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McInteer Sermon Outlines - Kings, 1

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The Oddest Medical Prescription in the Bible

I Kings 1:1-4

- I. The introductory words of I Kings bring us to the oddest and at first most embarrassing medical prescription of the Bible.
 - A. Since it is a vital part of the history of David, we need to study it.
 - B. We do it without casting asperations or impishly suggesting physical improprieties.
 - C. But it is apprehensively so that this is an odd remedy for chills.
 - D. Let's now read the story told only here:

I Kings 1:14

- II. We begin our study with a glance at I Kings.
 - A. The book is occupied with the ascension of Solomon to his father's throne as one sees the immediate circumstances that preceded and mark the event as well as the history that follows.
 - B. Natural order of events would be for Solomon to come to the throne at his father's death. However, Adonijah's attempt to elevate himself--he being another son of David--precipitated some unusual events.

- C. We see the physical decline of David and his subsequent death.
- D. Interestingly the sickness of David ushers in a whole new thought that will be a part of this lesson as we look at sickness.
- E. The best time estimate for this is 1015 B.C.

III. Now we turn to the text itself.

A. "Now" is our first word.

1. That should not shock as other Old Testament books similiarly begin.
 - a) Look at Exodus.
 - b) Check Numbers.
 - c) Examine Joshua.
 - d) How about Joshua and Judges?
 - e) Did you notice Ruth and I Samuel?
 - f) See how many more you can find.
2. What does "now" communicate?
 - a) The Bible is alive and current.
 - b) There is unity among its 66 books.
 - c) However the word does not tie the reader to a special event as there is no unusual connection- rather it's a condition of the times. It does not necessarily imply connection with earlier writings.

d) This is simply the opening stroke of what will introduce a very vivid book, writings with unusual detail and stirring events.

B. We are moved to teh last days and hours of David.

1. Note he is called "King David," a detail much used in this book.
2. You will frequently see the use of such: King David, King Solomon, King Asa - a characteristic of this author.
3. Does not the Holy Spirit, though guiding every word, leave room for writer's personality and individualistic composition?
4. Books are marked by authors' personalities.
 - a) Luke speaks in medical terms-- he does not record one has a fever--he takes it and states it's a high fever.
 - b) Mark abounds with "immediate," "straightway," "forthwith."
 - c) For Luke the word "certain" is popular.

C. Flatly the Bible says David was "old."

1. Was he not abut 70 years old?

2. Do you suppose his battles, his sorrows, the strain of his office, his anxieties over his family had something to do with aging him?
3. Make a study of kings who lived to be 70 or more.
4. Check Solomon and Manasses.
5. Is the life span in USA increasing or diminishing?
6. Do you know someone that is old before his time?
7. Does "stricken in years" imply the military and the political casts some effect on David?

IV. This brings us to an oriented sick room and gives a springboard to thoughts about illness.

- A. See in your mind a 70-year old man that is refusing to be made warm.
- B. On the kingly couch see a "freezing" old man covered with clothes.
 1. They piled on the covers.
 2. With the normal heat of the body, trapped by our quilts and blankets we stay warm.
 3. The colder we are the more covers we add.
 4. For aged David this did not work. The royal coverings gave him no relief.

C. The addition of bed clothes.

1. Is he too feeble to rise from his bed?
2. Must every remedy be external-- nothing internal to be done?
3. Do you see him as a very feeble and sick man who "gat no heat?"
4. Is his impending death a major event for Solomon and for Adonijah?

V. But let's look at sickness as our lives are touched by it.

A. What is the purpose of sickness?

1. It reminds us we are not put here to stay.
2. It is a warning to be ready for departure from earth.
3. It brings pain so severely we are anxious to leave for something far better.
4. We see sickness is no respecter of persons--it comes to kings and commoners. One wrote "it thunders at the palace gate of kings and the dwellings of the poor."
5. Sickness, unless it is overwhelmingly sudden, gives time to make preparations to leave.
6. Sickness and suffering can make life valueless and welcome a departure. Mother's words to me "Son, I am life weary."

7. Sickness has been called God's discipline. We cling to life, but finally are resigned to "let go," as we are weaned from the world.
8. It makes the denial of death impossible--calls man to measure his days, as man sets his house in order.
9. It has been said there are two suggestive words in the ancient language--one is "affliction" and the other "instruction" --they differ by only one letter as illness may be man's finishing school.

B. Can we accept sickness, illness, infirmities, and learn from it?

VI. Now we turn to the most unusual medical remedy I know of in the Bible.

A. First, who prescribed?

1. v-2 "His servants."
2. v-3 "They sought."
3. v-3 They "found," they "brought."

B. Do you think the bringing of a damsel to bed with David was God's way or man's?

1. Henry wrote, "it would have troubled one to see his physicians so weak and unskillful that they knew no other way of relieving him other than by outward application."

2. Scott said, "The counsel of his physicians deserve censure. Advice is often enforced under sperious pretexts whereby persons are induced to actions inconsistent with their character and profession.

C. Here was the prescription:

"Wherefore his servants said unto him. Let there be sought for my lord the king a young virgin: and let her stand before the king, and let her cherish him, and let her lie in thy bosom, that my lord the king may get heat."

1. Virgin, young.
2. Stand before the king.
 - a) David stretched out on a couch covered with many folds of eastern tapestry and we see a feeble, decrepit attenuated man.
 - b) At his side stands a fair young girl acidulously ministering to his wants.
 - c) His mind is not wrecked like his body.
 - d) "Stand" is to minister, or wait on him in his sickness as the occasion requires.
 - e) In the east servants still stand and wait their master's pleasure.

- f) Cherish him - close embrace of youth to impart health and heat internal remedies not known.
- g) People of the east slept in separate beds--usually would impart for medical reasons.

Ecc. 4:11

- h) Cherish - young life impart strength to old.
 - i) Help of the young robbed to give aged and sickly support.
3. She was "fair," from Shunam.
- a) Territory of Ithaca.
 - b) Plain of Jezreel near Mount Gilboa.
 - c) Lower slopes of Little Herman - see the plain of Estraelon.
 - d) Literally very fair, fair to exceeding.
4. Name Abishag
- a) Shunamite.
 - b) Ab = father.

D. What was she?

- 1. Concubine?
- 2. Knew her not.
- 3. See 2:13-25 - evidently a wife. Adonijah sought to use her to further his cause. Such would have been incestuous.

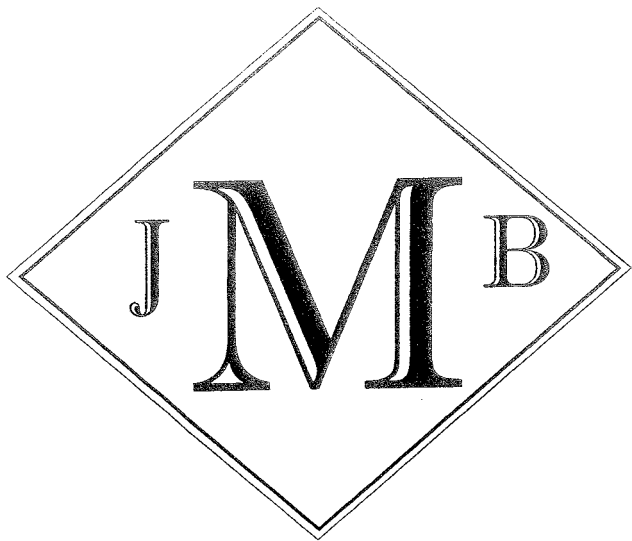
Lev. 15:2

15:8

4. Wesley says a "wife" - David dying would not have allowed such otherwise. He says "lying in his bosom" means she was his wife and Adonijah knew this otherwise his scheme meaningless.
5. Henry a "secondary wife" thus Adonijah's request a great crime.
6. To say the least it is unusual.
7. Nowhere does it say God approved- He just recorded it.

VII. What does this say to us?

- A. Our records may show some improprieties.
- B. We cannot hide behind "it's doctor's orders."
- C. Let's keep ourselves in unquestioned positions.



SOLOMON'S GREATEST SPEECH

I Kings 3

- I. Bit audacious to pick such since I deal with:
- A. Wisest man who ever lived.
 - B. Complimented by David, man after God's own heart, as having a son who was a "wise man."
 - C. Author of 3,000 proverbs, 1,005 songs.
 - D. Spoke on every known subject.
 - E. Wealth & construction that defies imagination--even a queen faints.
 - F. Yet I believe I've found it--by virtue of the compliment he received. Story from I Kings 3.

II. Perhaps out of chronological order--some say to get his Egyptian bride out of the way before extolling his wisdom (some ladies haven't any prizes in the men they have either!) let's see the introduction to the occasion.

A. Made an Affinity with Pharoah.

1. What's an Affinity?

- a) Shows Israel is equal to Egypt & so recognized by Egypt (FJB).
- b) Received great eclat.

c) Called a relationship not an alliance.

d) Shows however confidence in political alliance.

e) Clark says it shows political consideration prevails above the expressed laws of God.

Ps. 45

Exo. 34:16

lest thou make a covenant with them

2. Pharoah = royal title, like sultan.

3. We don't know which one it was.

B. Marriage Pharoah's Daughter

1. Great controversy among commentators.

2. On the "for" side:

a) This marriage never condemned in Scriptures.

b) Perhaps she abandoned idolatory and proselyted to Judiasm.

c) Marriage forbidden with Canaanites, not Egyptians.

d) Could marry war captive.

Deut. 21:13 *Get off married to COP - MOON / MO.*

3. Against:

a) Not spiritually advisable.

b) No evidence she ever proselyted.

c) God was not pleased.

Neh. 13:26 *Sin by these thing - Out lewdish women COP / 511*

C. Brought her home but busy!

1. House incomplete.

2. Temple under construction.

3. Wall being built.

4. If Solomon about 20 he was plenty busy.

5. She couldn't come where ark was.

Deut. 23:7-8 *Ebrites & Egyptians*

III. Next comes notice of His Worship Habits (What could be more serious than marriage and worship!)

A. Two Only's.

1. There seems to be an "only" or a "but " in the lives of us all.

2. We remain unprofitable in spite of our pride in ourselves.

B. High Places

1. Only the people.
2. Only Solomon.
3. Shows mode & place of worship before Temple construction.
4. Closer to God on a hill?
5. Heathen used such--smacks of idolatry.
6. David had an altar at Gibeon.

I Chron. 16:39

7. Abraham did.

Gen. 12:8

Gen. 21:33

8. At this time people not blamed.
9. With tabernacle migratory it was permissible.
10. Later prohibited.

Lev. 17:3-4

C. Gibeon

1. Means belonging to a hill.
2. 6 miles north of Jerusalem.

II Chron. 1:3

3. God wink at high places?
4. Season of national devotion.
5. Offered 1,000
 - a) Free & generous in what he did for God (always brings blessings)
 - b) Not personally 1,000--but provided it.

D. Right after worship comes the Statement, "Solomon Loved the Lord."

1. 1st & Great Commandment.

Deut. 6:5

Matt. 22:37

2. God loves those that love Him.

2 Sam. 12:24

- a) Jedidiah = beloved of the Lord.
 - b) God loves in spite of our imperfections.
 - c) Don't say to children "God doesn't love you when you are naughty."
3. With love went obedience & worship.
- a) Walking in the statutes.
 - (1) Kept close to God's ordinances.
 - (2) David, his dad, set good example.
 - b) Worshipped
 - (1) Loved this also.
 - (2) Lit. = were sacrificing, habitually, constantly.

IV. When Folks Love God & Worship Him
Something Good Will Happen!

A. Solomon's dream.

- 1. Our minds do better after protracted series.
- 2. Saw glory of God in a dream.
- 3. We dream about what we've been thinking about (12 yr. old boy said "You mean I'm going to become a girl!")

B. Ask

- 1. Bright encomium for the wise, wealthy (via his office) man.
- 2. Had youth, power, wealth, glory, greatness.

3. Prayer will set in motion the power of God.

C. Hear his request - I Kings 3:6-9.

1. Tribute to his father, David.
(Great to have good folk go before you.)
2. Humbly thanks God for his personal privilege. (We hope those who praise good parents follow them.)
3. Admits his feebleness.
 - a) About 20 years old.
 - b) Raw & inexperienced.
4. But a child.
 - a) Had one when he said he was one--used to exaggerate.
 - b) Indicates humility, not age.
 - c) Formula for conduct.
 - d) Infant learning to walk can't go out & come in.
 - e) Expected God to pass my same childish mistakes.
5. Understanding Heart
 - a) Margin--a hearing heart, to hear judgements.
 - b) ~~Not docility but discrimination, penetration.~~
 - c) ~~Not swayed by haste, passion, prejudice.~~
 - d) Wanted true science of gov.
 - e) His choice good for others as well as himself.

Work
C216

Clip
Faces in
Heaven
Hell

I Kings 7:7 "I prayed & understanding was"

Riches
Worth
1990v
Yosemite
Life

6. He boldly laid hold on the offer God made him.
7. He knew what he wanted because he saw his life's work before him.
8. Preferred grace to gold.
9. Boldly makes his plea.

D. Heaven's Reaction

v-10 "The speech pleased the Lord"

1. Whenever this happens you've made your best speech.
2. God opened his treasure store.
3. Read 3:11-14.
4. Promise conditional.

