



The Bible Banner

March 2021

Hearken Diligently

During the Revolutionary War, a loyalist spy appeared at the headquarters of the Hessian commander Colonel Johann Rall, carrying an urgent message. General George Washington and his Continental army had secretly crossed the Delaware River that morning and were advancing on Trenton, New Jersey, where the Hessians were encamped.

The spy was denied an audience with the commander and instead wrote his message on a piece of paper. A porter took the note to the Hessian colonel, but because Rall was involved in a poker game, he stuffed the unread note into his pocket. When the guards at the Hessian camp began firing their muskets in a futile attempt to stop Washington's army, Rall was still playing cards. Without time to organize, the Hessian army was captured. The battle occurred on December 26, 1776, giving the colonists their first major victory of the war.

Likewise many, due to distractions of the world, miss the blessing because they do not "hearken diligently." We must pay attention to God's word always, not just when it seems convenient. *"And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God."* Deuteronomy 28:1, 2

"Hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good..." Isaiah 55:2



RED SALSA

3 large garlic cloves, pressed	1 medium onion
½ cup cilantro [coriander] leaves	1 tsp organic sugar
2 cans (15 oz.) whole tomatoes, drained	1 Tbsp lime juice
Salt, to taste	Pinch of cayenne

Process until lightly chopped, but not until soupy. You may also add a bit of bell pepper or green onions.

If you would like to can this, bring to boil and simmer 10 minutes. Ladle into prepared jars and leave ¼ inch head space. Process 15 minutes in a hot water bath canner (10 minutes in a pressure cooker); this is for pint jars. This recipe makes approx. 3 cups.

PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

CULTIVATE DILIGENCE/THOROUGHNESS — When I was little, my mother used the following method on occasion to encourage me that there is treasure to be found in thoroughness. Every Friday, I was supposed to dust my room in preparation for Sabbath. Of course, it was much easier to dust *around* the objects on my dresser. But this was remedied when pennies, nickels, dimes, and an occasional quarter, were placed under a few of these items. I had to pick them up and dust properly if I were to find them. Although this was only done occasionally, it taught thoroughness in a fun way. And even today, when I am cleaning, I still remember the lesson in thoroughness.

Quotable Quotes

"There must be a divorce between you and sin, or there can be no marriage between you and Christ."

-- Charles Spurgeon

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Hearken to the Voice of Warning

Editor's Note and **Prophetic News Notes**

"Yap, yap, yap" barked the dog, apparently distressed by some unobserved distraction. Presently, the owner told the dog to be quiet -- learning a little too late that reason for the dog's distress was a masked robber that had slipped into the house.

As you might imagine, silencing the warning did nothing to protect the owner or their goods from the evil designs of the burglar. In fact, it did just the opposite. Yet, how many times today, and in the past, men have sought to rid their lives, not of the danger of sin, but instead of the warning voice of the messenger.

Today, this is being played out in America and around the world through 'cancel culture,' which besides silencing certain political ideologies is also silencing health truth and in many cases biblical truth. Last month, we pointed out that the Bible, in Revelation 13:11, warns of a power represented as a *"beast coming up out of the earth" that has "two horns like a lamb" yet speaks "as a dragon."* This is a representation of a professedly Christian nation speaking like *"the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan."* (Revelation 20:2) However, a broader view of this dragon includes paganism and atheism—those who deny Jehovah -- as did Pharaoh of Egypt. Ezekiel 29:3 records the dragon-like totalitarian view of Pharaoh using a river to represent people (Rev. 17:15, Is. 17:12). It states *"Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself."* In Exodus 5:2, we see the atheism of Pharaoh, *"And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go."*

China is now the world's leading/largest atheistic nation and "the rocks" are crying out that even in America *"cancel culture [is] eerily similar to Communist China playbook to control its people."*¹



*"Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) warned that the Communist China-style social credit score system is being imported into the United States in the form of cancel culture."*²

According to the Insider, *"Like private credit scores, a person's social score can move up and down depending on their behavior. The exact methodology is a secret — but*

*examples of infractions include bad driving, smoking in non-smoking zones, buying too many video games and posting fake news online."*³ Basically, everything you do is monitored digitally and you are punished or rewarded for what you buy, what you eat, what you wear (wearing pajamas in public lowers your score), who you talk to, what you talk about, where you go, etc.

