

The Nazarene Fellowship Circular Letter

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I am sorry this Circular Letter is so very late, but I have not been well. A few weeks ago I fell ill and it was decided I should be treated at home and was taken care of by a group called “End of life care at home team.” I don’t recall much of the following two weeks but I am very grateful it was not the ‘end of life’ as the medics anticipated.

However, I was very tired for some time after and felt I couldn’t concentrate on my duties as editor though I had made a start on this C.L. Eventually I decided it was time to try again and so here you have my latest effort.

But at 96 years of age I wonder who will carry on after me? Is there someone who would welcome the rewarding task? I would love to think so.

It has been the greatest blessing of my life and I thank God for guiding me to it. We would love to hear from anyone who may be interested.

Russell Gregory

Correspondence may be sent to our E-mail address at : -
bygrace@nazarenes.org.uk

Also we have a website at www.thenazarenefellowship.co.uk which
contains hundreds of articles of interest

EDITORIAL –

“If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.” (John 7:37).

If a person is convinced that the Holy Spirit is not available to them to-day then they are not going to thirst after it. The loss is great, for it is the Holy Spirit that leads us into all Truth, for we are all taught of God. (Isaiah 54:13).

It is not flesh and blood that reveals Jesus to us; who He is, or what He has accomplished on our behalf. It is the God of heaven and earth, through His Spirit. “No man can come unto me,” said Jesus, “Except the Father... draw him.” John 6:44. And “no man can say that Jesus is Lord but by the Holy Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 12:3. “If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith unto thee, Give me to drink, thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.” John 4:10. And the water that Jesus Christ gives becomes a “well of water springing up into everlasting life.” Verse 14.

“If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” Luke 11:11-13.

Brother Russell Gregory

What does it mean, “By one man’s disobedience many were made sinners”!

It means, that on the Federal Principle all Adam’s offspring are constituted sinners; made sinners not by their nature but by their legal status, just as children born to parents of a certain nationality have that nationality by law.

The reason for this is in order that the one sacrifice of the free unforfeited life of Christ could substitute the one life lost by Adam but incorporated in it the multitude of those whose lives derive from him. What a wonderful thing.

It is not our invention but the hidden wisdom of God - the mystery which angels desired to look into and understand so in order that a great multitude of sinners might be saved from perishing by the merciful intervention of God Himself - He ordained that “by the offence of one judgment came on all to condemnation (not to make them personally sinful or even to ensure that they should be properly punished for their own sins - No) but so that by the righteousness of one the free gift of justification unto life.” (Romans 5:18).

If instead of the Federal Principle every man was arraigned and held accountable before supreme Justice either he would have to be executed or else an equivalent sacrifice found to deliver him. In Hebrews it contrasts the many yearly offerings of blood made by the High Priest with one offering of Jesus. The writer shows that the effect of the Divine arrangement is that He did not have to offer Himself often - every year - “For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world.” (Hebrews chapter 9:26)

The concept of a multitude of Saviours is unthinkable. Yet quotes such as: “a life for a life”, “the wages of sin is death”, “the soul that sinneth it shall die”, “every firstling thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it thou shalt break his neck” - show how one sacrifice, until the Federal Principle was established, could only redeem one life.

Sins can be forgiven, but they are only forgiven on the basis of faith and repentance. This is why the Federal Principle is vital.

The faith it demands is exemplified in Abraham, who believed God and it (his belief) was counted to him for righteousness. It is clinched in the statement "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." (Romans 4:8).

To summarise - under the Federal Principle, all Adam's descendants are cut off from God and in a legally dead condition.

Unless they are brought to life, by a spirit birth (John 3:3-10) they will remain in that dead state until natural corruptibility removes them from the scene and they perish like the beasts.

This is not a punishment; they are not suffering because of a sin they did not commit, any more than any other animal which dies naturally. However, if they are fortunate enough to hear the word of life - and this is a matter which is in the hands of God - and receive the seed of the Kingdom into good ground, they think upon their ways and turn to God.

In one way or another they learn that there is a new Federal Head under whom they may enrol and in the symbol of baptism suffer the death incurred by sin and rise in a new relationship. They pass thereby from a legal death-state into a legal life-state and when Christ who is their life shall appear then they will appear with Him in glory.

