

The CHRISTIAN SHEPHERD

J u n e • 2 0 1 2 • V o l u m e 1 6 • N u m b e r 6

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give unto them eternal life”

Editorial

Unwavering

*“I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, **Here am I; send me**” (Isa 6:8).*

Though here, the prophet Isaiah is speaking of himself regarding the vision he saw, our thoughts and meditations are rightly directed to One infinitely higher Who, we may say, in past eternity expressed these words as His perfect divine *willingness* to come to this world, ruined by sin, that mankind might be saved—redeemed from the awful results of his fall into sin.

Thus we find our blessed Lord Jesus expressing His heart of love and actions of perfect submission and obedience to God in the New Testament: *“Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do Thy will, O God”* (Heb. 10:7).

These precious words were first penned by David, the ‘sweet Psalmist of Israel’, who wrote prophetically these words referring to the coming Saviour in Psalm 40:7,8: *“Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.”*

Purpose

Our blessed Lord’s *purpose* in coming is found in a multitude of places in God’s Word. What sweet encouragement belongs to anyone who seeks these passages out, and in faith lays hold of them for the soul’s blessing and comfort!

*“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that **they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly**” (Jn.10:10).*

*“For the Son of Man is come to **seek and to save that which was lost**” (Luke 19:10).*

*“For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to **save them...**” (Luke 9:56).*

*“And He that sent Me is with Me: the Father hath not left Me alone; for **I do always those things that please Him**” (Jn.8:29).*

*“...My judgment is just; because **I seek not mine***

Contents

Editorial	51
<i>Unwavering</i>	
Which Treasure and Pleasure	52
<i>What Will We Choose—Anon</i>	
The Armour of God	53
<i>Ephesians 6:10-18—G.H.H.</i>	
Under Attack	54
<i>Family Meditations from 1 John</i>	
<i>“And He Loved Her”</i>	54
<i>Musings On Marriage</i>	
The Book of Romans	55
<i>Romans 2:1-7—H.A.S.</i>	
Practical Reflections	57
<i>Mark 5:18-20</i>	
Feed the Flock	58
<i>Sowing and Reaping</i>	

— — Also in This Issue — —

Rejoice—Anon	53
Order and Peace—J.A.vP.	56
Grace—J.G.B.	56
Galilee or Dead?—F.P., Lifelines	56
Bible Challenger for June 2012	57
Bible Challenger, May 2012, Answers	57

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*own will, but the **will of the Father** which hath sent Me” (Jn.5:30).*

“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil” (1 Jn.3:8).

What a rich treasure chest unfolds before our eyes as we read God’s precious Word, ever learning more of the glories and beauties found in the purposes of the blessed Son of God’s coming into this world!

Unchangeable

*“Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?...In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. **He that sweareth to his own hurt, and***

(Cont. on page 52)

(Cont. from page 51)

changeth not... *He that doeth these things shall never be moved*" (Psa.15:1,4,5).

Again the Psalmist writes prophetically of our blessed Saviour. What divinely perfect *unchanging commitment* He displays! We read in 1 Jn.4:14: "*the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.*" The blessed Lord Jesus said "*I do always those things that please Him*", but what sorrow and suffering that entailed for our precious Saviour! When the mob, led by Judas, came to the garden to take Him, the Lord met them saying, "*if ye seek Me, let these go their way [His followers/the disciples]*". In divine perfection He who said "...*even as the Father said unto Me, so I speak*" (Jn.12:50), refused to change His perfect obedience to finish the work the Father gave Him to do. He went forward to the cross. Oh! What **hurt** was His because of our sins.

Consider the infinitely deeper suffering of those unfathomable three hours of darkness when, forsaken of God, our blessed Lord was "*made sin for us who knew no sin*" (2 Cor.5:21). And when at the end He cried, "*my God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?*". No soul redeemed by His precious blood can ever fathom the *hurt* our Lord's unchanging perfect obedience to the Father's will, brought Him!