E. Do we ask for wisdom?

James 1:5

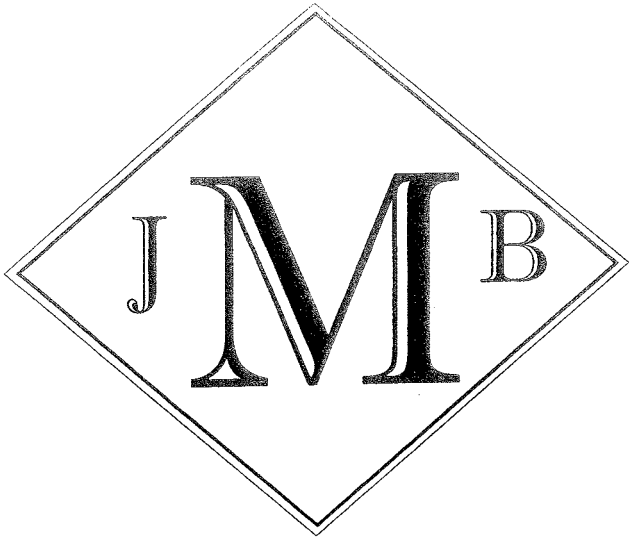
Matt. 6:33

1. Are we praying?
2. Are our requests selfish?

Yosemite Family Encampment - 7/25/89

Hilton Head, SC - 8/2/89

Bellwood, Murfreesboro, TN - 8/6/89



IS MY RELIGION ATTRACTIVE TO YOU?

1 Kings 8:41-43

I. So long we have majored on "if anyone speaks well of you, then you must compromise the truth, that any admiration for the church is viewed suspiciously."

A. There is both OT and NT matters to prove this false.

1. Solomon and his temple dedication.

2. Pentecost had favor of man, so did Acts 8.

B. Just how will we handle any expressed adoration? Perhaps we'd do well to see what the smartest man who ever lived did.

II. We go to the OT and study the dedication of the temple.

A. First see Solomon.

1. He is standing before the altar in the court of the people at Jerusalem.

2. A brazen scaffold has been built 5 cubics long, 5 wide, 3 high.

2 Chron. 6:13-18

3. He is fronting altar of burnt offering.

4. Surrounded by a mighty concourse of people.

5. Solomon has said God would dwell in a dark cloud as the magnificent temple is dedicated to him.

6. Moves from standing position to kneeling.

7. Spreads his hands toward Heaven and begins his speech & prayer.

2 Chron. 6:24

8. Note it is not via priests but by the King who can minister about (not in) holy things.
9. 7 prayers as he logically moves to various sections thus making following Him easier.
10. Everyone needs the merciful and interposition of God.
11. He is praying toward the temple as the aim of our eyes and hearts is so important.

B. We go to No. 5 of the 7 sections.

2 Chron. 6:32-33

I Kings 8:41-43

note description of God

1. I want you to see that they felt the outsider would be attracted.
2. Then see how they felt about this affinity.

III. We are a little shocked that he so graciously thought of the stranger.

A. Strangers *2 Chron 6: 32-33*

1. "Which is not of thy people."
2. It has never been universal nor that all of thy people are acceptable.
3. He expected the foreigner to be attracted by the fame of Jerusalem, its religion and its sanctuaries.
4. Gentiles were polytheistic in belief so that would most assuredly ask the blessing of Israel's God.
5. It's with great liberality that he embraced them.

- 6. It was first for his own country--men and then for strangers--children's bread to dogs remember.
- 7. He wants God to hear the prayer of the international visitor.
- 8. To many a most striking and unexpected element that God should hear foreigners.
- 9. Yet they envisioned Gentiles coming to God.
- 10. Israel was near to God, Gentiles not.

MU12
some "not set"

Ps. 148:14
 Eph. 2:12

w/o Christ, aliens: strangers, no hope w/o God

- 11. Israel not evangelistic but gates not closed against those who sought admission.

Isa. 60:11

thy gates open continually, not shut

B. Expected attraction--why?

they admire

- 1. God's name was great. *bring forces of gentiles*
 - a) His person & power known.
 - b) His love for many kind shown.

Jos. 7:9

In Judah is God known: his name is

Ps. 76:1

great in Israel

Ps. 99:3

raise thy great & terrible name; for it is

- 2. Thy mighty hand. *holy*
 - a) From crossing the Red Sea to Zion.
 - b) None like unto him.

Exo. 6:6

with a strong hand hath the Lord brot thee

Exo. 13:9

out of Egypt in his holy name

Deut. 9:26-29

As 33:21 In him our hearts rejoice for we trust

Ps 29:2 "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name"

3. Thy outstretched arm.
 - a) He delivered.
 - b) He protected.
 - c) Reports of his greatness went out.
4. What would you say is the strongest thing God is doing in your life?
5. Are we attracting others to our faith?

C. Hear When They Pray.

1. Stranger is represented as calling, asking with an audible voice from a fervent heart.
2. He's speaking to the true God--not a heathen god which cannot hear or help.
3. Pray in temple.
4. Then an appointed place.

Exo. 20:24 *In all places where I record my name will*

5. Then anywhere. *I come.. bless there*

Jn. 4:21 *The house etc, when ye shall neither in this*

6. Prays "in this house" *not near yet Jer.*

- a) The house was exceedingly magnificent.
- b) It was devoted to the "fame and glory throughout all the country."

1 Chron. 22:5

we must have truly great worship hrs.

7. Queen of Sheba came.

8. Hear them.

D. Results desired.

1. Know thy name--belong to Him.

2. Fear thee.

3. See the unity of mankind.

1 Kings 10:1

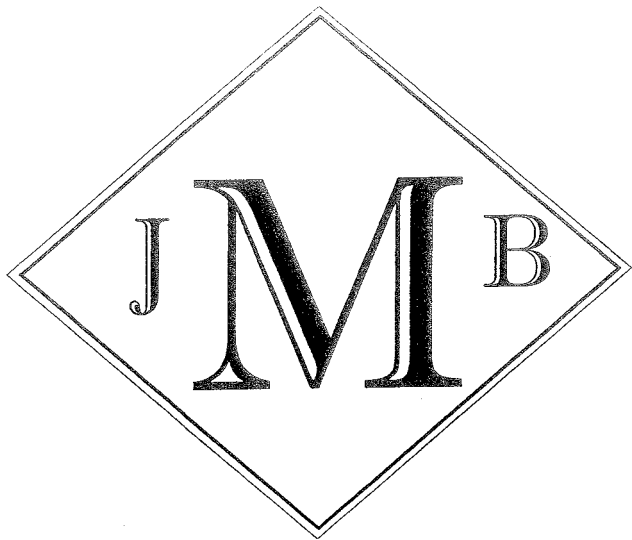
III. Our task

A. let people see God in us

B. let them be drawn to Him

C. let us lead them to covenant
relationships w God.

Oscoda, MI Lectureship - 9/27/97



THRONES COME IN ALL SIZES

I Kings 10:18-20

I. I use the word "throne"—what do you 1st see?

What does the word telegraph to your mind?

A. Authority? Word literally means "Seat."

B. Government?

C. Order?

D. East?

1. This is the 1st test for you.

2. After introducing a throne, I have another test that follows.

II. Solomon's Throne.

I Kings 10:18-20 Read.

A. Here are some features.

1. Made of Ivory.

a.) Ivory seldom mention - Ahab's ivory house
I Kings 22:39 (doesn't mean it was solid so) &
Ivory Palaces (Ps. 45:8).

b.) Literally means tooth.

c.) Interpretation seems to mean it was solid ivory
& mingled gold overlay.

d.) Would he use solid ivory & cover it c gold?

e.) Do you see the strength, non-shrinking qualities
there?

2. Overlaid c best gold.

a.) Costly.

b.) No one else would have a throne like it.

I Kings 3:13 "And I have also given thee that which

3. 6 steps to it.

a.) Did his seat on 7th show completion?

b.) So big it took 6 steps to reach it.

c.) Shows it had elevation - rare, since men usually squatted on ground, sat on pillars or reclined on sofas.

d.) Elevation shows its majesty.

4. Top - Round behind.

a.) Difficult to know what's meant.

b.) Arched or rounded canopy attached to back?

5. Stays on either side.

a.) Hands literally.

b.) Arms.

6. Lions.

a.) 2 stood by stays.

b.) 12 on steps - did that mean 12 or 14 lions?

c.) Lion emblem of tribe of Judah.

d.) 12 for tribes.

e.) Lion showed sovereignty.

7. None like it anywhere.

B. It served its full purpose.

III. Test #2 - How many other thrones can you name?

Name 8.

A. "G" thrones.

1. Throne of Grace.

Heb. 4:16 "Let us therefore come boldly unto the thro

2. Throne of Glory.

Matt. 25:31 "When the son of man shall come in his g

B. "H" Thrones.

1. Heaven.

Acts 7:49 "Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool."

2. Holiness.

Ps. 47:8 "God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of holiness."

a.) God just, righteous, holy.

C. "I" Throne.

1. Iniquity.

Ps. 94:20 "Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with God?"

a.) Terrible when iniquity enthroned in his places.

b.) Accomplishes evil ends via law.

c.) "Framed mischief by law."

d.) Submit to injustices & cry to God for relief.

D. "J" Throne.

1. Judgement.

Ps. 122:5 "For there are set thrones of judgment, the throne of the Lord."

E. "L" Throne.

1. Lamb.

Rev. 22:1-3 "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, the throne of God and of the Lamb."

F. "W" Throne.

1. White.

Rev. 20:11 "And I saw a great white throne, and him

West End 11-2-80

Judgement

A very small boy was downtown for the first time. He and his father entered an elevator in a tall building. They shot upward thirty stories at breath-taking speed. Holding tight to his father's hand,

X

the boy asked, "Daddy, does God know we're coming?"

- GERTRUDE PIERSON. h

God in all of His super-ability can use you to be effective. One of the more interesting topics in the scriptures is also one of the more neglected--grace. Grace usually connotes in today's mind "nothingness" or "weakness". II Corinthians 6:1 says, "And working together with Him, we urge you not to receive the GRACE of God in vain." Anyone that is to work alongside God must have "effective grace." Grace in this context is the putty God uses to cover the flaws of His co-worker allowing us to perform as a complete laborer. As God needs us to produce 100% and yet we are only capable of 35%, God's grace fills the 65% gap.

"You Can't Get To Heaven Saving Green Stamps" - By Terry Rush
Page 37

An old Indian preacher gave this crude illustration of salvation by grace. It was in the fall of the year. Standing in the woods, he raked the leaves from a spot on the ground. In this bare place there was a bug crawling about. The Indian set fire to the leaves all around the bug. The bug could not, by himself, get out. The Indian held a stick in his hand. He placed one end of the stick near the bug. The bug climbed out on the stick. The Indian said: "Me save bug by grace. Man lost in sin--can't get out--God hand him gospel--but man must take hold of gospel." Crude though this illustration may be, the idea back of it is correct.

"Sermons of W. L. Oliphant" - Volume I - pp. 151-152

Grace

Judgement

GEM BOX



Man comes into this world without his consent and leaves it against his will. In infancy he is an angel; in boyhood he is a devil; in manhood a fool. If he has a wife and family he is a chump; if he is a bachelor he is inhuman. If he enters a tavern he is a drunkard; if he stops outside he is a miser.

If he is a poor man he has no brains; if he is a rich man he has all the luck in the world. If he goes to Church he is a hypocrite;

if he stays away he is sinful. If he gives to charity, it is for advertisement; if he does not he is stingy.

When he comes into the world everybody wants to kiss him; before he goes out everybody wants to kick him. If he dies young there was a great future before him; if he lived to a ripe old age everybody hopes he has left a will.—St Olaf (Minneapolis, MN) Church Bulletin.

When the books are opened, all will be present to be judged by the law under which they lived. The persecutors of the righteous, the crucifiers of the Lord and the enemies to all that is good will stand as trembling culprits at his judicial bar. All the ungodly will stand quaking beneath the majesty of His glory. The wicked will realize that the administration of grace has come to an end. All the angels will be there. Those in places of torment will be there. Those in places of rest and contentment will be there. Every son and daughter of our apostate race will be there. All who lived before us since Adam will be there. All those who live after us until that trumpet of God shall sound will be there. What an intergrated audience!

Judgement
"The Last Day When the Wonderful Book Will Be Opened" By
V. P. Black From Ft. Worth Christian College 12th Annual
Lectures - Pages 168-169

When you get to heaven
You will likely view
Many folks whose presence there
Will be a shock to you.

But do not look astonished
Do not even stare.
Doubtless there'll be many folk
Surprised to see you there.

Judgment of Heaven of Salvation
"The Exciting Church Where They Really Use the Bible"
By Charlie W. Shedd - Page 106

Ballistic Board: "Work for the Lord. The pay is not
much but the retirement plan is not,
This world!"

The way to heaven is to turn right and keep straight.

Dear Minister

I would like to go to Heaven someday
because I know my big bro. won't be there.

There will be no women in Heaven for the Bible
says "There was silence in Heaven for the
space of a half hr." Flynn Sunday Morning July 19 69
Stephen W. Ag 8

IT TAKES ALL KINDS
... franklin p jones

Exaggerations are facts
trained in salesmanship.

There are few things people
will work harder at than getting
out of work.

Eat, drink and be merry for
tomorrow we diet.

A man with a finger in every
pie seldom has clean hands.

GOLF

The odds against anyone's
shooting a hole in one have been
computed as being exactly 9,366
to one.—IRWIN ROSS, "For
Nuts Only," *The Rotarian*, 1-72

HEAVEN

"Almost everyone is in favor
of going to heaven," the Rev.
George Hall said last Sunday,
"but too many are hoping they'll
live long enough to see an easing
of the entrance requirements.—
BURTON HILLIS, *Better
Homes & Gardens*, 3-72

JUSTICE



A Look into **HEAVEN**

By Joe R. Barnett

A Threefold Description

John describes heaven in three ways.

