

# TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

## TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 3 - 4th Quarter - Issue #13



### CREATION CORNER WINDS

There are many places in our world that because of the way the land is laid out, or the angle of certain mountains, strong and even dangerous winds are channeled. People who live in such areas learn to be watchful and cautious when the high winds are blowing.

There are a few such areas on the West Coast of Newfoundland (pronounced New Fun Land) where I used to live. One of them is a range of mountains called 'Blow-me-Down' mountains. They have snow on them much of the year, more because of the winds than their great height. Blow-me-Down Park is now in that area.

Another such place is situated just north of 'Port Aux Basques' (port oh bask) near the 'Twin Mountains' and is called Wreck House. There on the highway is a sign warning that if you have any trouble handling your car, to turn back until the wind dies down. The winds there will easily sweep your car from the road.

At Wreck House, in the past, for many years a man was stationed on the railway line whose job it was to go out with a lantern when the

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winds were high and warn the trains to stop and wait until the high winds died down enough to make it safe to pass. These winds could easily sweep the train from its tracks.

There are certain caves called ice caves, in the deserts of western USA, where wind blowing through them at great speed at night causes ice to form.

On the south tip of Africa the sea is often lashed with contrary winds. For many years this area was known as the 'Cape of Storms' until the Portuguese king John II changed it to 'Cape of Good Hope'. Certain winds come during certain months and one of the things they do in that area is to blow away all the dirt and junk out of the city into the sea.

We are living at a time when the Bible warns us we can expect a 'Terrible Storm' of trouble in the near future. Revelation gives us a picture of Four Mighty Angels holding these winds of strife to give us time right now to prepare our hearts, to get ready to stand in the strength of Jesus. Yes, the Spirit of Prophecy writings also are our 'Man with the Lantern' warning us that troublesome times lie ahead and we must get ready.

In areas where mighty winds are prone to blow, trailers and often even houses have strong

cables over them fastened into rock or cement bases so when the winds blow, they are safe. Today is the time to get our strong cables of faith fastened in the Word of God, anchored to His Precious Promises, so when the winds blow, we will not be swept away.

The Bible Prophets tell us that this final storm will blow away all the 'junk'; those who claim to belong to Jesus but are not interested in obeying Him, will all be swept out to sea at that time. My prayer for each of you is that you will be strong and anchored in the Rock Christ Jesus! = ^ .. ^ =

## HISTORY

### Pioneers of The Advent: 11

#### Beginning the Work in California

**"Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds." 2 Co 12:12**

This story of the early work in California is told for us by Elder Loughborough:

While we were at Piner, an evangelist was conducting a revival in a popular church of Santa Rosa. When he learned that some of his members attended our meetings, he came out and challenged us to a two-day debate which we accepted. Such an immense crowd responded, we held it in Mr. Peugh's barn nearby. The Sonoma Democrat reported, "Everything that ran on wheels went out to the second day of the debate." Recognizing the weakness of his own arguments against the Sabbath, the evangelist declared, "Well, I can beat the elder in hollering if in no other way."

After the debate closed, I went into Santa Rosa and found the town all astir. One man commented about the debate, I never saw such a thing! It's like the handle of a jug, all on one side (referring to the Sabbath side of the question)." Doctors, merchants, and even the town dentist hailed me on the street and asked, "Aren't you going to pitch your tent here, and make your next effort in this city?" One doctor went with me and secured a lot on which to erect a tent, then found rooms for us. Lumber for seats and everything else for the tent was furnished without cost. The editor of the Democrat said, "Elder, my paper is open for you to say anything you wish about your meetings." So we decided to erect our tent here and come in on the full

tide.

Feeling that we had reached a turning point where we would see more rapid progress in our work, Elder Bourdeau and I had an earnest season of prayer, and that night the Lord gave me an impressive dream. I dreamed that after we had ascended a mountain and were starting down the other side, we were faced with an abrupt rise of rocks fifty feet high and no apparent way around. Then a man appeared and told us to begin the ascent and a pathway to the right would soon appear. We followed his directions only to find a perpendicular wall to our left and a deep chasm to our right. A misty cloud covered our path fifty feet ahead, but as we advanced, the cloud moved away.

