

The Sword AND Staff

"Preach the Word" (II Timothy 4:2) • "Feed the Flock" (I Peter 5:2)

How Remembrance Relates to Religion

● By JAMES E. GIBBONS—1535 Fairfield Drive—Mt. Airy, N.C. 27030 U.S.A.



● "WHEREFORE the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in **REMEMBRANCE** of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet [right], as long as I am in this tab-

ernacle [tent], to stir you up by putting you in **REMEMBRANCE**; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ has shewed me. Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in **REMEMBRANCE**."

—II PETER 1:10-15

A GOOD REMEMBRANCE is a good thing, but having a poor memory has been the undoing of many a person. Remembrance has always played a major role in man's relationship with God and God's relation to man, both for time and for eternity. Remembrance will be the key factor in the Day of Judgment (Revelation 20:12), and it will add to the misery of the lost throughout all eternity (Luke 16:25).

I. HOW OUR REMEMBRANCE HELPS US

A. Remembrance Helps Us Be Obedient Remembrance

Peter in writing II Peter wanted to stir up his readers' minds by way of remembrance (II Peter 3:1). The great truths and reality of their religion and ours is ever to be remembered. God's commandments and promises are to be remembered. We are to remember that God's judgment comes sooner or later upon the wicked. Jude admonished his readers, "I will therefore put you in *remembrance*..." (Jude 5-7). Then he continues with graphic illustrations and warnings from the past.

Psalms 103, verses 17 and 18, is very revealing and reassuring, not only to ancient Israel, but to us. "But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that *remember* his commandments to do them." Remembrance of such cer-

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INFORMATION:

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—THANK YOU—

Proverbially SPEAKING...

NUMBERS mean nothing unless they count.

It doesn't do much good to put your best foot forward if you drag the other one.

Problem people are people with problems.

With Christ being both priest and sacrifice our sin problem is well taken care of.

When we do God's will, good will and good will will prevail.

Prophecy written in the context of the Old Testament bears the image and flavor of the Old Testament even when it has reference to coming things in the New Testament.

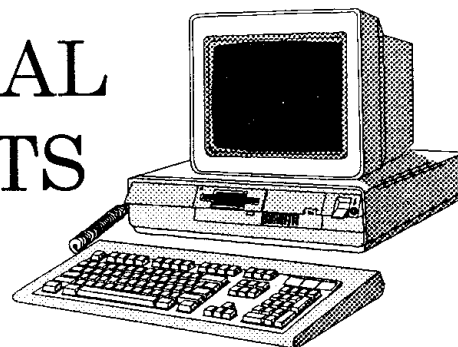
We always reap what we sow, only in greater proportions.

Trying to run away from our problems when we are part of the problem will not solve our problems but only prolong them.

You have to learn how to walk before you can run.

Simple, but profound—that should characterize good gospel preaching.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS



THOUGHTS ON CONFUSION OF IDENTITY

WE LIVE in an era of confusion about identity in many different areas today. There is an identity crisis. Here are some random thoughts on this.

Although God has physically made us male and female on purpose (Genesis 1:27,28), and called His creation "very good" (Genesis 1:31), there is confusion about human sexual identity in our society today. Such an era, and such a distorted mentality, was ushered in by rock musicians and rock music intentionally trying to project an androgynous image (male and female in one person, leaving it up to you to try to figure out what they are). And a generation brought up on such nonsense has a hard time trying to figure out personally just who and what they are. It is no wonder that we are plagued with this senseless talk of same sex marriages with increased homosexual and bisexual activity. There are a lot of mixed up people, and confusion abounds!

Then to add to the confusion, or perhaps to help bring it on, the distinctive roles of male and female in our society have been blurred. God has a plan, and it calls for the man to take the lead and be the head of the family. Women have been brainwashed into thinking that they must work outside of the home (or they are not being "fulfilled"), instead of really being a mother to their children (and shaping souls for time and eternity, I Timothy 2:15). A higher dignity and respect has been traded for a place that before was a man's world. Confusion reigns, and the American family is falling apart.

In another realm there is a glaring identity crisis too. The distinctive spiritual role and identity of the church seems to have been lost somewhere along the way. What is the church anyway? What is its purpose and mission? Did Jesus die on the cross to bring about a new political order? Is the church just a civic club and a community center? And then, is entertainment and the restaurant business part of its function? One wonders. If Noah had lived today and had the mentality of some in church circles, when God said to build an ark, he probably would have built a gymnasium. Paul, using the Grecian games as an illustration, said, "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible" (I Corinthians 9:24,25). But to visit in

some churches today, that is not the impression we get. It is not an incorruptible (spiritual) crown, but the corruptible one that gets our attention. On public display are all the trophies won in athletic competition. Did Jesus die on the cross for this? It is as someone has said, "If the church would stop trying to compete with the world in such areas as politics, amusements and food services she would gain spiritual strength." There is a question of identity. Confusion reigns. What is the church all about? □

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A Series Involving the Bible and Prophecy...

Five Ways to Unravel Prophecy

● *By* **DAVID VAUGHN ELLIOTT**
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PROPHECY can be very interesting. It can also be very frustrating. To have the desire to study prophecy is one thing. To know *how* to study it is yet another. Great rewards are available to the diligent student; but one must proceed with care.

What is the meaning of "666"? Who are the "144,000"? What is yet in store for Israel? When will Jesus establish his kingdom; or did He already establish it? Is Jesus coming back in "our times"? Will the Jewish temple be rebuilt again? Who or what is the "little horn" in Daniel? And on it goes. How are we to gain an understanding of all these things? How are we to unravel the mysteries of prophecy?

A baseball player needs to play by the rules of the game. A driver of a car needs to obey the rules of the road. A writer should follow the rules of grammar.

Call them "rules," "guidelines," or "ways," we must seek to unravel the mysteries of prophecy in a legitimate fashion. Otherwise, we will become more tangled up than when we started. The Bible does not list these "rules" as such. However, the truth of most, if not all, of them is self-evident, once they are explained. Some of them apply to all Bible study, and indeed to the study of all written materials. Others specifically apply to the interpretation of Bible prophecy.

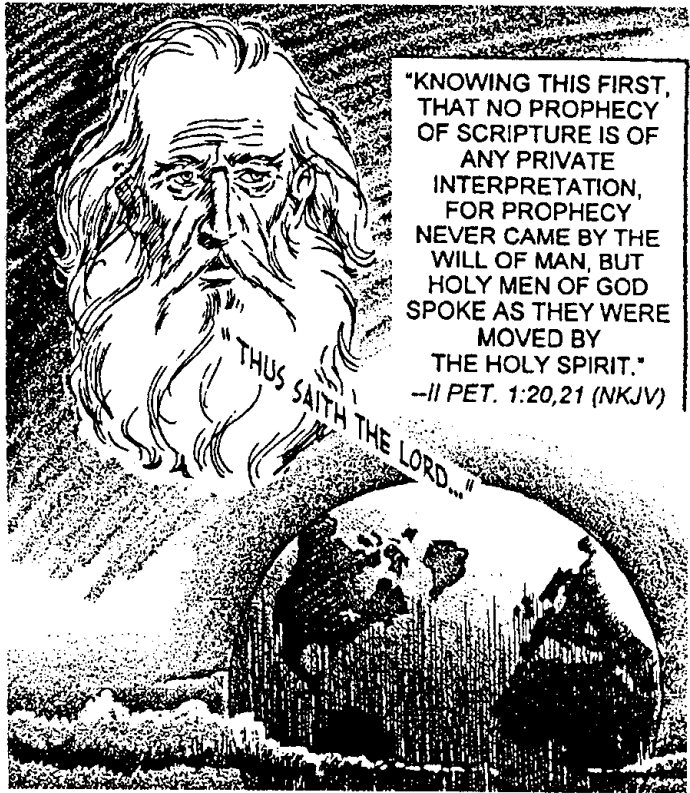
STUDY THE CONTEXT

Someone has said, "A text out of context is a pre-text." This is not just a rule for Bible study. It is a rule for properly interpreting the daily newspaper. It is a rule for understanding what the boss said to do. It is a rule for quoting people with fairness. In-

deed, all communication becomes garbled when we remove a text from its context.