1) From the outside

He tells us what he sees as he approaches heaven from a distance.

Heaven, New Jerusalem, sits upon a great platform, upon twelve beautiful foundations. The first one is jasper; the second is sapphire; the third is agate; the fourth is emerald. And it continues through twelve, the final one being amethyst.

The city is surrounded by a wall made of a solid jasper. That wall is perforated by twelve gates, each made of solid pearl.

The city is foursquare, the length, height and breadth all being the same -- 12,000 furlongs, or stadia. Translated into our terms that's 1500 miles.

It is 1500 miles long, 1500 miles wide, and 1500 miles high. So, on just one level it would cover all of Great Britain, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Austria, Turkey, Poland, Scandinavia and European Russia. That's on just one level. And it rises upward the same distance.

If you can think of a point 1500 miles from where you are now, you can get some comprehension of its size.

2) From the inside

The gate through which John walked to enter the city was made of a solid pearl. Pearl is the only gem made by a suffering, wounded little animal.

Perhaps that's significant. We enter heaven through the suffering, atonement, and sacrifice of Christ.

Also, our own suffering makes heaven more meaningful.

For instance, John says heaven is a place where there will be no more tears. I doubt if that would mean much to a person who has never cried.

He says it's a place where there will be no more sorrow. What would that mean to one who had never been broken-hearted?

He tells us it is a place where death will no longer exist. That means a lot to the person who has stood by the grave of a loved one.

And he tells us it's a place where there will be no more pain. That means so much to the person who has suffered.

The streets will be made of pure gold, the gates shall never shut, and there shall be no night there. In most of our cities people are afraid to walk the streets alone at night. But John tells us we'll need have no fear of heaven's inhabitants, for "nothing unclean shall enter it, nor any one who practices abomination or falsehood..."

As John continued his walk through the city he saw the river of life -- and on either side of the river he saw the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. And he tells us "the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

Think of that! The blind will see, the crippled will walk, the deaf will hear, the sick will be made well.

3) The people who will be there

People. That's what makes a place pleasant or unpleasant. The most beautiful place in the world is unattractive unless we love the people who are there.

Do you remember how John's description began?

"I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, *and the sea was no more.*" That seems like a strange clause, "the sea was no more." It took me many years to understand the meaning of it.

Now I think I understand. John wrote these words from the island of Patmos where he had been banished ... sent to die of exposure or starvation. He was **alone**. Between him and the people he loved was the sea. He was comforted by the thought that in heaven there will be no more sea -- nothing to separate us from those we love.

And the magnificent climax of it all is that we shall see Jesus face to face. The one we've heard about and read about since we were children. The one who loved us so much he went to the cross for us. The one to whom we have devoted our life ... we shall see him face to face.

Sometime ago a minister in California announced that his radio message the following Sunday would be on "Heaven." During the week he received a letter from an old man who was very ill. The letter read, in part:

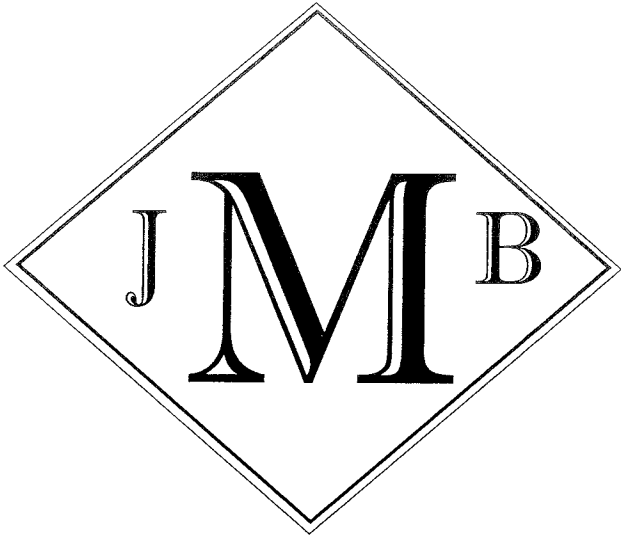
"Next Sunday you are to talk about "Heaven." I am interested in that land, because I have held a clear title

to a bit of property there for over 55 years. I did not buy it. It was given to me without money and without price. But the donor purchased it for me at a tremendous sacrifice. I am not holding it for speculation, since the title is not transferable. It is not a vacant lot. For more than half a century I have been sending material out of which the greatest architect and builder of the universe has been building a home for me, which will never need to be repaired because it will suit me perfectly, individually, and will never grow old.

“Termites can never undermine its foundations for they rest upon the Rock of Ages. Fire cannot destroy it. Floods cannot wash it away. No locks or bolts will ever be placed upon its doors, for no vicious person can ever enter that land where my dwelling stands, now almost completed and almost ready for me to enter and abide in peace eternally, without fear of being ejected.

“There is a valley of deep shadows between the place where I live in California and that to which I shall journey in a very short time. I cannot reach my home in the City of God without passing through that dark valley of shadows.

“But I am not afraid, because the best Friend I ever had went through the same valley long, long ago and drove away all its gloom. He has stuck by me through thick and thin since we first became acquainted 55 years ago, and I hold His promise in printed form, never to forsake nor to leave me alone. He will be with me as I walk through the valley of the shadows, and I shall not lose my way when He is with me.



CAN YOU COUNT?

I Kings 11:29-39

- I. To my subject question--I'm sure you can.
 - A. Math never my strong suit but a son and son-in-law that are accountants.
 - B. But i've got a 19-month long great-grandson that refuses accurately.
 1. He can count: 1,2,3, but never 4.
 2. Always when you get here he will say "5," with a gleeful eye.
 3. Try it again, 4 to never sounded--always 5.
 - C. But still I appreciate math because it is exacting.
 - D. There was a potential king--and he could count.
 1. I'll tell the story because it illustrates our exact obedience to the Word.
 2. I thank God for His grace but there remains a definitive obedience that is always safe.
 3. Let's go to I Kings 11:29-39 and look at these 10 verses.
- II. The Origin of the Divided Kingdom
 - A. It has been somewhat united with Saul, David and Solomon each reigning 40 years.
 1. Seeds of rebellion were earlier sown.
 2. Folks desire a king.

I Sam. 8:1-9

3. Though warned by what a king would be, they insisted the move to such.
4. Taking the law into your own hands always bring disastrous results.
5. When we reject God's way and bring our own set for trouble.
6. Don't mistake some successes to think we know more than God, i.e. use the instruments saints will stay up and the outsider will come thus the church will grow.
7. One erroneous step beget the next departure.

B. "And it came to pass" introduces our story.

1. Solomon had his enemies as well as his transgressions.

I Kings 11:26-28

2. He'd been warned about departure.

11:11 "And thou has not kept my covenant and my statutes which I have commanded thee."

11:11 "I will surely rend the kingdom from thee."

11:12 "David remembered."

11:13 "Give one tribe."

3. Solomon dead--Jereboam now home.
4. He was a mighty man of valor.
5. Industrious, rule.

C. Ahijah

1. Prophet
2. Wrote about Solomon's reign.

2 Chron. 9:29

3. Now leaving Jerusalem--not told why he was leaving--Jereboam was.
4. Alone with Ahijah in a field.
5. Ahijah has a new garment on.
6. Removed it and cut into 12 pieces.
7. Gave 10 to Jereboam.
8. One tribe remained to preserve David's name.
9. Ten, only 10, to Jereboam and he could reign "according to all thy soul desires."
 - a) Complete authority
 - b) Real rule
 - c) True promise

D. This means 10, not 11.

1. Told reason: "They have forsaken me."
 - a) Names the departure.
 - 1) Ashtoreth--Zidonians
 - 2) Chemosh--Moabites
 - 3) Milcom--Ammon
 - b) Have not walked in my way.
 - c) Didn't do what is right.
 - d) Kept not my statutes and judgments.

2. David's memory--he kept my commandments and statutes.
 - a) Be always a light before me.
 - b) My name always in Jerusalem.

E. His assignment.

1. Harken to all I command.
2. Walk in my way.
3. Do what is right in my sight.
4. Keep my statutes and commandments

III. Transpose that today.

A. Hebrews 13

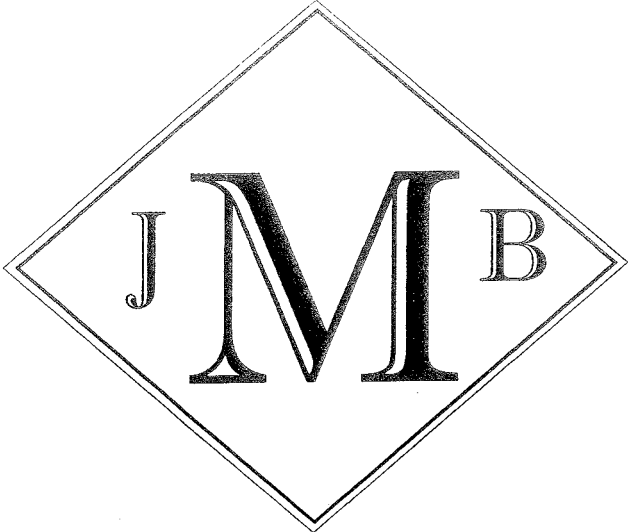
1. Remember them in bonds as being yourself also in the body.
2. Be free from the love of money.
3. Do good and to communicate forget not for with such sacrifices God is well-pleased.
4. In all things willing to live honestly.
5. Make you perfect in every good work.

B. My choice--David or Jereboam.

1. David--man after God's own heart.
"He kept my commandments."
2. Jereboam

I Kings 16:26 "Walked in all the ways of Jeroboam and in his sin, to provoke the Lord to anger. Made Israel to sin."

Timothy Hill Breakfast, Marriott - 11/17/07



ALAS, MY BROTHER

1 Kings 13

1. By word = Divine Communication Message possessed him (360 yr. later Josiah).
2. Appeal to altar - useless to appeal to self appointed priest, Jereboam. Hybrid worship. Priest of lowest folk + self.
3. If a dead touch contaminated, think what bones would do.
Nu. 19:13 "Whosoever toucheth the dead body of a
4. Lay hold - one word - "arrest" - let him not escape
5. Intreat - stroke face.
6. V. 6 Jereboam can't even say my god - it's your god! Pray for me. Try violence - fail, now flattery.
7. To invite to eat a courtesy.
8. Prophets got gifts for services.
9. To eat = fellowship.
10. Surprised to find a prophet at Bethel - seat of error. Stood in capital w/o protest to error? Strange mixture of truth & error in 1 man.
11. Saddle ass - made up mind to bring prophet back - definite.
12. Prophet should feel more deeply what he says than the people who hear it (V. 18).
13. V. 20 Taken in act of rebellion.
14. Carcass = corpse.
15. Out of pity loans detained prophet an ass.
16. Way lion acted shows it was Providential.
Torn = Broken, destroy 1 blow!
17. No thirst or hunger should have made prophet disobey. Forsook plain commands.

18. Alas, My Bro. - die lion slay wrong man?
Don't second guess God.

19. Resisted.

(a) Fear of safety.

(b) Flattery.

(c) Bribe.

(d) Pressure.

(e) But Satan kept on trail - 3X with Jesus - left
"for a season" Luke 4:13

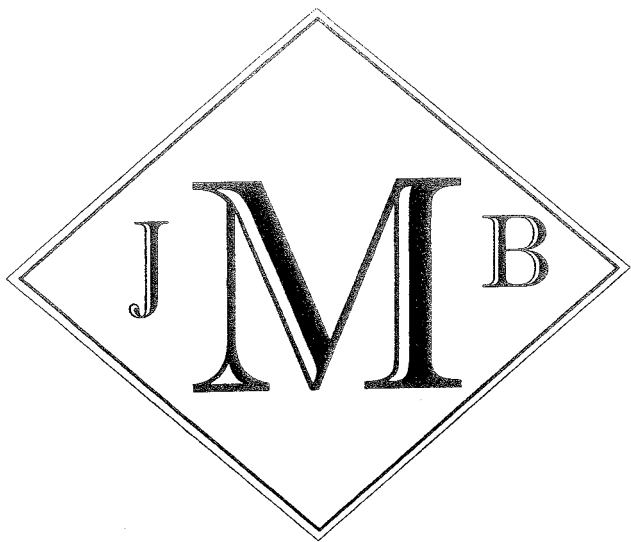
20. Always safe to obey God at all costs.

21. Greatest sadness is a good man failing.

22. It's end that counts - endure.

(Matt. 23:15)

West End 100 Plus Class 1-26-75, 2-2-75.



SHIELDS OF BRASS

I Kings 14:26

I. I remember seeing the armor of King Henry VIII.

- A. Big guy.
- B. In showcase in London.
- C. Multiple wives.

II. Man's always prided himself on his possessions.

A. Cheyene Mt. at Colo. Springs.

B. Solomon's Shields.

1. Made 300. *1 King 10:17*

2. Ea. covered c 3[#] gold.

3. Valuable, thing of prideful accomplishment.

4. Used in Solomon Religious possessions (I Kings 14:28).

5. But lost them - like our Liberty Bell.

C. We want to see how & why.

III. History of Rehoboam (I Kings 14:21).

A. He was 41 -

1. Old enuf.

2. Trained enuf.

3. In Judah - had God's city.

4. David's son. *grandson he forgot the law of the Lord*
2 Chron. 12:1 "And it came to pass when Rehoboc

5. Didn't say one good word about him tho.

B. Reigned 17 years in Jerusalem.

1. Long enuf to get job done.

2. In city where the Lord chose to put his name.

C. His Mother was Naamah.

1. An Ammonitess.

2. Said it 2X (V. 21 & V. 31).

- 3. We can't select our mother but our daddys can & this is most important!
- 4. Will the mother lead to or from God. *Solomon*
- 5. Will the folly of the daddy, as in ~~David~~'s choice, undo the kids.
- 6. Naamah means beauty - does it come at too high a cost?
- 7. If God picks out age, place, length of opportunity associates - aren't these things pretty important?

