



The Bible Banner

October 2020



Lightening the Earth with His Glory

In Burma, the missionary Adoniram Judson, was lying in a foul jail with 32 lbs. of chains on his ankles, his feet bound to a bamboo pole.

Then he was mocked with a sneer, "Dr. Judson, what do you have to say now about the prospect of the conversion of the heathen?"

Judson's instant reply was, "The future is just as bright as the promises of God."

For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. 2 Cor. 1:20

Thin 'n' Crispy Unleavened Pizza Crust



4 cups whole wheat flour (white wheat is best)

1 tsp salt

6 Tbsp oil

2 cups very warm water

Mix all dry ingredients together and add oil.

Add water a little at a time as needed to make a kneadable mass. (The amount of water needed may vary with your flour). Press onto two oiled cookie sheets or 3 pizza pans (or roll onto parchment paper). Prick thoroughly with fork and bake at 350°F until mostly cooked before adding toppings. Remove from oven, add toppings and finish cooking until crisp.

Quotable Quotes

"The moment we glorify ourselves, since there is room for one glory only in the universe, we set ourselves up as rivals to the Most High."

— Charles Spurgeon

PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

Cultivate Bible Knowledge and Witnessing-- Conduct a simulation of witnessing to someone who has never before heard the story of Jesus (the everlasting gospel –Revelation 14:6). Have the participants show from the Bible, without any other aids, texts to prove:

- What must I do to be saved?
- Who is Jesus? (Show His birth, life, death and resurrection from the Bible)
- How do you prove that the Bible is not just a fictitious story?



Faulty Imitation

Editor's Note and Prophetic News Notes



The story is told of a missionary who on one occasion had the bottom of one leg of his pants eaten off by ants. Before he could get to another pair of pants, one of his students, who respected him and imitated everything he did, saw him. Later, that same student showed up with his pants fashioned accordingly, with the bottom of one pant leg missing. While we may laugh at this story, the concept of imitation without thinking for oneself is not really funny at all.

Today, we are seeing the transfer of errors from leaders down to unquestioning people all too often, both in the church and on other levels. Perhaps this is why *"More than half of American adults, including 30% of evangelicals, say Jesus isn't God but most agree He was a great teacher, according to results from the 2020 State of Theology survey."*

"Even though the Bible and traditional teachings of the Christian Church hold that Jesus truly existed as both man and God, among the key findings of the biennial State of Theology survey from Ligonier Ministries conducted with LifeWay Research, is that 52% of American adults believe that Jesus was a great teacher and nothing more...."

"Findings of an earlier Barna study this year also showed that only 51% of Americans consider God to be "all-powerful, all-knowing, perfect and just creator of the universe who still rules the world today." In 1991, 73% of Americans believed that to be true."

Sadly, higher criticism has been doing its work in undermining both the truths of the Bible and faith in Jesus and the promises of God. Recently, our family read this fitting statement in our devotional book,

"Satan is a cunning worker, and he will bring in subtle fallacies to darken and confuse the mind and root out the doctrines of salvation. Those who do not accept the Word of God just as it reads, will be snared in his trap." {Mar 156.4} In another place, the same author explains what this means, *"Let the Bible explain its own statements. Accept it just as it reads, without twisting the words to suit human ideas." {LLM 55.1}*



What we see in the world today is the result of twisting words to suit human ideas. Isaiah states well, *"Judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter."* Isaiah 59:14 Whether it be hospital employees in China who are aborting and killing even full-term babies that are born in excess of China's mandating family limits² or police in the United States who arrest and haul off to jail 3 in a crowd of peaceful protestors, whose only crime is singing Amazing Grace maskless in front of city hall.³ At the same time looting, violent rioters are allowed to go free. Men seem to have lost the ability to think for themselves and follow a "Thus saith the Lord" above the commands of men. Again, Isaiah's words ring true, *"For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed."* Isaiah 9:16 *"As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths."* Isaiah 3:12

