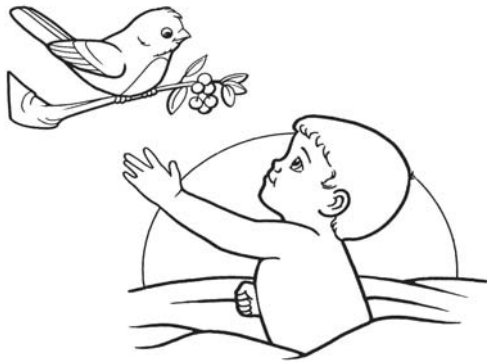


TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

To provide Bible based, true reading material for children and youth.

Year 2 - 4th Quarter - Issue #10



CREATION CORNER

The Change

WHEN God created our Furry Friends, and Feathered Friends, He made them to live together in peace. They were not Wild Creatures then. How interesting it must have been for Adam when he first saw the animals and birds in the Garden of Eden!

In Genesis the second chapter we read: "Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air ; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them : and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field." Verses 19, 20.

Yes, that must have been an interesting day for Adam when he saw all the animals and birds the first time, and gave them names. Can you name all the birds and animals that you see around your home?

When Adam lived in the Garden of Eden, the birds and animals were his companions. What a beautiful sight it must have been when Adam

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dressed the vines and plants in Eden while animals played together around him and birds of all kinds sang in the trees or alighted on his shoulder in perfect trust! The animals and birds trusted one another as well as Adam.

But what a change came over them after Adam sinned, because of his disobedience to God! Fear entered their minds, and not only were God's creatures changed, but even the trees, which had been green from creation, then lost their leaves. How sorrowful Adam must have been when he saw the Dancing Little Leaflets falling! And how sad he must have been as he watched the birds and animals hide away with fear when, he approached, and he realized that all of it was the result of his sin! They were Wild Creatures after that. Even the serpent, which had been the most beautiful of all the creatures in the Garden, of Eden, even flying about with the birds, then became Forktongue the Snake, which crawled on his belly in the dust and tried to bite Adam whenever he came near.

After Adam fell and made it necessary for God to drive him from the Garden, not only did man continue to sin, but the Wild Creatures also grew worse. Some of them are now murderers, others are thieves; in fact, if we study

their daily lives, we shall find all the evils that are known to man practiced by the Wild Creatures, including such things as covetousness, infidelity, pride, deception, exaggeration, selfishness, gluttony, and many others. But if you watch them and read about them, you will see that other Wild Creatures have good traits, like playfulness, cleanliness, perseverance, humor, courage, faithfulness, kindness, and such things.

And so as learn about nature, if some of the Furry Friends and Feathered Friends seem to be cruel and unkind to their neighbors, even trying to murder them or steal from them at times, we must remember that all of this is the result of man's sin.

But it is good to know that soon God will again make the Great Wide World a peaceful place in which to dwell, where all His creatures will live together as they did in the Garden of Eden. In Isaiah we read : "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock." Verse 25.

May it be the blessed privilege of all those who have known and loved God's creatures even in this sinful world to see them and know them better in the Perfect World - the New Earth - is our sincere prayer. Adapted - F. Bralliar, January 1, 1930. = ^ .. ^ =

TRUE-STORY-TIME

A PRAYER IN THE DARK

Pastor Travis St. Clair turned restlessly in his sleep. He groaned and opened his eyes. Outside the storm raged through the night. Lightning flashes lighted the windows, and thunder rolled. But it wasn't the storm that disturbed the peace of his slumber. A pressing sense of emergency weighed on his mind.

He turned over and buried his head in the pillow. But sleep would not return. Rather the feeling of urgency grew. Sighing, he crawled out of bed and knelt on the rug.

"What's the matter, Lord? What do You want me to do?" He prayed intensely for a few minutes, but got no relief. The strange feeling that all was not well with two elderly members of his congregation haunted him.

"Lord, are You trying to tell me something? Is there something wrong with the Gabrielsons? They seemed perfectly well last Sunday. If they are in any kind of trouble, please watch over

them." Feeling somewhat better, he crawled back into bed. The covers wrapped him in warmth, and drowsiness crept over him. He yawned and relaxed.

But the discomfort came again. Something was wrong with the Gabrielsons, something serious. With a deep sigh he sat up in bed.

