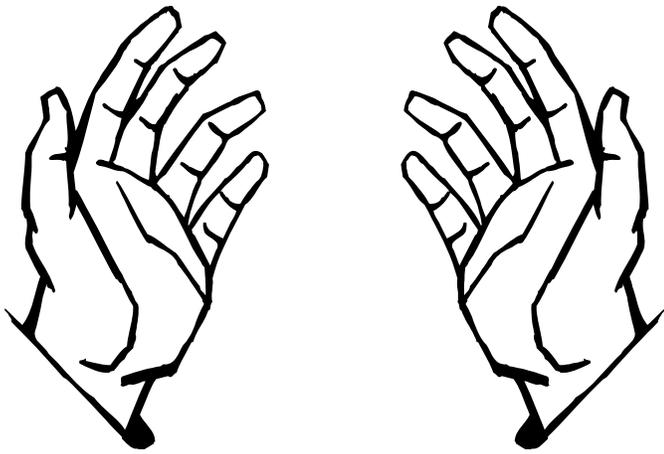


TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 3 - 4th Quarter - Issue #7



CREATION CORNER

You can be Kept by the Power of God

IN THESE DAYS of so many bad habits. We need the saving and keeping power of God. And how great is His power to help and uphold the very weakest!

Let us see how much God promises to do for those who trust Him: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness." Isaiah 41: 10.

God promises to hold us with His own right hand. And He also adds, "For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." Verse 13.

God helps us, saves us, and keeps us through Jesus, His beloved Son, our Redeemer. We read further, 'Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and you men of Israel; I will help thee, said the Lord, and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Is-

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CREATION CORNER

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rael." Verse 14.

When we give up to God our bad ways or habits, our Creator makes us into a new creature, victorious over them all! Just as He promises: "Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth. Thou shall thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shall make the hills as chaff." Verse 15. Can you imagine a worm with teeth teeth that can chew down mountains of difficulties?

Not only does God make us victorious over all bad habits when we give ourselves wholly to Him, but He also gives us glory and joy in our hearts. He says: "Thou shall fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them. And thou shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall glory in the Holy One of Israel." Verse 16.

The following story is told by Mrs. J. K. Burney in one of her booklets about the truth of these great promises of God.

She was asking a man to sign the Temperance pledge and give up drinking, but he answered: "Oh, lady, it's no use. I'd break it right off, and I shouldn't like to break your pledge."

'Listen', I replied. 'Here are some words just for you: "I the Lord thy God will hold thy right

hand, saying unto thee, Fear not, I will help thee.”

“Where did you get that, lady? Would you mind reading it again?”

I opened my Bible to Isaiah 41:13. He read and reread the verse, then said: ‘You see how my hand trembles? Do you suppose I could write my name if God held my hand?’

‘Oh, yes, I am sure you could.’

‘Do you suppose I’d ever take another glass of liquor if God held my hand?’

‘Never, unless you took your hand out of the Lord’s. He never lets go of anyone.’

‘I’ve tried a good many times alone. Now, here goes for God and me.’

He kept his pledge, frequently saying, ‘It’s a good grip He gives me; never saw anything like it in my life.’

“Lady do you suppose I’d ever take another glass of liquor if God held my hand?”

Yes, the Lord is able to keep us at all times from falling into any sin whatsoever; for He says also, “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear.”

“Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.” Isaiah 59:1; 48:13.

Jesus can keep us faithful in His service all day long, all our life long!

After a meeting held in a seaport town, two sailors were spoken to about salvation. One of them said, “It ain’t no use. If we gave up drinking and swearing tonight, we would be as bad as ever tomorrow.”

Taking his watch from his pocket, the leader of the meeting said, “Do you think the maker of this watch could wind it up again?”

“Of course he could,” they admitted.

“Well, God is your Maker, and don’t you think He could wind you up and keep you going?”

“We never thought of that, sir.”

“Come to Him, then, and prove His power. He can put you in working order and keep you going on board ship just as well as on land.”