D. Judah did evil.

- 1. Note they sinned.
- 2. Above all their father's did.
 - (a) Progression - **Competitive** to do wickedly.
 - (b) To have knowledge & opportunity is to know responsibility - J. N. Armstrong.
- 3. Gained further disfavor of God.
 - (a) High places & images.
 - (b) Groves & every hi hill & under every green tree
 - (c) Multiplied their evil.
- 4. Attended it c horrible rites.
 - (a) Sodomites in the Land.
 - (b) From consecrate or devote yet devoted to sexual evil.
 - (c) Sin's enormous - spreads.
 - (d) Sin's horrible in fruit it bears.
 - (e) Pillars were symbols of male **deities**.
 - (f) Asherim - wooden posts - symbols of female fertility.
 - (g) Solomon tried to keep worship of God.

IV. Sin Impoverishes Any People.

A. These folk did the same things their predecessors did & God casted them out of the Land.

B. In 5th year Shishak of Egypt came.

1. Emptied 2 houses—God's & Kings.

2. Took everything he could get his hands on.

3. In temple of Karnah Shishak posted list of Israelite cities he plundered.

C. Took Gold Shields.

1. Solomon ^{substituted} made substitutes of brass.

2. Sin changes gold to brass.

3. Sin impoverishes - no semblance of former glory.

4. Sin leaves its mark in enduring poverty.

5. Reh. brot sin to city of God!

V. Have I brass shields?

I know it, charade says

A. Pretense of former glory.

otherwise

B. Serve many cults - like even Buddha at Air Force Academy chapel.

C. Do I replace gold c brass?

Ch. instead of Service

D. Have I traded God for sin

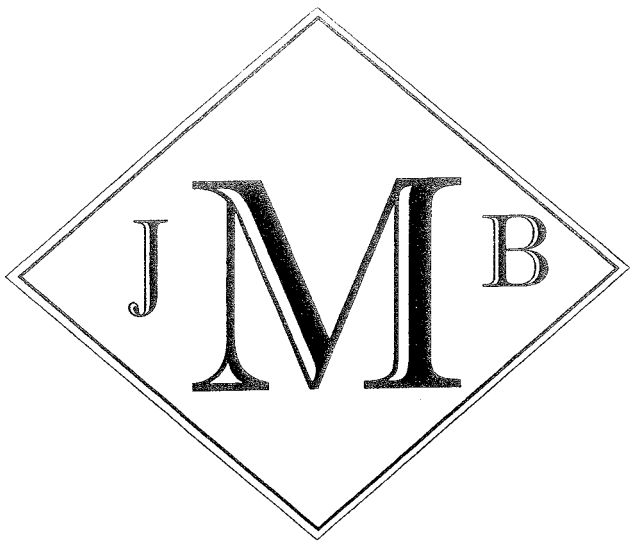
Marty instead of me.

E. Does the church substitute programs for power?
Form for fullness? Ritual for Reality?

Complacency for persecution?

West End 9-15-74

Pulaski St. Church, Laurensburg 9-23-74



COUNTERFEIT SHIELDS 1 Kings 14:25-28

- I. My visit at a filling, pardon me, service station.
- A. Boy stared at a \$20.00 bill & finally decided the circle on it was too big.
 - 1. Try this one for size.
 - 2. He felt it was counterfeit.
 - B. His action brought a reaction.
 - 1. I appreciated his carefulness.
 - 2. I resented his thinking I was passing hot money as he interspersed profanity.
- II. Don't all of us resent pretense.
- A. Credibility gap - we refuse to forgive a president.
 - B. Bible teaches constantly late & ill prepared-the excuses grow lame.
 - C. King with brass shields pretending they are gold shock us.

III. Counterfeit Shields 1 Kings 14 & 2 Chron. 12

- A. Reign of Rehoboam
 - 1. Son of Solomon
 - 2. Pretty sorry character:
 - (a) started at 41 & reigned 17 yrs in Jerusalem "the city where the Lord did choose to put his name" 1 K 14:21.
 - (1) Couldn't plead inexperience lack of tenure or no guide lines.
 - (2) Had it all.

Egypt Notes 5 - *Exodus 12:1-14*

Read →
Read →

- (b) 2 Chron 12:1 "He forsook the law.
- (1) Note "all Israel with him."
- (c) Sins greater than all their fathers had done 1 K 14:22 2
- (1) Built high places, images.
- (2) V 23 "On every hi hill & under
- (3) Sodomites-sin in high places.

- 3. In 5th yr. Shishak invaded
 - (a) King of Egypt
 - (b) 1200 Chariots
 - (1) Twice as many as Pharoah had when he cased Moses Ex 14:7
 - (c) 60,000 horsemen
 - (1) Five times as many as Solomon had 1 Kings 4:26
 - (d) People without number
 - (1) Rehoboam would be easy prey.
- 4. Lord humbled them but spared them "I will grant them some deliverence" 11 Chron. 12:7
 - (a) God ever looks for repentance
- 5. Shishak took the shields
 - (a) Took treasures of the house of the Lord. "He took all"

wife is blind →

- (1) Gold and gems
- (2) Solomon had made alliance with Egypt-former slaves now confederates-even became son-in-law. Now is assailant. Egyptian princess in Hebrew palaces former boast- now plunderer.

- (3) Solomon pride, idolatry, wives, & materialism caught him.
- (4) Strength rests in adherence to God's law

I have no right to make spiritual venting

- 6. He took the shields.
 - (a) In war, there is always loss.
 - (b) Rehoboam must give a reduced inheritance to his son.
 - (c) All happened because Rehoboam "fixed not his heart to seek the Lord."
 - (d) Certainty of sin -destruction Nu 32:23 "Be sure your sin
- 7. Replaced with shields of brass.
 - (a) Wonder where Rehoboam hid while they plundered?
 - (b) God had said "for brass I will bring gold" Isa. 40:17 now reversed!
 - (c) Solomon had these made 1 K 14:26
 - (d) David had taken golden armor 1 Chron 18:7
 - (e) Rehoboam's action was a cover-up of the damage
 - (f) brass replaces gold.

B. What about us?

- 1. Do we have brass shields to cover our vanity and pride?
- 2. Is there pretense of outward action belieing an inner destruction.

IV. What lesson for us?

- A. Earthly things are unstable

B. Man employs various stratagem
restore fallen glory.

1) try to convince others "left field's
missed up no bronze, play it!"

C. If brass is all you can get be con-
tent with it.

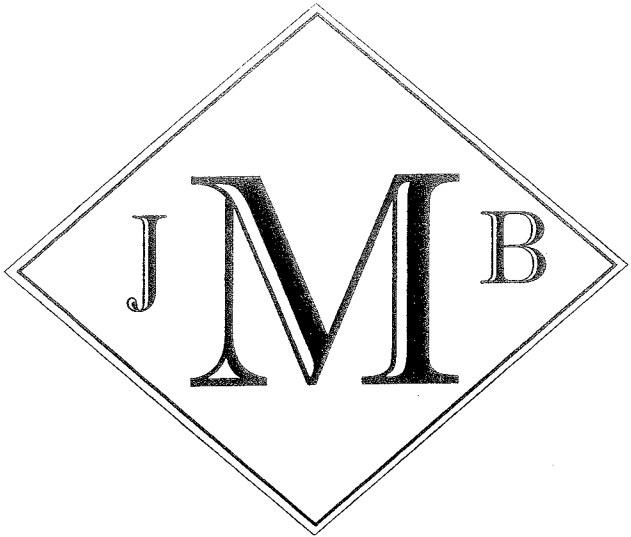
D. Don't be hypocritical though and pre-
tend brass is gold.

(1) Do I go through forms but have lost
the force of Christianity.

E. Are we content to serve God with
brass when it should be gold?

WE 10/29/67

Abilene Christian College - 11/4/67
Sikeston Mo (Radio) 3/10/68



J M B

A BLACK TIE DINNER

I Kings 17:1-7

I. Have you men been to many black tie affairs?

A. For me, very few.

B. Uncomfortable in formalities in my borrowed britches.

C. But I never heard of a black tie one like Elijah had--let me tell the story.

II. I Kings 17:1 -- suddenly Elijah!

A. God has a way of putting the right man at the right time.

1. Know nothing of the antecedents of Elijah.

2. Suddenly, like Melchizedek, he appears, "drops out of the cloud."

3. Abruptly introduced.

4. "Never so blessed with a good prophet
Never so plagued with a bad King
No King bolder in sin
No prophet bolder in rebuke." (Henry)

5. He'd never see death, be with Moses in transfiguration.

6. Prophesied, spoke, acted, wrote nothing.

7. Yet a man.

James 5:17 *E. was a man subject to like passions*

8. Means "My God Jehovah is He."

9. Time was fit for Elijah.

10. God picks right men for right occasion.

11. Tishbite--the converter.

12. Gilead

a) Across Jordan

- b) Whence we are not as important as what we are.
- c) Rocky Region.
- d) Could he be a Gentile?

B. He Addresses Ahab

- 1. Speaks to the King who could have done something about it.
- 2. Ahab had forsaken God.
- 3. Horrible wife, Jezebel.

C. As The Lord God of Israel Lives--

- 1. God is very much alive--not like other gods dumb or dead.
- 2. "Before whom I stand."
 - a) Technical service to God.
 - b) God lives--I serve Him.
 - c) I am His servant.
 - d) Stand--serve! Unashamedly.
 - e) Standing to be sent wherever the Lord wills.

hevi

Deut. 18:5

ed chos to stand to minister Lord

in many of

D. There shall not be dew nor rain.

- 1. Absolutely!
- 2. Calamity due to sin but will be answerable to prayer.
- 3. Chastisement intended for revival.
- 4. Propheying just before rainy season to start??
- 5. Famine will punish sin.
- 6. Not withstanding present peace God is unhappy.

E. According to Word.

- 1. This is definite.
- 2. Will see power of prayer.
- 3. Will see truth of God's word.

III. God Sends Elijah Away.

A. "Get thee hence."

1. Turn eastward.
2. Hide by Brook Cherith (unknown)
 - a) East of Jordan.
 - b) Unknown spot.

B. Hide

1. God told him to take this inactivity.
2. Alone and obscure place.
3. When we can't be useful we must be patient.
4. Brook = Torrent.

C. Back Tie Dinner

1. Drink of Brook--no alcohol!
2. "Commanded Ravens to feed thee."
 - a) Commands brute things to do His will.
 - b) Commands wind & wave.
 - c) They obey--do we?
3. Ravens
 - a) Traffickers--merchants say Dummelow
 - b) Caterers most unlikely.
 - c) God did it--really ravens.

~~Gen. 27:20~~

4. Why Ravens?

- a) Birds of prey--greedy birds.

~~Prov. 30:17~~ *like that mockers of his father- obey m.*~~Ezek. 27:27~~~~2 Chron. 21:16~~~~Neh. 4:7~~

- b) Unclean

Lev. 11:15 *Every Raven after his kind
domination, not eaten (via)*

- c) Fed on insects & carrion--yet brought him clean meat and he asked no questions for conscience sake.
- d) Could bring but little--fed not feasted.
- e) Ravens will neglect their little ones yet fed him.
- f) They are fed by providence.

Job 38:41

Ps. 147:9

*who provideth for the R. his food
Lord giveth to young R. e cry*

D. Get hence (v-3)--So he went (v-5).

- 1. "Did" according to the word of the Lord. *when his young ones cry withal*
- 2. All a severe trial of faith. *wonder*
 - a) Gradual diminishing of the brook.
 - b) Removed from activity.
 - c) Fed by birds & I don't know where they got the food.
 - d) Will be sent to a widow.
 - e) Her child will die.

3. Name--God is my God.

4. Fed bread & flesh morn & evening.

5. Drank of Brook--it dried up!

E. Remember

- 1. Affliction no proof we are off path of duty.
- 2. Obedience may be paved with thorns.
- 3. Difficulties only give room to exercise greater faith.
- 4. It reveals more of the power of God the deliverer. (Myer)

5. God can use me in the arena or by the brook.
6. God is served by the lowliest of creatures as well as mightiest like lions & Daniel.
7. God could have sent angels and later did.

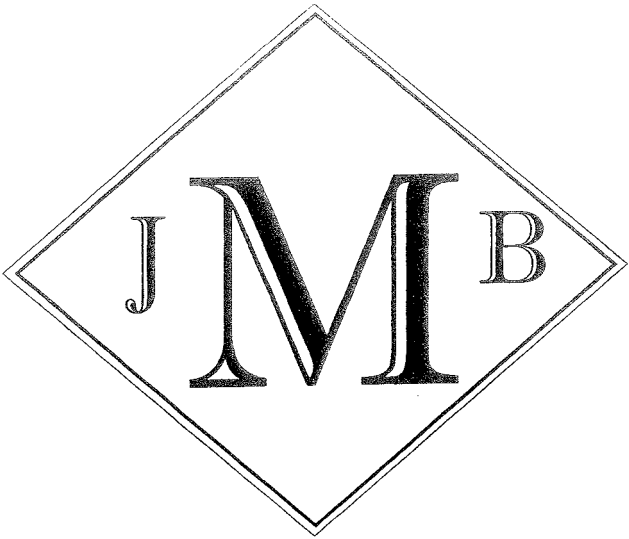
I Kings 19:5

8. God is the God of weather not Baal.

Granny White - 10/19/97

Germantown, TN - 10/27/97 (Bus. Associates Luncheon)

Riverwood - 11/2/97



WHAT CHA GONNA DO WHEN THE CREEK
RUNS DRY? I Kings 17:1-7

I. Suddenly without warning we meet a man who unannounced jumps into a King's presence.

A. It's Elijah

1. Prince of prophets--recall Transfiguration.
2. Origin obscure--know nothing of family.
3. Wrote nothing--spoke only 5 or 6 times--but man of miraculous action.
4. Name means "My God is Jehovah".
 - a) Gloriously obedience.
 - b) "Before whom I stand"--eye ever on God.
5. Son of the desert.
6. Tishbite--either region or commission --the Converter is meaning.
7. Intense--God is my strength, according to my word.
8. Served a God who is alive.