Steadfast

"I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed" (Isa.50:6,7)

Man's mockery and unbelief, His own disciples inability to understand His purpose, the pressure of the crowds who had benefited from His miracles and would set Him up as their leader/king, the wicked one himself who would seek to overthrow the blessed Lord as Satan tempted him in the wilderness—nothing would turn aside the blessed Lord Jesus from His steadfast purpose in obeying the Father's will. He indeed set His face like a flint though misunderstood, mocked, ridiculed, and pressed on to Calvary where sin, death, hell and Satan were forever defeated. May our hearts be drawn out in love for our Lord! Praise and glory be to Him forever!

"And it came to pass, when the time was come that He should be received up, He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51).

□

Which Treasure and Pleasure?

"And thou shalt put them upon Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him; and shalt anoint them, and consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office"(Exo.28:41).

*"Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have **treasure in heaven**: and come, take up the cross, and follow Me"* (Mark 10:21).

If we look at any Old Testament text about consecration, we shall see that the marginal reading of the word is "*fill the hand.*" Now, if our hands are full of "*other things*, "*they cannot be filled with "the things that are Jesus Christ's."* There must be emptying before there can be any true filling.

So if we are sorrowfully seeing that our hands have not been kept for Jesus, let us humbly begin at the beginning, and ask Him to **empty them thoroughly**, that He may **fill them completely**. For they must be emptied before they can be filled with the *true riches*.

Either we must come to our Lord willingly about it, letting Him unclasp their hold, and gladly dropping the glittering weights they have been carrying, or, in very love, He will have to force them open, and wrench from our reluctant grasp those "*earthly things*" which are so occupying us that He cannot have His rightful use of them.

There is only one other alternative—a terrible one! That is that a soul be left alone, filling hand and heart with earthly, worthless, passing treasures till the day comes when not a *gentle Master*, but the *relentless king of terrors* appears and empties a trembling soul's hands as that soul's feet unwillingly follow death out of this busy world and into the dark, hopeless valley—for "*it is certain we can carry nothing out.*" A soul that leaves this world without Christ, leaves with nothing and will have nothing but sorrow and agony for eternity.

*"But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: **then whose shall those things be**, which thou hast provided?"* (Luke 12:20).

The soul who, by faith has trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, will leave and be ushered into 'paradise' with the Lord Jesus just as the dear thief on the cross was promised—see Luke 23:43.

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Psa.16:11).

Anon, Adapted, 'Gems From My Reading' □

The Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-18

Ambassadors for Heaven

The reason that Satan is called “*the prince of the power of the air*” (Eph.2:2) in this epistle is because we are seen as “*blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies*”. When Israel entered the promised land the enemy tried to keep them from gaining possession of their promised earthly blessing. Our blessings, however, are up there in heaven and the “*air*” comes between us and that glorious scene. Thus we find the devil is doing all he can to keep us occupied with things in this world so that we won’t look beyond this sad scene in which we live.

The Spirit of God, on the other hand, is lifting our vision above this scene to those glorious and blessed scenes where sin can never come.

We believers are here looked at like the Apostle Paul. He tells us that he was an “*ambassador in bonds*” (Eph. 6:20). God has sent us down as ambassadors into this world too. He is interested in every detail of our lives. What would we think of a country who sent an ambassador to another country, but didn’t care what kind of house he lived in, what kind of clothing he wore, the company he kept, or the food he ate? How wonderful to know that our blessed God cares about every detail of our lives!

As heavenly ambassadors we find ourselves in conflict with the whole principle on which this world operates. It operates on the principle of improving conditions in this world, seeking to make a beautiful palace out of the place that crucified its Creator.

The principle upon which the Christian operates, however, is to pass through this world with the hope of glory before him and Christ before his soul. The believer, as an ambassador, desires to properly represent Christ so that others might learn to know Him as their Saviour and Lord, too.

Soldiers for Heaven

We also find that we are viewed as soldiers when we read verse 13: “*Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*”

Though Christians always face conflict in some form, there are, we may say, certain ‘days’ or ‘times’ which we would look at in a special way as “*the evil day*”. Perhaps this is most applicable for our dear young believers, for youth is that particular time when their lives are being molded. It’s your friendships,

your storing of the Word God in your heart and mind, and your testimony to the world now that is, in a large degree, being molded now.