They did so, and many months later they returned after a voyage. When asked how well God had kept them, they replied: “All right, thank God! We made up our minds that every morning we would kneel down and ask Him to wind us up for the day, and every night we would

thank Him for having done it; and He did.”

Is the Lord your keeper? Does He keep you when you are tempted and tried? Are you enjoying His wonderful keeping power? If not, do you wish you were kept by His mighty power all day long and had peace of mind and gladness of heart? You can choose to have it.

God saves and keeps us through Jesus, who is the good Shepherd of the Father’s sheep, and who says, “I am the good shepherd, and know My sheep, and am known of Mine.” John 10: 14.

Do you wish He were your Shepherd, too? He will be, just say from your heart, that you accept Him as your heavenly Shepherd, that you want Him to hold your hand and He will! In this simple way all the blessings of God’s keeping power through Jesus may be yours, both in this life and in the life to come.

Read in your Bible the wonderful Shepherd’s Psalm, # 23. It is for you- if you want it! Search your Bible for other precious promises and realize they are all for you. God never breaks his promise! = ^ .. ^ =

HISTORY

Pioneers of The Advent 5 The Day Dawn: Hiram Edson

IT WAS the morning of October 23, 1844. A gray dawn for thousands and ten thousands of the followers of William Miller, who had confidently looked for the Lord to come on the tenth day of the seventh month, October 22. They had closed their earthly businesses; they had sought to set their hearts right with God and with their fellow men; they had taken farewell of earth. This day they hoped to be in glory.

The twenty-second had dawned a day of hope on a little company in the town of Port Gibson, New York, on the Erie Canal. Hiram Edson, a farmer and lay preacher, was their leader. Although sometimes their meetings had been held in a schoolhouse up the canal, often, as on this day, they congregated at Edson’s farmhouse, a mile south of town.

Through the bright shining day, until the sun went down, they watched and waited, strengthening one another in hope with a recital of the promises and the prophecies. Then with quaking hearts they watched on till midnight. The day was gone, and in apprehension they waited

for the dawn. It came with clouds, but not the clouds of glory surrounding the King; they were the old drab wrappings of a desolate earth.

“What can it mean?” They looked into one another’s anguished faces. “Is our Savior not coming?”

Are the prophecies false? Is the Bible untrue? Is there no God?”

Not so, brethren,” said Hiram Edson. “Many, many times the Lord has sent us help and light when we needed it. There is a God, and He will hear us.”

Most of the friends left with the dawn, and went back to their homes. But Edson and the few remaining went, at his suggestion, out to his barn, and entering the empty granary, they shut the door and knelt to pray. They prayed until comfort came to their hearts, and assurance that in His good time Christ would explain to them their disappointment.

One brother remained to breakfast; perhaps it was Owen Crozier. After breakfast Edson said to him, “Let us go out to comfort the brethren with the assurance we have received.”

So they started, not by the road, but across the field, not wishing, I suppose, to meet any of the neighbors, who might taunt them. The field was a cornfield, in which the corn had been cut, and stood in shocks. The two men went silently, each engrossed in his own thoughts. As they neared the middle of the field, Edson felt as if there were a hand upon his shoulder, stopping him; and looking up, he saw, as in a vision, the sanctuary in heaven, and Jesus, on that day which ended the 2300 years of the prophecy, leaving the holy place and entering into the most holy, for the “cleansing of the sanctuary.”

His friend had crossed to the other side, and, stopped by the fence, he looked back and saw Edson with face uplifted, looking and listening. “Brother Edson,” he called, “what are you stopping for?” And Edson replied, “He is answering our morning prayer.”