Jenny turned over and opened her eyes. "What-ever's the matter?"

"I don't know. I can't sleep at all. And I feel like something's terribly wrong."

"It must be the storm. All that wind and rain and thunder's enough to wake the dead."

"No, I really don't think it's that. Storms never bother me. I think God's trying to tell me something. I have this strong impression that something is wrong with the Gabrielsons."

His wife rubbed her eyes and yawned. "Well, why don't you pray for them, then go back to sleep?"

"I tried that. It doesn't work. I think I'll go over to their house and see if there's a problem."

"Oh, no." She pushed up on her elbow. "In this rain? That doesn't make any sense at all. Don't you think you're being fanatical? You really can't trust impressions, you know."

"I know, but I just can't help it. Since I can't sleep anyhow, I might as well run over and see if some- thing's the matter."

"Oh, well. If you want to-but be careful." And she turned over and went back to sleep.

Travis slipped out of bed and pulled his clothes on. The rain descended in torrents. Drenched before he ever reached the stable, he harnessed the horse to the buggy and urged him out into the rain. It did seem like a foolish errand. He hoped no one would see him out on such a night.

The Gabrielson home was all dark. He pulled the horse and buggy into a shed for shelter. Now what to do? Probably the old couple were sound asleep. It would be silly to wake them. Still there might be some danger near. Maybe he should get out and look around.

Tying the horse, he walked around the yard. The rain had let up a little. All seemed quiet and in order. He started back to the shed, but the impression returned with new strength. All was not well, no matter how peaceful everything appeared.

He tiptoed up on the porch. Should he knock

and awaken them? Surely they needed their sleep. Trying the door, he discovered it unlocked. Why didn't they fasten their door at night? It would be much safer.

Without really knowing why, he opened the door and slipped in. It seemed a ridiculous thing to do. What if someone caught him in here? He could just imagine the gossip - the pastor found at midnight in a neighbor's home! Even the sheriff might not understand impressions that got one up in the middle of the night and sent him prowling around in the dark.

But there in the living room he fell to his knees again. Without conscious planning he began to pray aloud.

"Father, I don't know why You sent me here. These folks seem to be just fine. But You know a lot of things that I don't. If there is any danger threatening these dear old people, please protect them and paralyze any hand lifted against them. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen."

Relief flowed over him. He had not realized how pressed he felt until the burden lifted. With a light heart he slipped out the door and back to his horse. Ever so quietly he turned the horse toward home. It had been a strange experience. He couldn't dismiss it entirely, neither could he understand it. All he could do was put it in the hands of God. Someday He would make it plain.

Months passed, and the memory of that night ride faded. The pressures of caring for his flock and of evangelism almost erased it from his mind.

One day Dale Nelson, a member of his congregation and a longtime friend, stopped by for a chat. After the usual pleasantries he came to the purpose of his visit. "Pastor St. Clair, I have a cousin who is in charge of the large prison at St. Andrews. He is deeply concerned about the condition of the prisoners. They have no spiritual help. Many of them are young and in prison for the first time. They might well respond to the gospel. Could you go over there and hold meetings for them?"

Pastor St. Clair sat, his chin in his hands. He had never thought of working for the prisoners. Perhaps hearts might respond there. Then he smiled at his friend. "Tell him I will come at the first opportunity."

So on a crisp morning in early fall Travis drove his buggy up to the prison at St. Andrews. Captain Hanks welcomed him pleasantly. "I'm so glad you could take time from your busy

schedule to minister to the needs of these unfortunate men. Come, I'll show you through the prison and introduce you."

The great stone wall, iron bars, and long gray halls depressed the pastor. His heart filled with pity for the men who must spend years of their lives in such a place. Sinners they were indeed, but did not Christ pity and love sinners?

As Captain Hanks and Travis walked across the prison yard the prisoners crowded around the pastor, who stopped to talk to one and then another. As the captain had said, many of them were still in their teens. Most responded to a warm tone, a kind smile.

One older man in gray prison garb came up and gazed intently at Pastor St. Clair's face. "This is Claud Hanson," the captain told him.

"Pastor, I know you from somewhere," blurted the prisoner, still staring with a puzzled expression.

Travis looked the man over carefully. "I'm sorry," he said. "I don't recall you at all."