Down in the valley we saw a vast company of people boarding long trains of cars. On three sets of tracks, trains extended as far as the eye could see. It was interpreted to us that the resurrection had occurred. I saw Elder and Mrs. White stepping from one car to another and greeting the resurrected saints. As our train swung around, Elder White exclaimed, "Here comes the California train! We are all going to the city!" At this I awoke, thrilled with the thought that this dream was a token of victory in California.

On April 22, 1869, we began a six-week series of tent meetings at Santa Rosa which was well attended. When we presented the Bible doctrine of spiritual gifts, the pastor of the largest church in the city told his people, "The gifts were given only until the Christian church was established." But soon a miracle of healing occurred that upset his theory and brought even more people to our tent.

On April 20, Sister Skinner of the Piner district became seriously ill, and called for Sister Parrot, M.D. to give her medical care. By May 10, Mrs. Skinner was so much better, Dr. Parrot felt she could leave, and planned to spend a few days at our meeting before returning to her home in Windsor. That evening a horse was readied with sidesaddle for her to ride to our house. Mrs. Skinner's son Oliver planned to come on another horse and take it back.

The horse Dr. Parrot was to ride was used to ladies, and was considered perfectly gentle and safe, but for some unknown reason, when she mounted him, he began to rear and pitch furiously, not only throwing her off, but falling upon her in such a way that the saddle struck

across her arms and chest with such force as to bend the horn out straight. When her friends picked her up and carried her to the house, they feared she was dead. She regained consciousness, but could not speak above a whisper. When someone suggested they send for a doctor, she replied, "No! A doctor can do me no good. Send for the ministers at the tent. If they come and pray, the Lord will heal me."

Just as Elder Bourdeau and I were about to open our evening service, Oliver arrived with Dr. Parrot's request. Thinking it unwise to send our congregation home, we promised to come as early as possible in the morning.

Taking my wife along, we left before dawn with Jackson Ferguson driving his wagon. On arrival we learned that her condition had required four attendants to care for her during the night. She whispered to us, "Anoint me and pray, and the Lord will heal me."

As we prayed, commending her to the Great Physician, my wife anointed her. Soon Dr. Parrot began to pray in a loud voice, clapped her hands and said, "I am healed." She arose, dressed herself, and walked to another room to see Mrs. Skinner, after which she helped get dinner. She rode in a chair on a lumber wagon into Santa Rosa where she attended the evening service free from all pain. Oliver Skinner, who called himself an infidel, was astonished and became a good witness to many inquirers.

But we were not left with simply one demonstration of the Lord's willingness to heal. Mr. Ferguson's sister-in-law, a bedfast invalid and unable to attend meetings, requested us to come to her house and present some of the things we were teaching at the tent. So we hung our charts beside her bed and gave her a synopsis of our meetings, returning once a week throughout the month of May.

On May 26, Father Ferguson was to be baptized in Santa Rosa Creek, about 200 feet from their door. Both of the sons were there with their families. The invalid daughter-in-law said, "I, too, want to be baptized. The Lord who has heard my prayers and forgiven my sins will give me strength to be baptized."

She was dressed for the occasion, placed in a chair in a wagon, which was then driven into the water. Elder Bourdeau took one side of the chair and I the other and carried her to the proper depth. As we raised her from the water

she shouted, "Glory!" her face radiant with the light of heaven. She then walked to the wagon and got in without assistance. She made her own change of clothing at her house, declared herself free from illness and prepared dinner for the company.

Great was the astonishment of the people on Sabbath, to see this sister come to the meeting in a lumber wagon, sit on hard board seats all through the services, return to the evening meeting, then home again in that uncomfortable wagon. = ^ .. ^ =

## TRUE-STORY-TIME

### The Preacher's Boy & the Humpback

IN A TIMBER CAMP in the midst of the pines, two men were strangely drawn toward each other. One of them was Tim, short and humpbacked, with strong, sinewy arms, who had been in the camp many years and was a general favorite. The other was a newcomer, a tall, broad-shouldered young man, who carried himself proudly erect and had a clean-cut face and steel-blue eyes.