In this process it is not the sinlessness of the individual which matters - if it was it could not work. At this stage the act of faith is the only righteousness which is acceptable - personal guilt is washed away at the same time. It is the deliverance from the bondage of sin as an alien power which is in reality salvation.

The indispensable act of faith is the recognition of Jesus as the Son of God who gave Himself in His sacrifice as the redemptive price paid by God Himself to save the human race from perishing from the earth because of sin.

I hope this outline of our belief will be seen as only a constructive criticism of the article mentioned and will enable some of us to see more clearly the difference between the logic and the simplicity of the Divine Plan, and the contradictions and unreasonableness of what has been made of it by creeds compiled by fallible men.

Brother Ernest Brady

Christ. The Hope Of The World.

O Friend, do you stand at the crossroads of life,
Bewildered, dismayed by the envy and strife,
The carnage and lust, the hatred and greed
Extant in the world? Do you faint at the need
For someone to come and cause sinning to cease
And out of the chaos bring order and peace?
If so, then for is the banner unfurled
That says Christ is coming, the Hope of the world.

The hope of the world is established in Right,
And shall not be vested in power and might;
Though He who delivers the world from its chains
Shall make use of both in acquiring His gains;
But when war and tumult are brought to an end,
And peace and good will all our footsteps attend,
Then mercy and love shall distinguish His reign
Who, born to be King, governs earth's vast domain.

The world is now sick, even nigh unto death
And no one is able to quicken its breath,
Or fan into flame the few embers of hope;
'No soul with earth's troubles is able to cope.
In councils and synods they're seeking to find
a sure panacea for ailing mankind,
Forgetting the promise He left us to cheer,
"Look up, your redemption is now drawing near!"

The hope of the world lies in Jesus' return,
And for this even now our longing hearts yearn!
For when He returns He will banish all crime
And bring in a reign that is grand and sublime.
So don't be alarmed - things will turn out alright;
The dawning of Day will dispel the dark night.
And don't be dismayed at the evil darts hurled,
For lo: He is coming, the Hope of the world!
Contributed

And now for a word from the late Phil Parry regarding

“They That Passed By”

Mark 15:29

We know from the scriptures that there will never be a mass conversion of people to the truth concerning the sacrifice of Christ as the means of redemption. This applies to Christadelphians as well as to other popular denominations. This was apparent when talking with a few Christadelphians during a Bible Campaign in the Forest of Dean area during August last. A leaflet advertising lectures in Coleford was put through our letter-box while we were away on holiday and amongst them was one entitled “Why was Christ Crucified?”

We were unable to attend the lectures, but it seemed like Divine providence when we saw these Christadelphians passing our door a few days after our return home. A young man passed my gateway carrying a Bible and what appeared to be a bundle of literature and I concluded he was a Christadelphian. It struck me as peculiar that he called at every house on my side of the road but passed by mine. I saw another young man, canvassing the other side and I spoke to him and told him I was sorry we had been away and unable to take advantage of the invitation to attend their lecture the previous week. His reply was “Oh, are you interested in the Bible?” I said yes and especially in the lecture on the Sacrifice of Christ. He replied “I am sorry but we have already given that one, to which I went on “Perhaps then you can explain to me why Christ was crucified.” “Of course” was his reply. He did not know that I had been a Christadelphian for 17 years and that he would be explaining something I already knew. However, his explanation turned out to be the usual one used by Christadelphians in accordance with the B.A.S.F. and supposedly supported by Hebrews 7:27. He told me that Jesus, being of our nature, was under condemnation and had to die upon the Cross to show what was due to sinful flesh. He quoted the text mentioned and so I asked him “Did Jesus die for his own sins?” and he replied “Yes.” I then told him that I had always been under the impression that Jesus did no sin, so are you saying that Jesus was a sinner? Again he answered “Yes.” I then told him that even the Scribes and Pharisees could not convict him of sin when challenged by Jesus himself. I then told him that I had been a Christadelphian for 17 years but had never interpreted

Heb. 7:27 in the manner he was doing, as the writer was referring to “Sins” not to “flesh,” and Jesus had no sins to offer for. In any case he could not offer for his own sins even if he had committed any, as he was the anti-typical lamb of Eden and of the animal sacrifices under the Law.