A light dawned in the man's eyes. "No wonder you don't remember me, Pastor. You've never seen me, but I certainly can never forget you. Do you remember a night several months ago when you went into the Gabrielson house at midnight and prayed aloud for their protection?"

"I'm not likely to forget," replied the pastor.

The prisoner nodded. "I had heard they kept quite a sum of money in their house, and I went there that night to steal it.

"You drove up, and thinking you were Mr. Gabrielson, I intended to kill you. But you spoke to your horse, and I realized that you were a stranger. I followed you into the house and heard your prayer. Do you remember what you said?"

Pastor St. Clair shook his head. His eyes never left the man's face.

"You prayed that the old people be protected from danger and that any hand lifted against them might be paralyzed. Do you see this arm? He pointed to his right arm which hung unmoving at his side. "I have never been able to move it since. I left without doing anyone any harm."

The pastor could not speak for a moment. "How strange and wonderful are the ways of God," he exclaimed. "I never knew why He sent me there that night. And what about you, my friend? Perhaps He has taken away your arm that you might gain your soul." = ^.. ^ =

STORY LESSON**COUNTERFEITS 7****The Truth About Harry Potter**

Remember last week we talked about being able to identify a person who is working for Satan and has evil angels controlling or helping him? We learned that unless a person has TOTALLY given ALL their heart over to Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is living in their heart and they are seeking to do God's will and obey Him always, that Satan can work through them even if they don't realize it.

Ellen White tells us in the Spirit of Prophecy writings that many careless words that we may blurt out, silly talk or foolish joking is used by Satan to cause people to turn away from wanting to follow Jesus all the way. Each of us needs to pray that God will be with our mouths and guard us against unwise talking. (Ex 4:12)

Today I want to tell you about a very strange thing that Satan does. You know that some people who work for Satan and serve him, have evil angels that tell them secrets so they can tell others. The Bible calls these angels 'familiar spirits'. These people are called psychics or fortunetellers. In the Bible they were called 'soothsayers'.

Satan does this to people sometimes just to make them think they have special powers or are smarter than others. They may hear a voice in their mind telling them, or they may see a quick picture flash into their mind's eye, that shows them something they did not know about. Then when they tell a person what they saw, they think the 'psychic' has special powers.

We have to watch out for Satan will try and get a Christian to make close friends or fall in love with one of his people. He will often give that person words to speak that causes the Christian to think this person knows a lot about the Bible and is really interested in the truth.

They may show an interest in the Sabbath and admit it is the right day to keep. They may say things out of the prophecies and talk about the last day events, and do it in such a way as to make you think they know all about them.

You see Satan knows just what kind of talk will cause an Adventist to feel comfortable and start thinking, "I am sure this person will soon become an Adventist Christian and it is OK for me to be friends with them". Then as the friend-

ship grows, bit-by-bit, the Christian is led into doing things or taking part in things that he or she knows is not right. Just 'little things' at first, like eating foods they know the Lord does not want us to eat, or watching or listening to worldly music or movies.

Often it will be something that cuts into the hours of the Holy Sabbath. Your friend announces they want to take you somewhere on the hours of the Sabbath, and you start thinking you should refuse to go. But then you feel afraid that this person might not be your friend any more. Already Satan is weaving his hypnotic net around you and you feel you must be with this 'friend'.

Maybe you do say you don't want to go with them or have them come to visit on Sabbath, but the person says, "Well that is the only time I can come. Don't you want to be my friend?" And you make a 'compromise', something you feel is maybe a bit wrong but mostly OK. Then you start thinking of reasons why it is really OK. (Satan helps you think up these reasons!) Finally you think, "Well, I will do it just this once, but then I will get a chance and explain to them about the Sabbath and I won't do it again."

But once you 'compromise', you do it more and more until you are doing things for this person that you would never have done if they had asked you to at first. If you do try and tell them you want to stop, they often turn around and say, "Well, if it was all that bad, why did you come with me the first time?" You can't answer that and you feel ashamed.

By now Satan has caused you to care more about what this 'friend' wants and thinks then about what Jesus wants and thinks. One thing these decoy 'friends' always do is flatter you and say things that make you feel they really admire you and think you are very special. Sometimes they even say they like you because of your religion, of course you feel so reassured when they say things like that!