The Bible says: "And [Judas] departed, and went and hanged himself "; "Go and do likewise"; and "What you do, do quickly"! We can laugh at that; but it is no laughing matter when Bible teachers seriously string together unrelated prophecies in like fashion.

The Prophets Spoke the Word of God



A Bible student must look at the context of any text to gain understanding. This is equally true of prophecy. Nebuchadnezzar's dream is a simple example (Daniel 2). He saw a great image divided into four parts. What does it mean? The very context starts the explanation. Verses 36-40 explain that four kingdoms will come, one after the other. But what kingdom does the prophecy start with? "You are this head of gold," Daniel tells the king. That's a rather simple and obvious example of starting with the context.

When is "the End"?

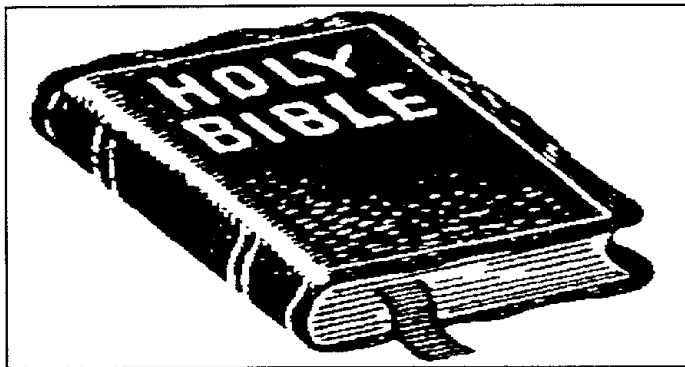
Many other prophecies involve more difficulty. For example, Matthew 24:14 says, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, **and then the end will come.**" Many assume this means the end of the world. But what does the context show?

We need to use the common sense that we use in everyday conversation. Someone says, "That's the end." Out of context, there is no possible way to

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Five Ways to Unravel Prophecy

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guess what this “end” is. Is it the end of a movie or a ball game? Is it the end of a test period or a coffee break? Is it the end of a marriage or a business partnership? Only context can tell. Who is speaking to whom? What is the setting? What is the topic of conversation?

Looking at the immediate context of Matthew 24:14, verse 16 refers to Judea. But it's a good idea to back up to verse one. The whole conversation began when Jesus spoke of the temple in Jerusalem (in Judea). He said, “Not one stone shall be left here upon another.” That is certainly an end.

In Matthew 24:15, Jesus explained that Daniel had already spoken of the same events. Daniel's prophecy is found in Daniel 9:24-27. In the middle of Daniel 9:26 it says, “shall destroy the city [Jerusalem; see verse 25] and the sanctuary. **The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.**” Thus Daniel clarifies that the end Jesus spoke of is the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the sanctuary (temple).

The context of any Gospel account includes the other three Gospels, if they record the same event. The parallels to Matthew 24 are Mark 13 and Luke 21. Luke 21:20,21, joins concepts found in Matthew and Daniel. It says, “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that it's desolation is near. Then let those in Judea flee.”

By thus studying the near and wider context of Matthew 24:14, it becomes clear that “the end” in that verse is *not* the end of the world. Rather, it is the end of Jerusalem and its temple. This “end” was fulfilled 40 years after Jesus spoke (600 years after Daniel wrote). In the year 70 A.D., the Roman army overthrew Jerusalem and left not one temple stone upon another. Its end had come. The context of Matthew 24:14 makes clear that this is “the end” referred to.

LOOK FOR “THEN WAS FULFILLED”

How many times do the Gospels say, “then was fulfilled,” “that it might be fulfilled,” “thus it is written,” “this is he of whom it is written,” and similar expressions? But, not only in the Gospels. Over and over again, God's Word calls our attention to some prophecy that is fulfilled.

Many prophecies were both made and fulfilled within the pages of the Old Testament. For example, 1 Kings 22:37,38 says: “So the king [Ahab] died ...and the dogs licked up his blood while the harlots bathed, **according to the word** of Jehovah which He had spoken” (in fulfillment of 1 Kings 21:19). Another example is found in Ezra 1:1: “Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of Jehovah spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah **might be fulfilled**, Jehovah stirred up the spirit of Cyrus...” To appreciate this prophecy, more of the context must be read, along with Jeremiah 25:12 and 29:10.

The Old Testament also contains many prophecies that were not fulfilled until centuries later, in the New Testament. Two examples follow in some depth.

Jesus and our Sicknesses

Isaiah 53:4 prophesies of the Messiah: “Surely He has borne our griefs (*footnote: literally sicknesses*) and carried our sorrows (*footnote: literally pains*).” How did or does Jesus do this? Is this speaking of heaven where there will be no sickness, pain, or death? Or is this saying that Jesus would die on the cross for our physical sicknesses? Or is it saying something else?

“Then was fulfilled” will answer these questions. The Gospels say that Jesus “healed all who were sick, **that it might be fulfilled** which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ‘He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses’” (Matthew 8:16,17). God's Word is saying that Jesus' healing ministry is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. That settles it. We must reject all other ideas that do not agree with God's clear statement regarding the fulfillment.

The Spirit in the Last Days

On the day of Pentecost, Peter said, “And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh” (Acts 2:17). With a superficial glancing at the text, a person might conjecture that Peter was prophesying a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit to take place in the twentieth century. But let's look more closely.

Acts 2:1-11 describes how the Holy Spirit caused the apostles to speak in many languages they did not even know. The crowd was amazed and per-

perplexed. Some tried to explain it away, saying the apostles were drunk. Peter got up to speak, and declared that they were not drunk. Rather, he said, **"This is what was spoken** by the prophet Joel: 'and it shall come to pass in the last days...'"

A close examination of the context thus clarifies that Peter was not *making* a prophecy. Rather, he was *quoting* a prophecy made some 800 years earlier. Peter was telling the people that "this" (the apostles speaking in tongues) was "what was spoken by the prophet Joel." That is to say, Joel 2:28-32 is *not* a prophecy about the twentieth century. Rather, it is a prophecy about the *first* century. It was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost, 30 A.D.

"Then was fulfilled" often tells the story. "Then was fulfilled" is a divine explanation of the fulfillment of a prophecy. It is *God's* interpretation.

COMPARE SIMILAR PROPHECIES

There are yet other "rules" that ring true. With a little explanation, they appear obvious. For example, we should study similar prophecies together. They may be similar in subject matter, similar in certain details, similar in symbols used, or similar in some other respect.