After this experience Edson and a friend, Dr. F. B. Hahn, along with Crozier (a younger man, and their protégé), began in earnest to study out the Scripture proof of Edson’s revelation. In a few months they felt they were ready. Edson and Hahn, before the Disappointment, had published a little paper in Canandaigua called *The Day Dawn*, which heralded the coming. Now Edson said to Hahn, “Let us get out another

number of *The Day Dawn*, and publish this truth.” Hahn, who lived at Canandaigua, agreed, and he was named the publisher. Crozier, who had a facile pen, wrote the exposition, which was published in *The Day Dawn*. To help pay for the edition, Mrs. Edson sold a part of her silverware.

The resurrected *Day Dawn* was published about five months after the Disappointment, in March or April, 1845. [6] Editor Enoch Jacobs, of *The Day-Star*, a Second Advent paper published in Cincinnati, then invited Crozier to write a full exposition, which he published in an Extra of *The Day-Star*, under date of February 7, 1846.

The Day-Star, being then a well established paper, with a stable circulation, gave a wider publicity to the subject; but it was the little *Day Dawn* of Canandaigua that started it, nearly a year before. The common version of the story among us has been that Crozier’s exposition of the sanctuary question was not published until 1846; and that is mixed up with the belief, earlier held, that it first appeared in *The Day-Star*. It had always been a mystery to me why Edson, Hahn, and Crozier required fifteen months to produce this. The discovery of the earlier date of publication of *The Day Dawn* solves the problem.

Edson meanwhile had sent *The Day Dawn* to as many addresses as he could gather. One of these copies reached Joseph Bates; another, James White. At that time, in the spring of 1845, Bates had just accepted the seventh-day Sabbath, but White had not. They both, however, were interested in the new doctrine of the sanctuary, and at Edson’s invitation planned to attend a meeting at his place. James White was unable to go, but Joseph Bates made the journey and met the Port Gibson company. The exact date of this meeting is not known, but it was probably in the fall of 1845.

When Bates came he listened to the exposition of the sanctuary truth from Edson and Crozier, and accepted it. Then he said, “Now I have another message for you.—And forthwith he presented to them the seventh-day Sabbath. Edson joyfully accepted it; for he had already been thinking along that line. But Crozier said, “Better go slowly, brethren, better go slowly. Don’t step on new planks until you know they will hold you up.”

"I have been studying the question for a long time," answered Edson, "I have put my weight upon it, and I know it will hold us up."

All three—Edson, Hahn, and Crozier—accepted the Sabbath; but Crozier kept it for only a year or two; then he turned against it and became a most vigorous opponent. Nevertheless, the truth went forward.

James and Ellen White accepted the Sabbath in the fall of 1846. They had even before that received the sanctuary truth. And thus was formed the nucleus of the company that within a few years became known as Seventh-day Adventists. The little Day Dawn, in its very name, was prophetic.

The Day-Star, of Cincinnati, in its issue of April 15, 1845, said, "The first number of a new Second Advent paper has come to hand, called The Day Dawn, published at Canandaigua, N.Y., by Franklin B. Hahn, and edited by O. R. L. Crozier. This fixes the date of the first new Day Dawn as probably March, 1845. While no copy of this first number is known to exist, we have later numbers, and we have the testimony of Hiram Edson that the sanctuary doctrine was published in this first number. From -A W Spalding 1947 = ^ .. ^ =

TRUE-STORY-TIME

Signaling God

MANY will be saved because they cry out to God for the help they need and for His salvation. They may be coarse in manner, unlearned in mind, and simple in speech; but if they cry out to God with all the earnestness they have, with whatever words they can use, they can be fully assured that God will abundantly answer.

The prophet says, "Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto Him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously." If they do so, the Lord promises: "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for Mine anger is turned away." Hosea 14:2,4.

The commander of a war vessel in the British Navy loved to order a sail drill in rough weather. It was a day of rough weather off the coast of Cyprus. "Clear the decks for action!" rang out his command. "Stand by! Bear out on the yardarm!"

But as his order was being executed, something happened to the captain of the fore-tops

out on the yardarm. He lost his grip and fell with a sickening thud to the deck-dead.