Also Satan weaves a sort of hypnotic spell around you and makes you more and more dependent on this person's companionship and without noticing it, you drift farther away from Jesus and the Bible. If a Christian friend or relative tries to warn you of your danger at this point, you will feel angry and tell them to mind their own business.

Once Satan gets you compromising on even

a 'little' thing, he really has you, as God's angels have to back off a bit and can't fully protect anyone who is disobeying God, especially when they know better.

I want to tell you a strange happening I know about. A Christian lady met a man who was not a Christian. But as she talked to him he seemed to be really interested in prophetic history and also in health. This lady was having a hard life and this man seemed to be interested in helping her financially as well as interested in health and prophecy too.

It was so interesting to her to talk with him. Then he offered to show her reflexology and do treatments on her feet to help her health condition. They seemed to help and then more and more spiritualistic practices came into their relationship.

Now the interesting thing is that later on, when she had become much more involved with this man than she ever should have been, and she had compromised on just about everything, she asked him one day where and when he had learned the reflexology. He just looked at her and shrugged his shoulders as if he had no idea what she was talking about. He had NOT ever studied and learned it! Obviously it was something that the evil angels that controlled this man just gave to him at the time. You would have thought he was an expert!!

I know of another case where a person who was clearly insane, began talking about the last days prophetic events as if he were a long-time student of Bible prophecy. Clearly it was the fallen angels speaking through this person.

I want you young people to know that Satan KNOWS prophecy; he KNOWS the Bible cover to cover; he KNOWS all kinds of health tricks and the true health stuff too. Don't ever allow yourself to compromise even the teensiest bit of truth to stay friends with someone, thinking you can later teach them, and it will be OK.

IF someone really wants to learn Bible or health truth, then get someone to help you, and set up a plan and study with him or her, or arrange a group meeting they can attend. If they quickly lose interest or say something like, "Oh, I would really be happier if you would just teach me yourself." Tell them no, you can't do this. If they are really interested in the knowledge they will agree to study with others. If not, they are interested in YOU; don't be flattered,

Satan is moving in on you! Turn around and get out of the situation fast and don't even talk to them alone again.

If you are a young lady, don't study alone with a man; if you are a young man, don't study alone with a lady. Never forget that Satan can feed these people just what he knows you want to hear. Don't take even one step in compromise and you will avoid being trapped by Satan and ending up in much misery. = ^ .. ^ =



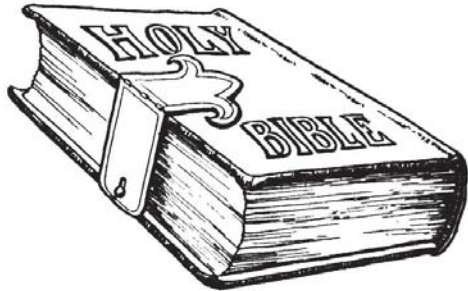
POEM LITTLE THINGS

Little drops of water,
Little grains of sand
Make the mighty ocean
And the pleasant land.

Thus the little minutes
Humble though they be,
Make the mighty ages
Of eternity.

Thus our little errors
Lead the soul away,
From the path of virtue
Oft in sin to stray.

Little deeds of kindness
Little words of love,
Make this world an Eden
Like the Heaven above! = ^ .. ^ =



Year 2: 4th Quarter:
“FROM THE WILDERNESS TO CANAAN”
WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 10: “THE
CANAANITES RETURN”

For our Bible lessons we are going to use the King James Version of the Bible. Just like the boys and girls used to use to learn to read from in the pioneer days.

There will be some texts to look up for each day and you should practice your memory verse until you can say it without looking. Don't forget to learn the text too.

MEMORY VERSE: “For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him; Then will the LORD drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves.”
Deuteronomy 11:22,23

Sunday

Text: Judges 1:28 “And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites to tribute, and did not utterly drive them out.”

As we learned last week, Israel was commanded by God to continue to drive out the wicked idol worshippers from the lands that the Lord had told them they were to have. God told them that if they did not do this completely, they would soon start copying the ways of these idol worshippers and they would become weak and weaker until they were destroyed from off the land.

God also promised them total victory and all the help they needed. He was going to do the work if they were willing to believe Him and go

out to obey Him and do it. If only they would have totally obeyed God, they would have had a huge land area and been completely free from the influence of idol worship.

