

TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 2 - 4th Quarter - Issue #13



CREATION CORNER

Toots the Fox Terrier

Toots was not my dog. I wish to make that plain at the start. He belonged to my wife's father and mother; but I knew him well, and he was such an intelligent dog that his story is well worth telling.

They had a small son named Clifford. He and Toots romped and played together by the hour, but neither was old enough always to use good judgment or be careful in his play. Sometimes one would hurt the other. So one day Mother Boynton made a rule that if either hurt the other they must sit up on a chair as punishment till told he could get down. Things ran along pretty well for several days. Clifford had to sit up on, a chair several times, but thus far Toots had escaped.

Then one day, as they were romping on the floor, Toots bit Clifford too hard, and Mother Boynton set him up in a chair and kept him there for some time. In a day or two, the men were digging potatoes, and Toots and Clifford were playing about in the potato patch. In some way Toots bit Clifford, and quick as a flash he jumped up on a sack of potatoes and sat there

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as shamed faced as could be till told he might get down. Toots was a good watchdog. His mistress used to set her newly baked pies and puddings on the cellar door in the back yard to cool, and leave him to watch them. And watch them he did Not only did he keep chickens and similar things away; he would fight the largest man or dog to a standstill to protect his pies. One day Mrs. Bralliar and our two-year-old son were visiting at her mother's home. As usual, freshly baked pies were put, out for Toots to watch. The baby was playing in the yard and spied the pies. Babylike, he made for them at once. His grandmother, as grandmothers have a fashion of doing, was watching the baby through the window and saw him start, but waited to see what the dog would do.

Usually so resourceful, Toots was at his wits' end. He seemed to realize the baby was not responsible and must not be hurt. He ran in front of it, but the baby merely waddled over him and went on. He got hold of the baby's clothes and tried to hold him back but only got a lick with a stick for his trouble. Do what he might the baby kept on toward the pies. Finally the dog's face took on the most worried look imaginable, and he got in front of the baby again. Again he was

brushed aside. When the baby finally got so near that Toots realized it would surely get the pies, he raced into the house barking, got his mistress by the hand, and led her to the rescue.

For a time Toots was a nuisance during family worship, so he was made to sit up in a chair during this time. He soon learned this, but added to it a program of his own. When the family would kneel in prayer he would get down from his chair, put his paws up on the front of the seat and put his head between his feet, imitating as nearly as he could what he saw the family do.

He was taught to play "sleepy dog." When asked if he were a sleepy dog, he would rub his eyes with his paws, open his mouth, and yawn in the most distressed way imaginable.

Like most dogs that have been taught to eat it, he was fond of candy, yet the children might leave candy lying around where he could see and reach it, and he would never bother it. It did not belong to him.

In time he was taught to go to the store and buy his own candy. All that was necessary was to put a piece of money in something he could carry, give it to him, and tell him he might go and buy some candy. Away he would go in high glee, but when the merchant gave him his bag of candy he always brought it home without touching it. He would deliver it to his mistress and wait anxiously for her to dole it out to him.

Perhaps buying things at the store suggested to his mistress the idea of teaching him the next trick he learned. She would put something that he especially liked on the floor and tell him, "That costs money." Toots would eye it longingly till some one told him, "It's paid for," when he would gobble it in a hurry.

Like most dogs, Toots liked very much to go along whenever his master left home with the team, and usually he was allowed to do so. But this did not always give him unmixed joy. His master often drove past a house where lived a large dog that never allowed a strange dog to pass without picking a fight if possible. The first time they passed this house, this dog ran out and began bullying Toots. Toots realized the stranger was far too big for him to fight, so he tried in every way to appease the bully, but only got himself bitten for his trouble. His master called to him to get under the wagon, which he did, while his master jumped off and with a

club drove the big dog yelping away. After that when they came that way Toots fairly strutted past this place, but he always kept close beside the wagon on the side where his master rode.

One morning his master was starting away with the wagon, and as usual Toots was on hand to go. Mr. Boynton said as he might have said to a child, "Toots, you can't go today. You must stay at home and take care of mother." That was enough. The disappointed dog turned around and went back to the house, and he scarcely allowed his mistress out of his sight all day long.