Had Jesus ever sinned he would have ceased to be the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the World (Adam’s Sin) and would have been in the same position as Adam, namely, in need of redemption. I told him that this treading of the Son of God under foot and counting the blood with which we are sanctified an unholy thing was the main reason for our leaving the Christadelphian Community. At this he looked up at the house and said “Oh, is this ‘Sunnyside’?” I replied “Yes; have you been told not to call here?” and he admitted that this was so. I then told him what Edward Turney had said to Robert Roberts in 1875, “You are always ready to do battle with the clergy and people who are under the deception of established, religion but you are not so confident when faced with members of the Nazarene Fellowship who are not so superficial in their reading of the Bible.” I also told him that they had put in the local newspaper the account of how Robert Roberts had been heckled when he lectured in Cinderford years ago but he himself had been guilty of the selfsame thing when Edward Turney gave his lecture on the “Sacrifice of Christ” at the request of a few sincere Christadelphian brethren by whom he was highly esteemed. Robert Roberts had no time to debate in a reasonable and brotherly spirit but he found time to go home and write the blasphemous lecture “The Slain Lamb,” which is one of the worst examples of indiscriminate use and wresting of Scripture which it is possible to find and it is a marvel that anyone with any sense of logic and reason can accept it. The young man seemed as if he wanted to evade the subject and he asked me if I had noticed the significance of the Russian entry into Czechoslovakia and its bearing on the return of Christ.

I told, him I was looking for his return and believed the accepted would be raised incorruptible and the accepted living changed to incorruptibility to live and reign with Christ a thousand years and at the end the responsible dead would live again to receive their judgment in accordance with Revelation 20:12-15. He told me I had got it all wrong; that all the responsible; would be gathered for judgment at the return of Christ, I promptly told him what Dr. Thomas said – “I believe in the resurrection of the just at the coming of Christ, and the resurrection of

the unjust a thousand years later. I taught this truth in Elpis Israel.” Therefore, I told him, if it was a truth it could not be disproved. He then asked me the question “Have you read any of our literature lately?” And I replied “Have you read any of ours at all?” And his answer “I have not.” I then told him to read some of their own more closely and see how much contradiction and confusion there is in their teaching.

I quoted as an example what Dr. Thomas said in reference to Adam, “It required no change in his physical make-up; left to himself Adam would have returned to the ground by the natural process of decay which we all experience” (This is quoted from memory so it may not be accurate word for word but it is the sense of his teaching in several works).

Referring to the same thing Robert Roberts said “It required what men call ‘a miracle’ to depress to the level of the beasts that perish the noble creature God had made.” These are from “Eureka” and “The Visible Hand of God” and anyone who considered it important to find the “Truth” would recognise the contradictions between the two men and would therefore accept neither as reliable but turn to the only dependable source of information, the Bible.

Despite what the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:44-49, Christadelphians maintain that we have descended from a different man, a man whose nature was changed by the word of God, so that he became defiled by a fixation of evil, or sin-in-the-flesh. In their own words, according to Clause 5 of the Statement of Faith “A sentence which defiled and became a physical law of his being and was transmitted to all his posterity.” I have never yet found in scripture where the “transgression of Law” by any man can be transmitted to his posterity. “Sin” is abstract; it is transgression of divine law, and Adam, in his very good state was capable of sinning and did sin, and God was not pleased about it, so I marvel that anyone should think that He would want to defile Adam and make transgression of law a physical law of his being and then condemn all Adam’s posterity for disobedience.

The term “Condemned nature” is a Christadelphian invention. Adam’s nature was very good physically and was never changed or condemned. It was sin that was condemned. Human nature was created capable of reproducing itself and capable of obedience or disobedience.

Reproduction was a physical law and could be transmitted to posterity like other physical character is ties but obedience or disobedience were not physical and could neither be transmitted to posterity or become a physical law of Adam's being. To say that this is what the sentence of God did is to say in effect that God is the author of sin and this is exactly what Christadelphians assert in their Constitution or Statement of Faith when they mix or confuse the legal with the physical.