B. Man for the season.

1. At a very dark hour of moral crisis.
2. The age demanded the message.
The message demanded credentials.
The credentials could only be miraculous. (P.C.)
3. Rescue world from corruption.
4. Greatest prophet reserved for worst age.
5. Needed a powerful, fearless man.

II. His Confrontation

A. With Ahab

1. Husband of Jezabel, daughter of Ethbaal, King of Zidonians. (6:31)
2. Risky & disobedient marriage. (Exo. 34:12-16)
3. Bowed to Baal, provoked God's anger. (16:31-34). *Worse than all of him*
4. Marriage a disaster.

B. His god Baal

1. God of reproduction--flocks & crops.
2. Canaanite mythology said Baal slain every summer & brought back from realm of dead by a goddess.
3. Controlled the weather (So God brought a drought)
4. Elijah confronts Ahab without a word of introduction.
5. Comes in a tempest and leaves whirlwind one said.

C. Announcement

1. Living God (Baal doesn't) speaks.
2. I stand before Him.
 - a) Keenest pain ushers in birth.
 - b) Thus knows who he is--I stand at attention before Him.
3. No rain or dew
 - a) Prayed for this.

James 5:17 *E. 2 men of like passion - prayed - 3 1/2 yrs*

b) Rain a prime necessity.

c) Baal impotent. *delivered... tribulation*

Judges 10:14 *Go & cry to the Gods which ye have chosen*

Jer. 14:22 *Are there any among the vaulties, the Heavens that can cause rain - don't think you're, O Lord our God wait*

III. God Commands Elijah to Leave

A. Eastward & Hide

1. Men need retirement time.
2. Nature is God's great green book.
3. Desert the school of the prophets from Moses to John the Baptist.
4. Hide near Jericho

B. Cherith

1. East of Jordan
2. God can provide for his own.
3. Water course, waddy, torrent.
4. Cliffs 500' high--ravine.
5. Means separation.

C. Drink of Brook--Ravens Feed

1. One miraculous, one not.
2. Ravens
 - a) Arabs as Heb. consonants would allow this translation.
 - b) Traffickers
 - c) Merchants--inhabitants of Orbo.
 - d) Thus concessions to rationalism.
 - e) Birds
 - (1) Robber birds, gentle to Elijah
 - (2) Unclean
 - (3) Fed on insects
 - (4) Ate carrion
 - (5) English pride--always be an England (clip wings)
3. Fed twice a day (later by a widow)
4. See infinity of God's resources.
5. Frequency seemingly would blow cover on hiding place.
6. Bread & flesh--necessities, not luxuries.

IV. And the Brook Dries Up!

- A. Prophet shared disaster he predicted.
- B. Brook dries up, no miracle performed to restore it.
- C. "Brook gradually attenuated to a silver thread" vs dries up.
- D. Even at Cherith we cannot escape trial.
 - 1. Hard to sit by a dwindling brook.
 - 2. What do? None that trust shall be left desolate.
 - 3. Can God provide again?
 - 4. One failure gives provision for a greater marvel.
- E. Arise & Get! and Elijah did it.

V. The Alternate Plan

A. Zarephat

- 1. Between Tyre & Sidon--7 miles.
- 2. Territory of Ethbaal, Ahab's father-in-law!!
- 3. Means furnace, workshop to refine metals.
- 4. Goes in "lion's den."
- 5. Strange move!

B. Trial of the Furnace

- 1. Leave hiding place.
- 2. Go to Ethbaal's territory.
- 3. Sustained by a poverty stricken widow starving to death.
- 4. Remember the Boston preacher with no toll money.
- 5. Stay 2 years, banished from pressing work.
- 6. Boy will die.
- 7. Ask a stranger for food.

C. Commanded a Widow

1. Don't know how--but that's enough assurance!
2. Agents: Ravens & a widow.
3. Gentile woman in heathen land.

Luke 4:26 *Many widows but to whom was E. sent sent*

4. God's ways are not our ways.

D. Elijah meets the Widow

1. Get me water.
2. Get me bread.
 - a) She doesn't complain.
 - b) Gentle, hospitable.
 - c) Truthful.

3. Cake--smaller kind.

E. Her response

1. Sticks, handful of meal, little oil.
2. Dress, son, eat, die.

F. Make me (1st) afterward you.

1. Elijah tests her.

~~Dan. 12:13~~

2. Emphatic--me 1st!

G. She complied--victory theirs.

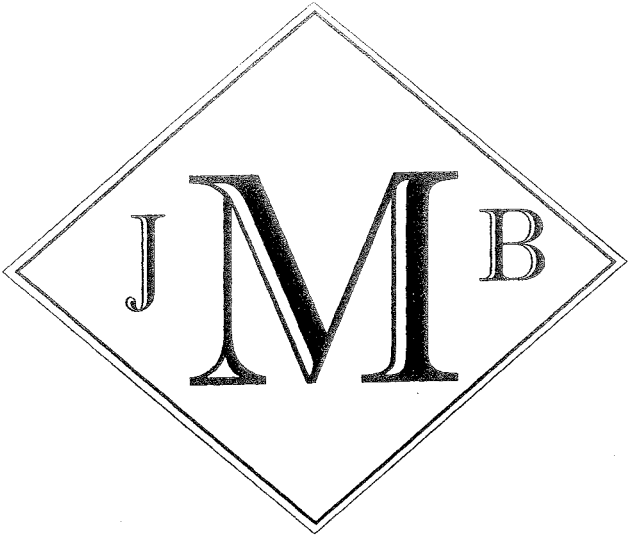
Matt. 10:41-42. *Cup of cold water*

1. Many days.
2. With friends also blessed.

Walnut St., Dickson, TN - 12/17/89

HANDICAPS—Overcoming

A good example of a man who turned a handicap into a blessing is Arturo Toscanini. He owed his success — or at least his chance at success — to the fact that he was very nearsighted. How could that possibly help a musician? Well, at nineteen, he was playing cello in an orchestra. Since he couldn't see the music on the stand, he had to memorize it. One day the orchestra leader became ill and young Toscanini was the only member of the orchestra who knew the score. So he conducted it without a score and the audience gave him a good hand for it — and audiences kept on doing it. If he hadn't been near-sighted, he might have continued playing cello in small European orchestras instead of becoming one of the greatest orchestra conductors who ever lived. —*In a Nutshell*, Vol 23 No 9.



AN AMAZING CONTEST WITH SOME INTERESTING WORDS

1 Kings 18:20-40

- I. Time and again God proves to us His existence.
- A. Firmament declares His glory.
 - B. Prophecies continue to be fulfilled.
 - C. He answers your prayers as no one else could.
- II. In a contest with Baal, Elijah proved his existence. Here are some features.
- A. Odds against him 450 prophets, Baal against one of God.
 - B. Challenge: How long limp between two crutches.
 - 1. Word from twig, bough. *Hop on 2 boughs like bird*
 - 2. Opinions. *Sett on something*
 - 3. Limp--bobble between two, Baal or God is God. *Stand for something*
 - 4. People said nothing.
 - C. Contest with fire since both Gods claimed to control it.
 - 1. Prepare a bull for sacrifice but no fire. *God at fire*
 - 2. Call on each God to send fire.
 - 3. Whoever answers proves he is God.
 - 4. One who answers not is no God.
 - 5. This time people answered--OK!

D. Contest unfolds.

1. Baal goes first (v-25).
2. Prepared sacrifice.
3. Cried O Baal answer us.
4. Limping dance around altar.
Dance=limp! *help up y Baal*
5. God answers (v-26).

E. Continued until noon--sarcastic:

1. Shout louder--because he is a god.
2. Too occupied with affairs.
3. Too busy at bathroom--"turning aside." *EW = help / could avoid act*
4. Followed advice and yelled louder.
5. Asleep--awaken. *70 min b/c*
6. Portrayed as human.
7. Gashed selves--sword, spears, way they worshipped.
8. Showed devotion - Jeremiah 41:5.
9. Went all day--no response (v-29).
10. Prophets really tried.

F. Elijah's turn.

1. Drew people to him.
2. Repaired--healed altar.
3. Twelve stones. *History continues*
4. Dug trench around altar.
5. Arranged sacrifice.
6. Twelve jars-36 gal. of water pour on. No trickery.

7. Prayed as stepped forward time of evening sacrifice.

*Said
Saw God
how great*

8. Simple, direct, pray--God of Abraham, let it be known today you are God.

G. Action. *Remember Nite see fire*

1. Suddenly fire fell--consumed every thing. *No comparison*

2. Baal's crutch consumed.

3. People fell prostrate--cried two times the Lord is God.

4. Prophets slaughtered--they had earlier killed God's prophets--18:41-46. *Enough He is God*

5. Fulfilled law--kill false one (Deut. 13).

*Turned
things in
order of
placement
from
above
down
trick
fire*

H. Rain came.

1. Heard sound of heavy rain.

2. Climbed Mt. Carmel--face between knees.

3. Squatting, submitted to God.

4. Seven times servant look to sea.

5. Saw nothing and repeated it.

6. Seven times saw cloud size of man's hand.

7. Told Ahab to flee before down-pour.

8. Sky dark with heavy clouds--wind and rain came.

9. Elijah tucked in bed the bottom of long cloak.
10. Rain 17 miles ahead of chariot to Jezreel.
11. King followed.

David Lipscomb Middle School Chapel - 2/18/04

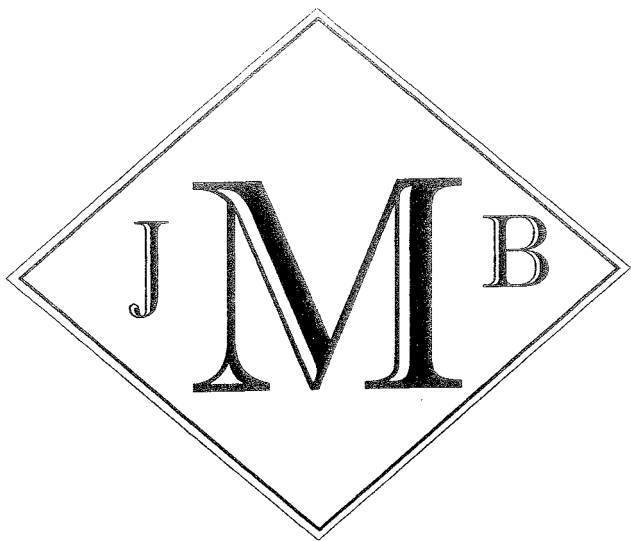
Neely's Bend - 2/22/04

Molino church, Fayetteville, TN - 3/2/04

Old Union - 3/28/04

E. Allen County C/C - Ft. Wayne, IN 8/1/04

New Concord, KY - 9/12/04



WHO DOESN'T GET BLUE?

I Kings 19:1-

I. Our Lord so fair with us.

- A. You alone are not blue, some of God's greatest have worn that robe.
- B. I want you to see one who was, and one who was divinely remembered.
- C. Has God gone out of business or does He still provide?

II. The Story of Elijah's Run.

- A. He's just defeated the prophets of Baal.
 1. Surely such a day will turn the nation to God.

I Kings 18:37

2. On Carmel he was invincible but shortly he's on his way to Sinai as an unmitigated coward.
3. Ahab told Jezebel "all that Elijah had done"--never mentioned it was the work of God!
4. Ahab couldn't punish but got Jezebel into it.

B. Jezebel's Threat.

1. Gave him 24 hours to live and the threat of a wicked queen demolished him.
2. She could only threaten--but his faith sank.
3. Why give him a chance to escape?
4. And why run--where is his courage?
5. Remember no miracle can stop the threat of persecution.
6. Great faith is not always strong.

C. Elijah ran "for his life."

1. Movements erratic.
 - a) Court of Ahab.
 - b) Away to Cherith in East, Gilead.
 - c) Zarephath--in the North.
 - d) Esdraelon, Carmel, Jezreel, Beersheba, then Horeb, Sinai.
2. Despondancy comes to all of us--want to run away and hide!
3. One asked why?
 - a) Reaction after excitement.
 - b) Exhaustion of physical side.
 - c) Absence of sympathy--I am alone. (P.C.)
4. Came to Beersheba--about 95 miles south of Jezreel, fringe of desert.
5. Left his servant and went day's journey into the wilderness.
6. Sat under juniper tree.
 - a) Bedouin use roots for charcoal.
 - b) All he has now is the shade of a tree!
7. Asked to die--it is enough--Lord take away life.
 - a) Tired and cross.
 - b) What if God took us at our word?
 - c) Depart of body--"let's see his body"--soul somewhere else.
 - d) There in darkness Elijah found--wrapped in abba--ready to spend night in open air--and die!
 - e) Lit. he requested for his life that he might die--there is life in the death of the righteous.