Another day, when they had gone almost a quarter of a mile from home, his master saw one of his calves which was straying away. "Toots," he said, "you must drive that calf back home before you can come with me. The dog's tail dropped and he showed dejection in every muscle. "I will wait for you," continued Mr. Boynton. Up went the dog's ears and tail, and away he went after the calf. He drove it home with a rush and was back again in a jiffy.

Finally the Boyntons moved to California and left the dog with a friend. After a year the family decided to send for him. So Elder Wolfe, Mr. Boynton's son-in-law, got a box of the proper size, put a rug in it for a bed, put the dog in the box, carried him to the express office, and started him on his journey from Sioux Rapids, Iowa, to San Fernando, California.

When he arrived, the express agent telephoned, the family and Clifford went to get the dog. When he asked the agent for him, he was told he would need a muzzle and a cage, that the dog's box had been broken en route, and that he had fought everyone in sight when they had attempted to get the pieces. All he had left was his chain and his bed, and no one could get near these. Clifford paid the charges and went for the dog. As soon as Toots saw him, he was wild with joy, and could not get to him soon enough. He was no longer a savage dog defending his own property, but a lonesome, heart-sore little doggie who had at last found his long-lost friends. From Floyd Bralliar approx 1930

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TRUE-STORY-TIME

The Boy Who Never Grew Up

Matthew 18:3 “And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

Eugene Field always loved to be with children. He was never happier than when he was playing with them, or telling them stories, or singing to them. He liked to tell them funny stories just to hear them laugh. Because he enjoyed children so much, he has sometimes been called “the boy who never grew up.”

He was very fond of making collections of different things that he studied about. One time, when he studied about bottles, he collected queer bottles from many countries. He also had a collection of envelopes. These he mounted and put in book form. He kept his collections in the room where he studied and wrote.

The collection that you might be most interested in was his collection of dolls. Children who knew him often sent him dolls as presents. He kept every one, so he soon had a large number. He had black dolls and white dolls, and rag dolls, dolls of all sizes and kinds. One day, he ordered a dozen beautiful dolls to be sent to his home.

“What are you going to do with all these dolls, Eugene?” his wife asked.

“I am going to give them to my little friends when they come to see me,” he answered.

Many of the poems that Eugene Field wrote were for children that he knew. One little girl was so afraid of the wind when it blew and moaned at night that she could not sleep.

“Never mind, Annie,” he said to her, “I will write about that wind.” So he wrote the poem in which he talked to the wind and the wind talked back.

“Who’s been bad to-day?” I’d ask, Of the wind that hoarsely blew: And the voice would say in its meaningful way, “Yoo-oo-oo! Yoo-oo-oo! Yoo-oo-oo!”

When Eugene was seven years old, his mother died. Then he and his brother went to live with his Cousin Mary. She found good teachers for the boys, and always, saw that they learned their lessons. And she helped them in their playtime too.

Eugene was full of fun and jokes. But he always meant to have his jokes kind. If he ever hurt anyone’s feelings in a joke he was sorry for it, and made a manly apology. So, although he was sometimes mischievous, every one loved him.

Little Eugene was very kind-hearted, and he dearly loved animal pets. Every pet that he had, from the tame squirrel to the goat, had a queer name of its own. His pet chickens were named “Finniken,” “Minniken,” “Dump,” “Poog,” and “Boog.”

When he was fourteen years old, he accidentally stepped on a little chicken one day, and killed it. He carried it tenderly to the house, and hours afterwards, his cousin found him still holding the chicken, and sobbing as if his heart would break.

One time, he saw a man ill-treating a dog. He could not bear to see the poor dog suffer, so he bought it and brought it home. The money that he paid for the dog was some that he had planned to use for paying his house rent. One of his dogs he called “Dooly,” because he said the dog looked like an Irishman.

One summer he went to visit his grandmother, who lived on a farm. He stayed seven months. It was there he learned to love nature so much. The woods and the streams, the flowers and the trees, the birds and the squirrels, were like kind friends to him. He said every child ought to live in the country if only for a little while.

