

The CHRISTIAN SHEPHERD

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

Editorial

Mathematics

As a high school student I never did very well in mathematics (algebra or geometry). For me, taking advanced courses in these disciplines or others such as calculus was not a path I was able to follow. Yet, in grade school, simple arithmetic —addition, subtraction, multiplication and division were easy and fun. It was not hard for me to understand these four basic mathematical functions.

It is wonderful to see how often our blessed God uses these same *simple* mathematics to help man understand His love and will (by warnings, comforts, corrections, guidance, salvation, and many more). Here are just a very few examples of Biblical math—there are many, many more for us to find and enjoy.

“Add”

Encouragement: *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be **added** unto you”* (Matt.6:33).

Warning: *“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall **add** unto these things, God shall **add** unto him the plagues that are written in this book”* (Rev.22:18).

Exhortation: *“...beside this, giving all diligence, **add** to your faith virtue...”* (2 Pet.1:5).

“Take Away” (Subtract)

Wisdom: *“**Take away** the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer. **Take away** the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness”* (Prov. 25:4,5).

Truth: *“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should **take away** sins”* (Heb 10:4).

Assurance: *“And ye know that he was manifested to **take away** our sins; and in him is no sin”* (1Jn. 3:5).

“Multiply”

Praise: *“Thou, O Jehovah my God, hast **multiplied** thy marvellous works, and thy thoughts toward us: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee; would I declare and speak them, they are more than can be numbered”* (Psa. 40:5, JND Trans).

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Blessing: *“But the Word of God grew and **multiplied**”* (Acts 12:24).

Comfort: *“Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be **multiplied**”* (Jude v2).

“Divide”

Divine Power: *“And God saw the light, that it was good: and God **divided** the light from the darkness”* (Gen. 1:4).

Divine Truth: *“For the word of God is quick [living], and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the **dividing** asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”* (Heb. 4:12).

Divine Admonition: *“And if a house be **divided** against itself, that house cannot stand”* (Mr. 3:25).



Teach the Children Well

“His [Jesus] parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover...when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast...after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions” (Luke 2:41,42, 46).

I am so thankful that when I was just a boy my mom saw to it that I was exposed to, studied and memorized the Scriptures. She made sure I went to church and was with men and women who loved God and lived to please to Him. That continues to bless and bear fruit in my life to this day.

Dear Joseph and Mary were purposeful, faithful and consistent in raising Jesus. Every year they went to the feast in Jerusalem. Please carefully read the whole account in Luke 2:41-52 which is so instructive for parents.

Purposefulness, faithfulness and consistency is what our children and grandchildren need to see in us. Do we show them by example that we value the things of God, the Word of God, and being with other *Christ followers* on a regular basis? Do they see and hear us praying, trusting God while praising and obeying Him?

Dear Christian friend, we are living in very dark times—days of great uncertainty and often unexpected loss. We often hear of the economic woes our children will be faced with, *but what about the moral and spiritual woes that are already drenching our society?* Will our precious children be spiritually equipped to deal with those? Are they being equipped to face each day at school? Christian parents, responsible to prepare their little ones, already have what they need—the unerring Word of God. Let us, however, be very sure that they also have a Godly example from our lives to help light their way.

“These words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up” (Deut. 6:6-7).

Let’s pray for our blessed God and loving Father’s help and wisdom to **teach our children well**, showing them by example that Christ is first in our own lives. “Train up a child in the way he should go...when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6).

adapted from “Lifelines”, F. P. □

Under Attack: ‘Family’ Meditations

— Parenting Principles from Philippians —

Chapter 3: Christ, our Reward for Living Admonishing, Repeating, and Reminding Warnings Always. Explanations...Sometimes!

v 2, 3 “Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”

Having gained the ear of children, parents have a wonderful opportunity to *warn* as well as *remind* them of the reasons for their instructions. While children’s obedience to parents never *depends* on giving reasons for obeying, there are times—such as Paul uses here with the Philippians—when *reminders* and *reasons* are important. He tells them to *beware* and then he explains *why*. When Jehovah commanded obedience from His people, the *reasons* and *consequences* are often given to them—but *not always*.