Nevertheless the same drill was ordered on the following day. But the new captain of the fore-tops also bungled and likewise fell to the deck dead. Both men were buried at sea that afternoon. On the next day the drill was again ordered.

The new captain of the fore-tops was Billy Hicks, one of the best seamen in the British Navy. He was a cheery fellow, who in the past had been given to drink. But as he had been sober for a long time, he received the promotion. Yet the superstitious sailors thought, "Two men out—the third had to go." But he didn't. The new captain did his work with skill and came down with laughter.

But there was a great secret concerning his escape and victory, for some days later an officer from another vessel came on board and asked if there was a man named Hicks in the crew. When told that there was, he said to the commander, "We were thirty miles out at sea the other night, when I saw a light flashed on the dark clouds. I told our signalman to take down the code. This is what he gave me:

"God, this is Billy Hicks. I am not afraid of no man nor devil. I ain't afraid of no Davy Jones's locker, neither. I don't ask for no favors, but just one. This is it: When I strike the fore-tops tomorrow, let me do it with what is clean; and, God, dear God, from this 'ere day give me the feeling I used to have long ago when I knelt at my mother's knee and said, "Our Father." Good night, dear God!"

Billy Hicks' way of praying to God may seem coarse, but it was the most direct and certain that he knew. And what a wonderful success it was, for he was not only saved from death in his difficult task, but also saved from wicked living from that day forward.

Over and over again men have prayed to God for light and help in an honest effort to be enlightened and saved. God always answers an honest doubter who pleads for light and salvation. Some do not know how to pray, but they need not be troubled over that. There is no set form of prayer. All that is necessary is to ask for the help you need, just as you would ask it from a friend, or as a child would ask it from a father or mother. It is really a simple matter, and the more simple the prayer, the better.

Billy Hicks' way of praying was quite a strange one, but it exactly suited his experience and need. That is all that is necessary.

Have you prayed to God for the help you need in order to serve Him? Do not delay! How fast time is now passing in these closing days of the world! God's salvation is the greatest blessing you can ever have. It is worth every effort to gain it. Jesus is eager to give you forgiveness and power to live a holy life.

So if you have not made prayer a daily habit, will you not start? If you do, you can be sure that your experience will be a really happy one. Heaven is full of joy, and God delights in making even His children on earth happy in heart even in the trials of life. And then you can look forward to a whole eternity of happiness at last in the heavenly mansions prepared for you to enjoy as long as the ages of eternity roll.

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**Year 3: 3rd Quarter:
"JESUS OUR SAVIOR"**

**WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 7: "HE CAME BY
NIGHT"**

This series of Bible Story Lessons is about Jesus. 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: "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

Sunday

Text: John 3:1,2 "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him."

Most of the Pharisees were so blind and interested in their own importance that they wanted only to get rid of Jesus, but not all. One man named Nicodemus was doing some deep thinking and felt he needed to know more about this new 'prophet' from Galilee. But what could he do about it. It would not do at all for someone as important as he was to just go openly to talk to this teacher. He could even lose his position.

Now Nicodemus was a very learned man and the way of the Jews who were educated was to get together and discuss and argue about points in the Law and the sayings of other important Rabbis. Nicodemus wanted to have such a discussion with this Jesus, and he felt sure that the new teacher would be very impressed with how learned Nicodemus was.

But there was something deeper in his heart. Since he had first heard Jesus speak, he had started to search the scriptures carefully in regards to the promised Messiah and he was beginning to believe that just maybe, Jesus was Who He was claiming to be. He felt he had to talk with Him.

How he going to be able to do this though, was a problem. He decided to try to get a secret interview. He told himself that if he were to go openly, others might follow his example. He made special inquiry to learn where Jesus went at night. He was told it was certain place in the Mount of Olives.

The chosen night came and he waited until the city was hushed in slumber, and then quietly and unnoticed made his way through the deserted streets to the place where he hoped to meet Jesus.

