

Youth Messenger



"Victory Promised"

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2001

VOL. XX, NO. 3

Can I Really Be a Christian *Here*?

Most of us like to send greetings. And when we face problems, an understanding friend can be more appreciated than ever. Even if he or she is in a faraway city, the fact that they even exist as a friend can make life more bearable.

In closing his letter to the Philippians, the words of the apostle Paul convey such a feeling. He sends greetings from all, but his words reveal that the warmest greetings are being sent by a distinct group. He writes, "Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you. All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household" (Philippians 4:21, 22).

"They that are of Caesar's household." Sounds pretty impressive, doesn't it? Some may imagine that it must have been quite glamorous to live and work in the emperor's palace. But think of who this emperor was. It was Nero—who was more corrupt, debased, and atrociously cruel than any of the Roman rulers that had preceded him.

So, how easy was it to be a Christian in Caesar's household at that time? How quick would you have been to send greetings to friends living in a purer world outside of such an environment? How glad would you have been to know they were praying for you?

Interestingly enough, the apostle did not ask those in Caesar's household to leave their post of duty. He knew it was their job to be witnesses for Christ even in that terrible place, until God Himself should impress each of them individually as to if, when, and how they were to move on to a different post of duty.

The converts in Caesar's household remained faithful and obedient to the truth of Jesus. What a worthy example for us! None can make excuses that their environment is so bad that they cannot be a Christian. "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37).

It is true—often our environment is not the best for developing Christian character. Then we need to ask God to help us adjust our circumstances. But until the day of deliverance arrives, we still need to finish off our time where we are victoriously. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Remember, God understands your situation. And through His Word, He sends you warm greetings—along with strength to endure.—*B. Monteiro.*



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Youth Messenger

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Strive — for the ULTIMATE GOAL!

by Gary Southwell
Writing From South Australia



Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain" (1 Corinthians 9:24).

Competition, according to the Penguin-Macquarie Dictionary (1986) means: 1. The act of competing; rivalry. 2. A contest for some prize or advantage. 3. The rivalry between two or more business enterprises to secure the patronage of prospective buyers. 4. A competitor or competitors.

If we could read mankind's predominant thoughts during today's work/school weeks, we would find the tenor of these thoughts predominantly revolving around the principle motive of national or racial pride. This is often displayed in sport, and most explicitly, in war.

The original sinner, Lucifer, fell and became Satan, the accuser and the devil, through nurturing this sin of pride.

People often reveal how deep-rooted their pride really is whenever they try to compare themselves favorably over others.

In contrast with this is peaceful contentment, humility and contrition;

thoughtful regard for the overall best good and happiness of others.

God and His Son, Jesus, demonstrated this second characteristic in the whole plan of redemption. This was portrayed graphically in the brutal death by crucifixion in return for the incredible gift of the God-head in forming the eternal link with mankind. Jesus became a man forever, in order to save those who would choose to respond.

The ungrateful world in general does not truly recognize or accept their Creator and Saviour; in their heart of hearts their innermost thoughts are mesmerized by a sometimes pleasant, but unsatisfying semi-stupor of various idols, things that engage their attention during their short lives. Many, not so easily satisfied with shallow or half-hearted living, see the need for harmony in society, yet are not willing to worship the God who created this order, consisting of families and nations. Instead they turn the focus of worship upon their own specific nation, organization, family, or individual hero or heroes, whom they deem superior to others. This form of competition permeates and saturates the whole of society.

God has warned of this in His first and second of the Ten Commandments and also in the tenth or last. "Thou shalt have none other gods before me. . . . Thou shalt not make thee any graven image. . . . Neither shalt thou desire thy neighbour's wife, neither shalt thou covet thy neighbour's house, his field, . . . or any thing that is thy neighbour's" (Deuteronomy 5:7, 8, 21).

We are assured in 1 Timothy 6:6 that "godliness with contentment is great gain."

The apostle Paul tells us that we are not to compare ourselves with each other: "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (2 Corinthians 10:12).

James tells us that the lust for the things of others brings about such things as battles and contentions. "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (James 4:1-3).

Instead of allaying (or putting at rest) the warlike competitive spirit which breeds national pride and prejudice between different nations, organizations, teams, and so on, it in fact builds it up and progressively increases friction, resentment, and finally some kind of war, whether physical or spiritual.