*"The Chinese Communist Party (CCP)-backed social credit system seeks to punish alleged transgressions such as supporting Falun Gong —the persecuted meditation group—Uyghurs [a religious ethnic minority], or Tibetans, criticizing the government, late payments, or more. Punishments can include bans on leaving China, using public transportation, checking into hotels, getting hired at certain jobs, or being placed on a public blacklist."*² *They will also throttle your internet, confiscate your pets, or even place you under virtual "house arrest" or in "re-education" camps depending on the severity of your offenses. "Li Xiaolin, a lawyer who was placed on the list in 2015, found himself unable to purchase plane tickets home while on a work trip, Human Rights Watch reported. He also couldn't apply for credit cards."*³

*"China's social credit system is about power and conformity. It's an attempt to shape citizens into the CCP's ideal subject: don't ask questions, disobey or think for yourself...Cancel culture in the U.S. might not be as far advanced as China's social credit system, but it has a similar aim – ensuring conformity to one ideology."*¹

Of course, ultimately, the devil wants an ideology that is opposed to the law of Jehovah. Though it is more digitalized and widespread, the 'cancel culture' of today is nothing new. Hebrews 11:33-38 makes it very clear that, in the past, those who preached truth were often afflicted, ostracized and banished from society, mocked and scourged, made destitute, thrown to lions, burnt, tortured, scourged, thrown in jail, stoned, sawn in half, killed with the sword, etc. These things will continue until the end for Revelation 12:17 says, *"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."*

Sadly, like the owner of the "barking dog," many will find out too late that they have silenced a warning that was for their own good. In Jeremiah 6:17-19 God says, *"Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it."*



God's law is the hedge of protection that keeps us safe from the ultimate masked bandit, the devil. Jesus pleads for us to heed His warning today, for *"As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"* Ezekiel 33:11

1-- <https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/cancel-culture-similar-communist-china-playbook-rep-mark-green>

2-- https://www.theepochtimes.com/sen-hawley-communist-china-style-social-credit-scores-coming-to-us-in-form-of-cancel-culture_3670473.html

3-- <https://www.businessinsider.com/china-social-credit-system-punishments-and-rewards-explained-2018-4#1-banning-you-from-flying-or-getting-the-train-1>



Who Would Have Guessed?

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In the field of medicine, some things should be obviously unnatural and more like a witch's' brew to those who have common sense and others are not. For example, to improve your health, let's say we start with some DNA from a chimpanzee with a runny nose (adenovirus). Next, genetically modify the DNA so when it enters the nucleus of your cell it will make part of another disease (a protein shaped just like the spike protein on the COVID-19 virus). Add some salt, sugar, ethanol and chemicals, and grow it all on some aborted human embryonic kidney cells. Now, pump all of this straight into your blood stream. Voila! We have the AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine for your "health." ¹



OK, so that was kind of obvious. However, other things slip by unsuspected, even by Christians. After all, the Bible tells us that *"the life of the flesh is in the blood:"* Lev. 17:11, so nobody even thought to test the theory of whether blood transfusions are good for your health or not. (In the Bible's defense, the Bible does forbid eating animal blood, so we should wonder whether transfusing human blood poses health risks.—Lev. 17:14, Deut. 12:12, Acts 21:25, etc.)

But you can study all that out for yourself—what we are going to discuss today is that from a scientific perspective blood transfusions are actually not as beneficial to health as they were once thought to be. *"Transfusion is not as safe as people think," says Steven M. Frank, M.D., leader of the study described in the journal Anesthesiology. 'Over the past five years, studies have supported giving less blood than we used to, and our research shows that practitioners have not caught up,' says Frank, an associate professor of anesthesiology and critical care medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. 'Blood conservation is one of the few areas in medicine where outcomes can be improved, risk reduced and costs saved all at the same time. Nothing says it's better to give a patient more blood than is needed.'"*



not good for the patients."