The most obvious example is when several prophecies deal with the same subject. For example, a study of the prophecy against Babylon in Isaiah 13 and 14, should include the kindred text in Jeremiah 50 and 51. In the same way, a complete study of the judgment of Edom (Seir) should include not only Ezekiel 35, but also Obadiah and a portion of Jeremiah 49.

Four Kingdoms

An interesting prophecy is that of the four beasts in Daniel 7. Daniel is told they represent four kings (7:17) or kingdoms (7:23). However, chapter 7 does not clearly identify the beasts (kingdoms); so, where does the prophecy begin? Fortunately, there is a similar prophecy that sheds light.

Though Daniel 7 is different in many ways from Daniel 2, Daniel 2 is also a prophecy about four kingdoms (2:39,40). So, the two are indeed similar in this important respect. Also, since both prophecies were made by Daniel during the time of the Babylonian empire, the two prophecies have the identical historical setting. There is thus every reason to believe that the four kingdoms in the two prophecies are the same four kingdoms. There is no reason to believe otherwise.

Since Daniel 2 positively identifies the first kingdom as the Babylonian power (2:37,38), that becomes the only meaningful place to begin in chapter 7. Using this clue of similarity as the starting point,

the other details of the beasts in Daniel 7 fall into place. The details fit the succeeding kingdoms (empires) of Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome.

Similarities. Revelation also speaks of beasts. Any connection to Daniel? The four beasts in Daniel 7 are a lion, a bear, a leopard, and a ten-horned beast. The beast in Revelation 13 has ten horns and is like a leopard, a bear and a lion. The same beasts mentioned in reverse order! Who would doubt that the similarity is on purpose? Who would question that this is an important clue to the proper understanding of the beast of Revelation 13?

Revelation 13 refers to the same four beasts as Daniel 7. The four beasts are four kingdoms. The only kingdom that would have the characteristics of all four kingdoms would be the *last* of the four. The last was the Roman Empire. The prophecy of Revelation 13 is about Rome!

Thus, similarity between Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 is an important beginning place for the study of the latter. Most students of the Word recognize this. Most find that Rome is somehow the subject, whether it be past, present or future. The similarity of Revelation 13 with Daniel 7 is the reason.

APPLY SOUND BIBLE DOCTRINE

Prophecies range from the very simple to the very profound. It does not take a college degree, so to speak, to understand the prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. A person does not even have to be literate to understand that Jesus Christ is coming again. Many prophecies are thus a part of "the milk" of the Word.

On the other hand, many prophecies are not at all milk. They are solid food, meat, even tough meat! This is not either to belittle them or to suggest that they be shunned. Rather, it is a caution to approach them with great care and preparation.

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Be Thus Assured

We want to trust, to hope, but yet in grief
That which was said by one of long ago,
"Lord, I believe; help thou my unbelief,"
Is said again by those who do not know.
Let every one of us be thus assured,
As we dispel all doubt with all dismay;
We have the revelation of God's Word,
And Christ the Son of God to show the way.

—By James E. Gibbons

Five Ways to Unravel Prophecy

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Preparation? One of the most important preparations, if not the most important, is to possess a solid understanding of sound Scriptural doctrine.

"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word"; "in which are some things hard to understand, which those who are untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction" (Hebrews 5:12,13; 2 Peter 3:16).

We must grasp well the "elementary principles of Christ" (Hebrews 6:1,2), before dealing with "things hard to understand." This is vitally important in the study of many prophecies. Following are two examples.

"The Mark of the Beast"

Who has not pondered over the meaning of "666," the mark of the beast? It is not an easy topic by any means. One thing is sure. The study of sound New Testament teaching must *precede* the study of this prophecy.

Why? For example, some would teach that the observance of Sunday is the mark of the beast (Revelation 13). By the same token, they teach that Sabbath keeping is the seal of God on the foreheads of the 144,000 (Revelation 7 and 14). Are these interpretations possible?

A close look at Revelation 13 reveals that there is nothing in the context that says that the mark of the beast has anything to do with Sunday. A close look at Revelation 7 and 14 reveals that there is nothing in the context that says that the seal of God has anything to do with Saturday. The context of all three chapters is highly symbolical. To be acceptable, any interpretation of symbolism must be in full harmony with the *clear* teaching of God's Word.

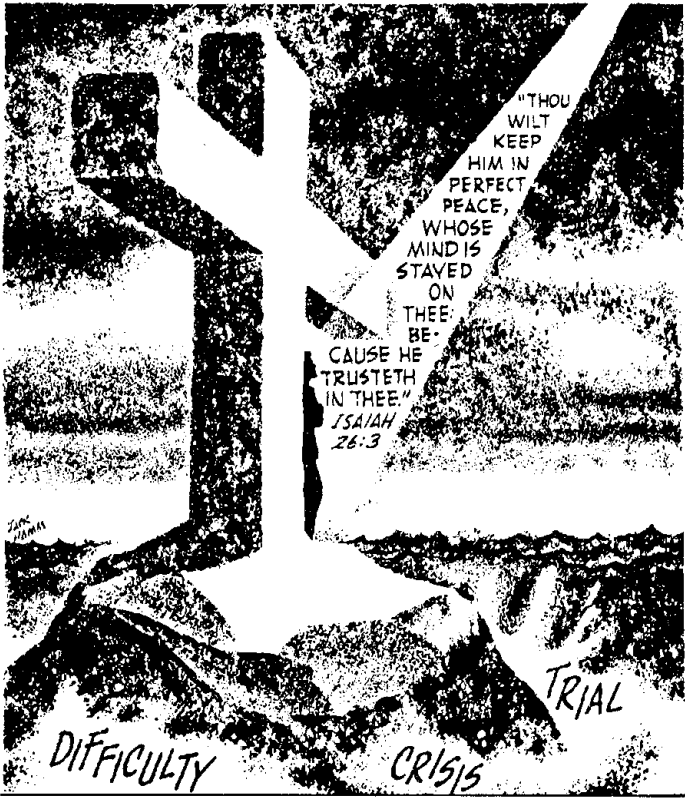
It is not the purpose here to enter into arguments relative to the Sabbath versus Sunday. It is not the purpose here to discover what are the mark of the beast and the seal of God. The purpose here is simply this: to make clear that no interpretation of any part of Revelation is acceptable if it contradicts clear New Testament teaching. The Sabbath-versus-Sunday issue must be settled *before* studying the prophecies of Revelation. The same is true of any other doctrine.

"The Temple of God"

Both 2 Thessalonians 2:4 and Revelation 11:1 speak prophetically of "the temple of God." Before even starting with these prophecies, a Christian

must clearly understand, according to solid New Testament doctrine, what is "the temple of God" today. Certainly not a building of stone and mortar, whether built by Jews or Gentiles.

Rock of Ages



Paul tells the Corinthian brethren: "You are the temple of God" (1 Corinthians 3:16). The church is the temple of God today. Sound New Testament doctrine on "the temple of God" must come before studying these prophecies. This is the only way to correctly unravel them!

STUDY HISTORY

Is it true that "the Bible is all we need"? That depends upon what one means by this statement. There is a sense in which this statement is true. There is also a sense in which it is false and misleading. One of the problems in the study of much Bible prophecy is that the Bible does *not* have all the information needed. We must often study sources *outside* the Bible.