Should Christians be directly engaged in the competition of this world? 1 John 2:15-17 says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

We are engaged in a different type of competition in which all are to contend. "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain" (1 Corinthians 9:24). While avoiding the spirit of competing against others, we are still to exercise the intensity of the effort. World class athletes strive for victory. "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (1 Corinthians 9:25-27).

We fight, not each other, but sin and Satan. Jesus explained, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence" (John 18:36). Paul affirmed, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain"

(1 Corinthians 9:24).


appearing" (2 Timothy 4:7, 8). We remember that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13).

Where shall we find our pleasure—our intense satisfaction and enjoyment in a well-balanced Christian life?

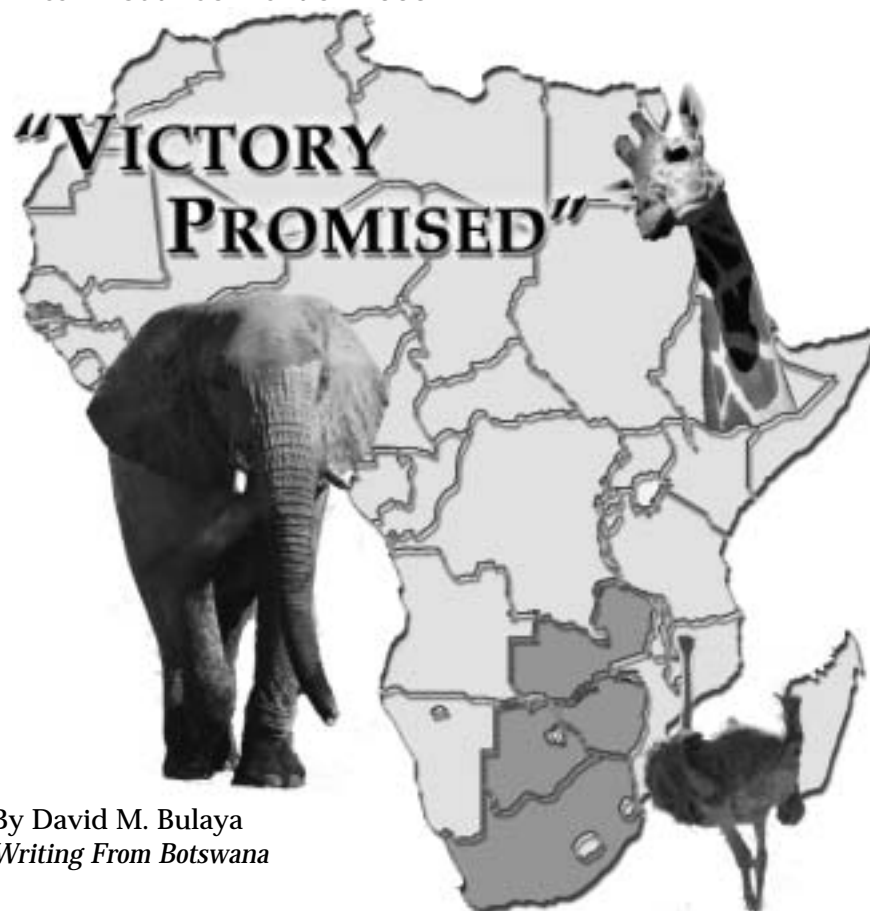
"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in

heaven." "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God," "that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God;" "redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and

hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Matthew 5:6, 16; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 4:12; Ephesians 5:16-21).

"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God" (Psalm 42:1). 

African Youth Convention 2000



By David M. Bulaya
Writing From Botswana

Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches" (Psalm 104:24).

Nature testifies of God. The inquisitive mind brought in contact with the miracle and mystery of the universe, cannot but recognize the working of infinite power.

Under the theme "Victory Promised" were gathered more than 160 youth and brethren from South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana at Mokolodi Nature Reserve located 15 km south of

Gaborone, the capital city of Botswana. This gathering was unique in that it was set in natural surroundings with beautiful views of thatched structures in a quiet and undisturbed area surrounded by a large variety of mammals. Among these were the endangered white rhino, elephants, cheetahs, crocodiles, as well as more than 300 species of birds. Displayed at the main hall entrance were skeletons of different mammals, along with a nature library and computer room.