Mr. Field’s first little child died when it was just a baby. This made Mr. Field very, very sad. In a sweet little poem, which he has written, he tells how he misses his little boy.

“I count my treasures o’er with care. The little toys my darling knew; A little sock of faded hue, A little lock of golden hair.”

After this, he had four other children. His happiest hours were spent with them. Like the poet Longfellow, when the day’s work was done, he would put aside his papers and pens and have a romp with the children.

He would tell them of the sweet dreams that would come when “The Rock-a-By lady from Hush-a-By Street Comes stealing; comes creeping.”

Or perhaps it would be the little Dutch lullaby, which begins: “Wynken, Blynken, and Nod one night, Sailed off in a wooden shoe.”

Or it might be the Japanese lullaby: "Sleep, little pigeon, and fold your wings, Little blue pigeon with velvet eyes."

When Mr. Field died, many, many, people grieved, and the children who knew him would not be comforted. Eugene Field was born in St. Louis, in 1850. He died in Chicago, in 1895.

STORY LESSON

God's Plan for Education 3 "Patrick's Wonderful Schools"

Wherever the pure truth of the Bible has gone and the people have learned to love and obey it, schools similar to the Schools of the Prophets have sprung up. These schools are always much the same; they are self-supporting; they teach all kinds of useful work like agriculture, building, making of things like tents, clothes, dishes and pots and pans, the care of a home, how to keep track of money properly and how to use simple ways to care for the sick.

These things are taught along with the truths of scripture, reading, writing, and arithmetic, languages and grammar, godly music, sacred poetry and worthwhile literature. The teaching centers around two important values, godliness and usefulness.

The so-called higher learning of the worldly philosophers and the ideas and stories of paganism are not included. Though the people that came from these school did not have the fancy degrees and the admiration of the world, they had something far more wonderful; they had the missionary spirit and they also had knowledge and skills that allowed them to go anywhere in the world and set up schools themselves and support themselves by honest labor.

Way back in early Scotland and Ireland, a man named Patrick set up these true Bible schools. Born in Scotland, he was captured by pirates and taken to Ireland for a while as a slave. When he escaped and got back home, he later became a true Christian. Right away the first job the Lord impressed him to do was to go back to Ireland and teach the poor heathen the true gospel!

Now you will hear stories that say Patrick was a Roman Catholic sent by the Pope; this is a lie made up by the church to fool the people. The Christian faith these early people had was the pure faith from the Bible and they had an

early copy of the true scriptures that Rome had nothing to do with. It wasn't until centuries after Patrick died, that Roman Catholic priests came into Ireland and Britain. They could get nowhere in the areas that still lived according to the Bible truths that were taught by Patrick. One of the strongest proofs that Patrick did not belong to papal Christianity is found in the historical fact that for centuries Rome made every effort to destroy the church Patrick had founded. By the way, St Patrick's Day, that Rome celebrates, is the day of his DEATH!

He set up schools that were self supporting, where people lived and worked and learned together and then when the young people were ready they went out from these schools, with hearts full of the missionary spirit, to carry the truth to the world.

These people's lives centered around the Bible; and the Family was the foundation of their culture. These were not monasteries where people hid away from the world, unmarried, but groups of families working and worshipping together for the honor of God.

Now don't think for a moment that these people didn't know much just because they refused the garbage of the World's philosophy and myths; Oh No! They had skills and knowledge that in some ways cannot be equaled even today. You see, when we do things God's way, He blesses us and we are much wiser than those who go their own ways.

One of the arts these schools perfected was the making of the world's most beautiful books. Some of these have survived and can be seen in Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. When you see ones like the Book of Kells, and realize they were made by hand with simple quill pens and home-made inks, you are filled with wonder at the skill of these early Christians. The Book of Kells is the old Itala Bible like that the Waldenses used!

One of those who believe the same as the teachings of Patrick, named Columba, went to the little Island of Iona in 563 and there a wonderful school was set up that for centuries kept the light of true knowledge burning. Missionaries from this school, going into Europe, helped drive back the spiritual darkness of the Dark ages of Papal rule. His followers held the island for six hundred forty-one years, until the Benedictine monks drove them out of it in 1204.

Rome now claims it was always theirs.