Satan is very aware of this and so the ‘evil day’ is a time when he tries to cause the world to glitter so much that the heart of the young, especially, are caught up with it and drawn away from the glorious and wonderful path of faith. Oh! May the Lord help the dear young people to stand for Christ, during the “evil day” when youth is Satan’s special target! May His love so constrain each of us that we will daily look up and say: “*Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? Help Thou me.*” It is not within ourselves to have the wisdom and strength necessary to stand in an “evil day” for we read; “*The way of man is not in himself. It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps*” (Jer.10:23).

Standing

“And having done all to stand”. Perhaps someone might think, ‘Well I don’t seem to be making much progress in my Christian life. I should be learning more.’ But we see that here it tells us, “*And having done all to stand*”. Are you, dear believer, at least holding on to what you have—the wonderful, divine truth God has revealed to you? Oh do hold and stand for what you have! Do you know Christ as your Saviour? Have you something of His precious truth in your heart that you enjoy? Well then, stand! If you walk in the good of it, God will give you more.

May we be content to humbly and faithfully stand in the face of conflict, to contest it in the face of all that would rob dear Christians of the enjoyment of the things that belong to us in Christ.

G.H.H., Adapted, To Be Continued □

Rejoice

“*Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice*” (Phipp.4:4).

You may say, “I cannot rejoice;” but if the Spirit of God gives a command, He gives power too in connection with it. Looking at exhortations as coming from the Lord, one finds help by bringing in the thought of His power with them. My hands may hang down, but if the command comes, “Now are you to rejoice in the Lord,” I can begin rejoicing, and I find He gives strength for it.

“*Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts*” (Jer. 15:16). □

Under Attack: ‘Family’ Meditations _____

1 John 3:10,11

“*In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.*”

Obedience and love are two absolutely critical characteristics that must be found in Christian families and homes if they are to have a strong, solid defense against the attacks of Satan.

The eternal life that believers have received as the gift of God upon faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, is characterized by these. It is a life which cannot do evil nor hate others, for it is the very life of our Saviour. “*The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*” (Rom.6:23). “*So if any one be in Christ, there is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold all things have become new*” (2 Cor.5:17, JND Translation).

When Dad and Mom order their house in loving obedience to the Lord, all who know the family know it to one that loves and follows God.

A home publicly marked by such a testimony will not be a place that allows disobedience to parents or a spirit of rebellion to authority. Children living in a home characterized by this godly obedience will carry a deep sense of the importance of their being obedient as well, because that is the natural character of the environment in which they live.

The same may be said regarding Christian love. Even when discipline is necessary in correcting children, love must be the prominent spirit displayed. Of course love will not be displayed in the same manner when a child is disobedient as it would be when a child is obedient, but still, the spirit in which each child in a Christian home is dealt with must be done in the spirit of Christian love. “*Let all things ye do be done in love*” (1 Cor.16:14, JND Translation).

As part of this dear Dad and Mom, do not allow your children to fuss or show a constant spirit of strife with each other. *Brotherly love* is not a ‘religious term’ meant only for adult Christians to show to one another. It is a natural character of the new life a believer of any age has in Christ. Parents must *daily and constantly* strive to cultivate the beautiful spirit of Christian love between their children. Without sibling love for each other, a Christian home will end in tragic destruction.



“And He Loved Her:” Musings on Marriage

“*[Love]...hopeth all things;*” (1 Cor.13:7)

Here we have three tremendously powerful words forming a beautiful and important principle for a joyous, stable, lasting marriage.

Christian *hope* has sometimes been described as *deferred certainty* and this thought is found many times in Holy Scripture, specially in the New Testament. For example, we read in Col.1:27; “*To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory*”. Believers do not hope for this as though it might or might not take place. For those who are saved by grace, washed and redeemed in the precious blood of Christ, believers by faith in Him, this glorious hope is an assurance—but one which all believers are still awaiting. There is no question whether it will take place, though God has not seen fit to tell us the exact time of this blessed moment.