To the surprise of all, Tim was attracted to this man, Raymond Lee. In various ways Tim showed his preference for him, and thus won the kindly tolerance of the young fellow. Tim said to him, "Ray, you've got a lot to be thankful for. You know books, and you've had a chance." Ray pondered over Tim's words. A chance? Yes, he had, and had thrown it away.

One day Raymond and Tim were working with a large party of tree fallers. Suddenly a monarch tree of the forest crashed to the ground. Above the noise a cry of pain and terror was heard. It was from poor, crippled Tim. A branch of the fallen tree had swept him off his feet and pinned him to the ground.

Raymond was the first to reach him. Carefully Tim was freed, but found to be fearfully mangled. "I guess it's all over with me, boys," Tim said, trying hard to keep his voice steady. "Ray, stay by me. Oh, be careful."

They carried him to the camp and a doctor was sent for, but it seemed that he might die before the doctor would come. When he was laid on a rude bunk, he said, "It's death, boys. Tell me about God. No one ever told me."

The men were silent, so Tim spoke again, "Ray, tell me. It must be you know, because you're different from the rest of us."

All eyes turned toward Raymond. So he bent over Tim and asked, "What is it you want to hear?"

"All 'bout Him. You see, I don't know much. Can't you tell me about Him? Pray for me!" Raymond was stunned. His face grew white and stern. His father was a minister. He himself had been a theological student and had been influenced by a skeptical classmate who had lent him books that implanted doubt in his mind.

Thinking himself superior mentally, he had gone on until he had cast aside the faith of his dead mother and had denied God. So he had forsaken his studies, written defiantly to his father, and at last in desperation hired himself out to work in the timber camp. All this flashed through his mind, and now this dying man was asking him to pray for him. A groan escaped him, and he said, "Tim, I cannot! I-" He paused, unable to say that he did not believe in God, to whom dying Tim had now turned.

Raymond could bear no more. Turning away, he rushed out into the forest and strode here and there, caring not where. Face to face he grappled with his great problem, his right relation to God. His skeptical theories fell away from him. He had nothing now to stand upon. Then came a struggle as for life, till at last he reached a decision that meant everything to him, as with all his strength he won his way back to God with the determination: "I will believe in God, and I will obey Him! I will believe in Jesus, and I will trust in Him as my Savior I And I will tell others the story of His saving love and do all I can to win them for, Him!"

The shadows of evening were gathering in the room where dying Tim was lying. Raymond entered, went to his side, and said, "Tim, I have been with God. He has forgiven me, sinner that I am. Now I have come to tell you of His love." Then simply and tenderly he told the story of God's love in sending His beloved Son into the world to die for the lost-to become the Sin Bearer of all who would accept His salvation: "God commends His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." Romans 5: 8; 1 John 1: 7.

As others gathered around, they saw the light that came into Tim's face as he gasped, "I see!"

Raymond knelt down, and one after another of the men knelt with him. Never had he prayed

such a prayer before, for a soul was on the verge of eternity. And God wondrously answered.

"Its all right!" Tim murmured, "Ray, you tell everybody! "

"Yes, Tim, I will spend my life telling it," he promised.

Tim said feebly, "I thank Him!" and in a few moments all was over. Raymond then faced the men and said: "Boys, I have gone back to the service I pledged to God many years ago. You heard my promise to Tim. Will you forgive the spirit I have shown toward you, and may I tell you something?"

"Yes, go ahead," said the leader of the men. Raymond began at once and told them the story of Jesus and His love. That night he wrote to his father, telling him of his conversion. The next night he told the men still more, and the third night his father arrived to help him. The glorious work went on until seventy souls had accepted Christ as their own personal Savior and were rejoicing in His great salvation.