One of the main things that occupied the time of students and teachers alike, was the care of the land, gardens, trees, and animals that they used for support. Another big task was the copying of hundreds of Bibles and portions of Bibles by hand in different languages to be carried to the people.

Now the good things these early Irish accomplished are claimed by the church of Rome as what her monks did. But it is all a lie, for the Roman monks, who at that time were ignorant and lazy men, hated these primitive Christians and persecuted them every chance they got.

But it is an interesting fact that these early Christians kept the seventh day Sabbath! Notice the words of Columba on his deathbed: "Having continued his labors in Scotland thirty-four years, he clearly and openly foretold his death, and on Saturday, the ninth of June, said to his disciple Diermit: "This day is called the Sabbath, that is, the day of rest, and such will it truly be to me; for it will put an end to my labors." (Butler, *Lives of the Saints*, vol. 6, p. 139.)

It was not until into the 12th century that Romanism began to have much power in Ireland and Scotland. If you go to the National Museum in Dublin, Ireland, as I did, you can see clearly that the early Christian church in Ireland, up until well past the year 1,000, was NOT Roman Catholic. But you can see a change come in as you notice the dates of the items there; you begin to see things like rosaries and images of saints only after this time. There are none of these things from the times of Patrick and his followers. From his times you only see beautiful Bibles and cases to carry them in, things like that.

If it had not been for these true Bible schools, much more knowledge would have been lost during the dark ages, as Rome did her best to stamp out all the light of true Bible religion during those sad times.

The kind of education that concentrates on degrees and worldly knowledge tends to make a person selfish and interested only in making fame and money and calling this success. This is not God's kind of education. What were the most important things for these schools that should be most important for us today? It was godliness, usefulness and the missionary spirit.

I urge you to seek this kind of education for yourself. Take a good look at your life; see where you waste time on entertainment and things that do no real good to anyone. Turn off the TV, throw away the fiction books and movies, and forget about the fashions and parties. Start using this time to read and study the Bible and God's inspired books in the Spirit of prophecy. Talk to the Lord and ask Him to let you be in His school and send the Holy Spirit to be your teacher. You will be surprised the difference it will make to your life.

Stop wasting your time and energy on games and sports. Instead, look around you and see what useful and helpful things you can learn to do and get someone to teach you how to do them correctly. See what you can do to lighten the burdens of your parents or people that need help. What about sick or elderly family or neighbors? Maybe you can run errands for them and brighten their lives.

Those ancient Irish Missionaries were the marvel of the world wherever they went! You can be that way too if you will learn God's ways.
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TRUE-STORY-TIME

"Send Me a Friend"

This story tells how God answered the prayers of a rich man and a young lad. One morning, in a city in Switzerland, a rich man sat in his beautiful home. He was lonely and discouraged. There was no earth friend to whom he cared to tell his troubles. He knelt down alone and prayed that God would send him a friend.

That same morning in the same city there was a young lad who had learned about the soon coming of Jesus. His heart was filled with joy as he thought of soon seeing his Saviour. He longed to tell others this truth, that they too might be happy.

"He had decided to sell door to door a book that told about the second coming of Christ. Before he left his room that morning, he prayed that God would guide him to those who needed help. He prayed that God would send an angel before him to get people ready to buy the book.

Up one city street and down another this lad walked, showing the people his book, telling them about Jesus, and here and there taking orders. So the morning passed, until it was nearly noon. On the street where he was work-

ing there were still a few houses at which he had not called. He wanted to finish, his work on that street before he stopped for lunch.

The next house was large and beautiful. He always dreaded to call at such rich homes, for often the people did not want to let him in. Still he must not pass any by. He stepped to the door. He wiped his feet on the big rug, and then wiped them again. He rang the doorbell. Then he waited.

Soon a servant opened the door, and the lad gave him his card. The servant carried the card to his master. In a few moments he returned.

"The master is at lunch," he said. "He is sure you have nothing that will interest him, and he does not wish to be disturbed."

"Thank you," said the lad as he walked away.

A few moments later he heard some one hurrying after him. He looked around, and there was the servant whom he had just left.

"The master wishes you to return at once, if you will be so kind," he said.