"The Law of Sin and Death" is a legal position into which Adam sold himself and the human race on the federal principle as explained in Romans 5:18-19. If this were not so it would be impossible for us to be made free from it at the present time. Also, if we can be made physical sinners then we can also be physically made righteous if we accept the Christadelphian view of Romans 5:19. "Sin" and "Righteousness" are a matter of ownership in this context. We have the option of serving sin as a master, or if we so desire we can be released from this master by complying with certain conditions. Under the law of redemption we can be bought or ransomed and so become servants of righteousness or God's servants, The whole of Romans 6 is explanatory of this fact, hence Paul could say, "For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Was Paul changed physically? Of course not. He was still a living physical body, but his legal status was changed; and mark this, you who do not like the term "legal" in religious matters, Paul speaks of the LAW of the Spirit of life in Christ. Why a LAW – why not just the Spirit of life? All these things have been explained time and time again in the literature of the Nazarene Fellowship, but rank and file Christadelphians have been warned neither to read it nor to speak of it openly. And so in their leaders are fulfilled the warning of Jesus, Matthew 23:13.

"Woe unto you, leaders and Auxiliary Lecturing Society. For ye shut up the Kingdom of heaven against men; for ye neither go in yourselves neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in; ye compass sea and land to make one Convert and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."

"Why?" The answer is simple. The condemned Christ of your "Constitution" and the B.A.S.F. is a Christ which cannot REDEEM. You are still under the law of sin and death. If you think this offensive

then so also was Christ offensive and rightly so. My motive is merely to awaken you to the fact that Christ is indeed near but you are not in the right position to meet him. Fill your lamps with oil while there is time. The household of Faith is being judged, now by him unto whom all judgment has been given and who is a priest for the age after the order of Melchisedek.

We read in Hebrews 9:22 “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than those. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”

Yes, Jesus is in the presence of God making intercession for his household. “For by one offering he hath perfected for over them that are sanctified and under this new Covenant God’s law is in their hearts and written in their minds and their past sins and iniquities remembered no more and where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses law died without mercy under two or three witnesses; of how much sorer punishment suppose ye shall he be thought worthy who hath trodden under foot the Son of God and hath counted the blood of the Covenant (full of Sin!) wherewith he was sanctified an unholy thing (defiled flesh,) and hath done despite unto the spirit of grace?” (He died for himself!)

“Having therefore brethren boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh, and having a high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of our faith.”

Faith is the confident anticipation of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. We who are of the household of faith trust that the age-lasting priesthood and daily scrutiny of Christ will result in his

appearing to us unto salvation. Those who, like that young man and his companions, deny that Jesus is judging his household now should read again 1 Peter 4:16-19. "For the time is come (present tense) that judgment must begin at the house of God; and if it first begin at us, what shall the end of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

Let sincere thinking Christadelphians ask themselves the question, "Did the high priest under the law enter every year boldly into the Holy of Holies with the blood of an unclean animal?" He would never have returned alive if he had done such a thing. Yet you say that the body and blood of Jesus was unclean and therefore unholy and that he entered heaven by this means. Would the high priest have had the audacity to kill a pig or a camel and take such an offering to the altar? Yet these animals are the true types of the Christ you believe in. We implore you to go back to the Bible, from beginning to end, get your premises right, do not mix legal with physical and then if the Lord wills it, you may begin to understand the Sacrifice of Christ and how on the Federal Principle he was able to redeem or ransom his brother Adam and all the human race in him by giving his life in sacrifice.

Love to all in the Master's service, Brother Phil Parry

Worthy Brief – March 14, 2025

The war you are fighting!

Daniel 10:12-14 Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. 14 Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days [acharit hayamim (in the end of days), for the vision refers to many days yet to come."

Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the world's rulers, of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Make no mistake, the spirit of antisemitism is very much alive today. Yet this isn't a new struggle. It has been ongoing for thousands of years.

As people worldwide celebrate Purim, recalling the Jewish people's deliverance from Haman's evil schemes that took place in the ancient Kingdom of Persia (Iran), we are reminded of a deeper reality: a spiritual conflict between heavenly powers and demonic principalities. In Daniel's time, this battle was clearly depicted as the Principality of Persia waged war against the angels of God, delaying Daniel's answer to prayer for twenty-one days.

When the Apostle Paul wrote of our battle being not against flesh and blood but against spiritual principalities, I firmly believe he was recalling this ancient conflict revealed to Daniel. The very same spiritual enemy who opposed God's people then continues to oppose Israel today. When we witness this in the rhetoric and actions of modern-day Iranian leaders who openly call for Israel's destruction, this is not just geopolitics; it's the continuation of the spiritual war that was present in Esther's day, a prophetic battle outlined long ago.

This ongoing struggle reaffirms the truth and power of our faith. The persistent hatred towards the Jewish people testifies to the existence of our God. The unrest and conflict we see today in the Middle East serve as undeniable evidence of Daniel's prophecy unfolding before our eyes. Indeed, these are signs of the "acharit hayamim," the end of days.