The Treasurer of Ethiopia in Acts 8 is a good example of the need for outside sources. While he was reading Isaiah, Philip approached him and asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The Ethiopian replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" (8:30,31). Some would cite this exchange as proof that a person cannot understand the Bible by himself. They miss a very important point. The Ethiopian was reading *prophecy*!

The Ethiopian would not have needed the help of someone to understand: “You shall not murder...You shall not steal” (Exodus 20:13,15). He would not have needed anyone to explain to him: “The wicked borrows and does not repay, but the righteous shows mercy and gives” (Psalms 37:21). A person of average intelligence and normal education can understand much of the Bible by simply reading it for himself.

But the Treasurer was reading *prophecy*. An Old Testament prophecy. None of the New Testament had yet been written. Therefore, the fulfillment of that prophecy was *outside* the “Bible” then in existence. The Treasurer needed someone who had additional information, someone with historical facts. That someone was Philip. Philip took the facts of the life of Jesus and showed how Jesus fulfilled the prophecy.

In the case of any prophecy that does not have its fulfillment recorded in the pages of our now complete Bible, we must look for facts outside the Bible. This is where many people run afoul.

Many people never liked history in school. The daily newspaper or TV news is much more interesting to them. Even more interesting to many are the imaginations of today’s would-be prophets who invent future events at will. To many, history is dry. To many, speculation on the near future is exciting. People who fall into this trap will never understand Bible prophecy.

We all need someone like Philip. We need someone who knows the facts of history that clearly fulfill a particular prophecy. The Old Testament prophesies the return of the Jews to the promised land. The Old and the New prophesy the destruction of Jerusalem (after the coming of the Messiah). The Old prophesies the complete desolation of Babylon. The New prophesies the coming of “the man of sin.” For all of these and many more, history records the facts. They have *already* been fulfilled.

In the first case mentioned, Bible history itself records the fulfillment. In the other cases, only history *outside* the Bible will lead the student to the fulfillment.

Once history reveals the fulfillment, it is in vain to speculate about a Bible prophecy on the basis of today’s headlines. It is vain to consider tomorrow’s prognostications. If the prophecy has been fulfilled, it has been fulfilled.

Start Looking in the Past

The problem is that many people are very ignorant of history. They thus leave themselves wide open to the frequent claim, “Bible prophecy is being fulfilled before our eyes.” Maybe so, maybe not. Who

has not heard people claim that present day earthquakes, famines and wars are prophecy being fulfilled in our times? We must keep such prophecies in context. Earthquakes, famines and wars have taken place throughout history.

All Bible prophecy is at least 1,900 years old. We cannot—we dare not—simply set aside 1,900 years of history and start looking for fulfillments in our days. This might be easier and more interesting, but the results cannot be good.

The place to start looking for the fulfillment of a prophecy is in the history immediately following the prophecy. From there, one works forward in time.

An example: almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus prophesied the destruction of the temple. Some people start in the present. Since they see no temple in Jerusalem, they conclude the Jews will rebuild the temple to fulfill the prophecy.

But Jesus was talking about the temple then in existence. He said, “As for these things which you see, the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another” (Luke 21:6). These things *which you see!* So we must start with what they saw, and work forward in history. In this case, we only have to travel 40 years, to the year 70 A.D. There, history clearly records the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. History reveals the fulfillment of the prophecy.

FIVE WAYS

Bible prophecy is not the easiest study in the world. Nevertheless, one can start by applying five basic “rules of the road.” 1-Study the context. 2-Look for “then was fulfilled.” 3-Compare similar prophecies. 4-Apply sound Bible doctrine. 5-Study history. Five basic rules. Five keys to unraveling difficulties. Five ways to get a start—and to continue well—on the road to understanding Bible prophecy. □



Thanksgiving

- COUNT your blessings instead of your crosses;
- Count your gains instead of your losses;
- Count your joys instead of your woes;
- Count your friends instead of your foes;
- Count your smiles instead of your tears;
- Count your courage instead of your fears;
- Count your full years instead of your lean;
- Count your kind deeds instead of the mean;
- Count your health instead of your wealth;
- Count on God instead of yourself.

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How Remembrance Relates to Religion *(Continued from Page 1)*

tainly should prompt us and move us to be found faithful and obedient.

Forgetfulness

The other side of the coin, forgetfulness, works to our undoing. Moses warned in Deuteronomy 4, verses 23 and 24, "Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye *forget* the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee. For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God." This happened more than once in the history of Israel. An early example is found in Judges 3:7, which reads, "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and *forgot* the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves." Judgment came in many ways, and finally they were carried away into Assyrian and Babylonian Captivity. Then Psalms 9:17 declares, "The wicked shall be turned into hell [sheol], and all the nations that forget God."

So, remembrance of God and the things of God should help us to be found faithful. Those who don't remember the mistakes of history are bound to repeat them. For those who claim to be God's children, forgetfulness ends in apostasy.

B. Remembrance Helps Us Be Humble

When we remember who we are, our sins and our past, we can't help but be humble. Captivity and finally the deliverance of Israel produced humility in them. Ezekiel 20:43 predicted, "And there shall ye *remember* your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed." The apostle Paul had such an experience in remembrance when he said in I Corinthians 15, verses 9 and 10, "For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet [worthy] to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am..." Yes, it is even as he further attests in Ephesians 2, verses 8 and 9, where he again speaks of grace and asserts, "Not of works, lest any man should boast"

We must really have a short memory if it doesn't produce humility. And the thought of grace brings us to what we now have to say involving being thankful.

C. Remembrance Helps Us Be Thankful Thankful for God

The Psalmist admonished in Psalms 30:4, "Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the *remembrance* of his holiness" (also Psalms

97:12 expresses similar thought). Read the entire 103rd Psalm. It is an extended admonition to praise the LORD with thankfulness at the remembrance of all the wonderful things He has done. And in view of all of God's love and grace, in the New Testament sense, how thankful and expressive we should be in our praise! Remember, and praise the Lord!

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BIBLE QUESTIONS

(Random Questions Over the Bible)

1. What kinds of trees did God make to grow in the Garden of Eden?
2. What property did Abraham buy that was used as a family burying place, starting with his wife Sarah?
3. Where is the first time that the expression "the last days" found in the Bible?
4. In special miracles involving water, how many times were waters parted in the Old Testament?
5. What was the initial extent of the Promised Land as originally promised by God to Israel through Moses?
6. On what day after birth were male Israelite babies circumcised?
7. When and where were all the male Israelites circumcised who had not been circumcised during the forty years of wilderness wandering?
8. What does the word "manna" mean, what was its appearance, how much of it were the children of Israel to gather, how did it taste, and how was it prepared?
9. When did the manna cease and no longer was supplied by God to the Israelites in their exodus from Egypt??
10. What country in the Bible is called the land of Ham?
11. Where was the ship headed that Jonah boarded when he fled from the presence of the LORD who told him to go to Ninevah and cry against that great city?
12. In the listing of the twelve disciples in the Scriptures, who is always listed first and who is always listed last?
13. Where was Jesus when he gave the parable of the sower and some other great parables?
14. What did Jarius' daughter and the woman healed of an issue of blood have in common?
15. Under what circumstances in the Bible did a man say, "I see men as trees, walking"?
16. What prompted Jesus to give the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son?
17. What was the name of the servant of the high priest whose ear Peter cut off with a sword (and which ear was it)?
18. What is a saying of Christ taught during his ministry that is not found in the four gospels, but is found elsewhere in the New Testament?
19. What was the name of the winter storm that arose when Paul was being taken prisoner to Rome that climaxed in them being shipwrecked?
20. Who was the apostle Peter's penman in the writing of the epistle of I Peter?