The lad hurried back to the rich home when he met a fine, rather elderly Swiss gentleman. The gentleman took the lad into the dining room, gave him a chair at the table, and told the servant to lay another plate. Soon they were left alone.

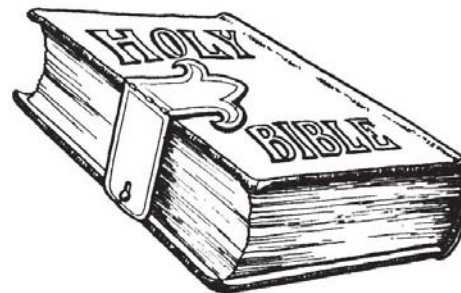
"My boy," said the gentleman, "this morning I prayed God to send me a friend. I was lonely and discouraged, and I knew of no one to whom I cared to turn. Just now when I sent you away, a voice said to me distinctly, 'There! I sent you a friend, and you have sent him away!' So I called you back. Now why did God send you to me? What have you brought me?"

The lad's heart went out in love to this man. The man had all that money could buy, but he did not know the hope of Jesus' soon coming. The lad looked at the man with eyes full of the hope and joy that he himself had found in obeying the commandments of God.

"I have brought you a book which contains a message of hope and courage and faith in the Friend of friends, who can give you all that you wish," the lad answered. The gentleman was deeply interested. Hope began to spring up in his heart. He believed God had sent this young man in answer to his prayer.

He invited the lad to come to his home every week and study the Bible with him. It is in just this way that God is seeking out the earnest,

praying ones, and getting them ready for Jesus' soon coming. - = ^ .. ^ =



Year 2: 4th Quarter:
"FROM THE WILDERNESS TO CANAAN"
WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 13: "GIDEON'S
BAND 3"

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: "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." Deuteronomy 31:6

Sunday

Text: Judges 7:25 "And they took two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb; and they slew Oreb upon the rock Oreb, and Zeeb they slew at the winepress of Zeeb, and pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side Jordan."

Last week we saw the amazing little army of Gideon, by following what God told them to do, send the host of enemies running like scared rabbits and fighting each other in sheer terror. They blew the trumpets, which in prophecy stands for the final warning message, and they shouted, 'The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon!' This shout represents the Loud Cry of the fourth angel in Revelation 18 that comes to 'lighten the earth with his glory'.

Boys and girls, there is no question about whether God is going to win in the last days!

The only question for us to answer, each one of us, is 'Am I going to be with God when He wins?' There is no problem on God's side; He wants you with Him and He will do everything needed to save you and make you ready so you will be with Him!

The question is for you; will you choose to give your whole heart to Jesus and cooperate with Him as He teaches and leads you? Or do the silly things of this world seem more important to you; TV and movies, games and sports, fiction and fantasy, worldly friends, parties and foolishness?

When we first think about choosing to follow Jesus all the way, it sometimes seems we are giving up a lot; but when we really seek Him and learn about Him and get to have the Holy Spirit as our special helper and teacher and really know He is with us, we look back at those worldly things and wonder what we ever saw in them!

Now in this part of the story we see two princes of the enemy captured and slain. Their names are Oreb and Zeeb. As I have been showing you, when we are looking for the prophecy meaning in a Bible story, we use a book like a Bible Dictionary or concordance to tell us what these names mean. Then we get clues about the prophecy from the names. Oreb means a raven and Zeeb means a wolf. Oreb dies at the Rock and Zeeb at the Winepress.

These names are mentioned three places in the Bible, in Psalms 86 and in Isaiah 10:1. In those verses it talks about people making 'unrighteous decrees' and gathering together against God. These two names stand for that great Babylon that in the last days comes together to fight against the Lord and His truth. It has three parts, the Beast, the Dragon and the False Prophet.

The raven is an unclean bird and in Revelation 18 we see the Lord saying Babylon has become a cage of unclean birds. The wolf goes in packs and stands for these powers gathering together against God. One dies at the Rock and the other at the winepress and this stands for the final spiritual battle when God overthrows these wicked powers.

Thought - It is always safe to be on God's side!