So let us grasp this truth clearly: the conflict Israel faces physically is, in reality, a spiritual war. We have been divinely positioned, just like Esther, for such a time as this. (Esther 4:14) And like the sons of Issachar (1 Chronicles 12:32), who understood their times and knew precisely what Israel should do, we too must discern our role in God's prophetic plan.

Let us rise boldly in this hour! Stand firm in prayer, passionately seeking God's divine purposes for Israel and the Middle East. Remember, we have indeed been born for this very moment in history -- for such a time as this!

Your family in the Lord with much agape love,
George, Baht Rivka, Elianna and Obadiah

OMNIPRESENCE

Lord of all being, throned afar,
Thy glory flames from sun and star;
Centre and soul of every sphere,
Yet to each loving heart how near!

Sun of our life, Thy quickening ray
Sheds on our path the glow of day;
Star of our hope. Thy softened light
Cheers the long watches of the night.

Our midnight is Thy smile withdrawn;
Our noontide is Thy gracious dawn;
Our rainbow arch Thy mercy's sign;
All, save the clouds of sin, are Thine !

Lord of all life, below, above,
Whose light is truth, whose warmth is love,
Before Thy ever-blazing throne
We ask no lustre of our own.

Grant us Thy Truth to make us free,
And kindling hearts that burn for Thee,
Till all Thy living altars claim
One holy light, one heavenly flame.

Is Brass used in the scriptures to symbolize “sin in the flesh”?

In Numbers 21:4 to 9, we read “And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. 5. And the people spoke against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. 6. And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. 7. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. 8. And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. 9. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.”

It is very sad indeed to find this passage of scripture wrongly used in an attempt to show that we have sin dwelling in our flesh. Some claim that brass is used in the scripture as being symbolic of sinful flesh, this is grossly untrue.

Where is the evidence? The doctrine of sinful flesh is quite foreign to the Old Testament and there is no reference to it in the four gospel records! It was first believed and spread through pagan teachings that all flesh was full of sin and only spirits were good.

The phrase “Sinful-flesh” occurs only once in the Bible and, in fact, it is not even a translation of the Greek “*hamartia sarx*” which are the words Paul used.

The Greek was written in the possessive case and implies ownership – we are possessed by Sin in the same way as a Ruler possesses slaves to do his bidding. In the Bible we are said to have been sold to King Sin by Adam and now all his posterity are in “Sin’s Bondage” and condemned.

Paul explained in an earlier chapter - Romans 6:12, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."

All 'in Adam' are in bondage to sin, so we need to die with Jesus in the symbol of baptism and rise to newness of life 'in Jesus.' By so doing we are no longer 'in Adam' and no longer are we in bondage to the law of sin and death. As we read in John 8:36. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

Brother Russell Gregory

Leo Dreifuss makes the point that just as parents watch over us as children,

JESUS IS WATCHING US

Early in the Book of Genesis we read the story of Adam and Eve and the account of the first sin which later came to be referred to as "the sin of the world" which in due time the Saviour came to take away.

What I want to draw our attention to today is how Adam and Eve reacted when God questioned them about it: how Adam tried to put the blame on his wife, who in her turn put it on the serpent.

This always reminds us of a common occurrence in every-day school life. The class is noisy. The teacher catches a pupil throwing something and jumps on him. "Now what do you think you are doing John?" Back comes the answer "Sir, Bill threw something at me." Then, Bill when questioned, blames Kevin. And so it goes on, and in the end the teacher is rarely any wiser about who sparked off the uproar. But here the comparison ends. The teacher does not know who started it. God does, and on the occasion of Adam's disobedience, knew. But it was still necessary to question the offenders to get it out of their own mouth, just as in a human court, each witness and defendant tell their own version of the crime or incident, even if it is fairly obvious what had happened.

Putting the blame on others i.e. a common human failure, and if we are honest with ourselves, I think we are all guilty at times in this respect.

It is very similar to the excuse made by the people with no full knowledge of the Truth blaming “sin in the flesh”, or “original sin” for their failings.