(NOTE: *Answers found elsewhere in this issue of the paper*)

READERS'

...Response

APOLOGY: Please accept our humble apology for slowness in getting correspondence answered. "We" have no staff of secretaries, etc. to handle such, and this is done by the "editor" as time allows. Be it known that you are sincerely appreciated. □

FLORIDA:

■ *"Thank you so much for THE SWORD AND STAFF. May God continue to bless you in your work."*

■ *"...I'm happy you are doing better, and pray you will continue to improve every day. You are needed. So many are now using the pulpit to entertain, not preach the gospel."*

"May God bless you for many more years to work for Him."

■ *"Just a brief note to tell you how much I appreciate your publication, THE SWORD AND STAFF. Not only do you teach the Truth, it's taught in a way that's easily understood. This cannot be said for many publications we receive!"*

"I often use some of your points in my sermons; also, I use some of your articles in the church's bulletin."

"Again, thank you for not being ashamed of God's Word and the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

ALABAMA:

■ *"Enclosed is my check...that I may continue receiving your paper. I have received it for approximately 20 years now and have enjoyed reading it. There have been many items in it which I found helpful."*

"I regret reading in Vol. 34, No. 2 of your recent cancer and surgery. I sincerely hope and pray that you will continue to make a good recovery. Please do update this information in your next issue..."

Editor's Note: Thank you and the many others for your concern. Although it has been bumpy with some side problems that go with the operation, things are looking up. There was more involved than anticipated. My checkup and PSA test of July 30th showed no reoc-

curing trace of cancer (everything was normal). We are thankful, and your prayers are much appreciated.

TENNESSEE:

■ *"I really appreciate THE SWORD AND STAFF and your stand for the truth. Keep up the good work and may God bless you in every way. A small gift is enclosed to help with printing."*

NORTH CAROLINA:

■ *"I look forward to getting your paper. I enjoy reading it. It's been a blessing to me. May God bless you in your work. I pray you have a speedy recovery."*

VIRGINIA:

■ *"Thank you for THE SWORD AND STAFF. It's a pleasure to read. The Bible questions are so helpful."*

"Sorry about your illness, operation and all. Hope you are on the road to a perfect recovery."

"Your work needs to be carried on."

"God bless."

■ *"...I am enclosing a small check—part for your paper and \$5.00 for copy of POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS. You write well and I'm looking forward to reading the poems as well as THE SWORD AND STAFF. I especially liked your 'Upon Reaching the Summit' in your last issue."*

"Since our present Sunday School lessons for this quarter are based on Psalms, your 'Meditations on the 23rd Psalm' article came at just the right time. Your discussion was beautiful!..."

KENTUCKY:

■ *"I am ashamed that I have not responded to your needs earlier. I hope this small bit will help maybe a little. I love your materials and enjoy your 'true views' where the Scriptures speak."*

"May God continue to bless you with good health, a good mind and with that wisdom that is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

OHIO:

■ *"Enjoyed your article on prophecy. Especially the part about a knowledge of secular history..."*

■ *"Seeing as how your theology as reflected consistently throughout your publication neither matches or comes close to the congregational understanding of God's great love and diversity in creation and thought understood by me and the vast majority of the people within First Christian [DISCIPLES OF CHRIST], please cancel the issues being sent our way..."*

MASSACHUSETTS:

■ *"We are thankful the LORD has allowed you to preach the Word on paper. It's a blessing to us and helps to have something to share with others. Thank you. We have volumes 23 & 24 and 25 & 26. Please send two more books to us. We have enclosed our check. Thank you." (Continued on Next Page)*

READERS'...Response

(Continued from Previous Page)

A Much Appreciated Gift from A Reader

WE HAVE recently been blessed most favorably with the gift of a Bible reference library on CD-Rom for the computer. The program is *PC STUDY BIBLE* by Biblesoft. We have downloaded it to our hard drive for even more ease in use. On it are four English translations of the Bible (KJV, NAS, NKJV, and NIV) with Nestle's and UBS's Greek text for the N.T. and the BHS Hebrew text for the O.T. It can be displayed in the interlinear form with the original language, the transliterated English pronunciation, and the English translation appearing together keyed to Strong's number system (with Strong's and Thayer's lexicons one click away with definitions; it has Strong's and Brown-Driver-Brigg's lexicons for the O.T.). As well as a regular English Concordance to the various translations, it has the *Englishman's Concordance* that shows all the ways that a particular Greek word is translated in the KJV. It has *Vine's Expository Dictionary*. It has the *International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*. English Bible dictionaries featured are Nelson's and Unger's. Other references featured are *Matthew Henry's Commentary* (we do not agree with all of his comments, but they stimulate your thought), *Nave's Topical Bible*, and the *Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*. Also there are present day pictures of ruins and places in Bible lands (also Bible lands maps of Bible times and outlines of Bible books for study). These are displayed on your monitor, and most of it can be printed out. The simplicity, ease, and speed of operation is really great. Your studies can be placed on the window's clipboard and printed through your word processor.

Sometime ago we had inquiries about Bible programs for the computer. They have come quite a way from the earlier versions. There are several good programs available, but we thought we would mention this one to you. We sincerely appreciate this gift. For additional information you may call: (630) 665-9207.—J.E.G.

MISSOURI:

■ "Yours is a voice in the wilderness proclaiming the true gospel as the Holy Spirit gave it to the twelve and Paul.

"Jesus still knocks, but our nation doesn't hear. Morally, we have lost our way.

"THE SWORD AND STAFF really makes my day. I love what you are doing and the way that you do it. God bless you, my brother."

KANSAS:

■ "I was deeply grieved to learn of your illness. You have my prayers. Somebody sent THE SWORD AND STAFF to me years ago. I have enjoyed it and learned so much. I have kept the copies...May God be near to keep you in His loving care."

OREGON:

■ "Your paper is uniquely valuable to Christians (and should be so to non-Christians!)..."

■ "Enclosed find my contribution. Please renew my subscription for THE SWORD AND STAFF.

"I like the way you put forth the Word of God.

"Thank you."

CANADA:

■ "Please remove from your mailing list."

PHILIPPINES:

■ "I recently obtained a copy of your publication THE SWORD AND STAFF with an article, 'Sin, Temptation, and How to Overcome,' and I enjoyed it. I can say that your magazine is the best magazine I've ever read; it enhances my faith. It's really a magazine the people need, magazines that bring more spirituality and knowledge about the Scriptures. It's one of the best.

"Well, brother Gibbons, I am writing to see how I might receive it for myself and for my brother..." □



How Remembrance Relates to Religion (Continued from Page 8)

Thankful for Man

In all of his epistles the apostle Paul is not short in memory and being thankful for his fellow Christians. In Philippians 1:3 he declared, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." Read verses 1 through 5. Then in reading II Timothy 1:3-5, we find the same sentiment, "I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day..." The thought continues throughout the several verses that follow. And like the apostle Paul, we have many precious memories involving our brothers and sisters in Christ that should move our hearts in thanksgiving (and prayer for their well-being).