In a country with very little rain and temperatures up to 42°C (107.6°F) on a hot day, the Lord sent special refreshment by pouring out showers of blessings just a few minutes before the official opening of the convention. The daily programs started at 5:30 a.m. with compulsory exercises, followed by morning devotion and a hearty breakfast. There were three studies presented daily, along with workshops, song services, question and answer sessions, experience and thanksgiving meetings, plus time for lunch and supper. At 10:00 p.m. the lights went off.

Among the topics discussed were: Career Guidance, Choosing Your Life Partner, Dress Reform, Christian Unity, Prophecies of the Last Days, The History of our Church, Recreation vs. Amusements, Christian Morality (with instruction regarding HIV/AIDS), and Health Reform.

In Career Guidance, much emphasis was on Bible work and ministry as the best choices for young people, though seemingly not rewarding now, but rather in the world to come. Young people

were encouraged to take the challenge, as most of the pioneers are retiring and some are already resting in their graves.

In Choosing a Life Partner, it was observed that there is too often a lack of opportunity for interaction between our young sisters and brothers. This poses a major problem, since one is likely to marry a person whom he or she meets often. It was proposed that meetings be organized where the young people could come and share ideas and become better acquainted with one another.

Dress Reform was fully discussed, with the call not to conform to the world, but rather follow what is written in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. Many young people admitted to knowing these requirements. Examples were given of soldiers and nurses who always put on their characteristic attire without giving any excuses over fashion, weather, and so forth. . . . How much more, then, should this consistent dedication be expected of the soldiers of the cross?

Prophecies of the Last Days and The History of Our Church were

excellent studies which traced the church's origin, present, and future destiny. The final unfolding of prophecies in quick succession and the preaching of the good news to the whole world as a witness are soon to be fulfilled before Christ returns. It was realized that many young people have not been instructed as to our history, making it difficult for them to differentiate our church from others. These meetings were a great help.

The subject of Christian morality—with special emphasis on HIV/AIDS—has not received the necessary attention either in families or churches. This has resulted in the understanding of our young to be limited to street education, pretending as if we are not living in the world affected by the scourge. Almost all of the local churches present admitted to not having discussed such topics in their respective areas either purposely or ignorantly, not knowing the stand of the church in relation to such issues. It was recommended that the church does not leave the society and government alone to speak of this matter but rather to lead out in counseling and caring for the patients and orphans who are left without anyone to care for them. Morality and health among the young were encouraged, and the effect of these factors on our spirituality was emphasized. Several questions were answered and several more could not be addressed for lack of time. We trust that the Holy Spirit will guide those who continue to seek out the truth in all sincerity.



During the convention we enjoyed three outings in nature to see the power of God manifested in it. Children and elders went for a game drive with the help of guides who explained to us the lifestyle of the animals seen. This was very interesting and memorable for everyone present. The other outing was the ascent of a mountain named "Kgale" or "Kgala" meaning "dried up." This pinnacle is over 1,287 meters (about 4,222 feet) high with a lovely view of the city of Gaborone. We learned the history of the city since its occupation in A.D. 1580. Another trip was taken to tour the city and the National Museum, where different animals are displayed in a natural setting. To most brethren it was interesting to note the low crime rate in the area, where a little taste of the peacefulness of Eden is still available. Cars with valuable items in them are left open, and so forth. Oh, what a wonderful experience will be witnessed in Heaven where all of the divine institutions flourish and peace reigns supreme! We all wish to be there through the blood of Christ and the word of our testimony.

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Quick Bible Studies

PART III

Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). Here is a quick Bible study that you can give to anyone, if the chance should arise unexpectedly. Remember, if you pray for opportunities, the Lord will provide them!

EVIDENCES OF GOD

Romans 1:20	The invisible things are clearly seen by the things He has made.
Job 12:7-10	The beasts, birds, earth, fish can teach us of God. All nature testifies to a loving Creator God. But we also need faith—for the building blocks of creation are not visible, only the result is.
Hebrews 11:3	"Through faith we understand that the worlds were formed by the word of God, so that things which are not seen were not made of things which do appear." But the word of God is the strongest evidence.
2 Peter 1:19-21	"We have also a more sure word of prophecy" whose purpose is to instill belief.
John 14:29	"And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe." Only God knows the true future.
Isaiah 46:9, 10	"I am God, and there is none . . . like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done." Bible prophecy is always 100% fulfilled. Examples:
Isaiah 13:19, 20	Of Babylon's destruction, God's word says, "It shall never be inhabited." As magnificent as it once was, it exists no more.
Isaiah 45:1	"Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him." Cyrus became king of Persia, ruler of the then-known world. This prophecy was made 100 years before his birth!
Luke 19:41-44	Jesus predicted the destruction of Jerusalem 40 years before it happened. In addition to prophecy, we also have the testimony of eyewitnesses:
2 Peter 1:16	"For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty."
	Can there be any doubt of His existence?