Coming back to the sin of Adam, God knew all about it before questioning them had even started. And God and His Son know all about our wrong doings and what led up to it. But this does not absolve us from confessing them to our High Priest, because on this, followed by sincere repentance, depends God’s forgiveness. It is the same as with a naughty child committing some misdeed. The father or teacher may know exactly what he has done by having watched him. But he still questions him to get it straight from the source so that the child and all witnesses know why he is being punished.

There is a well-known novel with the title “1984” and one of the main characters is “Big Brother”. The phrase in this novel “Big Brother is watching you” has become part of our language. And we must be conscious of Jesus, much more than “big brother” but our Lord and Master is watching us. Let us never forget that in our thoughts and conduct. What is more to the point than what we read in Psalm 159 verses 5- 7, “Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid Thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from Thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from Thy presence?”

When reading the account of the fall we also learn of the first law. The impulses by themselves, including hunger to satisfy our appetite, are not sinful. They only become sinful when used wrongfully. And this is what happened here. It is very probable, but we cannot be dogmatic on this, that the serpent, as well as Adam and Eve, saw animals eating of that tree without coming to any harm. All it needed was a mischief-making serpent to point this out, and so incite Eve’s curiosity. To make another comparison with a disobedient child: father says, “Don’t touch the kettle, it’s hot.” The child has seen father and mother touching it many times, but unaware that it was cold, and not coming to any harm. So he gets curious. He asks himself “Why not? Just let me see what will happen!” And what will happen he burns himself and father punishes him besides. But let us get the right sequence of events. First, the law.

Then temptation, be it from outside or from our own curious and questioning mind. Then sin.

How right what we read in 3 Romans “Where there is no law there is no transgression.” We all know how Adam was reprieved by God’s merciful scheme of begetting a second Adam who would pay the penalty incurred by the first Adam by giving His life in His blood. And let us never forget to appreciate this supreme love and realise that we have no reason for high-mindedness. Let us walk worthy of God’s mercy on us, who has shown us this truth which comes to us through His mercy and not by our own goodness. Let us always bear in mind that Jesus is watching us.

Brother G.L.Dreifuss.

. . . and now to
Young People’s Pages
from Dawn So

The stories that we have been looking at, beginning with Abraham, and more recently with Joseph and his family - all come from the Bible. Yahweh helped men to write all these things, so that we could read them, and learn more about Him, and how we can have a relationship with Him!

Remember, that last time, Joseph had asked all his family, and especially his old Dad, to leave Canaan and come to live in Egypt, because Joseph knew there were 5 more years of famine coming, and if they were all in Egypt, he could look after them.

We begin at Chapter 46 of Genesis:-

Jacob - also renamed 'Israel' by Yahweh - so overjoyed at realising that his long lost son Joseph was still alive, was of course anxious to see him again! But after setting out on the journey there, he stopped first at Beersheba. This had been a favourite place of worship for his father (Isaac) and his grandfather (Abraham) in the past - and now, Jacob was

so thankful to Yahweh for having looked after Joseph all this time, and now finally bringing him such happiness with the wonderful news, and the thought of actually getting to meet him again! He was also thankful to realise that it Yahweh who had put Joseph in the position of being able to give them food, for the past 2 years already, and the promise of being looked after for 5 more years - he and his sons and all their families! Jacob was bursting with thankfulness to Yahweh!

So although Jacob couldn't wait to see Joseph again - thanking Yahweh and worshipping Him for His goodness, was even more important! So Jacob got busy, offering sacrifices to Yahweh. Yahweh is always pleased when we thank Him for everything He has done for us!

Then during the night, Yahweh spoke to Jacob! He wanted to reassure Jacob that he was doing the right thing, and that He would still be with him, even in Egypt. Yahweh told him not to be afraid, and that He would make Jacob's family grow into a great nation. Yahweh also told Jacob that Joseph would be with him when he died, and that his body would be brought back to Canaan (the land Yahweh had promised to Abraham and his descendants) to be buried there, with his other family members. What a comforting message for Jacob! He was an old man, and knew that he wouldn't live too much longer.

After this, Jacob and all his family - his sons with their wives, grandchildren, and servants, animals, and everything that they had, in the wagons that Pharaoh had given them to travel in, continued on down to Egypt. There were around 70 people and children altogether!

When they got near, Jacob sent Judah ahead of him, to Joseph, to find out the way to Goshen, where Joseph had instructed them to go. At last they arrived there. Immediately, Joseph got into his chariot and rode there to meet them - and his father! As soon as they met, Joseph wrapped his arms round his old Dad and wept tears of joy! All those years of missing him - ended! Jacob was so happy with the thought that although he was old, Yahweh had allowed him to see Joseph and be reunited with him, before he had died! He just felt so happy now!