Marriage is of God for mankind’s joy, blessing and satisfaction in the realm of nature—it is a precious God ordained and given union for this life. Marriage, however, is *not* lived in perfection due to the fall in Eden. We have fallen natures, and even after we are saved, we still have the *flesh* (the old sinful nature) which always tries to act. “*For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would... And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*” (Ga 5:17,24). This is why, even the happiest of Christian marriages experience some bumps and rough times. So, where *love hopeth all things* (neither spouse always being perfect and always doing and saying just the right thing) there is still stability and joy because *hope* is the heart’s desire that inconsistencies and failures will be overcome.

Where true love exists in marriages, the *spirit of hope* which expects and desires the best for one another, will prove to be a wonderful and powerful force in maintaining a joyous, peaceful union.

We may reverently say that love *does not demand all things be perfect* rather, love *hopes all things will be well*—this is the spirit which expects peace and joy for both partners. Marriages which honor God will surely display the sweet spirit of hope, producing soothing, lovely union even as a fragrant ointment brings forth its sweet and desirable results.



The Book of Romans

Romans 2:1-7

v 1 *“Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, who-soever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.”*

The Apostle had declared both Jew and Gentile needed the gospel of God. *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”* (1:16). This need was a desperate need *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness”* (1:18).

In our verse one, we see how serious it is to have a knowledge of righteousness, and it have no power in our lives. Here it supposes a man capable of passing a judgment upon another's acts, but doing the same himself. This would be as one holding truth in unrighteousness. This verse is to one described as *“O man”*, no distinguishing between Jew or Greek.

v 2 *“But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.”*

All of God's judgments are according to truth. It is solemn to think all judgment is committed to Him that is The Truth.

v 3 *“And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?”*

Hidden things of darkness will be brought to light, and though a man judges others, whose sins have been made public, those judging while doing the same things, perhaps unknown to other men, will not escape God's just judgment, which is according to Truth, and He knows what is true.

v 4 *“Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”*

The Lord is longsuffering, but this isn't an indication of indifference to evil. He is gracious. *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Pet. 3:9).

Indifference to His Holiness, or to His grace, will bring judgment.

v 5 *“But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasures up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.”*

Though God does not speedily execute His judgment on our wrong doings, He sees them, and will not forget them in the day He does visit in judgment. It seems so serious to have wrath treasured up for oneself. What a terrible treasure to have! How wonderful to know Christ, and to have believed the Gospel. It is good for believers to remember, our not coming into God's wrath is a result of Christ's work, not ours. *“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him”* (Rom. 5:9).

v 6 *“Who will render to every man according to his deeds.”*

It is well to notice who is addressed in this portion, *“O man”* vs.1, *“O man”* vs 3, and here *“every man”*. There is no respect of persons with God. Wrath from heaven is revealed, no special place of privilege that one might have on earth will cause him to escape the just judgment of God.

Jews had an advantage, much then in every way, but it was and is to no avail, if we remain in the place of God's wrath. Faith in Christ, removes man from that category. *“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him”* (John 3:36).

v 7 *“To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:”*

Those earnestly seeking *“immortality”* (incorruptibility) receive *“eternal life”*, rather than judgment or wrath. This is just what the gospel of God gives, by faith. *“But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality (incorruptibility) to light through the gospel”* (2 Tim. 1:10).

Notice it says *“seek for”*. It is not how to earn eternal life, but those who have not pleasure in sin seek for something better than the judgment they know their sins deserve. They turn from their ways and in earnest search for what they do not have. They find it in the gospel of God. Their *“seeking”* is a fruit of repentance. They do not despise the goodness of God, it leads them to repentance (vs. 4). This is in contrast to those of

(Cont. on 56)

verse 5 who have hard and impenitent hearts, and despise the riches of His goodness.

H.A.S. (to be continued) ❑

Order and Peace

“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace . . .” (1 Corinthians 14:33).