But God will not force anyone to obey Him. He tells us what He wants us to do, He gives us all kinds of promises that He will give us power to do it, He warns us what will happen if we don't obey Him, and then He leaves us to make our choice.

He did that with Israel back then and He is the same today. BUT we need to remember that He means what He says! If we do not obey, He is not going to work some kind of magic so the bad things won't happen to us.

Some of the tribes of Israel did a lot of driving out of enemies, others did some, and some tribes hardly bothered to even try. Judah was the tribe that drove out the most, but even they did not finish the job. It is interesting that Judah lasted longer than the other tribes.

Notice God had told them NOT to make any deals with the people of that land. But Israel directly disobeyed God by letting the Canaanites remain in their lands and pay 'tribute' a kind of tax, to Israel. Thus they found a way to make money by disobeying God! No doubt they excused their wickedness by giving some of the money to the Lord. Oh how often that happens today!

Thought - Many people seem willing to claim to obey God, many like Israel don't mind saying, “We will obey the Lord”; but oh so few choose to really obey Him and believe Him ALL the way. Only the last group will ever see heaven!

Monday

Text: Judges 2:1-3 “And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you. And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this? Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you.”

Finally God drew the line. Israel was all settled down, they were rich from all the money coming in from their disobeying God's orders. No one was even bothering to get rid of the heathen in their areas. Besides, how could they drive out people who they had already made a deal with not to drive them out?

Oh how sad it is when we decided to disobey God! We end up getting ourselves so tangled up with the world that it is almost impossible for us to turn around and repent and follow God's orders.

One day an angel appeared and he had a message that made Israel weep. Too bad they didn't weep and repent sooner, but now it was too late. God took away the promise that He would drive out the people of the land. He told them that these people would now be there always to be a trouble to them and a snare. No longer would Israel be stronger than the heathen!

The people wept and were sorry, but they had made their own free choice. God was just letting them have what they had chosen instead of obeying Him and having the blessing He had wanted so much to give them.

Thought – Then it says they made sacrifices to the Lord. Do you think God was pleased with sacrifices from people who refused to obey Him?

Tuesday

Text: Judges 2:12-14 “And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger. And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroath. And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.”

Soon the very words of God came true. He had told them that they would turn around and do the same wicked things the people of the land were doing. Israel had said they would not. They had said they would serve the Lord. But

even while they were saying that, they were disobeying God by not driving out the heathen and making deals with them.

Bit by bit the Israelites got caught up in the fun and holidays of the idol worshippers. First they began to practice some of the customs in their own worship, thinking they could add things to make their religion even better. They thought they could take the heathen holidays and the heathen music and say it was for God, and put other words to it and it was OK.

More and more they moved away from true godliness and closer to the heathen. Remember that what God has not commanded is from Satan, and the heathen worship has a hypnotic power to put the mind to sleep and make people feel that it is just fine to disobey God. Soon they were doing things they would have been shocked at earlier.

Now the Canaanites got stronger and Israel got weaker. How God wanted to bless them and protect them! But He could not, because they were sinning before His face! Now they found the heathen to be a real problem. Soon the day came when the Canaanites stopped paying tribute and forced the Israelites to pay to them!

Times were hard then, gone were the happy days of freedom in the Lord. Soon they found they were working hard and all the food and nice things they should have for themselves were going to the heathen.

Thought – So it is in our churches today, worldly practices and music that comes from heathen devil worship has been brought into many of our churches. The hypnotic power of Satan puts the people's minds to sleep and they feel all safe and happy when they are really worshipping Satan and thinking they are still the special people of the Lord!!

Wednesday

Text: Judges: 2:18-19 “And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them. And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve

them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.”

It is a sad fact that often what we will not learn by God’s blessings, we have to learn by trouble and pain. So to try and save Israel from being entirely destroyed, God allowed their enemies to rule over them and they suffered greatly. When they would suffer, then they would remember God and pray to Him, and repent and He would hear them and send someone to help them. They would smarten up for a while but as soon as the Judge God had sent to help them was dead- they went right back to their evil ways!

Notice the list of enemies that came to oppress Israel. 1st - Chushanrishathaim [*koo-shan’ rish-aw-thah’-yim*] king of Mesopotamia for 8 years (what a big name! It means Cushan, of double wickedness. Othniel, who God raised up to defeat that king, means ‘force of God’.).