Joseph told them all, that he must next tell Pharaoh that they had at last all arrived, and that Pharaoh would want to meet them. He instructed them to tell Pharaoh that they were shepherds, because he knew that Pharaoh would want to know their occupation. Because shepherds were disliked by the Egyptian people, this would support Joseph's request for them to have Goshen, which was a very desirable place, and especially suitable for their flocks and herds to graze. So although Joseph had already told his family that they could have Goshen, they still needed Pharaoh's blessing.

This is exactly what happened. As soon as Joseph told Pharaoh that his father and family had arrived and were in Goshen, Pharaoh wanted to meet them. So Joseph chose five of his brothers to represent the family and brought them to Pharaoh. And the first thing Pharaoh asked them was, "What is your occupation?" How well Joseph knew Pharaoh! They told him that they were shepherds and explained why they had left their own land - the famine - and they requested that they should have Goshen because it was ideal for their flocks and herds. Pharaoh agreed, and also said that some of them could help look after his own livestock.

Then Joseph brought Jacob and presented him to Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. Pharaoh asked Jacob, "How old are you?" Jacob replied that he was 130 years old, but that his life had been hard and painful, and that he hadn't lived as long as his fathers had. Remember that Isaac had lived 180 years and Abraham 175 years! People did live longer in those days. Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh again, and left his presence. So Jacob and his family settled in Egypt, in "the best of the land", and Joseph provided them with food, and everything they needed.

Meanwhile, the famine continued. All the Egyptians had been buying food from the stores that Joseph had laid up - but now, they were beginning to run out of money! They were still desperate for food, and didn't know what to do! So Joseph told them that they could exchange their animals - horses, sheep, cows, and donkeys - for food, instead of money. This lasted another year. Then all their animals were gone! They told Moses, "We have nothing left, except ourselves, and our land. So all the Egyptians then began to give up their fields in exchange for food

- and even themselves! Those who did that, became slaves to Pharoah. That was the only way they could pay for the food.

However, Joseph knew that the famine would soon end. The 7 years was nearly up. So he gave all the Egyptians seed, and told them to begin sowing them, ready for when the rain came. But because all their fields now belonged to Pharoah, Joseph told them that at harvest time, they would have to pay 'rent' to Pharoah, by giving him one fifth of their crop. But the Egyptians were content with this, because they knew that if it hadn't been for Pharoah and Joseph storing all that food and then selling it to them, they would all have died of starvation by now!

Jacob, and Joseph's family hadn't needed to worry about any of this, because Joseph had been giving them everything they needed. He had looked after them well, as he had promised. But remember - he had only been able to do this because Yahweh had worked out the whole plan from the beginning, and made it happen. He had made sure Joseph was in the right place at the right time, and his experiences had helped prepare him for it.

Maybe Yahweh is working out a plan for your life, right at this moment - and you don't even realise it! But like Joseph, you may not understand it all till much later! It's happened to me!

With love from Dawn!



Isaiah 52:7

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!”

A selection of quotations from
“The Keys of the Kingdom Holy Bible.”

This excellent translation by Christopher Sparkes
was first published in 2022

The only way into the Kingdom of GOD
is by
Obedience to the Commandments of GOD.

John 1:11 to 13 “He (Jesus) came to His own, yet His own did not receive Him; But to as many as did receive him He gave them authority to become Sons of God.”

Mark 16:15 –16 “And He said to them, in your going out into all the world, proclaim the gospel to all mankind. The one believing and being baptised will be saved., but the one disbelieving will be condemned.”

1.John 3:5 “Jesus answered, Truly, truly I say to you unless a man is born out of water and of spirit, he is not able to enter the Kingdom of God.”

Revelation 22:14 “Joyful are those carrying out His commandments so that there authorities will be over the Tree of Life and they can enter through the gates into the city”

Romans 2:6-7 “Who will recompense to each in relation to his deeds: eonian life for those who, in relation to patient endurance and good works, are searching for glory and honour and incorruption.”

John 20:31

“But these things have been written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and that by believing you might have life in his name”.

Revelation 21:7 The one coming off victorious will inherit these things, and I will be God to him, and he will be a son to Me.”