We see the proper *moral order* of this illustrated in the life of Joseph in Genesis 37:13, 14. “And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I. And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again”

When Jacob requires obedience of Joseph, he gives no reason ‘why’, nor does Joseph request one. Their communications with each other are beautiful and simple—“*come and I will send thee*”—“*Here am I*”. After Joseph’s unquestioned submission to his father’s request, Jacob *explains* why he made the request.

These principles are also seen when God commands Abraham to offer up his Isaac. Not one word of explanation does God give (or does Abraham require). Afterwards, when Abraham has fully submitted, having been restrained from sacrificing Isaac, God *then* explains why He had commanded Abraham and what blessings his obedience would bring.

Ephesians 6:1-3 (JND) presents this in Divine clarity. “*Children, obey your parents in the Lord*”. Unquestioned obedience is required. “*For this is just*”—after the commandment the reason for it is given (‘*just*’—what is right before God). “*Honour thy father and thy mother, which is the first commandment with a promise, that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest be long-lived on the earth.*”—the happy results of obedience are also presented after the responsibility of obedience is commanded.

An Infinitely Better Prize

v 7, 8 *“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,”*

Though Paul had much to glory in as a Jew, he had learned that Christ was not only the *object* and *pattern* for his life, but the supreme *prize* to be gained in life. All that might naturally be valued in this life, was to him worthless in comparison to the incomparable Christ. It is good for children to learn early that nothing in life is equal to Christ. But remember it is *children* that are learning that lesson and learning this critically important lesson will take time, even as it did with Paul (and with those who are parents). *“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child. . .”* (1Cor. 13:11).

Children will best learn that nothing can serve as a substitute for the Lord Jesus, if they see that nothing displaces Him in their parent’s life. *“That we henceforth be no more children, . . . But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:”* (Eph. 4:14, 15).

(to be continued) ◻

True Service

“To what purpose is this waste? For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor. When Jesus understood it, He said unto them, why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon Me” (Matt. 26:8-10).

A man may pursue a quiet, humble, lowly path of service, unknown and unnoticed. His name may never be heard, his work may never be thought of; what has been done, has been done in simple love to Christ. He has worked in obscurity, his eye on his Master. The smile of his Lord is enough for him. He has not sought man’s approval nor has he tried to catch his smile or shun his frown. He has pursued the even tenor of his way, simply looking to Christ, and acting for Him.

This man’s work will stand. It will be remembered and rewarded, though he did not do it for remembrance or reward, but from simple love to Jesus. It is work of the right character—the genuine coin which will abide the fire of the *day of the Lord*.

Gems From My Reading, N.H. ◻

The God of Jacob

“The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge” (Psalm 46:7,11).

“The God of Jacob”. Why not *“the God of Israel”* here as found in many other passages of the Bible? *“The Lord of hosts”* gives us the sense of His power; *“the God of Jacob”* tells us the kind of people He shows mercy to, and the omnipotence of that mercy. None but God could have gone on with Jacob, and at the last brought him to worship as, in the weakness of death, he leaned upon his staff.

“The God of Jacob.” How it appeals to us, for is there not something of Jacob in each of us? Scheming, plotting, covetous man! As Jacob, there is nothing, absolutely nothing, to commend him. He took advantage of his brother's dire need to deprive him of his birthright. He deceived his blind old father to secure it. His aftercourse was marked by intrigue and weakness. And yet the psalmist at a later date could write, *“The God of Jacob is our refuge.”*

Was it that God condoned Jacob's plotting and wickedness? Far be the thought. And if we find, even as Christians, the tendency to evil within and constant failure that only our God knows, is it that He can go on with sin? We may be outwardly irreproachable in conduct; but how many, nay, all of us, mourn over our weakness and inconsistency? How, then, can God be the God of Jacob—our God?

Is it not that He breaks down the Jacob in us? Do we not all halt upon our thighs more or less? Step by step God weakened Jacob till at length, in the very weakness of death, he could, leaning on his staff, worship. And so *“The God of Jacob”* deals with us.