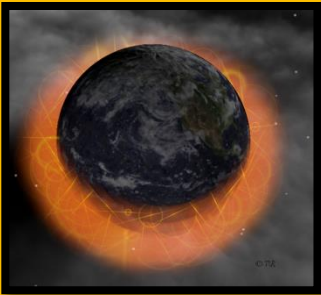
How can we train our children aright when around the world, adults are not even rationally thinking for themselves? *"It is the work of true education ... to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought... let students be directed to the sources of truth, to the vast fields opened for research in nature and revelation. ... Instead of educated weaklings, institutions of learning may send forth men strong to think and to act, men who are masters and not slaves of circumstances, men who possess breadth of mind, clearness of thought, and the courage of their convictions." (Education, page 17, 18)*

Like the midwives in Egypt, when the order went forth to throw all the baby boys into the river, we should follow God instead of following orders that undermine God's law. For it is written, *"But the midwives feared God, and did NOT as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive... Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses."* Exodus 1:17, 20, 21

So what does all this have to do with lightening the earth with God's glory? God's glory is to be revealed in us when we reflect, not man's thoughts, but Christ's character as revealed in His law. *"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."* Romans 8:18

How do we do this? By believing God's word enough to stake our lives on it. *"He [Abraham] staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;"* Romans 4:20

When we behold Jesus, by taking the Bible just as it reads, and truly believing God's promises, it will change our characters into His likeness. *"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."* 2 Peter 1:4



In Revelation 18, the message that lightens the earth with God's glory is connected with a message to *"Come out of her [Babylonian confusion and teaching for doctrine the commandments of men], my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."* (Rev. 18:4 and referencing 18:1-4) God's crowning sin-virus protection plan for man to *"Fear God and give glory to him."* (Rev. 14:6,7)

How do we give genuine glory to God and come out of Babylon? *"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* John 8:32 What does the Bible define as truth? *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."* John 17:17 *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* John 14:6 The truth as it is in Jesus is the only way out of Babylon. Our job is to please God, not man. *"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."* Galatians 1:10

Is your life just a faulty imitation of other men or are you letting God's glory, His character, as revealed in His Word, shine through you?

1-- <https://www.christianpost.com/news/more-than-half-of-us-adults-30-of-evangelicals-believe-jesus-isnt-god-study.html>

2-- <https://www.christianpost.com/news/xinjiang-hospitals-forced-to-abort-kill-newborn-babies-born-outside-family-limits.html>

3-- <https://churchleaders.com/news/382775-doug-wilson-arrest-psalm-sing.html>

Kids' Corner

The House that Glowed



It was winter, and poor little Johann, driven out of his home by an angry and brutal stepfather, was trudging wearily through the snow.

His coat was ragged, and wet with melted snow. His shoes were worn and split at the seams, so that his feet were numb with cold. His quaint cap, pulled well down over his ears and forehead, had a gaping tear that let in the biting wind.

Night was falling, and the gathering darkness found the homeless little boy still plodding on his sad and lonely way. "If only I could find some shelter, some place where I could get warm, and the wind would not chill me so," he thought to himself. "If only someone would give me some food to eat, and something warm to drink!"

Coming to the edge of the forest, he caught sight of a little village nestling in the valley below, with several fine, large houses dotting the hillside all around. Lights were already twinkling in the windows, while the smoke from many chimneys, curling upward, blended with the murky sky. A great hope sprang up in little Johann's heart. Here at last, among so many lovely homes, he would find someone to care for him. He walked more quickly, so sure he was that his troubles were almost over.

Soon he came to the entrance of a fine, big mansion. There were many lights in the windows and a very bright one over the front door. Surely, he thought, people who could live in such a house must have lots of money and would be only too pleased to help a poor, hungry little boy. Very bravely, he walked up to the front door, and, by standing on tiptoe, managed to catch hold of the handle of the bell. He pulled it hard, and there was such a noise inside that it frightened him. But he was more frightened when the great oak door was thrown back and a big man dressed in the finest clothes looked out at him.