If you have been ignorant of the saving power of God through Jesus, will you with an open mind behold it as earnestly as did Tim, so that you also can say as fervently as he did, "I see." And will you also open your heart to Jesus as Tim did, so that you can be able to say as decisively as he did, "It's all right"? If you do, rest and peace will come into your life = ^..^ =

### **The Criminal & the Coat**

HOW FULLY can a man be changed by the saving grace of Jesus? In the slums of New York, according to Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman, lived a violent criminal who had already served three terms in prison. He was also ignorant and profane. But one cold night as he sat dejected in an alley, a city missionary came along and offered him a tract.

True to his violent and profane nature he snarled and swore, then said, "If you want to help me, give me your coat! You must see that I am freezing!" The missionary did so, although he was thinly clad. Off came his coat, which he handed over to him. The poor man in his great need had put Christianity to the test and found it true. The love of Christ for him, through one of His humble servants, touched his heart and at last brought to pass in him a great transformation of soul and reformation of life.

That man was Jerry McAuley. He had been deep in iniquity and far from God, but he became a wonderful winner of souls as the leader of one of the greatest of city missions. Then after his life's work was done, as he was lying in his casket, one of New York's great preachers said, as he stood in a great pulpit and looked down upon his cold face, O all men who have worked in our city, I think this man was almost the greatest. I pay tribute to his memory. He has influenced the city profoundly in his mission."

Then the poor came to have a last look at their faithful friend, bending over his upturned face and wetting it with tears. They were followed by a great company of men, each having a white rose to place on his casket, a last token that he had won them from a life of sin to a life of holiness. There were so many that the casket became a monument of roses to the memory of the man who had been fully transformed and used in the winning of the lost for Christ.

Have you been transformed through Christ, made new in heart and soul? Has He made you unselfish, meek, and lowly? If not, would you like to have Him do so and enable you also to live a changed life? If you have not been transformed through Christ, call upon Him to save you like Peter, who, sinking beneath the waves, said, "Lord, save me." And "immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand, and caught him." Matthew 14:30,31. How quickly Jesus saved Peter, and how quickly He will respond to your call also if you call upon Him! = ^ .. ^ =



**Year 3: 3rd Quarter:**  
**"JESUS OUR SAVIOR"**  
**WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 13: "WERE YOU THERE?"**

This series of Bible Story Lessons is about Jesus. 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: "Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."**

**Matthew 26:64**

**Sunday**

**Text: John 18:4-6 "Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground."**

We can only tell the wonderful story of the cross very briefly here. Please read it for yourself in all four gospels. Every one of them has something special to tell us. Right after the angel had strengthened Jesus, the sound of the mob was heard coming with sticks and weapons to arrest Jesus.

Judas was with them and came up and kissed Him, as if he was not part of the cruel mob, but he did not fool Jesus. He asked sadly, "Judas, do you betray the Son of man with a kiss?"

John tells us of a wonderful thing that happened right then, the mighty angel that had come to strengthen Jesus, right then stepped between Him and the mob and let his glory flash out for a brief moment. Instantly all these wicked men, including Judas, staggered backward and fell to the ground.

This was a warning to them, but they quickly got back up and kept on with their plans. Jesus had just stood there quiet and calm, like the mighty King He really was and now as they got up they tied His hands to lead Him away.

Right at that moment, Peter decided he had better fight for his Master and pulled out a sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest. Jesus told him not to do this, and easily freeing His hands, He touched the man's ear and instantly healed it. Did the crowd pay attention to these warning signs that Jesus was truly the Son of God? No, they just tied Him up again and started to take him to the courtroom of the High Priest.

**Thought** - Jesus asked the mob, "Whom seek ye?" When they said Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus said, "I am He" and then asked them to allow His disciples to go their way. Even though He knew what He was facing, He thoughts were on others, not Himself. At this point the disciples ran away and left Him just as He told them they would.

### Monday

**Text: John 18:15,16 "And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter."**

The 'other disciple' was John. When John went into the palace of the High Priest, he did not hide the fact of who he was, but Peter, tried to pretend he was part of the crowd and went over to where a fire had been built to warm up those who had brought in Jesus. Now if Peter had been honest and stayed with John, he would not have been put in a tight spot. By being dishonest, he could not have the keeping power of God.