II. HOW OUR REMEMBRANCE IS HELPED

The Keys to Memory

It has been said that *repetition* is the key to memory. However, when you think about it, there are at least two other keys that help us remember, *impression* and *association*. When something makes a profound impression upon us, we never forget it. The impression may have been made by some extraordinary happening or overwhelming emotional experience. It is there to stay. And, as has been stated, repetition has long been recognized as a key to memory. School children have made use of this method trying to memorize poetry. Then association is very basic to memory. If we will associate the new and unlearned with the familiar, it will more easily

be bonded into our memory. So, let us keep these three keys to memory in mind as we consider how remembrance relates to religion.

The Word of God

The Word of God is ever there to remind us of God, our relationship to God, and the resultant responsibilities. That is what it is all about. The Lord Jesus said to his disciples (and apostles to be), "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost [Spirit], whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26). He is talking about the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the New Testament Scriptures. The inspired apostle Peter wrote in II Peter 3:1, "This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance." Paul admonished Timothy, "But



continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them"; then in further retrospect he says, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation

through faith which is in Christ Jesus..." (Cf. II Timothy 3:14-17).

So the Word of God should be faithfully and repetitiously studied so as not to forget God. It cannot be taught and preached too much. The Psalmist said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalms 119:11).

The Lord's Supper

We read in Luke 22, verses 19 and 20, "And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you." This is the record of the institution of the Lord's Supper. Acts 20:7 tells us that the early Christians observed the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week, and hence the first day of every week (for every week has a first day).

The Lord's Supper is a great memorial to the death of Christ, and it prods our memory so that we can never forget the great price paid for our salvation. In it all three keys to memory are at work, *repetition*, *impression* and *association*. By properly

observing the Lord's Supper week after week we never forget (*repetition*). And in coming to the cross of Calvary, having our minds fixed on the suffering of Christ and consequently our sins, it is always an emotional experience (*impression*). The bread and the cup are emblematic of the body and blood of the Savior as our thoughts are drawn to the sinless body of Christ and the blood that takes away all sin (*association*). Properly engaged in, the Lord's Supper is a powerful tool. Yes, Jesus said, "This do in remembrance of me." As we do this until he comes (I Corinthians 11:26), we will never forget.

Experiences of Life

Hebrews 9:27 tells us that "it is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment." Death, sickness, and the hardships of life all remind us of our limitations; that we are mortal. We are but flesh and blood. Adam and Eve sinned. Death and corruption came into the world. Imperfect and sinful man, now driven from the Garden of Eden, would be daily confronted by an imperfect environment. It would ever remind him of his sin and need of a Savior. The same is true today.

III. HOW GOD'S REMEMBRANCE IS ASSURED

**God's Forgetfulness
Assures His Remembrance**

A most interesting section of Scripture is found in Jeremiah 31:31-34, foretelling the coming of the New Testament age. This section closes by saying, "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." Allusion is made to this reference in Hebrews 8:6-13 (and in 10:15-17). Here the writer says, "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more" (8:12). Although God knows everything, He chooses to forget (and no longer know). We have been declared righteous by the blood of Christ when we repented and turned to Him. Then because He has chosen to forget, we will be remembered by Him favorably on that Great Day of Judgment. Even in the Old Testament we are told in Malachi 3:16 that "a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name." This is taught in the New Testament in Revelation 20:12-15 and 21:27. How reassuring to know that we will be remembered by God because he has chosen to forget our sins!

**Our Forgetfulness
Means God Will Remember**

Psalms 9:17 tells us that "the wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." The writer of Hebrews proddingly questions, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salva-

(Continued on Next Page)

How Remembrance Relates to Religion *(Continued from PreviousPage)*

tion; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him?" Forgetfulness and neglect go hand in hand. When there is forgetfulness and neglect on our part, we will not overcome the world. But Revelation 3:5 states, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." Our faithfulness assures God's remembrance in a good way, and our forgetfulness likewise assures God's remembrance (but in an unfavorable way for us).

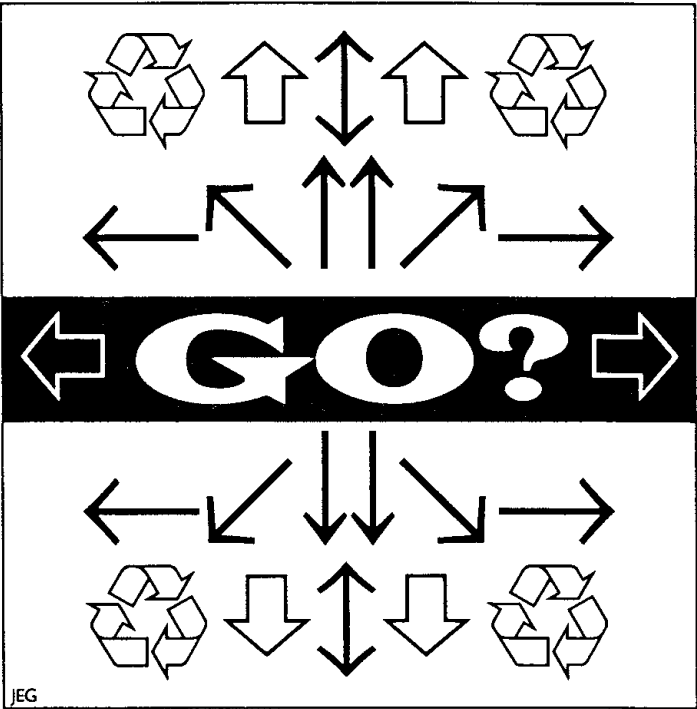
Our Remembrance Assures God's Remembrance

Further elaborating upon our remembrance and faithfulness, and how it assures God's remembrance, notice the following Scriptures. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand, By which also ye are saved, if ye *keep in memory* [hold fast] what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain" (I Corinthians 15:1,2). The writer of Hebrews reassures his readers by saying, "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister" (Hebrews 6:10). The parable of the talents verifies what we are saying. Notice the words spoken to the man who had doubled his talents in Matthew 25:21. "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Yes, our remembrance, and consequent faithfulness, assures God's remembrance.

Conclusion

The writer of Ecclesiastes, as he brings his book to an end, admonishes his readers, "*Remember* now thy Creator in the days of thy youth..." Then he says, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:1,13,14). Remembrance is involved in our present relationship with God and our eternal destiny is at stake. Let us take these admonitions to heart, enhance our memories, and never forget. □

Confused about which way to...

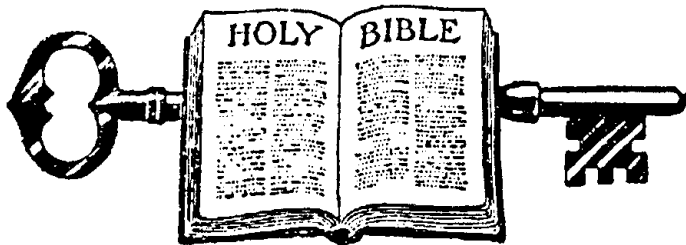


GO BACK TO THE BIBLE AND THE LOCAL
UNDENOMINATIONAL NEW TESTAMENT
CHURCH AND YOU WILL BE RIGHT
ON COURSE

All Prophecy Literally Fulfilled?