8. Had enough--disappointed. Physical³ nature is important, it can affect us spiritually.
9. Strange request ran for life, now ask to die!

D. Angel Comes Calling.

1. Touched, awakened, eat.
 - a) God didn't lose sight of servant, watched to see how to minister to him.
 - b) When he awoke he saw he was well taken care of.
2. 2X invited him to eat--wherever God's children are He cares for them.
 - a) "He who plans the voyage knows how to put the victuals on the ship."
 - b) God used many means to keep him alive--ravens, angels.
 - c) Weary & not hungry "laid him down."
3. Arose & in strength of it went 40 days & nights to Horeb.

E. Elijah at Horeb.

1. Will he tell God it's all a failure--like Moses & his 40 days--he's only one left.
2. Same spot of Moses' location.
3. Same place where manna came.
4. Has gone 200 miles.
5. Beersheba to Horeb--130 miles.
6. Are we tempted to retreat & pray when we should return & fight?

7. He's going to get a very personal question--what if it were mine?

F. God called to Elijah in the cave.

v-9 "What doest thou here, Elijah?"

1. Emphasis on the thou.
2. We can't get beyond the reach of God's word.
3. Should prophets retreat?

G. Elijah's Answer.

v-10 (READ)

1. Laid it on the people.
2. They deserted and tore down altars.
3. I'm no match--I'm only one left, I need safety.

H. Go Stand at Mt.--God passed by.

1. Wind rent the mts., broke in pieces the rocks.
2. Earthquake.
3. Fire
 - a) God not in awesome things.
4. Still Small Voice
 - a) In little things God makes known his will.
 - b) Tender mercies greater than terrors.
 - c) Hear Him in peace & stillness.
5. Now wraps his face in mantle & was asked "What doest thou here?"
 - a) Shamed.
 - b) Different tone?

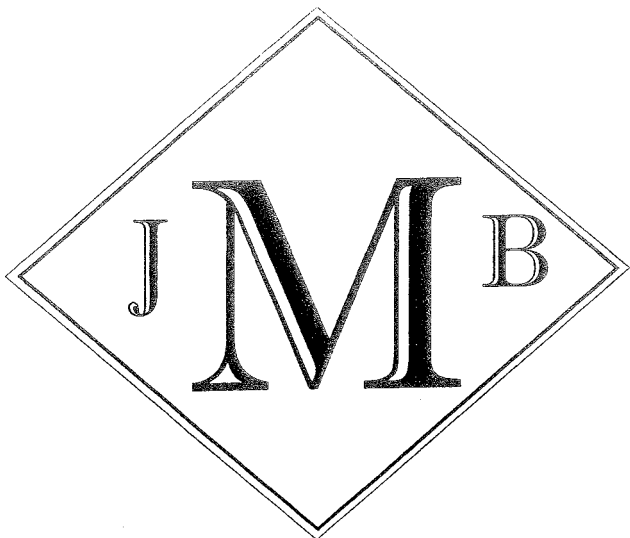
I. Elijah's Commission.

v-15 "Go, Return, Anoint"

1. Go back and do your work.

- 2. All 3 men anointed were to destroy idolaters.
- 3. Elisha at Abelmeholah = meadow of dancing in Jordan Valley.
- 4. God will punish the wicked.
- 5. Saw remnant of hope--7,000 men!
 - a) In times of great apostacy always some left.
 - b) Elijah--my God is the Lord.
Elisha--my God is salvation.

South Harpeth - 12/6/92



I'VE HAD ENOUGH!

I Kings 19:4-8

I. It's a well known fact that for some holidays are depressing.

A. Loneliness → *With Stephens story*

B. Disappointment

C. Frustration--even suicide comes.

D. That which for many is the "happiest time of the year" is the very opposite.

II. So if you have the blues, maybe we can see a cure.

A. Elijah had it--all the signs of depression.

1. Fear

2. Withdrawal

3. Lethargy

4. Worthlessness

5. Helplessness

6. Death Wish

B. But Elijah arose to serve--so let's see his I Kings 19 story.

III. It Opens With Him Running--Scared for His Life.

A. Ahab told Jezebel what Elijah had done.

1. On Mt. Carmel great triumph for God's truth.

2. 450 Baal's prophets slain.

3. 1 man against 450 and winning--surely the tide would turn.

4. Ahab just reported, perhaps he too was scared of his wife as no objections offered.

B. Jezebel made her death threat. *(No 1st story)*

1. She was incensed. *Sent messenger!*

2. She meant business as murder a tool she employed. *He SAW that (V3)*

3. Elijah had challenged her:
 - a) Royalty
 - b) Religion
 4. She was an implacable foe.
 5. She gave him 24 hours to live.
- C. He arose & "went for his life".
1. Strange--the power of 1 woman.
 2. If I don't kill you let the gods kill me.
 3. He went to Beersheba.
 - a) He gave place to the storm. (Clark)
 - b) Nothing had happened after Carmel to suggest people had changed--so he felt discouraged.
 - c) Beersheba most southern place in Judah but he does not stop there.
 - d) Cowardice or realism cause him to flee?
 - e) Was the strain of Carmel too much?
 - f) All hopes of the Baal issue are smashed.
 - g) Beersheba is 95 miles from Jezreel.
 - h) Felt he had a mission but failed it.
 4. Left his servant there and went on.
- D. Prophet & the Broom Tree
1. Sat under Juniper tree.
 - a) Broom tree
 - b) 10-12 feet tall
 - c) Purplish white flowers.
 2. "I've had it" "It is enough"
 - a) Wanted to die.
 - b) Not mission accomplished but mission failed.

- c) Alone & blue.
- d) Didn't think he could do any better than his ancestors in bringing Israel back to faithfulness.
- e) What reason did he have to live?
- f) Be great to close eyes & never open them again, went to sleep.

3. Have you ever visited the Broom Tree?

E. Angel Food & Commission

- 1. Angel touched & awakened him.
- 2. Bread & water at his head.
- 3. Invitation to eat?
- 4. Has this "angel" ever visited you with gifts of necessity?
- 5. Went back to sleep.
- 6. 2nd invitation came.
- 7. Arose--went 40 days & nights to Horeb.
- 8. God knows we need refreshment & encouragement.
- 9. God watches over his own.
- 10. This was 150 miles--to spot where Moses got the law.
- 11. Jesus fasted 40 days.
- 12. Prophets were not perfect but God loved them.
- 13. We have to deal with the physical before we can get to the spiritual at times.

F. Cave & Divine Interrogation.

- 1. He goes to a cave.
- 2. He gets a question, "What are you doing here?"

2X

a) All of us have to answer that.

b) It's God who asks it.

3. Now has solitary time with the Lord.

4. You are AWOL, Soldier.

G. Elijah had an answer of sorts.

v-10 (Read)

1. Describes Apostate Israel.

a) Forsook covenant.

b) Altered worship.

c) Got rid of prophets that opposed them.

d) Elijah is next on the list.

2. How plausible is our reply.

H. When the Lord Passed By.

1. Elijah saw something.

2. God shows himself.

a) Great wind--rent mt., broke rocks

b) Earthquake--as rocks rolled.

c) Fire--electrical storm.

3. God was in the Still Small Voice.

a) Lit. the "Sound of Silence"--
our TN Park ads use this.

b) Not power, might, overwhelming
force--but the word.

c) Sound of a gentle breeze--his
mercy, his patience.

4. Wraps in reverence the mantle above
his face.

5. Came the 2nd time.

6. God not displayed in judgement but
in mercy.

7. E. must ever come self centeredness -
see Ps rever elip

I. The Commission--Go, Return

1. Damascus--via wilderness--not the way you came.
2. Folks can apostatize. Men can return
3. You've still a work to do.
4. I've got a spot for you.
5. Chose a King, a rude captain, and a *faem* ~~fram~~ prophet to complete the work.
6. Note we are not all alike.
7. God's nets are not constructed with the same size mesh. (Meyers)
8. 7,000 haven't bowed knee or kissed Baal.
 - a) Peter's toe kissed slick.
 - b) 7 a complete number.
9. If you are not successful pave the way for those that will be.
10. We can rise again.

Westwood, McMinnville, TN - 12/22/91

An Ounce of Prevention

We are always being told by doctors, nurses and even cereal boxes what our minimum daily requirements are for certain minerals and vitamins. What about our emotional daily requirements?

"Four hugs a day is the minimum," that's the advice of Greg Risberg of the Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago. "You'll have a nice day if you get eight. Get 12 and you'll radiate good cheer. No hugs and you're likely to go off in a corner and mope or whine or be generally unsociable."

"As we age, we are less apt to touch or be touched. Very old people, likely need a reassuring, caring hug than anyone, are touched least of all. Some cultures tend to touch more than others. In a normal one-hour conversation, Italians are likely to reach out and touch 125 times. In Germany, it's three times. In Chicago, it's 2.8 times."

So maybe Americans need to learn how to touch and hug. In 20,000 people, in five states, he surveyed, Risberg found that only 5% felt that they were touched enough; 98% wanted to be touched more; and 89% said they held back inclinations to touch.

Why? Fear of rejection. Fear of misinterpretation. Fear of causing offense. But isn't it all really worth the risk? Think what you'll get back in return.

So what are you waiting for? Have you gotten your minimum daily requirement of hugs today? Better yet, have you given someone theirs?

To give is better than to receive.

Steve Smith, Dallas Times Herald

(Aren't we fortunate to have Gladys's Mills as a sister here at Southside--we know how good it feels to be hugged.)

Southside Texas Haute

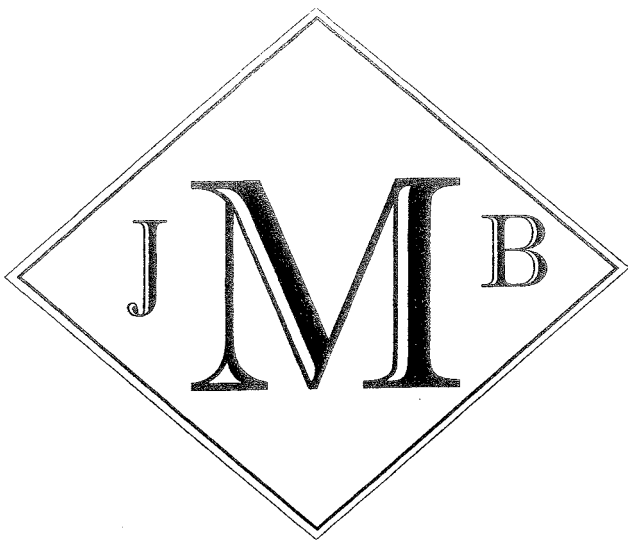
EDITORIALIZING

A negative side effect of economic stress is that people tend to turn inward. Their vision narrows. The self-preservation instinct tends to take over. Isolation from those around prevails. But the fence that shuts others out also shuts self in. And occupation with oneself is at the bottom of the job list in both pay and self-fulfilment.

A major study for risk factors in coronary heart disease a few years ago by Dr. Larry Scherwitz yielded a surprising finding. The people who referred to themselves using the pronouns I, me, and my most often in an interview were more likely to develop coronary heart disease. "The more self-centered people were much more likely to die of heart attack than the less self-centered," Dr. Scherwitz said.

Jesus had more than one reason for making self-denial a condition of discipleship. He knew the human penchant for getting all wrapped up in self. Of course, an economic recession offers striking opportunities to practice other-centeredness, thus countering the tendency to circle the wagons. "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others," Phil. 2:4.

Certainly all who are vitally involved in this congregation are concerned about the impact of the fiscal storm presently pummeling our state. As business and industrial retrenchment forces members to move to other areas, thus reducing our numbers, it would be easy to become discouraged. Instead, we must lift up thankful hearts for such a redeemer as Christ and renew our commitment to him and his body! (EB)



J M B

Elijah - Small Copy - Big Man

1 Kings 19:1-23

I. Of all the prophets, we all know Elijah.

A. Yet we have so little Old Testament scripture about him.

Mostly 1 Kings 17-19 and
2 Kings 1 & 2

B. Several New Testament reference

Luke 4:25-26 - Widow of Sarepta

Rom. 11:2-4 - Not castaway - 7000

James 5:17-18 - Pray-no rain 3 1/2 yrs

II. About him:

A. These facts:

1. Only information about his background 1 Kings 17:1-Tishbite, Gilead, north of Jabbok
2. 9th Century before Christ
3. Name means Yah is El or Yahweh is God.
4. Work mostly to northern Kingdom
5. People he dealt with were Ahab, Jezebel, Ahaziah (Ahab 7th king to serve Israel)
6. Major battles with Ahab and the confrontation about Baal.

- a) Baal protective of Tyre
 - b) Name means Master, name given by nations to their presiding God.
 - c) Religion had spread quickly almost wiping out faith in God.
7. Paired with Moses (Matt. 17)
 8. On mountain of transfiguration
 9. 3 other Old Testament men wore this name

1 Chron. 8:27

Ezra 10:21

Ezra 10:26

10. Men today wear prophets name - Elijah, Samuel
 11. Some confused Jesus and Elijah - who do men say I am?
- B. Life lived in seven episodes
1. Prediction of drought
 2. His first flight
 3. Mt. Carmel contest
 4. Flight to Hereb - sacred mountain of Moses and covenant as disheartened he returns to source of his faith - was he in Moses' cave?
 5. Naboth incident

6. Oracle about Ahaziah

7. His translation

C. Some characteristics

1. He's a man of action

2. His spirit determined movement that defy human anticipation.

3. He loved God and was ever calling a wayward people back to Him.

D. Some lessons to learn:

1. Those who teach must have time to learn.

2. Do not minimize the power of God.

3. Value of young men serving under older veterans.

4. It pays to serve God.

5. Prayer is an instrument of power to people back to God

Deut. 11:16-17

6. We do not complete all our work to God - ever more to do.

III. Now let's study one of those 7 episodes - 1 Kings 19

A. Sad to have to skip other 6.

1. Mt. Carmel 1 Kings 18

a) 450 prophets

- b) 400 at Jezebel's table
- c) Halt between 2 opinions
- d) Bullock and wood - "It is well spoken."
- e) Mocking - sleeps
- f) 12 stones - unity

2. Raven story

- a) In lonely spot learned further obedience - faith and patience too - as God's power provided morning by morning, evening by evening fed by birds, brook of which he drank, dried up thus learned to completely rely on Lord.