*"While the risks of contracting life-threatening infections, such as HIV, from blood transfusions are well understood, doctors believe the danger posed by the blood itself is more serious."*³

Instead of blood transfusions being used in emergency situations like they were originally, today blood is transfused for multitudinous reasons. In fact, the claim is made that *"about one in seven people entering a hospital need blood."*⁴ In addition, *"There is no shortage of weird ways that people attempt to stay young, including blood transfusions. For upwards of \$12,000, companies perform blood transfusions using plasma from young donors. The claim is that young blood fights aging and certain diseases, like heart disease and Alzheimer's. But now the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warns these claims are both unproven and potentially harmful."*

*"In a statement released February 19, 2019, the FDA says there is no evidence that plasma from young donors cures or prevents age-related conditions like Alzheimer's disease or heart disease. Further, they state that people are risking their health by opting for plasma treatments. 'The reported uses of these products should not be assumed to be safe or effective. We strongly discourage consumers from pursuing this therapy outside of clinical trials under appropriate institutional review board and regulatory oversight,' they write."*⁵

Some studies even suggest “*dangers in blood transfusions between men and women.*”⁶ A study published by JAMA stated that “*Red blood cell transfusions from younger donors and from female donors were statistically significantly associated with increased mortality. These findings suggest that donor characteristics may affect RBC transfusion outcomes.*”⁷

We personally got to witness a very worried nurse slam on the stop button of a blood transfusion after our son (who is now dead, was undergoing state-forced chemotherapy and the 75+ ensuing, not-our-choice-either blood transfusions) reacted with a major, very itchy rash all over his body. Since then, I have learned that side effects to blood transfusions can include: fever, allergic reactions, acute or delayed immune hemolytic reaction (your body attacks the red blood cells and damages the kidneys¹¹), anaphylactic reaction, the potentially fatal transfusion-related acute lung injury (TRALI), bloodborne infections (HIV, West Nile virus, zika virus, hepatitis B and C, etc.), hemochromatosis (iron overload), and the rare, but often fatal, graft-versus-host disease.⁸

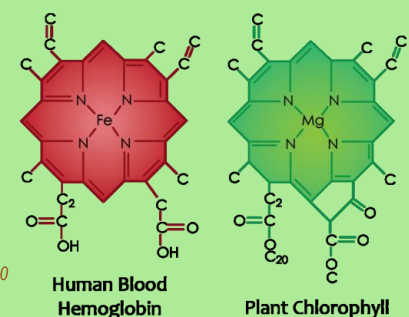
“*Blood transfusion, which introduces a foreign substance “transplant” into the body, initiates a series of complex immune reactions. Patients often develop antibodies to transfused red blood cells making it more difficult to find a match if future transfusions are needed. Transfused blood also has a suppressive effect on the immune system, which increases the risk of infections, including pneumonia and sepsis, he [Steven M. Frank, M.D.] says. Frank also cites a study showing a 42 percent increased risk of cancer recurrence in patients having cancer surgery who received transfusions.*”²

So what is the answer? Obviously, from a scientific perspective, one should avoid blood transfusions where there is any other natural option available. Natural answers begin with the fact that we are “*fearfully and wonderfully made.*” (Ps. 139:14) The spleen is actually the God-ordained blood bank of the human body. “*In humans, up to a cup (240 ml) of red blood cells is held within the spleen and released in cases of hypovolemia [a decrease in blood volume] and hypoxia [low oxygen]. It can store platelets in case of an emergency and also clears old platelets from the circulation. Up to a quarter, or one fourth, of lymphocytes are stored in the spleen at any one time.*”³ This is actually quite a bit of blood when you add the RBC’s, platelets, and lymphocytes together especially when considering that “*A newborn baby has about one cup of blood in his body.*”⁴

The body also has some other amazing ways of “rationing” blood when needed. “*Volume replacement can be accomplished without using whole blood or blood plasma. Various nonblood fluids are effective volume expanders. The simplest is saline (salt) solution, which is both inexpensive and compatible with our blood.... You may ask, though, ‘Why do nonblood replacement fluids work well, since I need red cells to get oxygen throughout my body?’ As mentioned, you have oxygen-carrying reserves. If you lose blood, marvelous compensatory mechanisms start up. Your heart pumps more blood with each beat. Since the lost blood was replaced with a suitable fluid, the now diluted blood flows more easily, even in the small vessels. As a result of chemical changes, more oxygen is released to the tissues. These adaptations are so effective that if only half of your red cells remain, oxygen delivery may be about 75 percent of normal. A patient at rest uses only 25 percent of the oxygen available in his blood.” In fact, “*In extreme cases, patients have survived with a hemoglobin level of about 1/7 the normal (i.e. 2 g/dl), although levels this low are very dangerous.*”⁹*

“*Skilled physicians can help one who has lost blood and so has fewer red cells. Once volume is restored, doctors can administer oxygen at high concentration. This makes more of it available for the body and has often had remarkable results. British doctors used this with a woman who had lost so much blood that “her haemoglobin fell to 1.8 g/dlitre. She was successfully treated . . . [with] high inspired oxygen concentrations and transfusions of large volumes of gelatin solution [Haemacel].” (Anaesthesia, January 1987) The report also says that others with acute blood loss have been successfully treated in hyperbaric oxygen chambers.*”⁹ Note: For those who avoid animal products the colloid gelatin plasma volume expander would need to be replaced with a crystalline volume expander.