Soon people noticed Peter and began to question him, 'aren't you one of that man's followers?' Peter said he wasn't and moved away to another area, again it happened and again he denied. Finally He got so upset that when asked for the third time, he actually swore and denied Jesus again. Right then the rooster crowed and Peter remembered what Jesus had said. Yes, it had all come true, and as Peter looked towards Jesus, Jesus looked over at him with pity and sadness.

Peter was heart-broken; yes, he had done just what Jesus warned him of and he had been so sure of himself, so full of self-esteem and pride.

Now he saw things as they really were. That night, weeping in sorrow for his terrible sin in the garden where Jesus had prayed a short time before and he had foolishly slept, he surrendered all and was born again.

Back at the judgment hall, things were not going good for the rulers. They were breaking many of their own laws, trying to convict Jesus. They brought out false witnesses they had paid to lie about Jesus, but these did not help at all. One said one thing and another said something else and so they cancelled each other out. Those watching, began to see the dishonesty of the priests.

To make matters worse, suddenly a frantic voice was heard, shouting out, "I have sinned in that I betrayed the innocent blood!" It was Judas, who hurried forward with the money the priests had given him, begging them to let Jesus go free. The priests were embarrassed as the people saw they had actually bribed someone to betray Jesus. "What is that to us? That's your problem!" they snarled. And Judas threw down the money and fled out to hang himself.

Why did Peter repent, but Judas hang himself? Peter was truly sorry for his denial. Judas wasn't truly sorry for what he had done, he was sorry that his plans had failed and his selfishness had come back on his own head.

Now the High Priest, getting desperate for fear they would lose this chance to get rid of Jesus, turned and asked Jesus point blank, "I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus had to answer or deny the truth of Who He was. He answered in the words of our memory verse.

At this the high priest, pretending to be horrified, tore his robe. Now there was a law given of God that the Priest, because he represented God, was NEVER to tear his special priestly clothes. In fact if he did, he himself was to die for it! The rulers had made up a different rule of their own saying that it was OK if he did it for blasphemy. But God did not accept their rules. The High Priest himself was worthy to be executed but Jesus was condemned and led away.

**Thought** - We all need to learn Peter's sad lesson, in our own selves we do NOT have the ability to be true to God. We MUST have the power of the Holy Spirit in us at all times or when things get tough, we will fall and be lost.

That is why Jesus had warned them they needed to pray!

## Tuesday

**Text: John 18:28** “Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover.”

Here again we see more of the priest’s silly made up rules. They were busy murdering an innocent person and yet they were worried that if they went into a gentile’s house, they would be made unclean and not able to eat the Passover. How blind are people who turn away from the truth!!

Pilate came out on the porch to see what they wanted. They told him that they wanted to have this man put to death because He had said He was a king. Pilate looked at Jesus and saw that He was not a criminal. His heart was touched and he wanted to release Jesus.

He thought he could get out of the spot he was in by sending Jesus to Herod, and so Jesus was taken to Herod’s judgment hall. Herod asked questions and tried to get Jesus to work a miracle so he could see it. But Jesus would not even speak to Herod. God had spoken to Herod many times through John the Baptist, and now there was no more to be said. Herod put an old kingly robe on Jesus and had the soldiers make fun of Him and then sent Him back to Pilate.

When Pilate saw Jesus brought back he was really upset. He did not want to condemn an innocent man. Right then also his wife sent him a warning message not to condemn Jesus because he was from God. But the mob shouted ‘Crucify Him, Crucify Him! We have no king but Caesar!’

Then Pilate had Jesus beaten and intended to let Him go. He even brought out Barabas, the worst criminal in the prison and asked the people to choose between him and Jesus. But the people chose Barabas and yelled for Jesus to be crucified.

Pilate asked for a basin of water and washed his hands to show he was not guilty of the blood of Jesus. The people all yelled, “His blood be on us and on our children!” Every word is recorded in the Bible but also in the books of heaven. What a terrible guilt then rested both

on Pilate and the people and rulers!