Then Eglon, king of Moab for 18 years.

Then the Philistines, and the Canaanites of Hazor, led by Sisera, in turn became the oppressors of Israel. Othniel, Shamgar, and Ehud, Deborah and Barak, were raised up as deliverers of their people. But again “the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian.”

It is interesting that Deborah, was a lady prophet and she was one of the Judges of Israel and helped deliver the people from cruel General Sisera. When this enemy leader was fleeing from the armies of Israel, he got so tired and did not know where to hide. A lady named Jael told him to come into her tent and she gave him warm milk and covered him with a coat. He was so tired he fell sound asleep and she nailed him with a tent-peg. The Lord had told Deborah and Barak that Sisera would be killed by a woman.

Soon Israel under Deborah and Barak had defeated the enemies and there was peace for a while as Israel returned to serve the Lord. But again they went back again to heathen ways.

Thought – Oh why is it that only when we suffer do we choose to seek the Lord? Wouldn’t it be much better to serve Him all the time so we could be blessed?

Thursday

Text: Jeremiah 10:2 “Thus saith the LORD, Learn

not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.”

Jeremiah 7:18 “The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.”

What were some of the heathen holidays that Israel began to follow so God could not bless them?

All of the heathen worship goes back to ancient Babel and Nimrod and his clever but wicked wife Semarimis. It all centered on the worship of the sun and moon and sometimes stars as well. Nimrod was said to be the sun god, but after he died, the queen had a baby and said it was Nimrod born again from the rays of the sun. The Baby was called Tammuz.

In Jeremiah we read about the people making cakes to the ‘Queen of Heaven’. These were what we now call hot-cross buns. They were made in honor of Tammuz, the son of Semeramis, who was killed by a wild pig. The buns had a cross on them for the letter T and also the cross was a symbol of the sun god.

The people used to weep each year for forty days for Tammuz’s death. Today the churches celebrate these forty days as ‘Lent’. See Ezekiel 8:13-14 and see what God says about this. Remember a woman means a church in prophecy.

Semeramis was shown as a virgin mother with a baby in her arms who was the ‘son of the sun god’. We have this now in churches that worship the statue of Mary with baby Jesus. In fact there is a statue in the Vatican that shows Mary with a real Sun-disk in her arms and not baby Jesus at all!

What about holidays? The birth of the sun god was celebrated on December 25th and in the spring, there was the feast of Ashtoreth, called Easter where they worshipped the sun god and the moon goddess, who they said caused the earth to grow food. They worshipped the symbols of eggs, rabbits and chicks.

The old Babel Queen was known by many names, Ashtoreth, Astarte, Isis, and now, the Virgin Mary- but it is all the same old Babel heathenism.

The music of these celebrations had a hypnotic beat that made those who heard it want to

dance and clap. It was designed to cause the mind to become hypnotized so the demons could more easily control the people.

Thought – Let us not go along with these worldly ways, but learn to worship God in quietness, reverence and truth, as He has asked us to.

Friday

Text: Text: Judges 6:3-6 “And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them; And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass. For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it.”

Soon Israel was back in trouble again. The Midianites this time were the enemies, and they would come and take everything Israel could grow or raise, so the people were almost starving to death. They hid in caves in the mountains

to try and get away from the heathen hordes, which were like grasshoppers!

If only Israel would have obeyed God and driven out these cruel people while they had the chance. Now they saw the results of disobeying God, just what He had said would happen, and they cried to God for help.

But time after time, when they would repent and cry to God, He would raise up someone to help, but as soon as things were OK with them again- they would go right back to their heathen holidays and worshipping idols again. How very patient God is to us and how very foolish and stubborn are the ways of people.

In many places in the Bible God says His people are like a stubborn, stiff-necked cow or ox. Even when they are punished, they still won't listen and do right. God is so patient, but there does come a time when He says, “No more!” Notice this verse: “Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone.” Hosea 4:17 Here God tells the angels not to bother to try and help those people any more. How sad!

Thought – Let us ask Jesus to take away all that stubborn, selfish ways out of our hearts, so we will listen to Him and obey Him. Then we can have all His promised blessings and power in our lives to do good! = ^ .. ^ =



“Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.”