



PRISON REGENERATION FELLOWSHIP

Florida Prison Ministries
P.O. Box 162685
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners...
HEBREWS 13:3



Regeneration Fellowship Newsletter

Vol. 35 No. 3

Director:

John Mills

*An outreach of the
Florida Prison*

Ministries

In this issue:

Editor's Page.....	1
Quotes and Quips.....	2
A World on Fire.....	3
Light for My Path.....	4
Daniel, Verse by Verse.....	5
The Story of Redemption.....	8
Words of Wisdom.....	12
Your Bible Questions Answered.....	14
Bible Puzzles.....	15
Your Turn.....	16
Bible Puzzle Answers.....	17
Humor Me.....	17
Prayer Request/Bible Question Submissions.....	18
Chain Bible Marking Guide.....	Back Cover



How much do you need to live a contented life? Do you need a lot or a little? I know a man who seems to think that he who dies with the most "stuff" wins. He has a closet full of shirts but only wears the same 5 or 6 over and over. He has hats and coats he doesn't wear but refuses to donate. And the really crazy thing is that he continues to buy more. Man or woman, it doesn't matter, we can all be afflicted with this obsessive need for "stuff."

Why do we do it? I recently read a book about people living in the mountains of Japan living the most simple of lives. Many don't work but subsist on food they grow or trade. They live artistic lives, making pottery or paintings or writing. They cut wood for stoves to cook and fires to keep warm in winter.

Of course, none of us really need much to live. Some food, some water...but how much do we need to live *contentedly*? These Japanese people live a *contented* life, not constantly scurrying to always obtain more. By worldly standards they might look poor, but ultimately, they have attained the "greatest wealth" of all (see Quotes and Quips, page 2). The apostle Paul said, "For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Phil.4:11). Goals.

— The Team at
Regeneration Fellowship

Quotes and Quips

The most courageous act is still to think for yourself. — Coco Chanel

The greatest wealth is to live content with little. — Plato

A great man is always willing to be little. — Ralph Waldo Emerson

Wisely, and slow. They stumble that run fast. — William Shakespeare

When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on. — Franklin D. Roosevelt

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment. — Will Rogers

Life without love is like a tree without blossoms or fruit. — Khalil Gibran

Love cures people — both the ones who give it and the ones who receive it. — Karl A. Menninger

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. — Aesop

New Discovery Bible School
Write to: New Discovery Bible School, Inc.
P.O. Box 614
Keene, TX 76059

Also offered in Spanish!

A WORLD ON FIRE
Selected Studies on the Great Commission
 By David Metzler

A CHOSEN VESSEL

“But the LORD said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel” (Acts 9:15).

Saul’s letters were never delivered to the synagogue leaders in Damascus. He was led instead to the house of Judas on a street called Straight. There he sat for three days in total darkness. Saul neither ate nor drank and hardly thought of food, for those three days were like three years to the blind and conscience-smitten Jew. He was no novice in the Scriptures, and in his darkness and solitude he recalled the passages that referred to the Messiah, and traced down the prophecies, with a memory sharpened by the conviction that had taken possession of his mind. He became astonished at his former blindness of understanding, and at the blindness of the Jews in general, in rejecting Jesus as the promised Messiah. All seemed plain to him, and he knew that it was prejudice and unbelief that had clouded his perceptions, and prevented him from discerning in Jesus of Nazareth the Messiah of prophecy.

The angel of the LORD now appeared to Ananias of Damascus in vision. We know little of Ananias, but his relationship with the LORD was clearly one of trust. When the LORD called, Ananias answered: “Here I am, LORD.” The directions given were (1) go to the house of Judas (2) on the street called “Straight” and (3) find Saul of Tarsus who had been given a vision of Ananias’s coming. (4) Put your hands on him that he might receive his sight. Notice how precise the directions are. Ananias wasn’t ignorant of the fact that Saul was an enemy. “LORD, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.”

“But the LORD said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel” (Acts 9:13-15). Ananias may have had some initial concerns, but Scripture says he went immediately “and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the LORD Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit” (verse 17). Ananias is an inspiration. Who might God challenge you to approach?



LIGHT FOR MY PATH

What the Bible Says about Forgiveness

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Matthew 6:14

Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.

Luke 6:35-37

Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and He shall save thee.