"Did you ring that bell?" asked the haughty butler, frowning.

"Y-y-y-es" stammered Johann, "I-I-I'm very cold and hungry, and I thought you—"

"This is a holiday," snapped the butler, "and the house is full of guests. I'm sorry, but we haven't time to bother with the likes of you just now. Good night." And the door was shut.

"Oh!" said Johann to himself, "I never thought anyone would do that. But perhaps they are too busy here. I must try somewhere else."

So he walked on down into the village itself, passing by the other big mansions for fear the people inside might also be too busy to care about hungry little boys tonight.

From the first house he reached there came sounds of music, and laughter, and feeling sure that there must be very friendly people living there, he knocked gently on the door. But there was so much noise inside that he had to knock again and again, each time louder than before. At last the door swung open and a young man wearing a funny paper cap looked out.



"Excuse me," said Johann, but I wondered if you could—"

"Sorry," cried the merry young man, "we're having a party in here, and we can't stop now."

"But please, please!" pleaded Johann.

"Sorry; good night!" cried the young man. And bang! The door was shut.

Terribly disappointed, Johann went next door, but the people there were making so much noise that they didn't even hear him at all, loud as he knocked.

At the next house a crabby old gentleman merely told him to run home and not bother the neighbors. Run home indeed!

At another house he was told to call again another day. They would help him then, perhaps, the people said. But he needed help now! So, going from house to house through the entire village, he sought shelter and food, and found none.

Almost hopeless and heartbroken he trudged out into the night, leaving the twinkling lights behind him. He felt he could lie down and die in the road, he was so tired, so hungry, so discouraged. Just then he happened to look up and found himself passing a tiny, tumbledown old cottage, so dark and dismal that he probably wouldn't have seen it at all but for the white carpet of snow on the ground showing it up. A blind covered the one window, but faint streaks of light gleamed from under the door and through the cracks in the woodwork.

Johann stood still and wondered what he should do. Should he knock here? What would be the use? Surely if the people who lived in all the big houses—who had money for lovely parties and things—couldn't afford to help a poor boy, how could the folk in a house like this? No, it was of no use. Better not bother them. Better go on and die in the woods.

Then he thought again. He had knocked at so many houses; there could be no harm in trying one more. So he turned up the snow-covered garden path and tapped gently on the door.

A moment later the door opened cautiously, and an elderly woman peered out. "What---Whatever are you doing out there in the cold tonight?" she exclaimed.

"Please—" began Johann.

But before he could say another word she had flung the door wide open and dragged him inside.

"You poor child," she exclaimed. "you look so cold and hungry. Half starved, or I'm mistaken. And wet through. Let's get those things off as once. Wait a moment while I stir up the fire and put the kettle on."

Johann looked about him and saw the little one roomed cottage was as bare as could be, without even a carpet on the floor. The light he had seen though the crack came from one lone candle set on the mantel piece. But he hadn't time to see much else, for the kind woman was soon stripping off his wet rags, wrapping him in a blanket and setting him up at the table before a bowl of steaming soup.

Then she went back to stir the pot on the stove. As she did so she suddenly noticed something and looked up. Was it a dream, or were her eyes deceiving her? The candlelight had given place to a warm and lovely glow that seemed to be getting brighter every minute, filling every corner of the cottage with a heavenly radiance. Every drab piece of furniture seemed to be shining and glistening like burnished gold as when God filled the temple with His glory.

And the rich man, looking down from his mansion on the hill, suddenly exclaimed, "There's a strange light in the valley. Look! Widow Greatheart's cottage is on fire!"

The news spread from house to house, and soon all the merry parties were abandoned as the people, wrapping themselves up in their coats and shawls, rushed out to see what was the matter.

They saw the light, too, and running toward the widow's cottage, beheld the poor tumbledown old building glowing like an alabaster bowl. Peering inside, all they could see was the dear old woman caring for the very same little boy who had called that night at all their homes.

