him; everything that is unkind, unlovely, and unholy. And we can only do that by asking Jesus to live within us by His Spirit every day."

"Into my heart, into my heart,  
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus;  
Come in today, come in to stay,  
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus."



**Year 3: 3rd Quarter:**  
**“GOD’S MESSENGERS: THE PROPHETS”**  
**WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 2:**  
**“TRUE PROPHETS”**

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: Jeremiah 25:4 “And the LORD hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear.”**

This week we will learn more about the tests and signs of a true prophet of God. It is interesting that false prophets and ‘psychics’, are usually admired and popular, but what about real prophets?

All down through the history of the world, as we see it in the pages of the Holy Bible, we see a sad pattern. Notice our text for today; God puts it into human thinking. He shows us Himself, as anxious to get a message to us. So anxious that He gets up real early and sends a messenger to us. Six different places in the Bible God uses these words about ‘getting up early to send a message’.

What a loving God we have! He is willing to do

anything in His great power, to help us to overcome sin, and be able to go to heaven with Him. But here is the sad part in the rest of the text: “But ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to listen.”

God gives us the power of choice, and if we refuse to listen to Him, He does not force us. There is nothing more to be done than God has already done for us, all heaven was poured out to save us in the Gift of Jesus, the ‘Son’ of God, and here we see God ‘getting up early’, sending messenger after messenger to teach us, to warn us, to make promises to us.

What is the story of most of the prophets God sent? Most of them were hated, made fun of, ignored, persecuted, put in prison, punished, and even killed in terrible ways. Jesus told the story in Luke 20:9-16, and He also warned that unless people repent and listen to His messengers, and obey, they will in time be destroyed. It isn’t God’s choice at all, but the choice of hard-hearted, sinful humans.

**Thought** - Oh readers, I urge you to read and learn about the messages of God to us, remember they are for you, just as much as if God put your name there!

**Monday**

**Text: Daniel 10:16-18 “And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength. For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me. Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me.”**

False prophets today are known by many names; psychics, channelers, fortune-tellers, mediums and so on. Many of them go into a trance-state and claim that this state is the same as a vision. But there are some amazing differences between a true Vision from God, and a ‘trance’.

When a person goes into a trance, one of the fallen angels possesses his mind, and the person does not know about his surroundings during this time. This unawareness is also true of a real Vision

from God, but everything else is different

In a trance the person often grimaces (makes strange faces), may groan or twitch and their eyes are closed. In a true Vision, the prophet has a bright, radiant expression and their eyes are open.

At the start of a True vision, usually the prophet will fall gracefully to the ground. Then when the angel strengthens them they often arise and even walk around. People in a trance usually remain in the position they were in when they tried to go into the trance.

This is a big difference also; false prophets will go into the trance and seek to have a vision, while true prophets never do, they are given visions only when God sees fit, and they never try to have one on their own.

There is one sign that Satan cannot imitate, and we find it in our text. When in vision, the true prophet DOES NOT BREATHE! Yes that is right, he or she does not breathe the whole time the vision is happening, and yet they often talk anyway. (try to talk without breathing; you can't)

Now Satan can make his false prophets breathe very shallow and almost look like they don't breathe, but careful examination will show some breathing. You see, only the God of Heaven, the source of all Life can keep a human alive while they are not breathing. Satan cannot do this, as he has no power to give life, he is a fraud and a counterfeit.

Ellen White, whose life and work we will look at next week, often was in vision for hours, and yet even when doctors examined her, they found she did not breathe while in vision!

**Thought** – Once you learn about the true prophets from the Bible and the writings of Ellen White, you will not be fooled by Satan's cheap and ugly counterfeits.

## Tuesday

**Text: Isaiah 58:1 "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."**

A very good way to tell a false prophet from a true one is what they tell you about. One of the reasons that false prophets are often loved, and true ones hated, is because true prophets tell the people about their sins and urge them to stop sinning and return to obeying God. False prophets

flatter the selfish, sinful heart and entertain people.

True prophets only give messages that concern our salvation and our relationship to God. They always exult Jesus and the Bible and point people to them. They never tell you about worldly stuff like movie stars, fashions, entertainment, or who is going to marry whom.

Any true prophet will be very wrapped up in the Bible and the writings of the prophets that have gone before them, and they will never give messages that contradict the words and messages of former prophets.

There is a trick Satan is playing these days on the true people of God, and I hope you will really watch out for it. Someone comes along and starts telling us a prophecy of the future or some different doctrine. Then when we go to the Bible and the writings we call the 'Spirit of Prophecy', we find it does not agree with what this person is saying.

Now when we tell them, or those that are listening to them, "Hey, this does not agree with the other prophets", they tell us, "Well you see, that other prophet didn't know this, God has only just revealed it to me."

Now this is always a lie and not true. Do you think that God didn't know about everything that is going to happen until the end of time? Of course He does! And it is God that gave the messages to the other prophets. God never changes His mind and says something to contradict Himself. The best thing to do when someone tells you this is to tell them kindly they are wrong according to the Bible, and then leave and not listen any more to them.

If you keep trying to convince them, you may get confused yourself. It is safe to stay with the Inspired Word of God and reject anything that does not agree. God is not going to change His message now and give us ideas that the messages other prophets have said are wrong.

**Thought** – It is really important that once you see a message or messenger that says anything not agreeing with former inspired writings, to stop reading or listening to them. Don't be fooled into trying to 'pick out what is good', as Satan will trick you for sure.