B. Now he's running.

- 1. Bravely confronted Ahab
- 2. Ran from a woman
- 3. Physically exhausted, terribly discouraged, ran for his life *Broom*
- 4. Juniper, ~~brown~~ tree, wanted to die
- 5. Touch of angel - cake on coals and cruse of water
- 6. Ate - 40 days and nights to Horeb - where it all started
- 7. What doest thou here?

8. Go stand on the mount
 - a) Wind breaks rocks
 - b) Earthquake
 - c) Fire
 - d) Still small voice - covers face - recognizes nearness of God - could not stand in His presence uncovered
 - e) 7000 unbowed
9. Found Elisha
 - a) 12 yoke oxen
 - b) Wealthy family (?)
 - c) Go kiss my father - to do God's work does not necessarily alienate family
 - d) Yet God so great it may call for such separation
 - e) Burn instruments shows total relinquishment from former ties.
 - f) God wants no half-hearted service, but willing, free-will, ungradingly.
 - g) Hazael foreign king, will cut down Israel. King of Israel cause civil strife, Elisha keeps alive fellowship of God and faithfulness.

Preacher Camp Luncheon, 21st C/C
6/16/99

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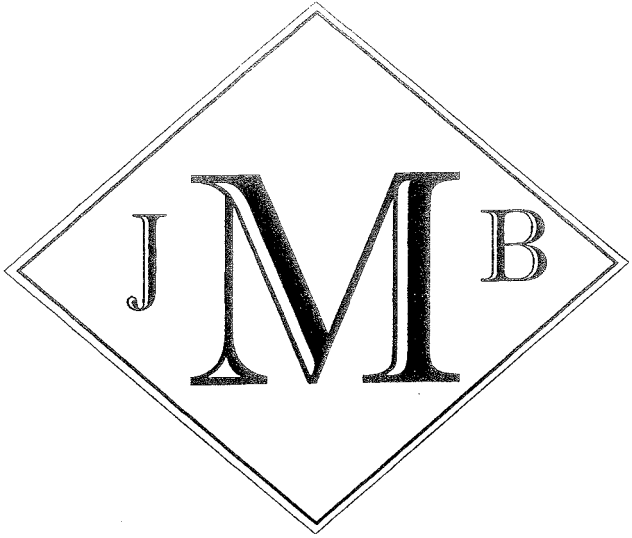
Fairfield - 7/11/00

West Nashville Heights - 7/17/00

THE QUIZZING OF ELIJAH

- I. This man was asked some interesting questions. If they were yours, how would you answer today?
- II. The questions from I & II Kings:
- A. "Is it really you, my Lord Elijah?"
(Saw him where he didn't expect him)
I Kings 18:7
 - B. "What have I done wrong?" I Kings 18:9
--as we think we are punished.
 - C. "Haven't you heard what I did?"
I Kings 18:13--is there no blessing to reap?
 - D. "Is that you that troubles Israel?"
I Kings 18:17--am I the one that's causing hurt?
 - E. "How long will ye halt between 2 opinions?" I Kings 18:21--can't I make up my mind?
 - F. "What are you doing here?"
I Kings 19:9, 13--I am accountable for my actions.
 - G. "Is there no God in Israel?"
II Kings 1:4, 6, 16--Why do I think I can find something better?

Berry's Chapel & Woodbine BC (TCC)-10/13/99
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Bellevue - 6/28/00
Fairfield - 7/11/00
West Nashville Heights - 7/17/00



NABOTH'S VINEYARD

I Kings 21



I. Truly this is a remarkable chapter.

A. These strange things are there.

1. A man has a vineyard by a palace--could you think of a more expensive place. (v-1)

2. Kings wants to change it to a herb garden --pepper over grapes? (v-2) *Heart attack!*

3. A King, who leads, pouts. (v. 4-6) *No, pout!*

4. Wife stirs to action by as King "who's king"--proves she is (v-7).

5. Forged letters (v-8) bought witnesses.

6. Set on high brought low. (v. 9, 12)

7. Naboth is stoned.

8. Goes to take vineyard, rents clothes, goes softly. (v-27) *had to fake worship, steal, murder.*

B. But let's see the chapter.

II. The Vineyard shows us many things.

A. Covetness can kill. - *100% + promoter*

B. Innocent often suffer. *campaigns! look! fly*

C. Guilt eventually punished. *it us gov.*

1. Let's go to the story.

III. Ahab Offers to Buy.

A. Naboth's vineyard was by palace in Jezreel. *God sows"- fertile eve*

1. Nothing wrong with wanting a vegetable garden.

2. Nothing wrong with seeking a thing convenient.

3. I'm sure he thought offer fair.

a. Either a better vineyard or

b. Worth in money thus a fair exchange.

c. Have to say it was courteous and liberal offer.

4. Naboth said No.

a. Ownership entitled him to say such.

(1) Leave preacher with a little dignity not a vassal.

b. He acted on principle, even in face of:

(1) Convenience.

(2) Friendship.

(3) Profit.

(4) Personal accommodation.

c. He said "The Lord forbid ^{it me}" - and surely he did!

(1) He didn't look for a way around law.

Lev. 25:13-28 *Sub: tithes - v 23 "The land is*

Numbers 36:7 *Keep inheritance of tribe*

d. Did he say no harshly, unnecessarily so?

B. Ahab denied.

1. Bible says "heavy and displeased" (v-4)

a. How do you take a defeat.

(1) Was your proposal wrong?

(2) Is a defeat a stepping stone or end of world to you?

(3) Do you pout -- swell up -- go hid, won't eat supper!

2. Laid down -- faced wall and wouldn't eat (v-4)

a. If your boy you'd spank. Spoiled child.

3. Look at it:

2
mine - not so hard for our

a. We allow worthless objects to vex us.

b. Unsubdued lusts lead to misery. (3)

(1) A king's unhappy, even with immense power, because he doesn't have one little plot of ground even if the owner would not part due to religious reasons.

C. Enter Jezebel. *bit "not excited"*

1. Asked why so blue? (v-5)

2. Read verse 6.

3. Asks "Who's governor".

a. How we like that?

b. She represents evil power, unscrupulous design, and earth view without Heavenly consequence. *I will give thee N. vineyard*

4. She promises to give the vineyard.

a. Ahab asks no question, wants to appear innocent. *By what right?*

b. J. intended to arouse to revenge--watch whom you marry. (v 25)

D. Jezebel's Plan.

1. Forged letters with seal.

2. Sent to elders and nobles.

3. Religious tone--have a fast and set Naboth on high. *Income tax deductions to church.*

4. Honor him. *Thomas story*

a. Note she's never in sight.

b. Fast gives religious veneer.

(1) Sat by man ate fish on Friday and cursed as he ate.

5. Got two "children of lawlessness or worthlessness" literally.

- a. Testify he blasphemes=disown or renounce.
- b. Said against God and King--blaspheme and treason!
- c. What kind of society would tolerate such?
- d. What type of man--would I? How do I react to shady boss?
- e. Said he sould be stoned--false witness, no defense and more shocking they did it and the sons.
2 Kings 9:26
- f. Truth can know temp. set back.
- g. Covet. makes us want so bad we use illegal means to get!
- h. Preachers job to show sin.
~~Heb. 10:17~~
- i. Natural desire can become unnatural.
- j. Let's ask- "who's Lord over us?"
Ps. 12:4 →
Gal. 4:16 "Am I to become your enemy"
- k. Warn. about money. "Many a man's possessions have been his snare, and his neighborhood to greatness of per-
nitious consequence."

E. Naboth dies.

1. Have we stirred others to tyranny.
2. Fasting was abused--shall we disdain usage of it and prayer?
3. Naboth died without knowing why--shall we?

a. Under pretense of disgust they stoned him. *Next than found me* (5)

~~Ecc. 3:16~~ *Sold self to work evil*

b. Yet better to suffer than to execute, and be successful in iniquity.

Jer. 23:29 *'Is not my word like as a fire?*

IV. Judgment comes. *like hammer*

A. Aren't you glad!

1. Dogs get Ahab and Jezabel.

2. God must keep us, innocency won't!

3. Rejoice and tremble, as Felix, about Judgment. *For his eyes are upon the ways of man, & he seeth all his goings. There is no darkness nor shadow of death when the*

4. God calls for an accounting. *Job 34:21-22* *woeful of iniquity may hide himself*

Ps. 21:8 *Thine hand shall find out all thine*

2 Pet. 2:3 *whose judgements lingereth*

2 Pet. 2:9 *reserve the unjust cry of*

~~Mic. 6:13-19~~ *judgement to be punished*

5. Righteous have nothing to fear.

West End 4/24/66

Ypsilanti Mich 4/26/66

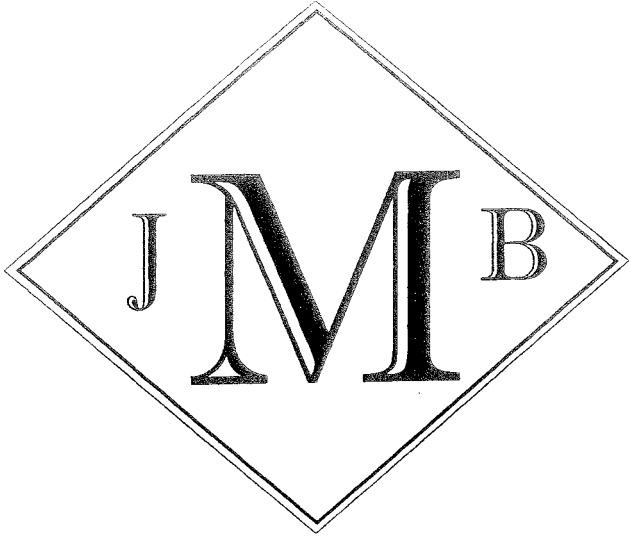
Centerville, Tenn. - 5/9/66

Brother Thomas, a member of the Union Avenue church and an Internal Revenue agent, told me of a man's effort to cheat on his tax in Memphis. The man claimed great medical deductions.

He asked him "What was the nature of your illness? - Don't know I was just sick. Did the doctor perscribe this medicine? Un Huh. What's it for? I don't know he just told me to take it. Can you substantuate all claims? I have cash tickets."

He asked him to verify it by the presentation of these tickets. Later the man came back with a shoe box full. He was examining all these Wallgreen tabs when he happened to notice one had a heel mark. This called his attention to the date, and he found the all occurred within the same week. Evidently the man sat the box

under the cash register and just received all that was there. Brother Thomas asked "Will you sign an affidavit claiming the accuracy of this--the man said why don't we just forget it."



THE VALUE OF FELLOWSHIP

I Kings 22:4

I. How can anything be more beautiful than Fellowship--we are asked to explore its values.

A. We do it via study of I Kings 22.

B. As all things in human relationships, it has its twists and turns.

C. I'd like to present to you 7 values I feel this chapter presents--your list may vary, but for the sake of the hour explore my list please.

II. #1--the very thought of fellowship is beautifully expressed.

A. Three years of peace, Jehoshaphat goes down to call on King Ahab.

1. Don't know why he went.

2. Springtime Kings go forth to war-- but this is peace and a friendly visit was initiated.

3. Went "down"--ominious perhaps.

4. I go up--North; down South, Back East, and out West totally devoid of elevation.

5. Bible is always right--even topographically--from Jerusalem go down!

6. Ahab welcomed it.

v-3 "Know ye that Ramoth in Gilead is ours"

a) "Be still"--onomatopoeic word-- afraid of any movement to assert rights.

b) Did not want to attract attention.

c) Take it out of hand of King of Syria?

v-4 "I am as thou art..people...horses"

7. Great to say I love you.

8. "You and I are brothers"--
(Taylor) (Living Bible)

9. Some sons never heard Daddy
say "I love you."

10. Tell story of Martha and Zack's
first visit--"We are Pro-Zack."

B. #2--Provide Mutual Benefits

1. What good will come to Jehoshaphat?

2. Should it not include both parties
being blessed?

3. The Dr. Bill Grays ever send
Betty cards--where are they
blessed? True unselfishness.

4. Recall Jehoshaphat's son married
Athaliah--Jezebel his mother-in-
law of Jehoram.

5. Black obelisk tells Ahab of Zezreel
joined league of Kings of whom
BenHaded was one to fight against
Syrians furnished 10,000 ft. men
and 2,000 chariots. Where was
Jehosphaphat?

6. Got a rebuke on return to Jerusalem.

II Chron.19:2 "Help the ungodly & love them
that hate the Lord"

7. Odd for a man who walked in ways
of God and heart lifted up in his
ways (II Chron. 17:1-6).

C. #3--It is to be entered advisedly.

22:5 "Enquire, I pray thee, at the word"

1. "Great compliancy with evil doers has brought many good people, through unawareness, into dangerous fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness." (Henry)
2. "Whithersoever a good man goes, he ought to take his religion along with him and not be ashamed to own it, no, not when he is with those who would have no kindness for it." (Henry)
3. Ahab got 400 prophets--all said go, the Lord will deliver it into the hand of the King.
4. "Is there not here a prophet of the Lord besides?" v-7
 - a) Don't know why he was not satisfied with 400.
 - b) Numbers do not authorize it.

