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**-TEXT AND CONTEXT-**

Many of the great truths of the Bible have been lost to us because texts have been torn from their contexts and made to mean something far different from what God intended. Let us examine a few famous evangelistic texts and see what they really mean.

1. "prepare to meet thy God." Here is a text that is used to prove that the wicked will be raised from the dead some time and have to account for what they have done. This text is always aimed at the unbeliever. We find it in Amos 4:12 and discover that the whole verse is not quoted. It reads, "Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel." Nothing about death; nothing about resurrection; nothing about unbelievers!

2. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal. 6:7. The passage begins with the word Brethren. Believers are addressed. There is no message about death and resurrection, but the believer is warned that if he sows to the flesh he will reap corruption or loss. Compare with 1 Cor. 3 where such are saved as by fire.

3. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" Heb. 2:3. In the first place the author uses the word WE. So it cannot be to unbelievers. If we read the rest of the verse we find that it is about preaching the gospel of salvation which was first spoken by the Lord and was preached to Paul and his companions. If we would fill in the words that are meant to be understood, it would be, "How shall we escape if we neglect preaching so great salvation."

4. "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Heb. 9:27. The next verse makes it plain that only those who look for Him will see Him. The judgment here is a judgment of believers to give rewards. "The ungodly shall not stand (rise) in the judgment." Psa. 1:5.

5. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Rev. 3:20. After this text is given they usually sing "Let Him In." Again this is not about unbelievers. It is a picture of Christ standing outside an apostate church. It would be better to go outside and join Him than to have the ungodly come in and join the church.

**-THE KEYS-**

Peter did not have the keys to the church. The Word does not say so. He did not have the keys to heaven, either. The Scripture plainly says, "And I will give unto thee the keys of the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."

The kingdom of heaven is a rule on the earth that comes from heaven. This is true because the ONE who does the ruling is the King from heaven. The apostles were "to occupy" till He should come. To them was given authority.

Keys here is a figure of speech and denotes the power to open. Peter did open the kingdom to the Jews at Pentecost, and to the Gentiles at the house of Cornelius. Paul also exercised this power. He closed the kingdom to both Jew and Gentile at Acts 28:28. The Word says nothing about apostolic succession, so this power was not handed down.

So today this power is not used. The kingdom is not opened to anyone. God has another program on today. But some day, when this present program is completed, the keys may used again by Elijah and such as are eligible may enter.

We must not lose sight of the fact that all during the time covered by the Acts the hope of Israel was in prospect. The book opens with the question, "Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" Almost at the end we find the apostle saying, "For the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain." The hope of Israel was the coming of the Messiah to sit on the throne of His father David, restoring the kingdom to Israel.

When He comes to make this great and glorious restoration, it will be a great and wonderful event. When He approaches the earth's atmosphere, He will shine forth with such brightness that even the dead will be snatched from their graves and will rise to meet Him in the air as He is on His earthward journey. Then those who are alive and believe will also be caught up with them and all the believers who have the hope of Israel will meet Him and come back with Him as He comes to the earth in His glory.

But all this is the hope of Israel. It is not the hope of any church today. The keys have not been in use since Acts 28:28, or about A D 60.

The hope for today is another subject and is entirely outside the scope of the kingdom of heaven and the keys to it.

### -THE QUEEN OF SHEBA-

"The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation." Matt. 12:42. "The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation." Luke 11:31.

In the near context of both of these, we find that the men of Nineveh shall rise and condemn this generation. But the word for RISE is different, and it is the record of Jonah that will stand and condemn this generation.

Since the mystery was not yet made known, this generation was expecting a judgment at the coming of the Lord in about A D 85. This would have been too early for a resurrection of Gentile nations such as Nineveh.

The queen mentioned here was also a Gentile, yet she is to have this early resurrection. Why?

This queen was the 4th ruler of Egypt after the long rule of the Hyksos kings who were Amalekites. This rule lasted from the Exodus of Israel till in the 2nd year of the reign of Saul. Saul helped Ahmose throw off the Amalekite yoke in the defeat of Agag. Then followed Amenhotep and Thutmose I. Hatshepsut, known as the Queen of Sheba followed these 3. Egypt was again prosperous nation and she brot great gifts to king Solomon. He in turn gave here to the queen many and rich gifts. She made a record of these on the walls of a great temple built in Egypt. This temple was in imitation of the temple of Solomon and had a similar priesthood.