Lessons From the Past

Part II in a series

By David Zic
Writing From Virginia, USA



EGYPT BEFORE JOSEPH. When you think of Egypt, certain words inevitably come to mind: Pharaoh, the Nile, pyramids, mummies. But where did these things come from, and why are they so important that people living four thousand years later still know what they are?

Geography. The borders of Egypt have changed very little over the millennia of its history. From the time of the earliest shepherd tribes until today, the borders of Egypt have been defined by the Nile River. This river flows in the north-eastern part of Africa and empties into the Mediterranean Sea. In studying ancient Egypt we will have to study not only the history of the peoples who lived in the Delta (the region where the Nile breaks up into many rivers, just before the Mediterranean) but the history of the people who lived all along the banks of this mighty

waterway. "Egypt extends wherever the Nile flows."—*AperÁu de l'Histoire d'Egypte*, p. 3 (1872).

Other than the banks of the Nile River, the remainder of Egypt is primarily composed of desert. This meant that the people who lived in this part of the world settled along the shores of the river and built their civilizations around it. Eventually the river would be regarded as a sacred religious symbol.

While Egypt claimed a large territory, in fact only 13,000 square miles of it was actually able to sustain life. Every year around the month of June the banks of the Nile overflowed to fertilize the land for quite a distance. When the Nile did not rise high enough or far enough to fertilize all the farming land, it distributed by a kind of waterwheel which was human-foot-powered. Moses used this fact to compare Egypt with Canaan. He told the Israelites, who had never seen the

Promised Land that it was not like Egypt, where farms were watered “with thy foot,” but rather was a land that “drinketh water of the rain of heaven” (Deuteronomy 11:10, 11).

The flooding of the river distributed sediment which the flowing water had collected on the ground to fertilize the soil and bring a rich harvest. In times of famine in other parts of the world, they would turn to Egypt as a source of food. Abraham also took advantage of the

rich harvests of Egypt. “And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land” (Genesis 12:10). It is along this 4,180-mile river that we will look to find the history of earth’s first great superpower.

Predynastic Egypt. Very little survives by way of written record from this earliest period of Egyptian history. The Greek historian Herodotus

and the Greek geographer Strabo both recorded their travels in Egypt, but this was many years after the first Pharaohs. In the 3rd century B.C. a Greek-speaking Egyptian priest by the name of Manetho compiled a history of his people from native sources, but this work is now lost to us. All that remains of this historical works are scattered excerpts quoted from it in the writings of such ancient men as Flavius Josephus, Eusebius of Caesarea, Sextus Julius Africanus, and some other early Christian writers.

The Bible record shows us that the first Egyptians were descendants of Ham (Genesis 10:6). [The Hebrews called this land Misrayim in their language.] They were small with dark complexions and black hair. Over time, the invasion and assimilation of Semitic peoples, Nubians and Hyksos, produced a mixed race. These people were mostly farmers, but by the abundant artifacts which remain we know that they must have had a flourishing class of artisans and architects.

As people began to build cities and form confederacies for protection and trade, two kingdoms emerged along the river. Lower Egypt (which is actually northern Egypt) was composed of that part of the land which surrounded the rich and fertile delta from about the location of modern day Cairo to the Mediterranean. Upper Egypt (which is actually southern Egypt) extended from the base of the delta south to Ethiopia.

Lower Egypt developed mostly along agricultural lines. Its original capital was at Behdet, with Horus as its chief god. The capital was later moved to Buto (near modern

Sidi Salim), which was the seat of the cobra goddess Wadjet.