During these false trials Jesus patiently bore all the shame and cruelty that Satan could get his slaves to pour out on Jesus. They mocked Him and spat on Him. Our messenger, Ellen White, actually was shown this and she saw Him quietly put up His hand and wipe the spit from His face and yet show no anger.

Finally Pilate gave them the paper they needed and ordered Jesus to be crucified, as they demanded.

**Thought** – Pilate was a coward. He allowed these demon possessed men to ‘force’ him into doing what he knew was wrong. His washing his hands did not take his guilt away. And the very thing he feared happened to him any way, he lost his position. Miserable to its close was the life of Pilate. Despair and anguish crushed every hopeful, joyful feeling. He refused to be comforted and died a most miserable death.

## Wednesday

**Text: Matthew 27:29-31** “And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.”

Jesus had been through the terrible struggle in the garden; there if the Angel had not strengthened Him, He would have died. Now He had been all night being mocked and shoved around by the mob. Twice he had been beaten and now a thorny crown was jammed onto His head. And yet through it all He remained calm and quiet: “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.” Isa 53:7

Then as He was led out now, the heavy cross placed on His back to carry to the place of execution. But now humanity gives way and He falls to the ground fainting. Twice He struggles to carry the cross, but falls fainting. Then the soldiers grabbed a man named Simon and forced him to carry the cross, as none of the Jews would do it for fear they would become ‘un-

clean'.

Now God could have given Jesus power to carry that cross all Himself, but He did not. Why? There is a lesson here. While it is true that Jesus paid the price to open up the way of salvation to sinful mankind, yet there is a work that we must do if we would be saved by what Jesus did for us. WE must be willing to bear the cross and follow Jesus. We must accept the shame and reproach and be willing to follow the humble road of obedience all the way, no matter what it costs.

When they came to Calvary, the two thieves struggled and cursed as they were bound to their crosses and nailed, but Jesus meekly allowed His hands to be spread out and the cruel nails driven through them. The only words He spoke were, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do!" This prayer included all of us. Did you know that every time we choose to go our own way and disobey God, it is like we crucify Jesus over again? And Jesus stands before the Throne of God and pleads His blood saying, "Father forgive them."

During the hours that Jesus hung dying on the cross, Satan worked through the minds of wicked men and they made fun of Him and laughed and jeered at Him. We are told that Satan and some of his wicked angels even appeared as men in that crowd and joined in the mockery.

They said that if Jesus came down from the cross, then they would believe Him. Another thing they said is very true: "He saved others, Himself He cannot save." Yes, to save us, Jesus had to give all Himself, and bear all Himself. "I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me." Isa 63:3. He could not save Himself and us too.

**Thought** – Never once did Jesus complain or murmur through all this time of suffering. As the old song says, "They crucified my Lord, and He never said a mumbling word!" Remember that when you are tempted to complain.

### Thursday

**Text: Matthew 27:50-53** "Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept

**arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."**

At exactly the time when the Priest in the temple was about to slay the special Passover Lamb, Jesus cried loudly, "It is finished", and bowed His head and died. This was three o'clock in the afternoon, (called the fifteenth hour in the Bible). The huge, heavy curtain in the Temple that hung between the Holy and Most Holy place and could be seen through the Holy Place from outside, was suddenly torn from top to bottom with a loud sound and the earth shook. The lamb escaped in the confusion and ran away.

Never again would the feast days or animal sacrifices have any meaning before God, because Jesus, the Lamb of God was sacrificed for mankind. Now we can study those old ceremonies as they were given to Israel by God and we can learn things about the Plan of Salvation as we do, but if we actually try to celebrate those old feasts, it is the same as if we say, "I am still looking for a Messiah, Jesus is not my Messiah."

A little later in the evening, the priests and rulers decided they wanted those bodies taken down off the crosses so they wouldn't be hanging there on the Sabbath as the Passover sabbath and the weekly Sabbath that year were on the same day and that made it doubly holy. It was called 'an High Day'. So they asked Pilate that the three men on the cross might have their deaths hastened.