Monday

Text: Judges 8:1-3 "And the men of Ephraim said unto him, Why hast thou served us thus, that thou calledst us not, when thou wentest to fight with the Midianites? And they did chide with him sharply. And he said unto them, What have I done now in comparison of you? Is not the gleanings of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer? God hath delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb: and what was I able to do in comparison of you? Then their anger was abated toward him, when he had said that."

When the heads of these evil princes were brought to Gideon, the men of Ephraim were mad at him because he had not called them to come and fight with him. Now here we see Gideon's humble character. He could have said things that would have caused a fight to start, but instead he answered, "Well you have done much more than I have anyway. You captured these princes, what I have done is nothing along side of that!"

One thing that God's true children will all have is a kind and courteous spirit. They will always be ready to give honor to someone else and will be very courteous and kind.

A boastful spirit, a person that is always bragging about what he can do or has done and wanting people to look at him and praise him is not at all what the true child of God will be like. Neither is a person who is always trying to make what someone else does seem no good.

If we have this habit, we must go to Jesus in prayer and tell Him we are sorry and ask Him to forgive us and take away that wrong spirit and instead give us His meek and quiet spirit. You will find you will be much happier when these boastful, proud, jealous habits are all gone.

Thought - When tempted so say something mean or nasty about someone, find something nice to say instead and see how much better you feel.

Tuesday

Text: Judges 8:22,23 "Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered

us from the hand of Midian. And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you."

Gideon now chases after two heathen kings named Zeeba and Zalmuna. Finally they are captured and executed. Before they are executed, Gideon asked them who were the people they had been killing. They answered that they were like him and looked like the children of a king.

Now this is what the faithful ones who stand for God in the time of trouble will be like- the world will see they are the Children of King Jesus. They will see the lovely character of Jesus in each one of them. Even though some of them may die for Jesus, they will not be at all afraid, because Jesus will be with them, and give them all the strength and courage that they need.

The people of Israel were so happy to be free of the enemies who had made them so miserable. Now they came to Gideon and asked him to be their king and rule over them and his sons after him. But Gideon showed a faithful and true spirit when he said, "No, I will not rule over you, and my sons won't rule over you, God will rule over you."

Thought – Wouldn't it be wonderful if when people see us and notice that we are like Jesus, could say of us, they are like the Children of a King?

Wednesday

Text: Psalm: 83:11,12 "Make their nobles like Oreb, and like Zeeb: yea, all their princes as Zebah, and as Zalmunna: Who said, Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession."

So what prophecy meaning do these names, Zebah and Zalmunna have? Well it is really more than we can have room for in our lesson to tell it all, but Zebah means, "born in the day of sacrifice."

There are places in the prophecies where the Lord calls the last great battle 'the Day of the Lord's sacrifice.' Here is one of them; "And it shall come to pass in the day of the LORD'S sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel." Zephaniah 1:8

Do you remember a certain parable that Jesus told where He said a King had made a feast and invited the people to come and they refused and even killed his servants? (Matt. 22)

Yes, in that parable He says the King will destroy those wicked men and burn up their city. But this parable has a second part to it. It has the King coming in to see the guests to see if they have on the wedding garment.

Now this wedding garment is the Righteousness of Jesus and we must have it on or we can never go to heaven. The King coming into look at the guests, shows us that before Jesus comes to take His people home, there is a special judgment in heaven and the names of all the people who ever claimed to belong to the Lord are being looked at.

In the story, the King gives the beautiful and rich wedding garment to each guest. None of them could afford such a wonderful garment, but all they have to do is accept it and put it on. Garments in the story represent character. The question is 'have they allowed Jesus to take away their sin and put His pure character into them?'

The story says a man was there who did not have the garment on. He decided his own clothes were good enough for the wedding, and would not even put on the garment the king had given to him.

This is like people who think they are pretty good themselves; they are just as good as the next guy; they don't need to confess their sins and have Jesus take them out of their lives and put His character into their hearts. These people look at those who are studying and praying to be ready to meet Jesus as silly fanatics.

They say everything was all done at the cross and it doesn't matter at all what they do or don't do. This in the story would be like saying that when the King had the Garments made, that was all that was needed. But it wasn't true, was it? The people had to choose to come to the wedding, receive the garment and put the garment on.