HERE IS a real puzzle for those who demand a literal fulfillment of prophecy. If, in studying prophecy, we are to understand all prophecies literally and expect them to be literally fulfilled, consider a comparison of two of the statements of the prophet Isaiah. The first is found in chapter 40 of his prophecy. It reads: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places smooth" (Isaiah 4:3, 4). This says that mountains are going to be made low. A leveling would occur. No more valleys, no more mountains—all will be level and even. But remember Isaiah 2? Read it. In that passage the mountain of the Lord's house was to be established in the top of the mountains and hills. Such would be a complete contradiction if we are to take prophecies literally. How can the mountain of the Lord's house be established in the top of the mountains that are no longer there? That is a puzzle for our friends who so vigorously pursue this absurd notion that all prophecies are to be taken literally and literally fulfilled. —Adapted □

THE THREE KEYS OF MEMORY AND STUDY- ING THE BIBLE



(A Reprint from the Last Decade)

● By **JAMES E. GIBBONS**

THERE ARE THREE KEYS to memory. They are (1) impression, (2) repetition, and (3) association. In other words, these are three basic factors that determine whether we remember anything or not. And, if we wish to remember God's Word when we study it, a consideration of these things will be most helpful.

Impression

Those things that make a profound impression upon us we never forget. If a total stranger came up and punched you in the nose with his fist, needless to say, you would never forget it. And any new thing that is suddenly ushered into the chambers of our mind under the impact of stress and emotion is hard to forget. It will stay there. This writer went through the personal trauma of changing religions years ago when he left denominationalism. The Bible was studied with much heart-searching. Great stress and emotion was experienced, and new truths learned under those circumstances were permanently branded on the conscious and subconscious mind. A practice was made of eagerly underling each new impressive verse that we were exposed to. This proved to be very much like indelibly underling it in one's mind. Those Scriptures and truths learned will never be forgotten.

So, get all excited about studying the Bible. After all, it *is* God's Word! Leaf through it's holy pages with fear and trembling. Search out the Scriptures with much anticipation, prayer, and emotion. Get excited about each new and precious truth that you are exposed to. It will make it a lot easier for you to remember.

Repetition

Repetition has long been recognized as a key to memory. This is the method that is commonly used in memorizing poetry. One says the words over and over until they supposedly stick in the mind and become a part of him. Many things that have been learned and became fixed habits were things that came about by repetition. Purposeful, conscious repetition produces good habits. Chances are that bad habits came about

by thoughtless repetition of useless activities. The reading of the old, old story of the gospel time and time again results in steadfast memory. Repetition by itself can be a sterile activity, but couple it with emotion and memory becomes assured and meaningful. Emotion has an etching effect upon the brain. The Scriptures that this writer read and underlined long ago stand out as the chapters are read from time to time. The fact that they are underlined makes them an emotional experience all over again. If you really wish to remember God's Word, read it over and over. Memory is best accomplished when this is done naturally (not as a forced, artificial activity).

Association

Association is a must in remembering. In association we tie new thoughts in with old ideas. (A teacher that is wise will be conscious of this). The learning process that is solid must have a foundation under it—that is, the familiar. The new has enough of the old mixed with it that it makes remembering the new easy. If you were going to build a house, you simply wouldn't put a "two-by-four" up in the air and expect it to stay there. It must be attached to a part of the building which has been previously constructed. The same is true with learning and memory. From a child most of us know certain things about the Bible. We have built from that to what we know now. The Bible is of such a nature that this can be done easily (i.e., the milk and the meat of the Word). By mentally associating one verse of Scripture with another, and one truth with another, we build our storehouse of Scriptural knowledge. It gets to the place when we think about one well-known verse of Scripture, our mental computer goes into operation, and out comes this information with all other verses on the same subject.

Back to the underlined verses again: that which has been underlined with emotion, and repeatedly engrafted into one's brain by reading time after time, can be used very effectively as a tool for association. You definitely know that verse of Scripture (you can't forget it), so you tie in with it new things you wish to remember. You may increase your New Testament Greek vocabulary this way. Write the word in the margin of your Bible beside the familiar verse (and its English representation). There it is, and you will subconsciously associate it and remember it. And this can be done with others truths besides words.

All of us are cursed with a faulty memory at times. More than once we are commanded to remember God and His teachings. To forget God and His Word is to fall away from God. Inasmuch as remembrance is tied in with faithfulness, it behooves us to have a good memory. Eternity is in the balance. Impression, repetition, and association play a most vital part. □



The **HURRICANE** SEASON is Upon Us

IN THE CARIBBEAN and the southeastern United States the hurricane season is again upon us. At this writing already one such tropical storm has hit coastal Carolina with a destructive punch. Today there is always plenty and ample warning given before the storms come, yet there is always damage and injury. Almost 60 years ago when the U. S. Weather Bureau was in its infancy and no warnings were issued a similar storm on a more colossal scale slammed into the eastern coast of the United States.

To be exact, we are told that on September 21, 1938 a hurricane with intense velocity hit New York and New England. Ordinary hurricanes are bad enough. A fully developed one, we are told, with winds blowing at 75 miles per hour is as powerful as 500 Nagasaki-type atomic bombs and contains more electricity than the entire United States uses in six months. But this particular storm in 1938 was more than churning with winds at over 200 miles per hour. When it came inland it smashed Long Island with a forty foot tidal wave, the impact of which was registered on a seismograph in Sitka, Alaska. At Providence, Rhode Island the entire downtown area was submerged under thirteen feet of water after a 100 foot wave roared up Narragansett Bay. When the skies finally cleared 700 people had been killed, 1,754 injured, and 63,000 left homeless.

Among the striking stories which later came to light involved a man who lived on Long Island. On the morning of the disaster he had received a barometer which he had purchased a few days earlier in a New York store. While unpacking it, he was irritated to see that the needle pointed to the place on the dial which read, "Hurricanes and Tornadoes" (as noted, the U. S. Weather Bureau was in its early days, and no warnings about the storm had been issued). First the man shook the barometer and then he banged it against the wall, but the needle wouldn't budge. Annoyed, he repackaged it and drove to the post office to mail it back to the store where he had bought it. While he was gone, his house was blown away.

Yes, we can ignore the barometer, but we can't stop the storm. The Bible is very plain and clear in telling us—yea, warning us—that the day is coming when the storm of Divine judgment is going to engulf the whole world. John the Baptist spoke of fleeing from the "wrath to come." The apostle Paul pleads with his readers in Romans 2:4-6, "Or de-

spisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds." Notice II Thessalonians 1:7-9.

Know for certain that the Day of Judgment is coming. The Lord said so more than once. Take note: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise [of the coming Day of Judgment], as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9). We have been warned. Take heed! Let us repent, be right with the Lord, and be ready when that Great Day comes! □



BARBS... with a Point

WE NEED to find Christ; not because he is lost, but because we are.

Knowledge without love does not come from above.

So much of what is called "ministries" in modern-day churches is nothing more than exercises in self-indulgences.

We can come to church all that we like but unless we come to Jesus it amounts to nothing.