Proverbs 20:22

Then came Peter to him, and said, LORD, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven time?

Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Matthew 18:21, 22

Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

Luke 17:3

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Luke 23:24

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I John 1:9

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:32

**BREATH OF LIFE
BIBLE COURSE
WRITE TO: BREATH OF LIFE
12501 OLD COLUMBIA PIKE
SILVER SPRINGS, MD 20904**

DANIEL, VERSE BY VERSE

By

John Cloud, Clifford Goldstein, Milo Jones,
Shenalyn Page, Curtis Rittenour, Tim Roosenberg**The Jesus Effect**

"Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs" (Daniel 1:9).

Wanting to quench the animosity of a rival legislator, Benjamin Franklin wrote him a letter, asking to borrow a rare book from his library. A week later, Franklin returned the book with a thank you note. By asking his rival for a favor and thanking him afterward, the animosity was quenched and the two became friends. This phenomenon would become known as the Benjamin Franklin effect.

While asking people for favors can be a form of manipulation, it doesn't have to be, for Jesus Himself asked a Samaritan woman for a drink (John 4:7). In Daniel's case, he already had "the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs" (Daniel 1:9) when "he requested...that he might not defile himself" (verse 8).

Making a request rather than a demand is one way to gain someone's favor. Even if our God-given rights have been violated — think about Daniel's rights as a captive — we won't make demands if we're motivated by "the meekness and gentleness of Christ" (II Corinthians 10:1). Although Jesus stood up for others' rights, He never fought for His own. He is our example (I Peter 2:21).

Because of their submissive spirit, Jesus and Daniel grew "in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52). But what exactly does it mean, as stated in Daniel 1:9, to have someone's favor and goodwill? The Hebrew word for "favor" is *hesed*, also translated as "kindness." Thus, when asking Pharaoh's butler for a favor, Joseph said, "Please show kindness [*hesed*] to me" (Genesis 40:14). The Hebrew word translated as "goodwill," *raham*, is more passionate, describing how a woman feels toward a child in her womb. "Tender love" is how the KJV renders it in Daniel 1:9.

As you deal with difficult people, think about how you can, with God's Spirit dwelling in you (Romans 8:11), "bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you" (Matthew 5:44). Because of the Jesus effect, your enemies might someday return you love.

Reflect: How can I, like Jesus and Daniel, manifest a submissive spirit instead of fighting for my rights?



For
**THE WAYS
OF THE
LORD**
are right, and the just
shall walk in them.

HOSEA 14:9, KJV

Culturally Misinformed

“The chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, ‘I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king’ ” (Daniel 1:10).

“Beef. It’s what’s for dinner” — remember that commercial from 1993? Thanks to million-dollar slogans like this one, the idea that meat is essential for health became an ingrained cultural belief. As a result, anyone trying to go vegetarian had to face questions from concerned relatives.

Looking at today’s text, we see “there is nothing new under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:9). The chief of the eunuchs feared that Daniel and his three friends would become malnourished without the royal meat and wine. How could they be healthy with just “vegetables” and “water” (Daniel 1:12). We’ll explain what “vegetables” means later. (Hint: it’s not just salad without dressing.) Today’s text addresses how people can be culturally misinformed about what’s best for them.

Answering such people requires patience and gentleness, which are fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23). Questions like these can annoy: “How are you getting your protein?” “Why aren’t you taking medication for your illness?” “Is your child learning social skills in homeschool?” As the questions keep coming, we must remind ourselves that the people asking them probably have our best interest in mind.

Sometimes, the pressure to conform to a cultural norm comes from a higher source. Accountable to the king for the health of the eunuchs, the chief wasn’t about to endanger his head over the dietary scruples of a few Hebrews. Daniel was wise enough to see this dynamic and addressed it appropriately, asking the steward for a ten-day test (Daniel 1:11-13).

Maybe you’re struggling to be patient with relatives who ask too many questions — or maybe you’re the relative doing the asking! Remember that even the Israelites, craving the meat of Egypt (Exodus 16:3), had questions about the manna (verse 15). If God’s own people can be culturally misinformed, how patient should we be with one another?

Reflect: *How can I use people’s questions about my lifestyle as a witnessing opportunity?*

Daniel’s Wise Suggestion

“So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, ‘Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink’ ” (Daniel 1:11, 12).