How could she have part in a resurrection which was intimately connected with the hope of Israel? There is just one answer. She married Solomon. This is also in accord with tradition. In that way she would take the same status of her husband and she would be counted as a Jewess. Also it is evident that she embraced the faith of Solomon when she went back and set up a system of worship like that of Israel.

Of course we now understand that this judgment and resurrection did not take place because of the present parenthesis or age of the mystery. The unbelievers of that generation now never will come into that judgment for they are dead and gone. But there will be many like unto that generation when that judgment does take place and no doubt this great queen will rise at that time and condemn them. It was her faith that justified her, and the hope was made sure by marriage.

### -JUDGMENTS-

Here is a word that has given many a person a great deal of trouble. The verb KRINO and the noun KRISIS have been translated all the way from "Damnation" to "sue" and "determine." But after a little examination we find that we can classify the judgments of God under three general heads. This will clarify the problem as nothing else ever will.

1. NOW. Rom. 8:1 tell us that there is NOW no condemnation or judgment to them that are in Christ. This is the death that came upon all because of Adam's sin. But it is removed from the believer. Neither can it ever come upon him again, for in John 5:24 it so states. There can be no judgment for the sin of Adam once a person has passed from death unto life (resurrection assured). Look at John 3:36 and 1 John 5:11, 12. John 3:18 tells us that those who do not believe are condemned already (now). All human beings are judged on this basis right now. They either have life (hope of resurrection) or they do not have it. There is no neutral ground, not even for heathen, idiots or babes.

2. NATIONS. This is at His coming. These are the living nations at that time. It is not a matter of resurrection, altho there is a resurrection of those who have the hope of the kingdom at about the same time. Even this may not be all one resurrection, but may be several. The basis of judgment is how the nations have treated His brethren (the Jews). At this prospect Felix trembled for it could have occurred during his life time. But Felix is dead and gone. So is the high priest and others that were threatened with this judgment. Even if they were to rise at the great white throne as some believe, it would be a thousand years late for this judgment. This one is mentioned most frequently and will be found in the gospels, Acts, the 14 epistles written during Acts period, and Rev.

3. BELIEVERS. Some will be living when He comes. Others will have various resurrections. All will be judged according to what they have done and rewards given. The parables of the pounds and talents and others refer to this time. Many will have lived just lives and many will have behaved unjustly. Some will be called wicked and slothful. Some even now are enemies of the cross, but are believers nonetheless. Many workmen will be ashamed in that day. Their works will not abide the testing by fire.

## TRUTH FOR YOUTH

### -STUDIES IN JOHN- #31

1. What would be a proper title for John 17? 8
2. How faithful had those been whom the Father had given to Christ? 17:6
3. What had these men learned? 7
4. What are the 4 main words of verse 8? 8
5. How did we get the Word? 8
6. If one receives the Word, then what does he know? 8
7. What is the next step after knowledge? 8
8. For whom does the Lord pray? 8
9. Why does He not pray for the whole world? 8
10. In verse 9 six words are used to describe or name those who believe. What are they? 8
11. Does verse 10 show us that He and the Father are one? 8
12. What is the purpose of the believer as shown here? 10
13. How does He describe the coming separation? 11
14. Can, and does, the Father keep every one of them as the Lord here prays? 11
15. How about Judas? Did the Lord lose him, or was Judas ever numbered with the faithful? 11
16. The word SON is often used to describe the character of a person, for instance "the sons of thunder." How does "son of perdition" (loss) describe Judas? 11
17. Why was Judas among the 12? 11
18. Why did the Lord speak this prayer aloud in the presence of the disciples? 13
19. Why does the world hate them? 13
20. Is this hatred displayed today? 13
21. Should one seek to be taken out of the world or to get away from it? 13
22. Is it the world or the evil that is dangerous to the Christian? 13
23. How can one be truly sanctified? 13
24. Why did Christ come into the world? 13
25. Why does He send His own into the world? 18
26. How far-reaching is this prayer? 18
27. If believers are one and are in Christ and He in them, what will be the result? 21
28. Does He pray that they will be with Him in heaven or here on the earth? 24 Cf 14:3 and Rev. 21:2.
29. Has the world ever known Him? See 1:10.

**DEAR YOUNG FOLKS:** There are some questions that young folks have to settle just as well as us old folks. One of these is in the book of Job and the other in the book of Romans. If the answer to these two is not found, then peace and joy and even the reason for living will not be found.

The first one is, "How should mortal man be just with God?" Job 9:2

The tendency of the flesh is to justify self. In justifying self, one invariably condemns God. Such a course will not do. You can see that. But what to do?