D. #4--It is honorable to fully investigate.

v-8 "There is yet one man, Micaiah"

1. Don't be persuaded to compromise.
2. "I hate him."
3. Does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.
4. Whose fault was that?
5. "He who hates truth shall be dupes of lies." (Cowper)

E. #5--Fellowship offers the Latitude of Difference and the Room for Criticism.

v-8 "Let not the King say so."

1. He was rebuked by it ever so mild.
2. Ahab expresses his indignation and Jehoshaphat chids him.

- 3. May I voice opposition to improper behavior of a brother?
- 4. Man sought to sleep in his car-- jogger tapped on window--what time is it?--2 did it--sign I don't know what time it is. 3rd jogger--It's 6:42.

F. #6--Fellowship is worthy of Royal Presentation.

v-10 "Sat on throne, robes, at entrance"

- 1. "Sitting on throne in full regalia at the threshing floor outside the gate of Samaria with all the prophets raving in front of them" (Jerusalem Bible).
- 2. Seated on their thrones in shining armor" (NEB).
- 3. Harding's convocation is impressive-- "Kids you've come to see something great."
- 4. Zedekiah running around with his horns of iron to show how the enemy will be pushed.
- 5. Brought in Micaiah.
 - a) From jail--that didn't add to his esteem.
 - b) Speak us one mouth--be like them.
 - c) "As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak" (v-14).
 - d) Ahab "Did I not tell you?"
 - e) Got slapped on the cheek.

f) Carry him back to prison and feed bread of affliction and water of affliction.

G. #7--I'm left with the privilege of choice.

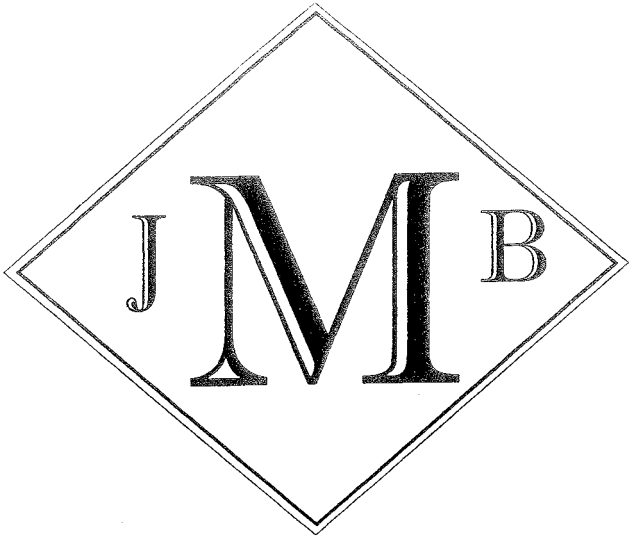
v-29 "So the King of Israel & Jehoshaphat King of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead."

1. Ahab not even named.
2. He was killed.
3. Jehoshaphat scared out of his wits as 32 chariots chased him in his royal attire.
4. Went home--endured broken ships.
5. But was still a man, a King who learned better and did what was right in the eyes of the Lord (v-43) having learned his lesson.
6. Left a story to benefit us.

Harding Graduate School - 4/5/01

Charlotte Avenue - 4/22/01

Madison - 4/25/01



POPULARITY AND PRESSURE

I Kings 22:1-14

- I. I've never known a time when truth has had more pressure.
 - A. That's the value of history--things do move via cycles.
 - B. Lipscomb's appeal for identity via instrument.
 1. Restoration followers were divided via name.
 2. Dad told me he first was in the Christian church--as Stone's followers were known.
 3. Lipscomb's appeal was relative to two terms and "church" of Christ has prevailed.
 4. Do we realize there is no one term?
 - C. Even today we evaluate or devalue the instrument--BBB "not a salvation issue."
 - D. There comes times in life when truth calls for you to stand alone.
 1. Popularity
 2. Dogmatic
 3. Compromise
 - E. I'll tell you one event--asking you to strongly stand for the truth--"things written aforetime for our learning."

II. The Ramoth-Gilead Issue - I Kings 22:1-4

A. Israel and Syria for three years at peace.

1. So rare are the times of peace.
2. Nations as we have known, WWII, Korea, Reagan's Caribbean, now Bagdad.
3. Church fights I've known--and still exist as questionable congregations in Nashville.

B. Kings Ahab and Jehoshaphat.

1. Ahab and Jerebel horrible.
2. Yet enter marriage.
3. Ahab and Benhadad league.

I Kings 20:34

4. We have Judah and Israel in the divided kingdom.
 5. Jehoram, son of Jehoshaphat married Athaliah, daughter of Ahab (2 Kings 8:18), making a treacherous union.
 6. Thus Jehoshaphat goes on a friendly visit to Israel.
 7. Strange in a good reign of Jehoshaphat.
 8. Evil companionship ruins.
- C. "Ramoth-Gilead is ours."
1. Rip for the taking.
 2. Anticipate no trouble.
 3. Yet not in "our hands."
 4. "Will you go with me?"

D. Pledge

1. "I am as thou art."
2. My people as thy people.
3. My horses as thy horses.
4. But--inquire first for the word of Jehovah.
 - a) Always need God's guidance.
 - b) 400 prophets
 - c) Today the Bible.
 - d) Multiple "prophets"--even their 400!
 - e) Do numbers make it right?
"So and so says"!

E. The Inquiry

1. 400 prophets say "go up."
2. Is there a prophet of God beside these?
3. Wonder why the suspicion?
4. Diplomatic--"your crowd" vs. "my folks."
5. Are we serious and open-minded in our search for truth?
6. 450 of Baal slain at Carmel. Jezebel had 400 of Asherah (I Kings 18:19).
7. Do we bow to numbers?

Isa. 30:10-12

Jer. 23:30-32

8. "Lord will deliver it into hand of the king--but which one," as a bit equivocal.

F. Call of Micaiah (V-8).

1. I hate him.
2. Does not prophesy good concerning me.
3. Fetched Micaiah quickly.

G. His appearance.

1. Each king on his throne.
2. Each arranged royal robes.
3. Open place at gate's entrance for all to see.
4. All prophets before them.
5. Zedekiah and his iron horn demonstration of the easy push and promised consummation.
6. Micaiah temporarily prepped--
"speak thou good!"

H. Response "As Jehovah lives what Jehovah says to me that will I speak!"

1. Speak only God's truth.
2. Not influenced by numbers!
3. Honesty and truth on the line.
4. Said others were lying spirits.
5. Defeat for Israel.
6. Ahab to die.
7. Even though Jehoshaphat went with Ahab.
8. Men heard above God!

III. What lessons to us?

- A. We can form bad alliances via money, socials, seemingly good endings promised.

I Cor. 15:33

B. We can bow to personal gain
deserved.

C. Numbers do not decide a matter.

D. God above all to be heard.

Gal. 1:10

Unique Lure of the Crowd

by Carl Mitchell

How many times has something like this involved you?

- You told your parents you wanted to do something because everybody was doing it.
- You were told by someone who was trying to override your resistance to be a part of the group, "Come on don't be a stuffed shirt!" "Everybody is going to be a part of this!"
- You felt the pull of the crowd, even when you knew they were going to a place you shouldn't go or were planning to do something that would be a violation of your conscience.

Satan's Lure

Here is God's read on this: "You shall not follow a multitude to do evil. The Apostle Paul wrote the Corinthians, "We are not ignorant of his (Satan's) schemes" (2 Cor. 2:11). Unfortunately, we too often are? Why do you think the crowd has such a powerful pull on us to do evil? I mean, the

pull of those who often are friends, relatives, peers. They consider themselves honorable people, and yet, Satan has been very successful in using them to lead other honorable people into sinful activities.

Why the Crowd Influence?

Let me mention a few ideas about why the crowd has such a great influence. Several years ago I did some research on crowd psychology and found that the less informed we are concerning whatever we may do the more likely we are to follow the crowd.

- Frequently, we may be talking about borderline activities where we are not sure if something is really good or evil until we go with the group and get to the border, and the group keeps going. Later we ask how we could ever have been a part of such an activity.
- Then, there is the excitement of being part of the crowd. How nice it to be a jolly good fellow

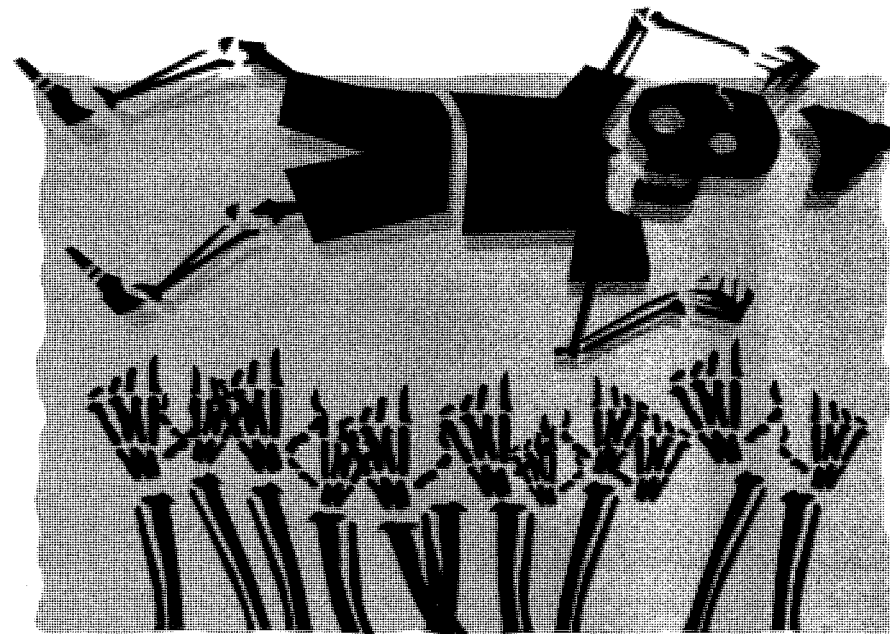
and not a sour lemon in the eyes of the group. Group action gives a feeling of strength. Many times those who tend to be followers seek the feeling of comfort and security of group membership, even when they have some question as to the moral nature of that group.

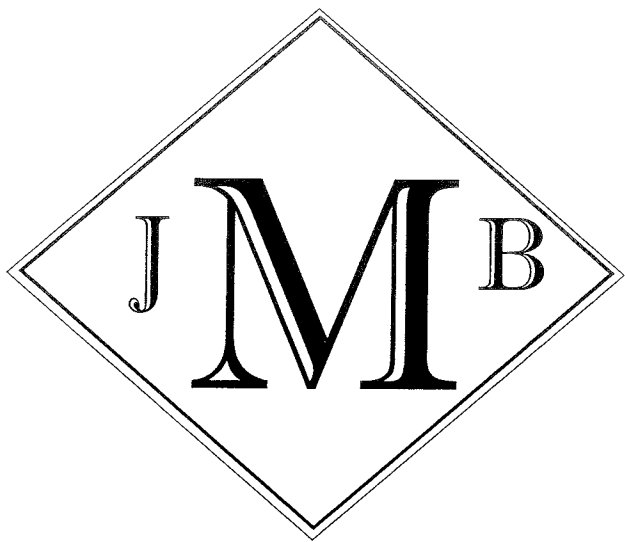
- For some, it is the feeling that, if the group is doing it, we no longer are individually responsible. This often causes upright people to do things in the frenzy of a group activity that they would never do on their own initiative. Have you ever in aftermath said to yourself, "I cannot believe that I did such a thing!" You may then have said, "Well, everybody was doing it," and then shrugged it off. For some it has not been possible to shrug off what they have done while they were drunk, or under the influence of some drug, or after losing their virtue, or having caused or experienced a pregnancy! Think about it!

Change or Be Changed

Some of us may need to choose some new friends and a different crowd to "hand out with." Maybe before doing that, we may need to take a leadership role and challenge the group to see if it is willing to take a better direction. Whatever it may be, take to heart this admonition, "Evil company corrupts good morals" (1 Cor. 15:33). You may think you are trail wise and can look out for yourself, but there are a lot of people you will contact that are more trail wise than you are who are on the wrong trail!

Think about it! If you know someone who needs to read this, give him a copy.





JEROBOAM

I Kings 22:52

- I. Over 20X said made Israel sin.
- II. Jeroboam an interesting man.
 - A. Solomon put him in charge of engineering work fortifying Millo.
 1. Later tried to kill him.
 2. Fled to Egypt.
 - B. Led revolt of 10 tribes.
 1. Set up mongrel religion.
 2. Dan & Becher.
 3. Idolatry "Behold thy gods"
 4. He made Israel to sin
 5. Solomon lost kingdom by idolatry; Jer. sought to keep one same way.
- III. We are tempted by
 - A. False Beliefs
 1. Either there is no true religion or else some have corrupted it.
 2. Unbelief does not travel alone.
 3. 18 Kings followed him - not 1 gave up the golden calves!
- I Kings 17:22-23
 - B. Sins of Desire, Pleasure, Passion
 1. These sins require others.
 2. Habakkuk "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink"
 3. Millstone
 4. Souls are sensitive
- IV. Facts about him.
 - A. Name means Enlarges - people have become numerous.

B. Mother a widow.

C. Reigned 22 yrs.

D. Rebuked a prophet

I Kings 11:26-40 12-16

E. Story of Ahijah & 12 pieces of cloth

2 hrs End 100 Plus class 3-23-75