During the 1949 Mann Gulch fire in Montana’s Helena National Forest, foreman Wagner Dodge was one of 15 smokejumpers fleeing up a steep slope to escape the flames. Suddenly, Dodge began throwing lighted matches into the grass around him. He motioned his men toward his newly lighted fire, but they ignored him and continued to flee uphill. Dodge soaked his handkerchief in water, covered his face, and hunkered down in the middle of the now-charred patch of grass. Seconds later, the

**THE FEAR of the
LORD is the
beginning of
WISDOM.**

Proverbs 9:10

fire overtook him, but he was saved by his fire break. Tragically, 12 of his crew perished while trying to outrun the flames.

Daniel and his three friends, at this point, didn't face a literal fire, yet the temptation that confronted them could have been just as destructive. Would they swerve from their allegiance to God by eating the king's meat and drinking his wine? No! They had "purposed that they would not "defile" themselves (Daniel 1:8).

The young men's determination to honor God prompted Daniel to make a wise suggestion. Rather than demanding that their religious convictions be respected, he suggested a plan that would alleviate the concerns of the chief of the eunuchs: a ten-day trial on vegetables and

water. At the end of the test, the steward could decide what to do based on the evidence. It was a suggestion that honored the steward's authority and allowed him to retain his dignity.

Dodge lived through the wildfire by ingeniously devising an alternate plan to outrunning the flames. Daniel and his friends succeeded in Babylon because, for them, "the fear of the LORD [was] the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One [was] understanding" (Proverbs 9:10). Daniel's wise alternative — a third option instead of disobeying the king or compromising one's convictions — was a win-win. The steward's safety would not be jeopardized, and the Hebrews' convictions would not be compromised. It was also a win for God, whose superior principles were exhibited to a pagan nation.

Reflect: *How does my devotion to the Lord lead me to make wise decisions?*

Continued in Next Issue

A halfway house for recently released male ex-offenders

Provides housing for up to six months, assistance in locating employment, and development of life skills. For information and application, have your classification officer call 352-339-4732.



**Mailing address:
1500 SE 23rd Ln.
Gainesville, FL 32641**

THE STORY OF
REDEMPTION
by E. G. White

THE GREAT APOSTASY
(Continued from Last Issue)

The Compromise with Paganism

Satan therefore laid his plans to war more successfully against the government of God, by planting his banner in the Christian church. If the followers of Christ could be deceived and led to displease God, then their strength, fortitude, and firmness would fail, and they would fall an easy prey.

The great adversary now endeavored to gain by deception what he had failed to secure by force. Persecution ceased, and in its stead were substituted the dangerous allurements of temporal prosperity and worldly honor. Idolaters were led to receive a part of the Christian faith, while they rejected other essential truths. They professed to accept Jesus as the Son of God and to believe in His death and resurrection; but they had no conviction of sin and felt no need of repentance or of a change of heart. With some concessions on their part, they proposed that Christians should make concessions, that all might unite on the platform of belief in Christ.

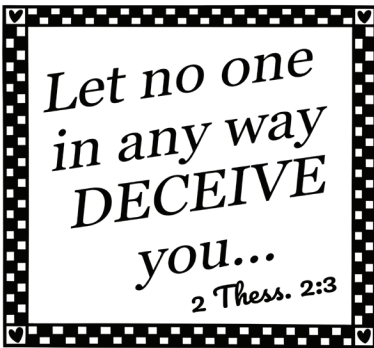
Now was the church in fearful peril. Prison, torture, fire, and sword were blessings in comparison with this. Some of the Christians stood firm, declaring that they could make no compromise. Others reasoned that if they should yield or modify some features of their faith, and unite with those who had accepted a part of Christianity, it might be the means of their full conversion. That was a time of deep anguish to the faithful followers of Christ. Under a cloak of pretended Christianity, Satan was insinuating himself into the church, to corrupt their faith and turn their minds from the word of truth.

At last the larger portion of the Christian company lowered their standard, and a union was formed between Christianity and paganism. Although the worshipers of idols professed to be converted, and united with the church, they still clung to their idolatry, only changing the objects of their worship to images of Jesus, and even of Mary and the saints. The foul leaven of idolatry, thus introduced into the church, continued its baleful work. Unsound doctrines, superstitious rites, and idolatrous ceremonies were incorporated into her faith and worship. As the followers of Christ united with idolaters, the Christian religion became corrupted and the church

lost her purity and power. There were some, however, who were not misled by these delusions. They still maintained their fidelity to the Author of truth and worshiped God alone.