He had planned to boldly confront this new teacher, but now as he approached the spot where Jesus was in the stillness of the night, he suddenly felt strangely shy and timid.

Trying to shake this off, he gathered his dignity and approached with boldness. "Rabbi," he said, "we know that Thou art a teacher come

from God: for no man can do these miracles that Thou doest, except God be with him.”

He was hoping that Jesus would be flattered receiving such compliments from such an important person and so he would pave the way for his interview. But his words really showed unbelief. He did not acknowledge Jesus to be the Messiah, but only a teacher sent from God.

Thought - Do you ever feel that you don't want your friends to know that you belong to Jesus? We must never be ashamed of our Savior!

Monday

Text: John 3:3,4 “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?”

What a surprise Nicodemus got. Here he was thinking himself very wise and honorable and ready to pass judgment on this young teacher, when he is bluntly told he hasn't even been born yet! He can't even see or understand the kingdom of God!

‘It is not man-made knowledge you need. You don't need to have your curiosity satisfied, but to have a new heart. You must receive a new life from above before you can appreciate heavenly things. Until this change takes place, making all things new, it will do no good for you to discuss with Me My authority or My mission.’

The words of Jesus struck home to his heart. He was startled. He was a strict Pharisee, and proud of his good works. He was admired and looked up to. He felt sure he had the favor of God. The thought of a kingdom too pure for him to see in his present state was a shock.

He decided to pretend not to understand Jesus and to answer mockingly, almost rudely. “How can a grown man be born another time?” Now the idea of a ‘new birth’ was not something Nicodemus had never heard of. The Jewish leaders often spoke of new converts from heathenism as being ‘reborn’.

But his answer revealed the fact that there was in him nothing that responds to spiritual things, for spiritual things are spiritually dis-

cerned. Unless God changes the heart of a man, he can't know the things of God.

Did Jesus hurry to explain more clearly to Nicodemus what He meant? No, He repeated the same thing again only even more solemnly. “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus knew that Jesus was talking about water baptism and the renewing of the heart by the Spirit of God. He was convinced that he was in the presence of the Promised One whom John the Baptist had foretold.

Thought – People who make fun or tell jokes about the Bible or holy things have not been ‘born again’ and cannot appreciate spiritual truth.

Tuesday

Text: John 3:6-8 “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”

Instead of having his scholarly discussion with Jesus, Nicodemus found himself struggling to try to understand what he was being told.

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” By nature the human heart is evil, and “who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.” Job 14:4. No human invention can find a cure for the sinning soul.

Our natural human hearts are in rebellion against God's law. We can do certain acts and religious deeds and may look good to others, but we cannot change our heart. Only God, by the power of the Holy Spirit can create a new heart in us.

The ‘new heart’ created by the Holy Spirit is not just a change of mind or a little improvement on our natural hearts. The ‘Born Again’ person is totally changed. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. We cannot do this for our self.

Nicodemus was still puzzled, so Jesus told a story about the wind to show His meaning: “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou

hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.”

We can hear the wind in the branches of the trees, rustling the leaves and flowers; yet we can't see it. An old verse says, “Who has seen the wind? Neither you or I-but when the trees bow down their heads-the wind is passing by.”

So with the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart. It can no more be explained than can the movements of the wind.

While the wind is itself invisible, it does things we can see and feel. So the work of the Spirit in our heart will show in every act of him who has felt its saving power. When the Spirit of God takes possession of the heart, it changes the life. Truly, when we bow down our heads humbly, and fully give our hearts to Jesus, the Holy Spirit is passing by! We can't see Him or understand how He works, but we can experience the ‘Born Again’ life.

When we are ‘born again’ we are changed. No one can see the Power that changes us, but all can see the results. Sinful thoughts are put away, evil deeds are stopped; love, humility, and peace take the place of anger, envy, and strife. Joy takes the place of sadness, and the face reflects the light of heaven.