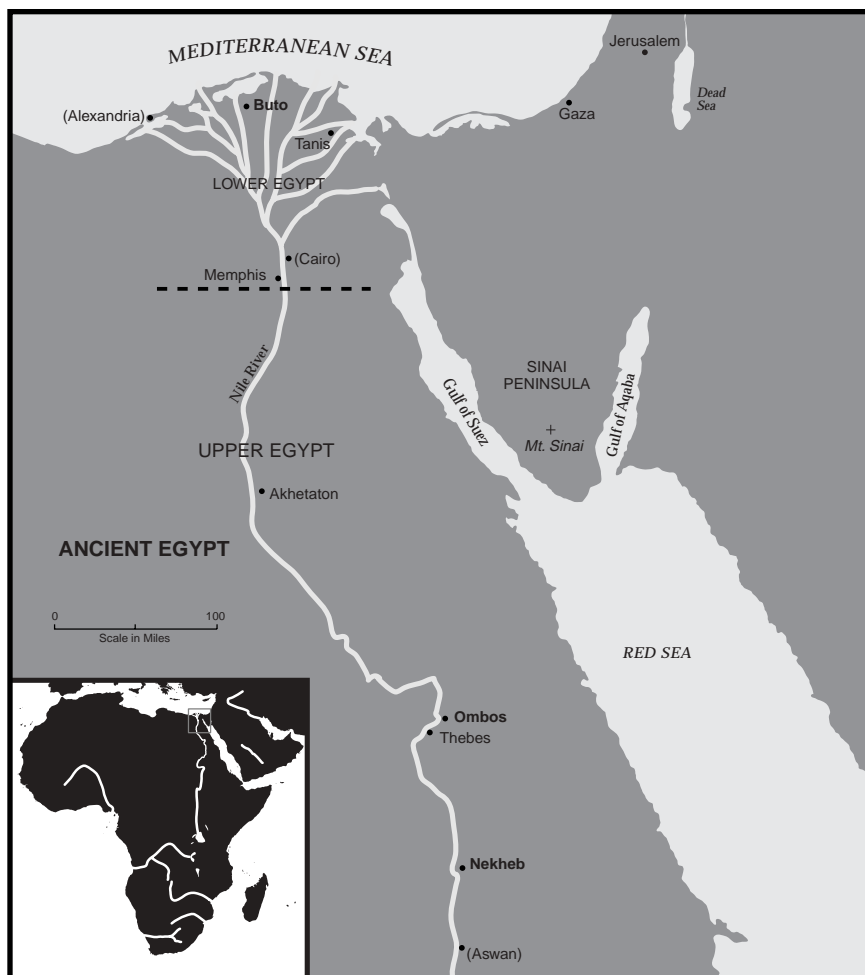
Upper Egypt also developed a strong agricultural base, but sandwiched between the uncivilized peoples to their south and Lower Egypt. They also developed a strong military class. The original capital was at Ombos (near modern Luxor), with Seth as its chief god. Eventually the capital was moved to Nekheb (modern El Kab), where the people worshiped the vulture goddess Nekhbet.

Each of the kingdoms had a peculiar crown worn by the king (called Pharaoh). In Upper Egypt the king wore a tall white crown, while in Lower Egypt the king wore a small, odd-shaped red crown.

Ancient kingdoms being what they were, the kingdoms fought constant border wars. Eventually these small skirmishes led to full war, which was ended when Menes, an Upper Egyptian from the city of This (100 miles downriver from Thebes), conquered Lower Egypt and became the first king of Upper and Lower Egypt.

This event was not seen as the conquering of the north by the south, but rather as a joining of the two kingdoms. The new crown (famous on pictures of the pharaohs) was a combined one. The tall part was from Upper Egypt and the small red portion was from Lower Egypt. There was a double crown, double granary, double treasury, and even double tomb for the deceased pharaoh (one of them being empty).

Menes set up his capital at Memphis, a junction between the two kingdoms. To the west of this city were built the pyramids, the great royal tombs.



The dynastic period. In organizing his history of Egypt, Manetho developed a system of dynasties to group the kings together. The dynasties of Manetho have been further grouped by modern Egyptologists as follows: Predynastic Era (before 3200 B.C.), Protodynastic Period (3200–2780 B.C.), Old Kingdom (2780–2280 B.C.), First Intermediate Period (2280–2050 B.C.), Middle Kingdom (2133–1780 B.C.), Second Intermediate Period (1780–1574 B.C.), New Kingdom (1574–1085 B.C.), and Period of Decline (1085–332 B.C.). These dynasties began with the unification of the kingdom under Menes.