There have ever been two classes among those who profess to be followers of Christ. While one class studies the Saviour's life and earnestly seeks to correct their defects and to conform to the Pattern, the other class shuns the plain, practical truths that expose their errors. Even in her best estate the church was not composed wholly of the true, pure, and sincere. Our Saviour taught that those who willfully indulge in sin are not to be received into the church; yet He connected with Himself men who were faulty in character, and granted them the benefits of His teachings and example, that they might have an opportunity to see and correct their errors.

But there is no union between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness, and there can be no union between their followers. When Christians consented to unite with those who were but half converted from paganism, they entered upon a path that led farther and farther from the truth. Satan exulted that he had succeeded in deceiving so large a number of the followers of Christ. He then brought his power to bear more fully upon them, and inspired them to persecute those who remained true to God. None could so well understand how to oppose the true Christian faith as could those who



had once been its defenders; and these apostate Christians, uniting with their half-pagan companions, directed their warfare against the most essential features of the doctrines of Christ.

It required a desperate struggle for those who would be faithful to stand firm against the deceptions and abominations that were disguised in [priestly] garments and introduced into the church. The Bible was not accepted as the standard of faith. The doctrine of religious freedom was

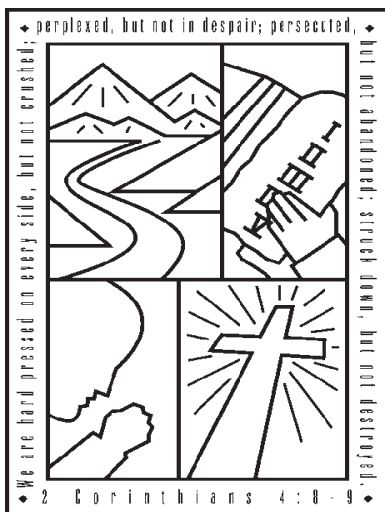
termed heresy, and its upholders were hated and outlawed.

Withdrawal of the Faithful

After a long and severe conflict the faithful few decided to dissolve all union with the apostate church if she still refused to free herself from falsehood and idolatry. They saw that separation was an absolute necessity if they would obey the Word of God. They dared not tolerate errors fatal to their own soul and set an example that would imperil the faith of their children and children's children. To secure peace and unity, they were ready to make

any concession consistent with fidelity to God; but they felt that even peace would be too dearly purchased at the sacrifice of principle. If unity could be secured only by the compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war. Well would it be for the church and the world if the principles that actuated those steadfast souls were revived in the hearts of God's professed people.

The apostle Paul declares that "all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Timothy 3:12). Why is it, then, that persecution seems in a great degree to slumber? The only reason is that the church has conformed to the world's standard, and therefore awakens no opposition. The religion current in our day is not of the pure and holy character that marked the Christian faith in the days of Christ and His apostles. It is only because of the spirit of compromise with sin, because the great truths of the Word of God are so indifferently regarded, because there is so little vital godliness in the church, that Christianity is apparently so popular with the world. Let there be a revival of the faith and power of the early church, and the spirit of persecution will be revived and the fires of persecution will be rekindled.



THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY

The apostle Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonians, foretold the great apostasy that would result in the establishment of the papal power. He declared that the day of Christ should not come, "except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." And furthermore, the apostle warns his brethren that "the mystery of iniquity doth already work" (II Thessalonians 2:3, 4, 7). Even at that early date, he saw, creeping into the church, errors that would prepare the way for the development of the Papacy.

Little by little, at first in stealth and silence and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, the mystery of iniquity carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. Almost

imperceptibly the customs of heathenism found their way into the Christian church. The spirit of compromise and conformity was restrained for a time by the fierce persecutions that the church endured under paganism. But as persecution ceased, and Christianity entered the courts and palaces of kings, she laid aside the humble simplicity of Christ and His apostles for the pomp and pride of pagan priests and rulers; and in place of the requirements of God, she substituted human theories and traditions. The nominal conversion of Constantine in the early part of the fourth century caused great rejoicing; and the world, arrayed in robes of righteousness, walked into the church. Now the work of corruption rapidly progressed. Paganism, while appearing to be vanquished, became the conqueror. Her spirit controlled the church. Her doctrines, ceremonies, and superstitions were incorporated into the faith and worship of the professed followers of Christ.