## Wednesday

**Text: 2 Corinthians 10:5 "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing**

**into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” Luke 6:26 “Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.”**

True prophets do not talk about themselves or praise their selves. They always exalt God and Jesus and speak of themselves as only a servant or a tool in the Hand of God. True prophets never ‘have visions’ or do anything to show off to others, they never ‘parade’ their work before others to get attention for themselves.

False prophets tend to be much more common than true ones. Look at this story in 2 Chronicles 18:5, “Therefore the king of Israel gathered together of prophets four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear?”

Here we see a king who kept a huge group of false prophets who would tell him what he wanted to hear. When the King of Judah asked if there were not any other prophets, hear what Ahab said in verse 7: “There is yet one man, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he never prophesied good unto me, but always evil.”

You see, the true prophet did not flatter the king, but kept warning him of his sins and he didn’t like it! Here that one true prophet stood there and said the opposite of all those four-hundred false ones. And what happened? Whose word came true? The one true prophet’s word came true.

People don’t like to be told they are wrong, they like others to flatter them and say nice things about them. But God loves us enough to tell us the truth and He will set us free from all sin and save us, if we will only listen and choose to obey Him.

What happened when the king did not listen to the prophet he hated? That king died in battle a lost man, when if he had listened, he would have lived.

**Thought** – Remember, even if hundreds of people are teaching and believing ideas and things that are not in the Bible, their word will fail, and God’s Word will come true. You are always safe to believe God’s word.

### Thursday

**Text: Jeremiah 14:14 “Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them,**

**neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.” 2 Chronicles 20:20 “Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.”**

What happens to people who refuse to listen to a true prophet and choose rather to listen and believe false prophets? We have many stories in the Bible that tell us clearly what will happen to them, they will end up being destroyed and lost. God cannot help or bless them and they are never truly happy. They may hear words that make them feel good, but down inside they know these words are false but they refuse to give in to God.

What does God say about these people? “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee.” Hosea 4:6.

Notice they are destroyed for lack of knowledge, but did they not have knowledge? They sure did! But they refused the knowledge that God sent them and they end up destroyed.

But what about those who choose to listen to God and believe His prophets? Well we have many stories about them also, and we find that often when they do believe the prophet, they do certain things. They repent, often with great sadness and weeping that they have sinned against God. They make a choice to change their actions and start right away to stop doing wrong and to do right and obey the counsel of the true prophet from God. Then God helps them to make these changes, and blesses them when they do, and they have joy and peace and God is with them. This is a real joy and peace and not a false one based on lies.

Remember, if God tells you about your sins, it is because He wants to set you free from them. God never tells you to do something or not to do something, just because He wants to be bossy! Please think about that!

God has given us some extra counsel that we really need these days, but people look at it and decide to reject it. They decide they don’t want to give up their meat eating and their rich dairy foods and sweet candy and so-called ‘treats’ of unhealthy things.

They decide that it is too hard for them to stop going to theaters, watching entertainment and playing games and sports we have been warned are harmful. They talk about sin as if it were fun



and describe foods that God has advised us to give up, as 'sinfully delicious'.

Friends, sin is deadly and is not fun or delicious! Anything God has asked us to give up, is because it is harmful and will hurt and destroy us. God's professed people are today suffering and dying of nasty diseases they never would have had, if they would have believed and obeyed the messages He 'rose up early and sent'!

**Thought** – What about us, can we be false prophets without knowing it? Yes we can. When we know about Bible truth and the soon coming of Jesus and about His holy Sabbath day, and yet we act and live in a way that makes people think these things don't matter at all, we are a kind of false prophet.

### Friday

**Text: Psalm 74:9 "We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long."**

**Lamentations 2:9 "Her gates are sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars: her king and her princes are among the Gentiles: the law is no more; her prophets also find no vision from the LORD."**

Really, there are two kinds of true prophets if we look carefully in the Bible. Sometimes one prophet does both jobs. What are these 2 jobs?

1<sup>st</sup> there are prophets who are there to counsel and guide and help the people in their walk with God. We see many of this kind in the Bible, even in

the early church in New Testament times. God used them to provide encouragement and help with hard problems in the church. But this kind are never found once a people have turned away from obedience to God.

God's Law and God's Prophets are always found together! You see God has actually promised the guidance of His prophets would be always with his true people. Whenever God's people have been walking in obedience to His laws, we find the true gift of prophecy common among them.

But when they have rejected His laws and refused to obey and have gone into wickedness, we sometimes see a different kind of Prophet. It is the kind of prophet God sends with a warning message to turn away from wickedness and start again to obey or else terrible trouble will fall on them. Sadly enough, this kind is more common in the Bible stories.

Moses was one of these much of the time, Noah also, Elijah was one, Isaiah and Jeremiah were these kind and so was John the Baptist. These prophets often gave time prophecies warning of something to come. They are usually feared and hated, and often die as martyrs, killed by those who will not listen to God's warnings.

When people listen and obey these prophets and return to serving God and obeying His Law, often their job is then to encourage and help the people as they do this. If their messages are rejected, the warning comes to pass.

**Thought** - Our last-days messenger gave both kinds of messages. We would do well to heed the warnings and follow the counsel. Then we can enjoy the promises and God's blessing. = ^ .. ^ =