May we trust *“The Lord of hosts”* more - may we submit to the way of *“the God of Jacob”* with us, and blessing will result. What a God is ours! How perfect are His ways! *adapted, A.J.P.* ◻

Bold Faith

Faith is never too bold to please Him. In the days of His flesh He often rebuked the reserves and suspicions of little faith, but never the strength and decision of faith that aimed as at everything and would not go without a blessing. *J.G.B.* ◻

Answers to Prayer

There is something even more blessed than that God has given us an answer to prayer. That is that we get ahold of God rather than ahold of the answer. ◻

“And He Loved Her:” Musings on Marriage

“He that is slow to anger is of great understanding; but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly” (Prov. 14:29 JND Trans.).

“A soft answer turneth away fury; but a grievous word stirreth up anger” (Prov 15:1, JND Trans.).

“Gentleness of tongue is a tree of life; but crookedness therein is a breaking of the spirit” (Prov. 15:4, JND Trans.).

We often read of Elijah in the mount and God’s tender dealings with his failing servant. “And He said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before Jehovah...Jehovah passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks before Jehovah: Jehovah was not in the wind. And after the wind, an earthquake: Jehovah was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake, a fire: Jehovah was not in the fire. And after the fire, a soft gentle voice” (1 Kngs 19:11,12, JND Trans.).

There are times in most all marriages when husband and wife may react to each other with a hasty spirit—with unkind, angry words. In circumstances where a soft answer and a gentle tongue would produce peace, healing and joy, a hasty, angry spirit is sure to bring sadness and breach between spouses.

How wonderfully this is illustrated with Elijah in the mount with God. God’s infinite power exhibited in the mighty wind, earthquake and fire might be deserved by His people’s disobedience (Elijah thought so!), but in divine grace the Lord shows Elijah the only spirit acceptable to Him in dealing with His beloved yet erring people—a soft, gentle voice. It is this character of communication and spirit between husband and wife that results in drawing them back together when some thoughtless, mistaken, or wrong act or word has caused a sad breach.

We see a similar thing with dear Jacob and Rachel. “Rachel...bare Jacob no children...and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die...Jacob’s anger was kindled against Rachel...” (Gen. 30:1,2). How demanding and selfish are the words “give me...or else”. Worse yet the response of anger. What happiness and comfort would have resulted in their marriage had a soft answer been given to a demanding spirit. What joy and confidence would have resulted if Jacob had returned a gentle, loving and soft response to Rachel’s chaffed, inconsiderate spirit and demand. Marriages characterized by a soft gentle voice and spirit are lasting, joyful marriages.

□

Seven Overcomers

Part 7: Laodicea (Rev.3:14-22)

The Last Testimony—No Testimony at All

The moral order of the seven churches gives a complete picture of the Lord’s appraisal of the Christian testimony and this last church leads to the throne of judgment seen in Rev. 4:2, and the judgments themselves from chapter 6 on. **Thyatira** represents the dark ages and the current Roman Catholic system while **Sardis** speaks of the Protestant movement after the reformation which quickly degenerated into empty profession, having a Name but no life. In both of these churches, however, there still were those who had not defiled their garments.

The last two churches there is a very strong line of demarcation. **Philadelphia** a bright picture though they were weak. They depended on Christ the Lord who had opened the door assured He would keep it so until the Rapture when He comes for His own.

Laodicea represents the pretentious religionists who claim to be the people of God but have no care for Christ. Here we do not see the corruption and idolatry of Thyatira, or the hopeless deadness of Sardis, but we see that which is even more offensive to Christ: His Name is turned into a means of self-exaltation instead of being the Object of love.

There are abundant works and much activity in His Name, but heartless, cold indifference to His precious Person and His Word. It is against this terrible, nauseous state that Christ sends His sternest denunciations. These are self-satisfied professors who lack the very essence of spiritual life. It is not hard to see the elements of apostasy at work and which will be fully developed when the true Church is called [raptured] home.