This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of the man of sin foretold in prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. That gigantic system of false religion is a masterpiece of Satan's power — a monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will.

To secure worldly gains and honors, the church was led to seek the favor and support of the great men of earth, and having thus rejected Christ, she was induced to yield allegiance to the representative of Satan — the Bishop of Rome.

It is one of the leading doctrines of Romanism that the pope is the visible head of the universal church of Christ, invested with supreme authority over bishops and pastors in all parts of the world. More than this, the pope has claimed the very titles of Deity.

Satan well knew that the Holy Scriptures would enable men to discern his deceptions and withstand his power. It was by the Word that even the Saviour of the world had resisted his attacks. At every assault Christ presented the shield of eternal truth, saying, "It is written." To every suggestion of the adversary he opposed the wisdom and power of the Word. In order for Satan to maintain his sway over men and establish the authority of the papal usurper, he must keep them in ignorance of the Scriptures. The Bible would exalt God and place finite men in their true position; therefore its sacred truths must be concealed and suppressed. This logic was adopted by the Roman church. For hundreds of years the circulation of the Bible was prohibited. The people were forbidden to read it, or to have it in their houses, and unprincipled priests and prelates interpreted its teachings to sustain their claims. Thus the pope came to be almost universally acknowledged as the vicegerent of God on earth, endowed with supreme authority over church and state. ■

CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE

WORDS of WISDOM

The King No One Expected

Sometimes we speak—or even shout—the truth without realizing just how right we are. That’s exactly what happened on the first Palm Sunday.

Jesus entered Jerusalem not on a prize-worthy stallion, but on a young, humble donkey. The crowd erupted in joy, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!” They waved palm branches, symbols of peace, and hailed Jesus as their king.

Was He a king? Jesus didn’t deny it. When the Pharisees told him to silence the crowd, he replied, “I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Later, Pilate—the Roman governor—mocked the religious leaders by saying, “Here is your king.” The chief priests bristled with anger, shouting, “We have no king but Caesar!”

When Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified, he made one last jab at the furious crowd. John 19:19 tells us he ordered a sign to be placed above the cross. Written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, it declared:

“Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

The chief priests demanded the sign be changed, but Pilate refused. “What I have written, I have written,” he said.

Was Jesus a king? The witnesses of His resurrection knew the answer. In Acts 17:7, the early believers were accused of “saying there is another king, Jesus.” And the book of Revelation looks ahead to the day when all creation will know the truth:

“The Lamb will triumph ... for He is Lord of lords and King of kings” (Revelation 17:14).

When Life Needs a Little Wind

Botanists say that trees need the powerful March winds to flex their trunks and main branches, so that the sap is drawn up to nourish the budding leaves.

Perhaps we need the gales of life in the same way, though we dislike enduring them. A blustery period in our fortunes is often the prelude to a new spring of life and health, success and happiness, when we keep steadfast in faith and look to the good in spite of appearances.

—Jane Truax



If God Had Voicemail

Have you ever wondered what would happen if God used voicemail to handle all our prayers?

Let's imagine it for a moment...

I had just finished gossiping and wanted to confess, so I got ready to pray—or rather, to “call.” Immediately, a voice answered:

“You’ve reached the throne room of Heaven, the Prayer Department. All of our representatives are currently assisting other callers. Your call is important to us, and we want to help you. Please stay on the line, and your request will be answered in the order it was received.”

Soft music plays. Then another message comes on:

“Listen carefully to the following options and press the appropriate number.

Press 1 for prayer for a loved one.

Press 2 for prayer for your church.

Press 3 to give thanks.

Press 4 to confess sins.

Press 5 for salvation.

Press 6 for physical needs.

To repeat this menu, press 9.”

Since I had a sin to confess, I pressed 4.

Another voice responded cheerfully:

“We’re so glad to help you with your confession of sins. Please select from the following options:

If you cursed, press 1.

If you yelled at your spouse or another family member, press 2.

If you gossiped, press 3...”

The list went on and on...