Thought – No one sees the hand that lifts the burden, or beholds the light descend from the courts above. The blessing comes when by faith the soul surrenders itself to God. Then that power which no human eye can see creates a new being in the image of God. {DA 173}

Wednesday

Text: John 3:9, 10 “Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?”

It is impossible for our human minds to really understand the work of the Holy Spirit or how God's wonderful plan of salvation really works. But everyone who experiences being born again knows it is true and real.

As Jesus was speaking, some gleams of truth began to get through to this proud ruler. The softening, subduing influence of the Holy Spirit impressed his heart. Yet he did not fully understand the Savior's words. Now he asked “How can these things be?”

Jesus now plainly asked Nicodemus, “Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?” Here was this man who was supposed to be a teacher of religion to the people and yet he did not even understand even the most basic truth about salvation.

Jesus' words gave the lesson that instead of feeling irritated over the plain words of truth, Nicodemus should have had a very humble opinion of himself, because of his spiritual ignorance. Yet Jesus spoke with such solemn dignity, and both look and tone expressed such earnest love, that Nicodemus was not offended as he realized his humiliating condition.

There are few religious teachers and leaders today who understand these basic facts. Did you know that often it is easier for a young person like you to understand the most important truths about salvation? Yes, this is true

Why? Well it is because the people who are the leaders are not usually people who are there because they love Bible truth. Often they are there because they, like the Pharisees of old enjoy having the people think they are such ‘godly men’. Some are even there only to get a paycheck and God has nothing to do with it.

But often even the honest-hearted ones have spent so much time in school studying the works and words of other men, that they are like Nicodemus, with a head full of ‘facts and so-called knowledge’ and a heart totally empty of the Holy Spirit.

Boys and girls, if you pray to the Lord in the name of Jesus and ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to help you understand heavenly things and you read your Bible and the books by Ellen White every day, you can know heavenly things. You can give your heart over to Jesus and be ‘born again’.

Thought – Have you ever heard someone say, “I am a third or fourth generation Christian?” Well, I know what they really mean, they mean their mommy and their granny and so on were Christians. But God does not have any grandchildren. That is right! If we belong to Him, we have to be ‘Born Again’ ourselves as a child of God.

Doggies have little dogs and Kitties have little kitties, but Christian Mommies and Daddies never have little Christians! They have little people and these little people have to be ‘Born Again’ before they are truly children of God. Even

very little tots can 'choose' to give their little hearts to Jesus, so don't wait to be 'big enough'; choose His way today.

Thursday

Text: John 3:11,12 "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?"

Nicodemus, and most of the Jewish leaders were all expecting a Messiah to come and make a wonderful earthly kingdom where the Jews would rule the whole world. Now as he began to understand a little bit about what Jesus was telling him and the Holy Spirit was bringing back to his mind certain Bible texts he had read and didn't understand, he was troubled. He could see that Jesus was not going to have that kind of kingdom at all.

Now Jesus was asking him, "If you can't understand even these very basic earthly truths, how do you think you can understand heavenly things?" If he could not understand Jesus' work on earth then he certainly could not understand His work in heaven.

The great need of Nicodemus and the Jewish leaders, was that very change which Christ had been explaining to Nicodemus, —a new moral birth, cleansing from sin, and the Holy Spirit to teach them real knowledge and holiness.

There was no excuse for Israel not to know these very truths Jesus was taking about. It was all written plainly in the Scriptures for them to see. But they had let their own selfish ideas and pride come in so much that when they read the scriptures, they only saw what they wanted to see and not the real truth.

David had prayed, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." And through Ezekiel the promise had been given, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes." Ps. 51:10; Ezek. 36:26, 27.

Nicodemus had read these scriptures with a

clouded mind; but he now began to see their meaning. He saw that no matter how rigidly a man kept the law outwardly, that would not make him able to enter the kingdom of heaven. He knew that in the eyes of men, his life had been just and honorable; but in the presence of Christ he felt that his heart was unclean, and his life unholy.