The Lord’s Warning

To this seventh and last church the Lord presents Himself as; “And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God” (v.14; 14 JND Trans.).

Here we have what Jesus is in Himself, though not in the character of One available for the church in holiness and truth, as He is in Philadelphia.

In Laodicea we see that which professes the Name of Christ in the world but which has the spirit of modern or liberal theology—A theology which denies the most fundamental doctrines of Scripture, while questioning the inspiration of Scripture.

The Laodicean spirit substitutes a social gospel for

the true gospel of the grace of God. The social gospel attempts to improve the world rather than seeking to impress lost souls with their great need of *repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ*.

It is to Laodicea that the Lord Jesus presents Himself as “*the faithful and true witness*” for though the Church has failed as God’s witness on earth, Christ still abides as the unchanging faithful and true Witness. He is also “*the beginning of the creation of God*,”—the Head of the new creation.

How sad that Laodicea did not see, value, and love this *faithful and true Witness*. Instead, they are content with their miserable condition which bears nothing at all as to a true testimony for God. They were so full of themselves, so satisfied with their nauseous lukewarm condition to Christ, that they are unable to comprehend what they have really become.

**“Wretched and Miserable, and Poor,
and Blind, and Naked”**

In **vv.15-18** we have Christ’s solemn description of the Church in its closing days. Neither cold nor hot [toward Christ] but thinking they are rich and increased with goods, needing nothing. They are blind to the reality of their wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked condition! This condition is so nauseous to the Lord Jesus that He must spue them out of His mouth. Yet, in divine love and grace, until the church is spued out He does not cease to counsel it.

The Lord’s Counsel

“*I counsel thee to buy,*” (this because it is always a question of the responsibility of the churches) *of me gold tried in the fire* (God’s righteousness, divine purity—Psa. 12:6) *and white raiment* (the practical righteousnesses of saints—Rev. 19:8, *JND Trans.*) *and eye-salve* (spiritual discernment that they might see their true spiritual condition). How very much they needed to be “*in Christ Jesus, who is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption*” (1 Cor. 1:30).

“*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? Harken 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...*” (Isa. 55:1,2).

“*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is*

eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).

Faithfulness to Christ in Dark Times

Amidst this sad state the Lord has some who are truly His own. He calls on them to be earnest in repentance for “*as many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent.*” (vs. 19) Note that the church as a whole is not called to repent because collectively it is spued out of His mouth.

Next comes the sad picture of Christ, shut out of the church, knocking at the door, calling individuals to hear His voice and to open the door. This is not opening the door for salvation but rather the door for sweet communion with the Lord. This precious invitation is made to *any* who have eternal life, so that He can come in and commune with them.

It is a rich blessing beloved—to have sweet communion with the Lord Jesus, to have Him dwell in one’s heart by faith in the closest kind of fellowship. “*I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*” (vs. 20) This blessing is so suited to the needs of these dear believers who tended to lukewarm in heart amidst the influence Laodicean heartless indifference to Christ the Lord.

The Overcomer

What distinguishes the *overcomer* is that like his Saviour, Jesus Christ, he too has overcome (though not in the same perfect measure as Christ overcame). The *overcomer* has true heart love for Christ—in Laodicea and the present day of apostasy and ruin.

“*To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne*” (v.21). Here the faithful one, making no boast of spiritual wealth nor seeking any public recognition, content with the joy of secret communion with Christ, enters into the *joy of his Lord*. There he shares Christ’s throne in the coming day of the public display of His glory.

The time is short! Those refuse to accept the Lord Jesus as personal Saviour will soon, solemnly, find the door of heaven shut against them forever (see Matthew 25:1-13).

In these closing days of the Christian period, the path of faith is indeed growing exceedingly difficult. It is, however, still possible for the *individual believer* to return to *first love* for Christ. They will enjoy the spiritual blessing and joy of secret communion with the Lord Jesus, even in the midst of much collective failure.

“*Overcomer*” series concluded, E. F. ◻

Christian Parents

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6).