Then, as the light faded, they knocked on the door to ask anxiously what could have happened.

"I really do not know," said Widow Greatheart, with a smile of wondrous joy and satisfaction on her face. "I just seemed to hear a voice saying to me, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My children, ye have done it unto Me.'"



(Adapted from an old [Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories](#), Volume 15, pg. 7-11)

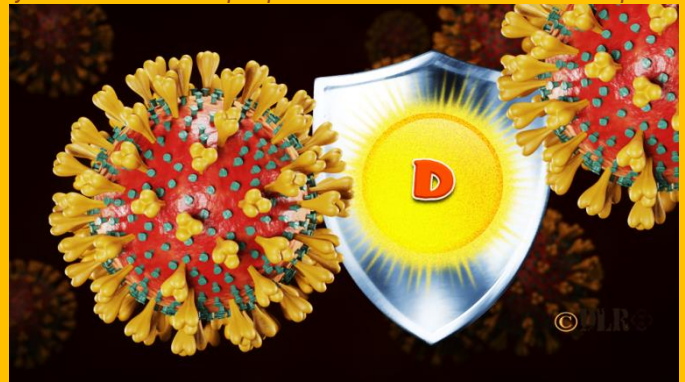


Vitamin Sunshine

For good reason, Vitamin D is sometimes called the sunshine vitamin. Now, “There’s new evidence that getting enough vitamin D provides significant support in protecting hospitalized individuals infected with Covid-19 from adverse outcomes.

“Researchers at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) analyzed data from 235 people who were admitted to the hospital with Covid-19. They found that **patients older than 40 years old were 51.5 percent less likely to die from the infection if they had a sufficient level of Vitamin D**, which they define as being at least 30 ng/mL.”¹

Indeed, “Vigor declines as years advance, leaving less vitality with which to resist unhealthful influences; hence the greater necessity for the aged to have plenty of sunlight, and fresh, pure air.”² With the link to vitamin D deficiency or lack of sunshine it also then is no surprise that “about 40% of US coronavirus deaths are linked to nursing homes”³ where undoubtedly many patients get little or no sunshine at all.



Sunshine’s effect on immune health includes that fact that it “increases the number of white blood cells in the blood and stimulates their ability to destroy both germs and cancer cells.” It also “Increases gamma globulin—a protein that helps the body fight infection.”⁴

“Dr. Michael F. Holick, lead author of the study and professor of medicine, physiology and biophysics, and molecular medicine at BUSM, says, ‘This study provides direct evidence that vitamin D sufficiency can reduce the complications, including the cytokine storm (release of too many proteins into the blood too quickly) and ultimately death from Covid-19’.”¹

“Holick also noted in another study, vitamin D not only provides better outcomes for those hospitalized with COVID-19, he also reported it can help patients avoid COVID-19 infection altogether – as **the risk of catching the virus is reduced by 54% for those with adequate vitamin D levels** – per the report.”⁵

Just another proof of the accuracy of sunshine’s biblical parallel, “But unto you that fear my name shall the **Sun** of righteousness arise **with healing** in his wings...” Malachi 4:2

1– <https://www.forbes.com/sites/mariamilling/2020/09/26/adequate-vitamin-d-levels-cuts-risk-of-dying-from-covid-19-in-half-study-finds/#5de211935285>

2– {Ministry of Healing, pg. 275.4} 3– <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-nursing-homes.html#:~:text=About%2040%25%20of%20U.S.%20Coronavirus%20Deaths%20Are%20Linked%20to%20Nursing%20Homes,-By%20The%20New&text=A%20least%2077%20of%20residents%20and,a%20New%20York%20Times%20database.>

4– <https://www.newsmax.com/us/vitamin-d-immune-system-health/2020/09/27/id/989071/> 5– <https://www.newsmax.com/us/vitamin-d-immune-system-health/2020/09/27/id/989071/>

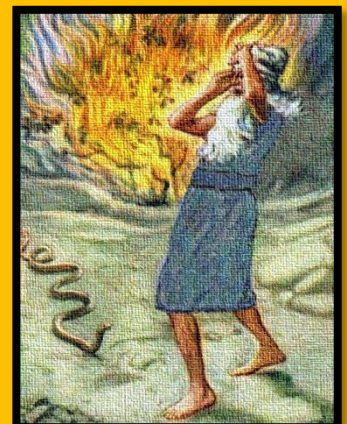


Study to Show Thyself Approved— Last Day Lessons from the Exodus

Use what God has put in your hands --- Exodus 4:1,2 “And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee. And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod.”