Aren’t we thankful that God doesn’t route our prayers through a heavenly call center or put us on hold. We don’t get busy signals, menus or automated voices. Instead, our Father listens instantly, personally, and lovingly. Instead of a voice mail system, He says, “Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear” (Isaiah 65:24).

YOUR TURN

Continued from Page 16

That was Feb. 25, 2010, and it was the best decision of my life. The seeds my dad planted all those years finally bloomed. I still miss my Dad, and I still make mistakes, but I serve a merciful God who forgives me and gives me strength to carry on. What a reunion it will be when I get to Heaven and spend time with my dad and our Heavenly Father.

HELP! “YOUR TURN” IS YOUR PAGE! WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF POEMS, ART WORK, AND (VERY SHORT) PROSE (LIMIT ONE PAGE), WITHOUT YOUR WORK, WE ARE UNABLE TO KEEP THIS PAGE GOING. PLEASE SEE ADDRESS ON PAGE 16 FOR SUBMISSIONS.

Note: Art work is best displayed if submitted on unlined paper. Please write legibly and place your full name on each page to ensure credit for your work. We apologize for any errors due to illegible handwriting.

YOUR BIBLE QUESTIONS . . . ANSWERED

Why did God allow the babies to be killed under Herod's decree — and will they be saved?

“Thus says the LORD: ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.’ Thus says the LORD: ‘Refrain...your eyes from tears...There is hope in your future, says the LORD, that your children shall come back to their own border’ ‘ (Jeremiah 31:15-17).

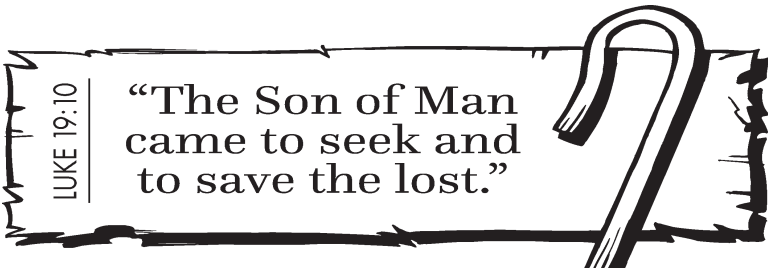
Jeremiah indicates here that the babies Herod murdered will be resurrected. It speaks of “Rachel weeping for her children...because they were not.” But then God speaks hope: “Your children shall come back to their own border.” The Bible also seems to teach that children, before the age of accountability, are sanctified by believing parents (I Corinthians 7:14). However, I don't know if God has a standard law that says all babies who die before the age of accountability will be resurrected.

Many people wonder why God allows the innocent to suffer. The truth is, a tyrant called the devil has kidnapped this world, and he does not play by the rules. The world rejected the leadership of God when Adam and Eve sinned. Now God intervenes only when we pray and ask Him to. Even Jesus referred to the devil as “the prince of this world” (John 14:30).

During the temptation in the wilderness in Matthew 4:9, the devil took Jesus up to a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and said, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

Satan claims this world as his own. So it should not surprise us when we see the innocent suffering at the hands of the wicked. Remember that the penalty of sin is death, but God, in His mercy, has not executed the planet's people... [In fact,] He's seeking to save as many as He can. So instead of asking the question, “Why do innocent people like the babies in Bethlehem suffer?” we ought to be asking, “Why is God so merciful that He sought to preserve and save so many?”

— D.B.



Bible Puzzles

WHICH IS IT? ELISHA, ELIJAH, OR BOTH?

A. ELISHA

B. ELIJAH

C. BOTH

- _____ 1. Comes first in the Bible story
- _____ 2. Part of the “school of prophets”
- _____ 3. Left a letter of warning for King Jehoram
- _____ 4. Confronted the gods on Mount Carmel
- _____ 5. Was fed by ravens at the Brook Kerith
- _____ 6. Turned bad water into clean water
- _____ 7. Raised a boy from the dead
- _____ 8. Called down fire from heaven to kill fifty soldiers
- _____ 9. Fled from Queen Jezebel in fear
- _____ 10. Filled a widow’s jars with oil
- _____ 11. Picked up the other’s mantle and used it miraculously
- _____ 12. Crossed the Jordan on dry land

Answers to questions can be found on Page 17

Florida Prison Ministries can now be found on the web!