But what happened to the man without the Wedding Garment on? "And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 22:12,13

Thought – Did you know that all Jesus' parables are also prophecies? Yes, and they also fit with prophecies in the Old Testament to show us clear pictures of our days and what is com-

ing in the end time. We just have to prayerfully study them.

Thursday

Text: Psalm 91:4 “He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.”
Zephaniah 2:3 “Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD’S anger.”

What do we learn from the name Zalmunna? Well, it means; “Shadow of protection is withheld” This name represents something very sad and solemn. Like the name Zebah, it also is telling us about a certain group of people in the last great battle where God destroys the wicked and rescues His people from their cruel plans.

Maybe if you carefully read the two texts for today and then the meaning of the name- you will figure out a bit about what these people are. It is good for us to use our brains to try and understand deeper meanings in the Bible. It is because too many people just listen to the ‘leaders’ and believe what they tell them is true and don’t study it out for themselves, that so many people are being tricked by Satan these days.

Zalmunna stands for a group of people who have claimed to be under God’s protection but they have not bothered to get their characters right with God while the power of Jesus is available to make it possible. Jesus today is still ministering in the Heavenly Sanctuary for us.

When we pray and call for help to get rid of sin, and for His character to take the place of our wicked characters, He presents our prayers before the Father mixed with His goodness and obedience and pleads His shed blood for us. The Father then accepts our prayers as from Jesus and all the guidance and help and protection we need is sent to us.

But here is a group of people that don’t bother will such stuff. They just live from day to day to get all the fun and pleasure in life that they can- and yet they are sure they are on their way to heaven. Some of them plan later on to study more and pray more, but they are not all that worried about it. These people are not out in the world; they are in the church!

The day is soon coming when people will wake up and find they need to get ready to meet Jesus and probation is closed and it is too late. Once Jesus leaves the Sanctuary and isn’t there to plead for us any more, nobody then can change their characters.

The faithful people, who have loved Jesus and trusted in Him and allowed Him to give them His own lovely character garment in place of their own sinful one, will be ready, and God will protect them as the psalm and our hymn says, “Under His Wings”. But the careless ones will not be under the protection of God.

Thought – If you don’t memorize any other chapter in the Bible, make sure you know all of Psalms 91 and understand what it means to us.

Friday

Text: Judges 8:24 & 27 “And Gideon said unto them, I would desire a request of you, that ye would give me every man the earrings of his prey. (For they had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.) 27 And Gideon made an ephod thereof, and put it in his city, even in Ophrah: and all Israel went thither a whoring after it: which thing became a snare unto Gideon, and to his house.”

Sometimes it is easy to stand true when a lot of things are happening and we are very busy and everyone is looking at us. But later when everything is quiet and we get rested up a bit, we can get restless for some excitement again. This is a dangerous thing and is what happened to Gideon.

The battle was won, things had settled down and were quiet and he started to think about something special he could do to have the attention of the people again. Now Satan was right ready to give him an idea that seemed very good, but was really very bad.

Gideon decided to make himself a special priest’s robe, called an ephod, and a golden breastplate to wear on it and act as a Priest of God in his own area. He even began to perform special ceremonies and have feasts where the people came to worship.

Now they may have thought they were worshipping God, but God had never told Gideon to do this, in fact there were warnings in the scriptures that they were not to do anything like

this. It was true God had called Gideon to do a special job for Him, but this did not make him free to do whatever he thought of and call it God's work!

It often happens today that people get an idea to do something 'special' for God but it is something God has not asked them to do and even sometimes something He has told them not to do. If you try to tell them it is not right, sometimes they will say, 'You cannot judge me, I can worship God however I please'.

This may be true, but God does not accept what WE please, He only accepts what He pleases! This 'special idea' that Gideon got-

claiming to honor God really ended up later getting his family whipped out and all of the ten tribes of Israel destroyed by God for their idolatry.

Thought – It is when we think we are 'bored' and restless for some excitement, that Satan can most easily get us into doing wrong things. This is why we are told the faithful in the last days will be 'patient'. "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12 = ^..^ =