Obey God even when it’s hard -- Exodus 4:3,4 “And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:”

God can work through even those who are slow of speech – Exodus 4:10-12 “And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man’s mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.”

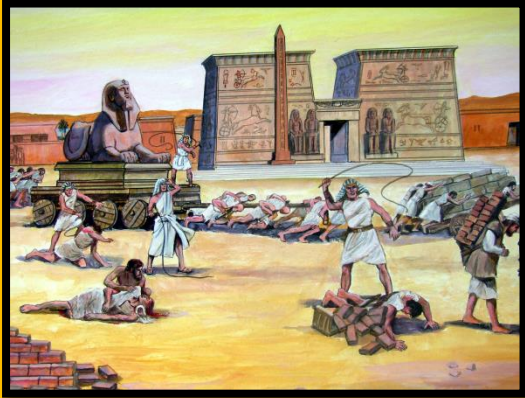


Pharaoh, the dragon, represents Satan, the dragon, and those who follow him – Ezekiel 29:3 “Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself.”

Revelation 12:7,9,17 “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels... And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him... 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.”

God's chosen people will be up against those who will not even acknowledge Jehovah -- Exodus 5:1,2 And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness. 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.

Things will get worse before they get better-- Exodus 5:5-9, 19-23 “And Pharaoh said, Behold, the people of the land now are many, and ye make them rest from their burdens. And Pharaoh commanded the same day the taskmasters of the people, and their officers, saying, Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw for themselves. And the tale of the bricks, which they did make heretofore, ye shall lay upon them; ye shall not diminish ought thereof: for they be idle; therefore they cry, saying, Let us go and sacrifice to our God. Let there more work be laid upon the men, that they may labour therein; and let them not regard vain words.... And the officers of the children of Israel did see that they were in evil case, after it was said, Ye shall not minish ought from your bricks of your daily task.

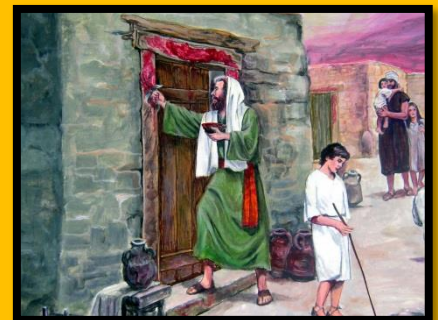


“And they met Moses and Aaron, who stood in the way, as they came forth from Pharaoh: And they said unto them, The LORD look upon you, and judge; because ye have made our savour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.

And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Lord, wherefore hast thou so evil entreated this people? why is it that thou hast sent me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in thy name, he hath done evil to this people; neither hast thou delivered thy people at all.”

Never trust the bad guys, they are liars -- Exodus 8:8,15 “Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, Intreat the LORD, that he may take away the frogs from me, and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may do sacrifice unto the LORD... But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.” (This is often repeated. Exodus 9:27-35)

Those who are covered by the Blood of the Lamb (Jesus) will be protected from God's judgments. Exodus 8:22 “And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth.” Exodus 9:26 “Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, was there no hail.” Exodus 12:21-23 “Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover. And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.” “As the Israelites kept their children within their houses during the time when the judgments of God were in the land of Egypt, so in this time of peril we are to keep our children separate and distinct from the world.” {Child Guidance, pg. 304.3}



Though it tarries long, the Rescue is coming! Exodus 12:41 “And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.”

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

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