You have access to information about our programs including our halfway houses, penpal program, LAMB, newsletters, Bible lessons, training, and more.

Tell your friends and family to visit us at:

<http://floridaprisonministries.org>

YOUR TURN



Testimony by Larry W. Smith

Both of my parents raised me in a Christian home. My dad was the Youth Pastor of the church we were attending. I was the youngest of three and the only son. I ran from God all my life. I have been in trouble and almost been killed numerous times. I probably would have been dead or even in prison at a very young age, if it were not for the prayers of my family and the church.

All I wanted out of life was a beautiful girl on my side, a nice car with top of the line wheels and stereo, along with plenty of marijuana to smoke. My life was all about me, and all that I could gain from it. I did not care how I got it, even if I had to steal or rob for it, so be it. All of my friends were crooks or junkies. We were a crazy bunch.

My dad always witnessed to me and tried to get me to change my life. Only his prayers kept me safe for so many years. My parents did all they could for me and never allowed any foolish behavior without consequences. When I was 21 years old, my friend and I split the cost of a 380 handgun. You could not tell us anything. We ended up eventually being arrested for aggravated battery with a firearm, and I wound up with a three-year prison sentence.

I was released from prison on Feb. 17, 1998. I went to live with Mom and Dad, got a job, but I was still running from God. After being out of prison for only nine months, On Nov. 19, 1998, I was arrested for three counts of armed robbery, possession of a short-barreled shotgun, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. I was still running, and was like, "oh, well, I just got out of prison, it was nothing, I can do this," as if it was a cakewalk. I had plenty of chances to go to church and/or get saved. I was smoking cigarettes and marijuana and did not have a care in the world, or so I thought.

After trial, I was found guilty and sentenced to 42 years, 30 years, and 30 years all to run concurrently. It did not even faze me or draw any sympathy from me for a few years. I was still a bitter, self-centered, and hard-hearted person. I did drugs and lived a life of rebellion. My dad stayed sending me letters of encouragement and all kinds of Scriptural literature. He always told me how much God loved me and did not want me to go to hell. My dad was my best friend/mentor and was always there for me. We were talking about God two days before he went to be with the Lord.

When they called me down to the chapel to inform me of my Dad, it was a big blow. I was so lost and confused. I was so depressed that I did not think I could get any lower. The man that was always there for me was gone. The Lord brought back many memories of the old conversations we had, and I realized that I could not go another day without God in my life. I remember him telling me that God would never leave me or forsake me, and I needed a friend right then real bad. He had told me that God loved ME, enough that His Son died for my sins. At that moment, something inside of me screamed for me to pray to God and ask for forgiveness. I cried like a baby and unloaded all my hurts, fears, and everything I could.

Continued on Page 13



FOCUS ON PROPHECY

Unlock the mysteries
of

**DANIEL AND
REVELATION**

Write to:

**THE VOICE
OF PROPHECY**

Box 53055
Los Angeles, CA
90053

**Bible Puzzle
Answers**

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. B, Elijah | 7. C, both |
| 2. C, both | 8. B, Elijah |
| 3. B, Elijah | 9. B, Elijah |
| 4. B, Elijah | 10. A, Elisha |
| 5. B, Elijah | 11. A, Elisha |

**DISCOVER
BIBLE
COURSE**

for the
New Millennium

Write to:

THE VOICE OF PROPHECY

Box 53055
Los Angeles, CA 90053

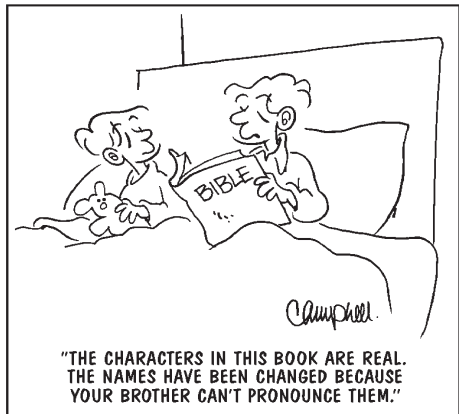
*Would you like someone to correspond with
on a spiritual level? Send your name and
address to:*

*(Le gustaria tener un amigo por
correspondencia para apoyo espiritual?
Escribamos a:)*

**Regeneration Fellowship Pen Pal Program
P.O. Box 162685**

Altamonte Springs, FL 32716

For Florida inmates only.
(Solamente para presos en Florida.)