The whole vitally important world of Christian education may be summed up in two brief expressions: (1) In faith **count** on God for your children, and (2), faithfully **train** your children for God.

Doing the first **without** the second—Trusting God for your children without training them for God according to God’s Word is *lawlessness*.

Doing the second **without** the first—Training your children using the Holy Scripture simply as a ‘book of rules’ without parental faith, love and prayers results in *harsh, dry, legality*.

When parents faithfully and in love for the Lord Jesus, *count* on God for their children and diligently teach them (by parental action and by parental word) according to the divine principles of the Word of God, the result will be the happy reaping of sound, practical, and effective Christian education.

It is the privilege of all Christian parents to count upon God for their children with all confidence (Acts 16:31). There is, however, in the government of God, an inseparable link connecting this privilege with solemn responsibility as to children’s training.

If Christian parents speak of counting on God for the salvation of their children and for the moral integrity of their lives in this world, but neglect their children’s spiritual training, it is simply a sad delusion. We solemnly press this upon all Christian parents, specially those who are ‘new’ parents. There is great danger involved in the shirking of parental duty to our children—shifting it over upon others (such as Sunday School teachers, Christian peers, or leaving the responsibility to be carried out by just one parent)—or, totally neglecting our responsibility altogether.

Perhaps some parents do not like the trouble and responsibility of training their children—others may shrink from the constant worry of raising truly Godly children. Where this may be the case, parents shall find that the trouble, worry, sorrow, and heart-scalding arising from the neglect of their duty will be a thousand times worse than all that can be involved in the discharge of Godly Christian parenting.

To every real lover of God there is a deep delight in walking the path of duty. Every step taken in that path can always count upon the infinite resources available in God when keeping His commandments. We have simply to take ourselves, morning by morn-

ing, hour by hour, to our Father’s exhaustless treasury, and there find all we may need in the way of love, grace, wisdom, and moral power, to enable us to discharge to God’s glory and our children’s blessing, the holy functions and solemn responsibilities of Christian parenthood.

adapted, C.H.M. □

The ‘No Room’ Test

“...as they went in the way, a certain man said unto Him, Lord, I will follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay His head” (Luke 9:57,58).

Christ puts that man to the test. You cannot go if you do not take up your lot with One who had not where to lay His head; for you may sooner go to the birds of the air for a nest, or to the foxes for a hole, than to the Son of Man for a home in this world.

They were not now to come to Him as the One who had the promises, but to One whose *portion* was *utter and entire rejection*. Following Him could not be accompanied with ease and comfort in this world. The Lord was to be *delivered into the hands* of men. At His birth we see the same things. Every one at Bethlehem found room in the inn save the Lord of Glory. Any who wanted to find Him whom the angels celebrated must go to the manger.

JND (from Gems from My Reading, N.H) □

Giving the Best

Worship is giving God the best that He has given you. Be careful what you do with the best you have. Whenever you receive a blessing from God, give it back to Him as a love gift. Take time to meditate before God and then offer the blessing back to Him in a deliberate act of worship.

If you hoard a thing of blessing just for yourself, it will end up as the manna did when it was hoarded—it *bred worms and stank* [Exo. 16]. God desires that the blessings He gives you are used in blessing to others.

“Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may **edify** another” (Rom. 14:19). *adapted, O.C.* □

Simplicity

The simpler we are, the more like children who learn their lesson rather than discuss it, the more surely shall we find Him, reach Him, and know Him. *J.G.B.* □

Mark, Chapter Two

vv 23–28 “[23] *And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn. [24] And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful? [25] And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungred, he, and they that were with him? [26] How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him? [27] And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: [28] Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.*”

Why did the Pharisees follow the disciples, criticizing them for gathering and eating food on the Sabbath? God’s law was not broken—Jewish traditions were.

One of God’s commandments was; “*Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself*” (Lev.19:18). Why did not these self-righteous Pharisees submit to and obey His law? Seeing the disciples hungry, they ought to have invited them to their homes and set food before them.