The Bible has a word for 'Born Again, the word is 'converted'. There are people who try and tell us that 'converted' means to turn around. This is not really true. A man can decide to 'turn around' and join a church. He can decide to do many 'religious' things, and he may end up like Nicodemus with people really thinking he is a good and godly man.

But real conversion, being 'Born Again', is something no person can do for himself. Another Power must do it for him. It is only as we come to Jesus and know in ourselves that unless He saves us and changes us, we have no hope at all, then, as we choose to give all over to Him, He creates the miracle of a new heart in us. It is just as much a miracle as if we died and were resurrected as a new person.

Many, sadly, all too many, pass through most of their life and may think they are Christians, but they have never surrendered all, they have never died to self and they have never been born again. Jesus wants very much to make us all 'born again' and give us new hearts and write His laws in our hearts and minds, but He will not do it for us unless we agree and choose and ask to have this done.

We have to come to where we see that nothing we can do has any standing with God. Nothing we can do will change our hearts or save us from eternal death. When we really see this and cry out for God to save us and make us what He wants us to be, when we feel like Peter did when he was sinking in the water and cried, "Lord, save me!" then the miracle can take place.

Thought – People don't like to think they are helpless and cannot do anything to save themselves. They like to think if they only do lots of good deeds and try very hard to 'be good', then they are OK with God. But there is only one way- Ye Must be Born Again! Only God can make it happen- and only YOU can make the choice to have it happen.

Friday

Text: John 3:14-16 “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

Now Nicodemus knew about this symbol of the uplifted serpent and it made plain to him the Savior’s mission. When the people of Israel were dying from the bites of the fiery serpents, God told Moses to make a serpent of brass, and place it on high in the midst of the congregation.

Then the people were told that all who would look upon the serpent should live. The people knew that in itself the brass serpent had no power to help them. It was a symbol of Christ.

What? A serpent lifted up on a cross the symbol of Christ? Isn’t a serpent the symbol of Satan and sin? Yes indeed, and when Jesus died on the cross, He was made to be sin for us. All the sins of the world were put on Him and it was just like Satan and sin was all nailed there on that cross.

Satan was happy when Jesus died on the cross, but really, it was Satan’s death sentence. Truly Satan had bruised Jesus’ heel, but it was bruised as it was actually crushing the serpent’s head. (See Gen. 3:15)

For all who will truly look by faith to Jesus as their only Savior from the guilt and power of sin, as their only hope for salvation, will find life and the door to being Born Again.

Those who had been bitten by the serpents might have refused to look. They might have asked how this could possible help them. They might have demanded a scientific explanation. But no explanation was given. They must accept the word of God to them through Moses. To refuse to look was to perish.

Nicodemus received the lesson, and carried it with him. He searched the Scriptures in a new way, not for the discussion of a theory, but in order to receive life for the soul. He began to see the kingdom of heaven as he submitted him-

self to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Nicodemus never forgot that one-man sermon. Although time passed before he openly took his stand for Jesus, he did. We see him coming out openly as a follower of Jesus at the very time that the rest of the disciples were wanting to run away and hide! Why? Because when he saw Jesus die on the cross, he saw clearly what he was told about Moses lifting up the serpent so all who were bitten could look and live. Nicodemus told John the story of that interview, and John wrote it down for the instruction of millions. The truths there taught are as important today as they were on that solemn night in the shadowy mountain, when the Jewish ruler came to learn the way of life from the lowly Teacher of Galilee. See DA 177.

Thought -

A ruler once came to Jesus by night,
To ask Him the way of salvation and light;
The Master made answer in words true and plain,

“Ye must be born again.”

I verily, verily, say unto thee,

“Ye must be born again.”

Ye children of men, attend to the word
So solemnly uttered by Jesus the Lord,
And let not this message to you be in vain
“Ye must be born again.”

I verily, verily, say unto thee,

“Ye must be born again.” = ^ .. ^ =



**I VERILY, VERILY SAY UNTO THEE,
YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN!**