As you might expect, God also put another important blood replacing mechanism into effect immediately following the fall, by saying “*thou shalt eat the herb of the field*” Genesis 3:18 Even JAMA admits “*that chlorophyll, the green pigment of the leaves of plants, is similar chemically to the nonprotein portion of hemoglobin. ... As is well known, the fundamental difference between the two pigments is that iron is present in hemoglobin whereas magnesium occurs in chlorophyll. The similarity of the two substances has prompted speculation regarding the possible value of chlorophyll as an agent for promoting blood formation... It has been stated that rabbits rendered anemic by bleeding recover more rapidly if chlorophyll is added to the diet. Somewhat similar results have been obtained by several other investigators in rats and in dogs.*”¹⁰ Personal experience with leafy green juices has proved this one to be true in our family.



Another alternative cited by Medical News Today is growth factors. “*Hematopoietic growth factors are substances that stimulate the bone marrow to increase blood cell production. Growth factors are naturally made in the body, but synthetic versions are also available to treat people with low blood counts. Administering growth factors can increase platelets and red and white blood cells counts. However, it usually takes weeks to increase blood count.*”¹¹ While I cannot recommend pharmaceuticals, I will tell you that hydrotherapy will work as well—several cold mitten frictions and a cold bucket dump will stimulate your body to produce more blood cells too. In fact, so much so that in our experience the effect was so dramatic, that the nurse walked in the next day with the newest blood tests exclaiming, “Did you take Neupogen?”

Coconut water has also been used as another alternative to plasma. ABC Science reports that *“Back in 1942, Dr Pradera in Havana, Cuba, filtered coconut water and injected it into the veins of 12 children, at rates of around one-to-two litres per 24 hours. He reported no adverse reactions .It is also claimed that, during World War Two, both the British in Sri Lanka and the Japanese in Sumatra regularly used coconut water when the standard intravenous fluids ran out....Coconut water is not identical to the plasma. ...Coconut water has about one-fortieth the sodium level of plasma, while the potassium level is about 10-15 times higher....The bottom line is that coconut water is not identical to human plasma. However, in an emergency, coconut water can be used.”*¹²

Though I have not tried it myself, I do find interesting that some people actually mix coconut water and liquid chlorophyll together for a drinkable plant blood transfusion. When *“it costs \$278 dollars to buy a unit of blood from the American Red Cross, for example, and as much as \$1,100 for the nonprofit to acquire, test, store and transport,”*² why not boost your blood with a safer, less expensive option today? For truly, *“the life of the flesh is in the blood...for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”* Leviticus 17:11

- 1-- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-covid-19-vaccine-astazeneca/information-for-uk-recipients-on-covid-19-vaccine-astazeneca>
 2-- https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/media/releases/blood_transfusions_still_overused_and_may_do_more_harm_than_good_in_some_patients
 3-- <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2008/apr/24/medicalresearch.health> 4-- <http://www.givingblood.org/about-blood/blood-facts.aspx>
 5-- <https://www.menshealth.com/health/a26412132/young-blood-transfusions-fda-warning/> 6 <https://newatlas.com/male-female-blood-transfusion-risk/51798/>
 7-- <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/2532790> 8-- www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/blood-transfusion-what-to-know
 9-- <https://www.jw.org/en/library/books/How-Can-Blood-Save-Your-Life/Quality-Alternatives-to-Transfusion> and/or also confirmed by
[https://med.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Anatomy_and_Physiology/Book%3A_Anatomy_and_Physiology_\(Boundless\)/16%3A_Cardiovascular_System_-_Blood/16.6%3A_Transfusions/16.6B%3A_Plasma_and_Blood_Volume_Expanders](https://med.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Anatomy_and_Physiology/Book%3A_Anatomy_and_Physiology_(Boundless)/16%3A_Cardiovascular_System_-_Blood/16.6%3A_Transfusions/16.6B%3A_Plasma_and_Blood_Volume_Expanders) and <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamasurgery/fullarticle/212702>
 10-- <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/1155722> 11- <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/320664#alternatives>
 12-- <http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2014/12/09/4143229.htm> *We do not necessarily endorse all sources referenced