**Humor Me
Christian Cartoon**

**"THE CHARACTERS IN THIS BOOK ARE REAL.
THE NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED BECAUSE
YOUR BROTHER CAN'T PRONOUNCE THEM."**

**A NEW LIFE
BIBLE SCHOOL**

P.O. Box 606
Keene, Texas 76059

REGENERATION FELLOWSHIP

____ Please pray for:

____ Please send the Newsletter to this (these) inmate(s):
(Florida inmates only)

____ Please send me this Bible Study Course:
(Florida inmates only)

- ____ Steps to Eternal Life
- ____ Pasos para la Vida Eterna

My Bible question is: _____

My name and address is:

Steps to Eternal Life (Basic Course)

Also available as: *Pasos Para La Vida Eterna*
(Florida Inmates Only)

Write to: Regeneration Fellowship
*P.O. Box 162685 * Altamonte Springs, FL 32716*



Below is the index for the Chain Bible Marking Guide. Cut this out, and place it in your Bible. Each Number represents the first Bible reference in a Bible study topic. Go to that Bible text and mark it with the number and letters in the second column. Each month a new text guide will appear underneath the Chain Bible Marking Guide Index. After listing the first text as shown in column 2, write the reference for the second verse of the topic in the margin so that you can turn

there next. Do this until all verses are marked. Now you are ready to share a Bible study on the given topic with a friend or acquaintance, with your verses listed in order.

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH ABOUT:

SUBJECT	LABEL	FIRST VERSE
1- ANGELS	1A	Heb. 1:13, 14
2.-GOD'S PURPOSE FOR WORLD	1P	Eccl. 1:4
3-THE WAY OF SALVATION	1WS	Matt. 19:16
4-NEARNESS OF CHRIST'S RETURN	1NR	Matt. 24:3
5-SECOND COMING OF CHRIST	1SC	Heb. 9:28
6-BIBLE TEMPERANCE	1BT	1 Cor. 10:31
7-MILLENNIUM	1M	Rev. 20:5
8-MOST WONDERFUL PROPHECY IN BIBLE	1WP	Dan. 8:3-14
9-MEANING OF HELL	1MH	1 Cor. 15:55
10-WHERE ARE THE DEAD?	1WD	Eccl. 12:7
11-PUNISHMENT OF THE WICKED	1PW	2 Pet. 2:9
12-HEAVEN	1H	2 Cor. 12:2
13-CHRISTIAN'S RULE OF LIFE	1CR	Jam. 2:8-12
14-JESUS, OUR HIGH PRIEST	1HP	Dan. 8:14
15-LORD'S DAY	1LD	Rev. 1:10
16-FIRST DAY OF WEEK	1FD	Mark 16:9
17-CHANGE OF SABBATH	1CS	Ex. 20:8-11
18-GREAT DAY OF JUDGMENT	1JD	Acts 17:31
19-THE PRESENT TRUTH	1PT	2 Pet. 1:12
20-SEVEN LAST PLAGUES	1SP	Rev. 15:1
21-SEAL OF THE LIVING GOD	1SG	Rev. 7:1-3
22-MARK OF THE BEAST	1MB	Rev. 14:9-11.14
23-HOW TO KEEP SABBATH	1KS	Ex. 20:8
24-CHRISTIANS IN DRESS	1CD	1 Cor. 10:31
25-BAPTISM	1B	Mark 16:16
26-THE TRUE CHURCH	1TC	Rev. 12:1
27-BIBLE PLAN TO SUPPORT GOD'S WORK	1SW	Deut. 8:16
28-GOD'S GATHERING CALL	1GC	Rev. 17:3, 4

No. 4 THE NEARNESS OF THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST: 1NR: Matthew 24:3; 2NR: Matthew 24:36; 3NR: Matthew 24:32, 33; 4NR: James 5:3; 5NR: James 5:4, 8; 6NR: Daniel 12:4; 7NR: Luke 21:11; 8NR: 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 9NR: Matthew 24:12; 10NR: Matthew 24:14; 11NR: 2 Peter 3:3-5; 12NR: Isaiah 2:2-4; 13NR: Joel 3:9, 10, 14; 14NR: Mark 13:29.