Sectarianism with the truth is perhaps the worst kind as it deceives those with such an attitude into thinking they are in the truth.

The Lord said to love one another (John 13:34), not to love one and not the other.

It seems senseless to talk about restoring and getting back to the church of the New Testament then bypass that church and set up other organizations besides the church to do the work of the church.

Baptism is not antagonistic to faith, but is an embodiment and expression of it.

In the early church physical fellowship (eating food together, etc., Acts 2:46) came about as a result of spiritual fellowship (Acts 2:41,42,46); in the modern church physical fellowship (eating food, etc.) is used as a substitute for spiritual fellowship or to try to bring it about.

If you present yourself as a painted sex object, don't be surprised if someone takes you up on it.

(Continued on Next Page, Col. 2)

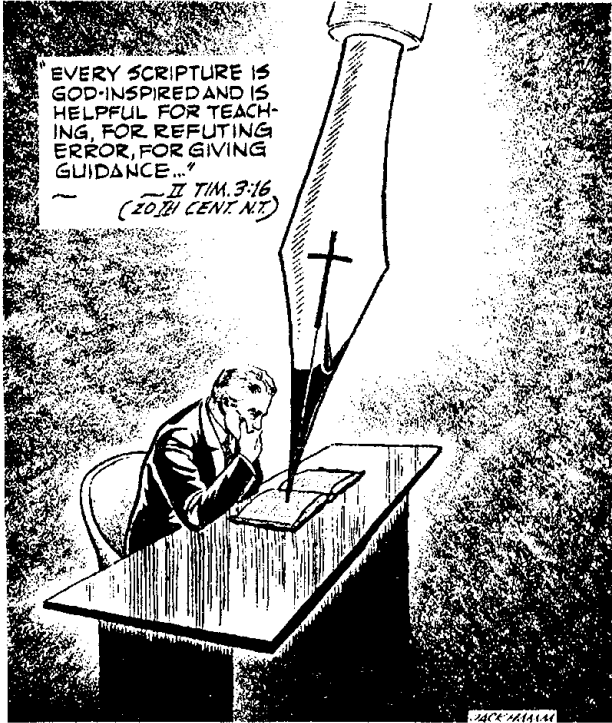
Spiritual Food for Thought

By Andrew Gibbons

DOCTRINE, DOES IT MATTER?

WHAT is doctrine anyway? The American Heritage Dictionary defines doctrine as follows: Something that is thought; a principle or body of principles. A simple definition would be teachings. What does the Bible say about doctrines or teachings?

Divine Authorship



- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Matthew 7:28 | His doctrine (Christ's) |
| (Matthew 22:33; Mark 1:22; 4:2; 11:18; 12:38; Lk. 4:32) | |
| 2. John 7:16 | My doctrine (Christ's) |
| 3. Acts 2:42 | Apostles' doctrine |
| 4. Matthew 16:12 | Doctrine of the Pharisees |
| 5. Revelation 2:14 | Doctrine of Balaam |
| 6. Revelation 2:15 | Doctrine of the Nicolaitans |
| 7. I Timothy 4:1 | Doctrines of demons |
| 8. I Timothy 1:3 | Other doctrine |
| 9. I Timothy 4:6 | Good doctrine |
| 10. I Timothy 1:10 | Contrary to sound doctrine |
| 11. Titus 2:1 | Sound doctrine |

These are just a few of the verses in the Bible related to doctrine. From a quick observation we can see there is good (1-3) and bad (4-7). There is sound and there is unsound doctrine. There is godly and there is ungodly doctrine.

I Timothy 6:3, "If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing."

The line "doctrine does not matter" may sound good on the surface, but is it true? According to the Bible, doctrine does matter and the Scriptures were written that we may have the right form of doctrine (II Tim. 3:16,17). There is only one way to God through Jesus Christ. This way of salvation isn't up to the individual but up to God and His plan has been revealed in His Word.

Romans 6:16-18, "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slave whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin you became slaves of righteousness."

The person who thinks that he can't quit smoking needs to realize there is a place that never quits smoking (Revelation 14:11; Mark 9:43-48)

To live only in the past is to make all accomplishments in your life past tense.

If preaching against sin offends you, there is a question mark about your repentance; if preaching against a particular sin offends you, there is a question mark involving your repentance and that sin.

Let your Bible be your TV guide, and you will find yourself not watching television.

To have a good marriage a person must indeed leave father and mother and cleave to his or her mate (Genesis 2:24), and then be a separate and independent family unit.

If birds of a feather flock together, and you find yourself comfortably in fellowship with compromisers of God's Word, what does that say about you?

People who do not know or practice the good and wholesome fear of God in their lives now will one day be confronted with and experience the terrorizing fear of God in Judgment.

The more that you do for some people the less they appreciate it, and the more they expect you to do.

Like a loose rolling stone, freedom if it is not in the context of purpose and responsibility has no meaning and can't but be harmful to all involved.

A doting, smothering kind of love is not healthy.

Equal Warmth Upon All

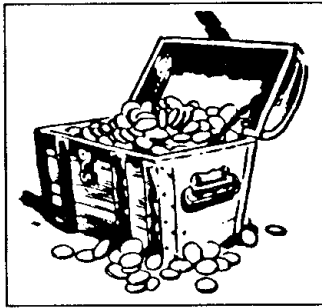
THE SUN by shining with equal effulgence of warmth and radiance upon all loses none of its warmth and radiance, and none are deprived of the fullness of its blessing; likewise, loving all and treating everyone as equal without respect does not diminish the source of love, nor does it diminish the love received by any. In fact, the more we love, the greater our capacity for love becomes.—J.E.G. □

Answers to: BIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Genesis 2:9; 2. Genesis 23; 3. Genesis 49:1; 4. Exodus 14:21-26; Joshua 3:15-17; II Kings 2:8; II Kings 2:14; 5. Deuteronomy 11:22-25; Joshua 1:2-9; 6. Genesis 17:12; Leviticus 12:1-3; Philippians 3:5; 7. Joshua 5:1-9; 8. Manna means, "What is it?" Exodus 16:14-31; 9. Joshua 5:10-12; 10. Psalms 78:51; 105:23,27; 106:21,22; 11. Jonah 1:1-3; 12. Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:14-19; Luke 6:13-16; 13. Matthew 13; Mark 4; 14. Mark 5:25,42; 15. Mark 8:22-26; 16. Luke 15; 17. John 18:10; 18. Acts 20:35; 19. Acts 27; 20. I Peter 5:12. □

The
Sword AND Staff
Treasure

MANY who love the Word of God have discovered Treasure much to their liking when they obtained the bound volumes of *The Sword and Staff*. If you like this current issue, you will likewise be thrilled with the back copies in book form. Notice those still available (while they are still available), and place your order now for good reading. Make them part of your library *and part of your life*. You will be glad that you did.



**When It's Time
to Put It in Reverse**

When things begin to go from bad to worse,
It's time for us to put it in reverse;
It's better then to turn our boat around
Than rowing on ahead to run aground.

Some fools rush on where angels fear to tread;
Fearless, but now they are among the dead;
It's better that we flee temptation strong
Than wait, or hesitate, then do the wrong.

Now let us wisely watch our steps below,
Not rushing on ahead, but going slow;
Our Enemy, who is alive and well,
Would like to make our path a road to hell.

—By James E. Gibbons

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