God is a God of order. He “is not the author of confusion.” Disorder and confusion belong to the kingdom of Satan and darkness; but, He that is clothed with honour and majesty, who “covereth Himself with light as with a garment,” (Psalm 104:2) cannot permit disorder in His kingdom. It would be utterly inconsistent with light, and derogatory to majesty. And as to His divine wisdom, it expresses itself in that perfect order which characterizes all His counsels and works. It is this principle of divine order that pervades the universe. May we consider the heavens, which declare the glory of God, and the firmament, which shows His handiwork, where He has set a tabernacle for the sun, and ordained the moon and the stars - though there is no speech nor language with them, and though their voice is not heard, yet “*Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world*” (Psalm 19:4). And to what, next to the glory of God, does their silent language testify? That God is a God of order.

J.A.vP., *Gems From My Reading* ❑

Grace

“We have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand” (Rom.5:2).

It is in not attainments. It is not watchfulness, nor is it services or duties which give the soul entrance into that wealthy place of divine favour.

“*By faith we have access into this grace wherein we stand.*” If we find our souls under pressure of the spirit of fear or bondage or uncertainty we may be sure that they have let go the gentle hand of faith.

This ought not to be so. We are to know that we have *ever* to do with *love!* “Father” - a name that may give abiding calmness and strength and liberty to the soul. The tempter would lead us to judge of God by the dark shadings of many a passage of our history here. But the Spirit of God would have us acquaint ourselves with Him in the beautiful light of the gospels, the glory that shines now in the face of Jesus Christ.

J.G.B., *Adapted* ❑

Galilee or Dead?

“Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify [‘build up’] one another...” (1 Thess.5:11).

The other day I was sitting in a coffee shop when one of my former students came in. We’d not seen one another in maybe 6 years. She said she had just come in to read her Bible and a book she was enjoying.

We had a wonderful conversation about what the Lord has been doing in our lives since we last talked. It was a precious time and I felt very enriched and uplifted when I left. She might have brought up any subject, but she had the courage to talk about reading her Bible. I feel that both of us were *built up* by our conversation.

Our title mentions the name of two seas—the *Sea of Galilee* and the *Dead Sea*. One sea contains abundant life, the other contains no life. Why?

There are waters that flow into the sea of Galilee...and they flow out the other end, becoming the Jordan River. The Dead Sea (also known as the *Salt Sea*), is fed by the Jordan flowing into it but has no outlet to share. It just keeps what comes into it but has not outlet to share what it contains. Thus there is no *abundant life* found there.

How wonderful when we pass on to someone else some of the spiritual blessings we have received and are enjoying. The means to share and build up with other believers need not be complicated; it could be something as simple as making a phone call or sending an email or other electronic message.

Merely asking someone “Can I pray for you?” often has a wonderful effect. Asking questions, showing an interest in what’s going on with others is vital—listening carefully to them even more so. You’ll hear something significant before long. This love for another is of inestimable value. Let’s pray that we look beyond ourselves and become willing to *invest* in others for their spiritual blessing, strength and comfort. Let’s be *conduits, not reservoirs!*

F.P., *Lifelines, Adapted* ❑

“For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen” (2 Cor:20).

Christ tells it out in our hearts—in Him is the “*yea and amen*” to all God’s promises. We find immense strength in that thought when we are troubled by the world on every side. He makes good all the promises. Making every bit of truth come with power and freshness to the heart is all His gracious doing.

G.V.W., *Adapted* ❑

Mark, Chapter Five

vv 18-20 “*And when He was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed Him that he might be with Him. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.*”

The grace of God always and ever triumphs over man’s hatred, sin and failure. Even in the times when man’s rebellion brings solemn governmental results from our blessed, righteous God, there is still divine grace given that infinitely exceeds all we ‘deserve’.

The Gadarene, once possessed by many demons, but now healed and in his right mind, desired to be with the One who loved him and whose infinite power gave him healing, freedom and liberty. But the blessed Lord Jesus saw beyond the love and desire of the dear healed man. He saw a place where many more people lived who had bade Him leave them. They chose slavery to Satan rather than the loving power and blessing that the Lord would give them.