Kids' Corner

God's Amazing Creatures

The Blue Jay is a large, common songbird that lives in North America. Their most common call sounds like “Jay! Jay! Jay!” Blue Jays have a blue crest, but they lower their crests when they are feeding peacefully with family and flock members or tending to their baby birds. Blue jays are known for their intelligence and tight family bonds. The Blue Jay frequently mimics or copies the calls of hawks. This can help other jays by letting them know that a hawk is around. Just like other jays listen carefully to which call the Blue Jay is making, we should listen carefully to what Jesus says to us.



“Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.” Proverbs 8:33



Christian's Mommy told him just how to make a loaf of bread. “Don't get the water too hot!” she said. Christian listened carefully to all her instructions. His loaf of bread rose nicely just like Mommy's. It made him happy. He was glad he had listened carefully to his mother.



Carnal's Mommy also told him just how to make a loaf of bread. “Don't get the water too hot!” she said. But Carnal didn't listen carefully to her instructions. Because he put the yeast in when the water was too hot, his loaf of bread didn't rise. It was hard and flat. Carnal was sad. He wished he had listened carefully to his mother.



SCARRED

An orphaned boy was living with his grandmother when their house caught fire. The grandmother, trying to get upstairs to rescue the boy, perished in the flames. The boy's cries for help were finally answered by a man who climbed an iron drainpipe and came back down with the boy hanging tightly to his neck.

Several weeks later, a public hearing was held to determine who would receive custody of the child. A farmer, a teacher, and the town's wealthiest citizen all gave the reasons they felt they should be chosen to give the boy a home. But as they talked, the lad's eyes remained focused on the floor. Then a stranger walked to the front and slowly took his hands from his pockets, revealing severe scars on them. As the crowd gasped, the boy cried out in recognition. This was the man who had saved his life. His hands had been burned when he climbed the hot pipe. With a leap the boy threw his arms around the man's neck and held on for dear life. The other men silently walked away, leaving the boy and his rescuer alone. Those marred hands had settled the issue.



Jesus hands were also scarred by rescuing you. Come to Him today, and then hold on for dear life.



Study to Shew Thyself Approved

Five Things to which God says to "Hearken Diligently"

In the Hebrew, "*Hearken Diligently*" is simply "*Hear, hear*". Thus, emphasis was given by repetition. (See also Genesis 41:32) In the New Testament, we find Jesus used this same concept following the parable of the sower and particularly the good ground hearer. *"And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."* Mark 4:8,9

In Luke 11:28, the blessing of "*hear, hear*" is essentially expounded as "*hear...and keep*." *"But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."* Indeed, *"The Lord does not repeat things that are of no great consequence."*-- {8MR 413.2}

Those who diligently hearken will follow God's health message which includes keeping both His physical and His moral law. *"And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee."* Exodus 15:26

Those who hearken diligently will physically and spiritually "eat" and labor for that which is healthful and satisfying to the soul—such as Jesus, "the water of life" (Revelation 21:6), the wine/the truth of Christ's spilt blood for us (1 Cor. 11:25), the "sincere milk of the word" (1 Peter 2:2), and Jesus, the "bread of life" (John 6:35). *"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David."* Isaiah 55:1-3

Those who diligently hearken will keep the Sabbath day holy. *"If ye diligently hearken unto me, saith the LORD, to bring in no burden through the gates of this city on the sabbath day, but hallow the sabbath day, to do no work therein;"* Jeremiah 17:24

To hearken diligently to God's way always brings with it a spiritual blessing and often physical blessings too, though for the physical sometimes we have to wait. (Isaiah 40:31; Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11) *"And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God."* Deuteronomy 28:1, 2

For example, those who hearken diligently to God's commandments with all their heart and soul may receive physical rain as needed, or they may have to wait, but they will always receive God's favor which is "as a cloud of the latter rain." *"And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil."* Deuteronomy 11:13, 14

"In the light of the king's countenance is life; and his favour is as a cloud of the latter rain." Proverbs 16:15