He agreed and sent a soldier to break the legs of the two thieves. Because they had to use their legs when on the cross to lift up enough to breath, this caused them to quickly die. But when they came to Jesus, they found He was already dead. This was amazing as death on the cross usually took many days.

The soldier did not break His legs, but instead pierced His side with a spear and two separate streams flowed out, dark blood and clear water. This showed that Jesus did not die of crucifixion, but of a broken heart.

Now the disciples were in a bad spot. They wanted their beloved Master to be placed in an honorable tomb, but there was no way they could arrange for this to happen. Now it was that two secret friends of Jesus among the Rulers came to the rescue. Joseph of Arimathea

went and begged Pilate for the body of Jesus and after sending a soldier to make sure Jesus was indeed dead, he let the body go to this man.

Nicodemus, another rich man, who had come to see Jesus secretly at night, also came forward to help. Soon Jesus was lovingly taken down from the cross and placed in Joseph's new tomb.

All this was done hurriedly for the Sabbath began at sundown. After laying Jesus to rest, all returned home to rest over the Sabbath hours.

**Thought** – He could have called ten thousand angels, to destroy the world, and set Him free. He could have called ten thousand angels-but He died alone for you and me!

## Friday

**Text: Matthew 27:62, 63** “Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.”

It is the Sabbath, the special 'High-day' Sabbath and yet the chief priests are thinking about something besides worshipping. Indeed they are so worried about it that they go on the Sabbath right over to the palace of Pilate and go in to ask him a favor. So much for their silly man-made rules of holiness!

They remember that Jesus said He would rise the third day and they were afraid the disciples would steal the body and claim Jesus had risen. Actually Satan was very much involved with this whole business as He was hoping to keep Jesus in that tomb forever! He had legions of his evil angels around that tomb already.

Pilate gave the order and told them to seal the tomb and station Roman soldiers around it. Like Satan, they all hoped Jesus would remain forever dead.

Strange the disciples did not remember these words of Jesus until much later. Instead they were huddled in the upper room where just hours before they had eaten the Last Supper with their Master. Shocked and sorrowful, they didn't know what to think, and were afraid the Jewish leaders would kill them next.

The third day began at Sabbath sunset. The

night settled down and the hours of darkness passed away. The Roman soldiers faithfully stood their watch guarding the tomb. Satan and his nasty bunch also crowded around, invisible to human eyes.

Suddenly before the dawn, a mighty angel was sent from the heavenly courts. Like a flash of lightning he comes in visible form to the tomb. At the sight of him the guards fall to the earth like dead men and yet they can see what is happening! Even Satan and his angels scatter in terror from the presence of that heavenly messenger.

Seizing the huge stone, he rolls it away like a pebble and then sits on it. His voice rings through the darkness, “Son of God, come forth; Thy Father calls Thee.” They see Jesus come forth from the grave, and hear Him proclaim over the rent sepulcher, “I am the resurrection, and the life.” As He comes forth in majesty and glory, the angel host bow low in adoration before the Redeemer, and welcome Him with songs of praise.

After this bright scene has passed, the trembling soldiers stagger to their feet and hurry off to carry the story to Pilate. Before they can get to Pilate however, the chief Priests get the news and call them in to tell them about it first.

After the soldiers tell the story they are about to go to Pilate and tell him too, but the priests urge them to lie instead and say that the disciples stole the body. The soldiers did not want to do this, but the priests offered them a lot of money until they agreed. Pilate was too smart to be fooled by this, and soon got the real story.

From that day until the ends of their lives, both those chief priests and Pilate lived in terror lest the risen Christ appear before them and accuse His murderers. They never knew another happy day or peaceful night.

But we can have happy days and peaceful nights if we accept Jesus as our Saviour because He is not still in Joseph's new tomb, He Is Risen! He is a Living Saviour!

**Thought** - He is risen from the dead, and we have a living Saviour today who is making intercession for us. Then talk of His love, talk of His power, praise Him. If you have a voice to say anything, talk of God, talk of heaven, talk of eternal life. = ^ .. ^ =