For many years the new nation grew in numbers as well as in wisdom. The arts and the sciences were developed, and education was encouraged. But Egypt was not to

remain isolated from the world. Invaders from Asia, mostly Amorites, invaded during the First Intermediate Period. They conquered a great portion of the Delta and brought about a general period of lawlessness in the country.

Domestic order was restored under the middle kingdom, and it is in this time that Abraham went to Egypt. The famine occurred during the 19th century B.C., so the Pharaoh Abraham met was one from the 12th dynasty.

But the period of greatness was not to last. Shortly after Abraham returned to Canaan, the kingdom was overthrown by foreigners whom the Egyptians called Hyku Khoswet, meaning rulers of foreign countries. Today these peoples are called Hyksos, a term used by Manetho, and are sometimes


referred to as the shepherd kings, a term used by Josephus. They conquered most of Egypt and eventually made alliances with the Nubian princes in the south to hold the Egyptian powers at bay.

This period of Hyksos rule brings us to the time of Joseph, which we will analyze in the next issue.

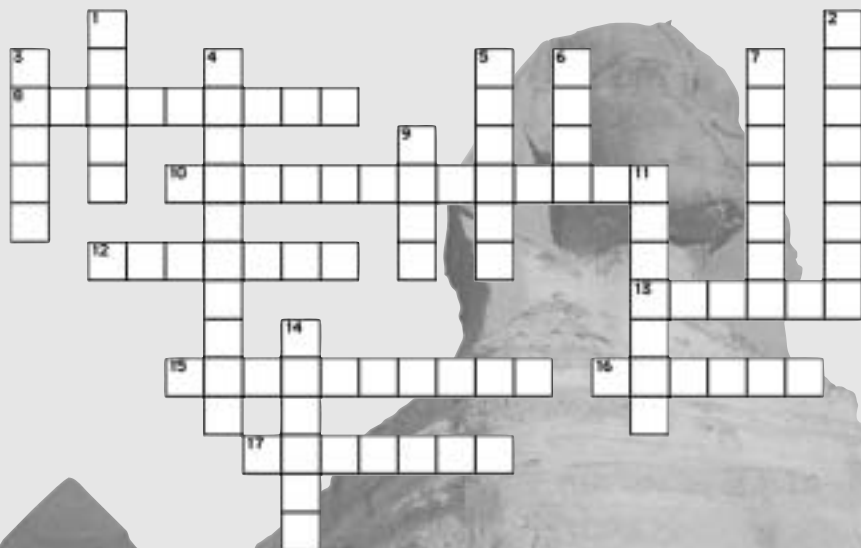
Water. Egypt rose not as a desert power, but as a river power. Surrounded by the harsh Sahara Desert, a people emerged around a life-giving river. Water has always been an important part of survival. Almost all the great powers we will study built their empires along a large river. But you and I have access to a river stronger, cleaner and more fulfilling than any on this planet. Christ told the woman at the well that “whosoever drinketh

of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14).

And if we are willing to dedicate our lives to Him, He will give us talents and means to be soldiers in His army. Generals in an army bringing the message of salvation to countless souls perishing in this world of sin. Do you want to help build a great empire? One that will span not only the globe, but the universe? Then drink of this water and dedicate all your will to the One who gave His life for you.

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17). 

PUZZLE Lessons From the Past (Part II)



Across

8. Greek historian.
10. Sea.
12. Wrote history of Egypt from native sources.
13. Hyku Khoswet.
15. Southern kingdom (two words).
16. First capital of Lower Egypt.
17. Title of Egyptian kings.

4. Northern kingdom (two words).
5. Greek geographer.
6. River.
7. First name of Josephus.
9. Cost of Water offered by Christ.
11. Vulture goddess.
14. Second capital of Upper Egypt.

Down

1. Chief god in Behdet.
2. Large group of Asian invaders.
3. Color of Upper Egyptian crown.

Answers to last issue's puzzle entitled, "Lessons From the Past" (Part I).



Pictorial News



▲ Young people's choir at the Virginia camp meeting of the Southeast US Field, May 2001



◀ Young people seriously taking notes during a seminar, Congo, August 2000.



▶ Our young people in Angola, November 2000



Pictorial News



▲ Young People's Department Conference, held on December 10, 2000, at Pandatharippu, Taffeese, Sri Lanka

► (From left to right): Christine C. Inguito (21); Promise Joy Inguito (18); Apple May C. Inguito (19).

ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE:
Pk. Macopa, San
Fernando, Palo, Leyte,
6501, Philippines



Dear Brethren,

Heartfelt and brotherly greetings from the young people in the Philippines.

The articles you print are a blessing to those who read them. Keep up the good work in printing the *Youth Messenger* magazine. May God richly bless you and continue to inspire you to reach others. We are requesting that you please publish this photo of ours in the *Youth Messenger*. We are "The Inguito Sisters"—young Reformers from Palo, Leyte, Philippines.

We wish to meet penpals among our fellow young people worldwide, ages 20 and up. We are looking forward to your most awaited reply.

Sincerely,
The Inguito Sisters



Seven Wonders

Adapted by Kyla Jayne Stemmler
Submitted from Ontario, Canada



A group of Geography students studied the Seven Wonders of the World.

At the end of that section of their course, the students were asked to list what they now considered to be the Seven Wonders of the World. Though there was some disagreement, the following got the most votes:

1. The Great Pyramids of Giza, Egypt, 2. The Taj Mahal in Agra, India, 3. The Panama Canal, 4. The Sears Tower, USA, 5. The Inca city of Machu Picchu, Perú, 6. St. Peter's Basilica, Italy, 7. The Great Wall of China

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student, a quiet girl, had not turned in her paper yet. So, she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list.

The quiet girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many."

The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help."

The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. to touch, 2. to taste, 3. to see, 4. to hear, 5. to run, 6. to laugh, 7. to love

How easy it is for us to look at man's creations

and refer to them as "wonders" while we overlook how extraordinary it is to be human.

May you be reminded today that life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well" (Psalm 139:14).



A Call to Commitment in Youth

By Ellen G. White; written from Ashland Crossing, Iowa, June 2, 1871, to "Dear Children" [Edson and Emma White], as published in *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, pp. 189-193.

We have been spending a few days at our home in Washington [Iowa]. It is a beautiful place. There are flowers and shrubs of almost every variety. Shade trees and fruit trees in abundance. All nature is radiant with brightness of early summer. But much as I admire this beautiful place, which is a picture of loveliness, I can hardly call it home. We have never been permitted to remain here longer than a few days at a time. Yet why should I regret this? The work of God is dearer to us than pleasant homes and beautiful scenery.

If we can only gain the inheritance among the sanctified, and have apportioned to us in the heavenly Canaan a part of Abraham's farm, we will be satisfied. Shall we not enjoy it all the more for being pilgrims and strangers here? John saw in holy vision the redeemed host saved, eternally saved, arrayed in white robes around about the throne. John was told by the heavenly messenger, "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and



He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes" (Revelation 7:14-17).

Children, let us as a family wash our robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. We must be earnest, self-

possessed, firm, decided, and persevering if we are overcomers and have on the white robe of Christ's righteousness—a fitness for the society of heavenly angels, for the mansions Jesus has gone to prepare for those who love Him. Home sweet home! Shall we not prize that rest that remaineth for the people of God? We shall see Jesus, Him whom our souls love.

Dear children, Jesus loves you and He wants you to reach the highest Christian standard. You must come out from the world and be separate, untainted by its corrupting influences. There is a large class of professed Christians who assimilate to the world, conform to its customs, its practices, its forms. It takes all their time to meet the world's forms and ceremonies and superfluities and parade, and they have no time to pray and study the heavenly chart and learn meekness and lowliness of heart in Christ's school. The outside

appearance is the burden of their life. The beauty, the loveliness of character they are not laboring to obtain, for this is not necessary to meet the world's standard.

Your mother, my son Edson, dedicated you to God as soon as you were born. You are the subject of many prayers, and your precious Emma we have fully taken into our heart as our daughter. We love you both and we want you day by day to form characters of moral worth that God will accept. We are not

anxious you should bear the worldly stamp or that you should have that cheap praise and uncertain honor that the world bestows. I do not wish you to imitate the example of worldlings, but to copy the character of Christ, to be a partaker of the Divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world through lust. "Know ye not that

the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4).

Your religious life must rise above the standard of public opinion if it abides the searching investigation of the Judge of all the earth. Should the shadow of death gather about you, you will never regret that you were a lover of God more than a lover of pleasure. You will never regret that you did not participate in worldly dissipation. Your only regret will be that you did not love Jesus more fer-

vently, that you did not devote more time to helping others to see their danger and turn their feet in paths of holiness and heaven.

In devoting your time, