

Godly Youth

Young in Age, Strong in Heart

Easter

During this month, many churches will be celebrating Easter in their church services. Some will have plays about the death and resurrection of Jesus. Some churches will meet early in the morning and have services as the sun rises. Other churches will have different special services to celebrate Easter.

The early church, established by Jesus, did not celebrate Easter for there was no such day at that time. The Easter celebration was developed by men much later in history.

About 1,800 years ago, some churches wanted to appeal to people who worshipped idols. Instead of following Paul's example and telling the people to quit worshipping idols (Acts 17:29-30), they tried to give the idols some

“Christian meaning. They mixed what was from God with that which was against God.

One of the most celebrated feasts honored the goddess Ostara. Ostara was the goddess of the morning light, or the sun's return in the Spring. The name Easter comes from Ostara. The people of the ancient times rejoiced when spring came for they knew that the terrible winter was behind them and that their crops would bring forth the much needed food.

Spring was also a time when the earth seemed to come alive. New plants, new flowers, and new grass would appear. Birds and other animals would reappear and many baby animals with them. It seemed that the earth was dead in the winter and was now returning to life.

Since these churches wanted to mix the celebration of the goddess of Spring in the church, they felt it was appropriate to use it as a time to remember the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The celebration of new life in worship to idols now became worship in the church.

Should the church have a special Easter pageant or recognize the resurrection in a special way that day? Since the early church did not do it, we should not do it. If an individual wants to celebrate it as a social holiday with no spiritual meaning, he must decide for himself if it is fine to do. But we must know where this celebration came from: it was not from God but from men.

PRAY FOR: Parents

When you pray, be sure to pray for your parents. They will appreciate you asking God to help them. As a parent I want my children to pray for me to be in good health. I want them to pray for me to do well in my work and that we will have the things that we need, such as food and clothes.

I also want my children to pray for me to be a good father and for my wife to be a good mother. We have never been parents before

so we want God's help. We want our children to pray that we will be wise in our decisions and to forgive us when we make wrong decisions. I want my children to pray that I will be a good example to them.

I also want my children to pray that I will give them my attention and love; that when I punish them I will be fair and understanding.

Be sure to pray for your parents. Do not forget to pray for them every day.

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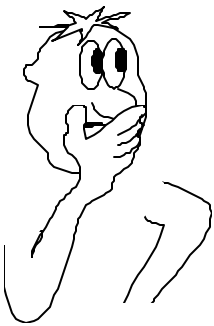
*" [They]
searched the
Scriptures daily
to find out
whether these
things were so."*

Acts 17:11



Lessons from Nahum

- God remembers those who are mean and mistreat His children
- When God says that He will destroy a nation, no one is strong enough to fight against Him
- God will take care of His people as long as they are faithful to Him
- If we sin, we must repent and serve God



“Know what you will do in a situation before that situation arises.”

Meeting the Prophets: Nahum

Nahum was a prophet of God chosen to take his message to the people of Nineveh. Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian empire, one of the enemies of God’s people. It was the nation of Assyria that took the northern tribes of Israel into captivity. They were very brave but very mean. They would often cause their prisoners to suffer terrible pain before they killed them. I am sure that the people of Israel were treated badly by the people of Nineveh.

God sent Nahum to tell the people of Nineveh that God was going to punish them because they were so mean to Israel. If you read in the Old Testament, you will find that God chose Assyria to attack Israel because Israel was not obeying God but were worshipping idols. However, the people of Nineveh did not attack Israel

because they thought they were helping God, but because they wanted to get their land and all of their treasures. Since they treated Israel so badly, God would punish Assyria.

The people of Nineveh were very strong but God told them not to trust in their strength for He was more powerful. They thought that they were a great nation, and at the time they were, but God said that he would destroy the nation. This would be hard to believe for the Assyrians controlled a lot of the world around them. However, since God spoke against them, they would surely fall. No matter how strong they were, they could not fight God and win.

God said the palaces would be destroyed and that wild animals would live in the city. He also said that the people would be taken

prisoner by other nations just as Assyria took other nations captive. This came true just as God promised. The Babylonians destroyed the city of Nineveh and took the people away.

God promised that He would take care of His people. Though they seemed weak compared to the people of Nineveh, God would be their strength. We may be small compared to so many people who want to do what is wrong but God takes care of us, too. However, we must be faithful to God because He is angry with those who turn their backs on Him and choose to not serve Him anymore.