The Lord uses this occasion to remind them of the rejected David and his followers who ate food dedicated to God. The God of David who allowed that for blessing, now stood in their very presence. He created the Sabbath for man’s blessing and rest. The Pharisees created their religious traditions to bring men into bondage and fear. □

Bible Trees: The Fir Tree

“What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found.”

The first letter of the following responses tells us who will someday utter this exceptional expression, as foretold by the prophet Hosea. [1] Numbers in brackets indicate the number of words in the answer. Answers are found in the King James Version.

1. Something the prophet Nahum reported which the Lord had turned away from Jacob, in a day when the fir trees would be terribly shaken. [1]

2. When David brought the ark of God up from Gibeah, he and all Israel played on instruments made of fir wood. What was one of the instruments named, along with harps, timbrels, coronets and cymbals? [1]

3. The psalmist declared, “The trees of the Lord are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted; where the birds make their nests” The fir trees are then mentioned. What do they provide for the stork? [1]

4. One speaking of their beloved one mused, “The beams of our house are cedar”. What structural member of the house was then spoken of as being made of fir? [1]

5. Of whom did the prophet Isaiah speak these words, “The cedars of the garden of God could not hide him: for the fir trees were not like his boughs, and the chestnut trees were not like his branches; nor any tree in the garden of God was like unto him in his beauty”? [1]

6. What nation was being addressed when the Lord said, “I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together: that they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this”? [1]

7. Situated on a seaport, Tyrus excelled in her occupation, building ships with boards of fir, trading with many nations, and enriching the kings of the earth. What was the occupation of Tyrus and her business partners (who would eventually mourn her destruction that is described by the prophet Ezekiel)? [1]

— Answers To January 2010 Bible Challenger —

- Jeremiah Jeremiah 1:11
- Ophir 1 Kings 10:11
- Seven Exodus 37:23
- Evil Ecclesiastes 12:1,5
- Princes Numbers 17:2
- Harps 2 Chronicles 9:11

*“And their father Israel said unto them, If it must be so now, do this; take of the best fruits in the land in your vessels, and carry down the man a present, a little balm, and a little honey, spices, and myrrh, nuts, and almonds...And when **JOSEPH** came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed themselves to him to the earth. (Genesis 43:11,26).*

J.S. □

Feed The Flock _____

The Battle

A traveller in South America witnessed a curious but deadly battle between a quadruped (most likely a ‘peccary’) and a snake. The snake was much larger than the peccary which is the size of a small pig. The little animal seemed no match for the huge reptile that threatened to destroy it. However, the peccary was guarding her ‘nest’ where her newborn babies were hidden. The snake had found her ‘home’ and intended to have a good meal. It was not prepared for what happened next.

The brave little peccary suddenly rushed upon the huge reptile, striking it with several fierce and surprisingly powerful blows. The snake, though obviously injured and momentarily surprised by the attack, still had been able to strike a deep and seemingly fatal wound with its fangs which angrily flashed and sunk deep into the flesh of the smaller animal.

Just when it seemed as though all was over for the brave little peccary, it turned and ran back to its home. There it quickly ate some leaves from a nearby plantain tree. Apparently reinvigorated from these leaves it once again rushed back and began again to attack its huge adversary.

Over and over this strange scene was repeated. The snake, although showing signs of great exhaustion, continued its ferocious attack, again and again striking and wounding its little enemy—so much so that the observer was convinced the brave little peccary could not survive much longer.

But after each vicious battle, the severely wounded peccary ran to the plantain tree, ate more leaves and rushed back with renewed energy and determination to continue its deadly struggle with the huge snake.

The traveler witnessed this remorseless battle to the death between the peccary and the snake for over an hour. Then came the moment when the final battle was waged and the deadly combat came to an end. The huge snake lay still and dead, no longer a danger to the peccary and her young. The peccary, though displaying a variety of wounds, appeared surprisingly healthy as she energetically made her way back to the midst of her little ones.

“...He [Jesus]...Himself...through death...might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil” (Hebrews 2:14)

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Phpp. 4:13). □

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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