In that very condition we find God’s grace shines out so brilliantly—The Lord sent a testimony to that needy people with a message of His love and power. The very man they once knew to be uncontrollable and totally enslaved by Satan’s power now became the news bearer of salvation in Jesus Christ.

The Gadarene obeys the Lord Jesus and goes back preaching the

Bible Mountains

The first letters of the following responses tell us the object of worship in a new order of things Jesus spoke of when he revealed that true worship would be, “Neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem” but rather, “in spirit and in truth”. [2] Numbers in brackets give the number of words in the answers, which are found in the King James Version.

1. From the top of mount Pisgah, God showed Moses the land of promise, though he would not enter the land himself. Despite his enduring strength, he died, and the Lord buried him. How many days did the children of Israel mourn his death? [1]

2. The dew of this particular mountain is given as a metaphor for the pleasantness of unity between brethren. [1]

3. A prophet who prayed that a young man’s eyes would be opened, whereupon the young man saw an entire mountain full of horses and chariots of fire. [1]

4. Galatians speaks of two sons of Abraham, one of which was born after the flesh, by a bondmaid, and is an allegory of the covenant given in mount Sinai, which leads only to bondage. What was the mother of the other son? [1]

5. On what mountains did Noah’s ark come to rest as the flood waters receded? [1]

6. Something Jesus became, on a high mountain, where he had come with Peter, James and John. [1]

7. On what mountain did God speak to Moses out of the burning bush, and later, on the same mountain, caused water to flow from a rock for the Israelites to drink? [1]

8. Shechem was appointed to be one of the cities of refuge, where one responsible for an accidental death could escape the avenger. On what mountain was this city situated? [1]

9. Something Elijah prayed for on the top of mount Carmel. [1]

— Answers To May 2012 Bible Challenger —

- Gilboa** 1 Samuel 31:8
- Ebal** Deuteronomy 27:13
- Remove** 1 Corinthians 13:2
- Incense** Isaiah 65:7
- Zion** Psalm 133:3
- Isaac** Genesis 22:2
- Moriah** 2 Chronicles 3:1

“*These shall stand upon mount GERIZIM to bless the people, when ye are come over Jordan; Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Joseph, and Benjamin*” (Deuteronomy 27:12). J.S. ◻

mighty love and power of God. The happy result was that *all* the people marvelled. No doubt we will meet some of these dear ones in glory soon.

Don’t we who are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ have the same wonderful message to give the needy around us? Oh! that we might display the same spirit of obedience and love in sharing the gospel with the unsaved; many who don’t feel any need of it. ◻

Feed The Flock

Sowing and Reaping

The story is told of two young men working their way through Leland Stanford University many years ago. Their funds got desperately low, tuition was coming due, and they badly needed financial help.

One of them had an idea. They would engage the great pianist, Paderewski for a recital. He figured that the profits from the concert would be enough to pay both board and tuition for the two. The great pianist's manager demanded a guarantee of two thousand dollars for the recital.

It was a huge sum but the two students, undaunted, proceeded to stage the concert. After many hours of hard work it was held. Sadly however, the concert had raised only sixteen hundred dollars. The two disconsolate young men met with the great artist, telling him of their efforts and poor results. Giving him the entire sixteen hundred dollars, they included with the funds a promissory note for four hundred dollars promising to pay him the balance as soon as possible.

"No," replied Paderewski, "that won't do." Tearing the note to shreds, he handed the money back to them with the following instructions.

"Take out of this money your tuition and board. Keep 10 percent of the balance for your work on the recital, then give me the rest."

Several years rolled by after this event. Mr. Paderewski became premier of Poland. An awful war and famine struck. He desperately worked to feed the many starving thousands of his beloved Poland but it was futile. Only one man in the world could help Paderewski and his people. He pled for help from that man and soon thousands of tons of food began to pour into Poland for distribution by Premiere Paderewski.

After the people were fed and the famine over, he journeyed to Paris to thank US president Herbert Hoover for the relief sent to his country.

Mr. Hoover quietly replied, "That's all right, Mr. Paderewski. You don't remember it, but you helped me once when I was a student at college and was in a hole."

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap...but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:7-9).

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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