God had given Nineveh a chance to repent long before, when God sent Jonah to tell the people to repent. They changed for a while then turned back on God. Now they would be destroyed.

What Do You Think They Should Do?

Jeanie is pretty frustrated this Sunday morning. Every night she reads a little bit of her Bible class lesson and scriptures. On Saturday she fills out the questions in her class book so she will be ready for class and be able to discuss the lesson and ask questions that came up in her home study.

Leslie is in Jeanie’s class. Every Sunday Leslie comes in and asks to see Jeanie’s book. She then copies Jeanie’s answers into her book. Sometimes, when she is late, she will ask for Jeanie’s book to read the answer. One time, 5 people read answers from her book in class.

Who Am I?

1. I had a stick that turned into a snake then back into a stick.
2. One time the stick budded like a tree. It was put into the Ark of the Covenant.
3. My brother did powerful signs before King Pharaoh of Egypt; I spoke the words of God to him.
4. I had a sister named Miriam. She and I wanted to lead Israel like Moses but it made God angry. We then obeyed God.

Do you know who I am? (Answer below)

I am Aaron!

Word Search: Kings and Queens

A D C H E D O R L A O M E R
 F R A S T H E Z Z R D B J D
 S H E B A E P I L A T E B U
 R D S C Y R I G H R S L Y C
 P H A R A O H C D T I S U W
 C H R A L D M A C A D H R C
 S H A B T L Z K R X E A P Y
 N E B U C H A D N E Z Z A R U
 E R Z Z A F B A L R P Z O U
 X E X J E B Y R E X S A Z S
 R E V A S H T I X E E R F U
 Y G F D A T Z O P S Q W K I
 M O S W R V A S H Q Z Z N M

The people of God encountered many kings and queens from other nations. Can you find the following kings and queens that are in mentioned the Bible?

Pharaoh	Herod	Pilate	Caesar
Chedorlaomer	Artaxerxes	Cyrus	Darius
Nebuchadnezzar	Sheba	Belshazzar	Vashti

Memory Verse: Verse: Romans 13:1

“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God

Did you know that when you are obeying the law of the United States and the state in which you live, you are also obeying God? Paul told the Romans that God gave government authorities their power. During Paul’s time the government required the people to worship their leader as a god. Although the Christians would not do that, even this bad government served God’s purposes. People had to serve Him even if it meant they might be put in jail or

killed for worshipping Him. God eventually destroyed that government, punishing it for treating His people badly.

You may have heard about the war in Iraq and other places. Always remember that “the Most High rules in the kingdoms of men,” Daniel 4:25. We must have no fear since God is in control. Even if our government were to tell us we could not worship God, we would still have to obey

God, Acts 5:29. Let us be thankful that our country allows us to worship God without fear of people trying to stop us.

Though governments change and fight wars in different places, always remember that God is in control. Every government exists by His power and He will punish the ones that are mean to His people.

Obey the law because you are also obeying God.

Many of these kings fought against God’s people.

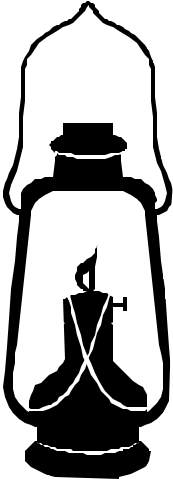
Sometimes God gave the enemies a victory in order to punish Israel for its wickedness.

But no enemy—no matter how strong—could defeat God’s people when they were faithful to Him.

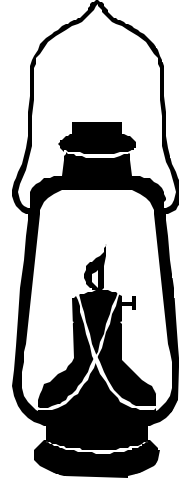


His Lamps We Are

Author Unknown



His lamps we are,
To shine where He shall say.
And lamps are not for sunny rooms,
Nor for the light of day,
But for dark places of the earth,
Where shame and wrong and crime have birth,
And for the murky twilight gray,
Where wandering sheep have gone astray,
And where the lamp of faith grows dim,
And souls are groping after him.
And as sometimes a flame we see,
Clear shining, through the night,
So dark we cannot see the lamp—
But only see the light.



“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

I hope you enjoyed this issue of *Godly Youth*. If you have ideas for articles or questions you want to ask, you can email me at rhodes.davis@comcast.net or write to the address below.

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A SPECIAL NEWSLETTER
JUST FOR YOU!