Job had 3 friends. The first said that from his experience, man prospered if he was good, and did not prosper if he was not good. The second had the same thing to say, except that in it being his experience and observation, it was the tradition of the fathers. Therefore it must be true. The third had about the same argument, but stressed the fact that man must do something in order to get merit from God. This was under two heads; 1st., reverence the Lord, 2nd., flee from sin. The first is spoken of as wisdom and the second as understanding.

But can fallen man do these things? Where is his wisdom if not from God? Where is his understanding if not from God? All religions are agreed on one thing. That is, man must do something for God to merit favor. But the Word of God does not say so.

There is a lesson that must be learned. In the flesh dwells no good thing. When we come to the place we rely on God and have no confidence in the flesh, then we can be justified before Him.

Many HAVE found the WAY. The lost son said "I have sinned." Joseph's brethren said "we are verily guilty." David said "I have sinned against the Lord." Isaiah said "I am undone...unclean." Daniel said "My comeliness was turned to corruption." And Job said "I am vile" "I abhor myself" "I repent in dust and ashes."

Each of these learned to justify God and condemn self. When they learned that God was just in everything, then they learned that He was also the justifier of those who believe (Rom. 3:26). There is nothing about gaining merit in this, but faith is involved. Can we trust that all is for good to them that love the Lord, no matter what may happen?

Sincerely in HIM, Oscar M. Baker.

**- THE EDITOR'S DESK -**

WELL! Last month's paper was not so good, so am glad that we did not say much about it. It was run on a new machine we got in. We did not keep it. We will wait till later when we can have the wherewith to get a good one. In the meantime, this one will have to do.

WISE MEN gave gifts to HIM, not to each other. But some day people will give gifts to each other (Rev. 11:10).

THE LATCHSTRING is still out. So if you wish to pay us a visit and talk over the things of God, we shall be glad to have you. Bring your questions.

GREETINGS of the season to all of you. We thank you for your remembrance of us. We do not send out many greetings as we have to put nearly all our time and effort on the paper. We know that you will understand and continue to pray for us that we may be able to continue.

PURPOSE of TFT is to correct the ideas of those who may have mistaken the hope and the ordinances of Israel for their own. This is that all spiritual blessings may be yours in the heavenly places in Christ and that you be not looking for an earthly kingdom or earthly blessings connected with it. This means a right division of the Word so that you will not need to be ashamed workmen in that day. Think it over.

THE GREATEST MIRACLE of all the Bible record may be in Acts 2:1. There all believers of one city were all in one place in ONE ACCORD. Can you imagine such a thing in these days?

THANKS for all the suggestions and questions concerning the articles we have recently written. You have been very helpful in organizing the materials.

BACK COPIES; Just a few sets back to #39. New readers may especially want some of these. Just ask for them. They are free.

APPENDIX 179 of the Companion Bible shows that the Lord was begotten on Dec. 25th 5 B C and born on Sept. 29th 4 B C. Read this. It is very interesting and convincing.

KILMARNOCK, Scotland. A letter of mine was printed in the monthly announcement of the class a while back. Have been in contact with this faithful group almost from the beginning of TFT. We prize their interest and prayers.

TFT goes to all states except 11. Help us to get into these.

EDITOR, Oscar M. Baker, RR2, Warsaw, Ind. Tel. Atwood 2684.

**- ABOUT BOOKS -**

See last issue for books as there is little change. Several have been getting Companion Bibles for Christmas. It is a good gift for any time of the year. We have them now in three bindings. The Buckram is \$12; the quarter leather is \$16; and the full leather is \$24. All prices are postpaid.

If you have any spare copies of Things to Come or old copies of The Berean Expositor that you would sell, let me know. There is a constant demand for these, especially for odd volumes to fill out sets.

There is also a steady demand for the out-of-print books of Welch and Bullinger. If you have any you would sell, write quoting prices.

Am temporarily out of Ecclesiastes by Welch and the Two Natures in the Child of God by Bullinger, but hope to have more any time now.

Our hope of getting out some printed material has again been postponed because of being disappointed in the new printing machine. Some of these days we will finally get to it.

Now is the time to renew your Berean Expositor subscription. I can take care of it for you. Most folks send a dollar altho the price is 87¢ which hardly covers the cost.

Your editor has written 563 letters during 1953 and has filled 214 orders for books. This is steadily increasing all the time. It is some indication of the interest there is in the Word, for which we are truly thankful. We look for your response during 1954.

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TRUTH FOR TODAY  
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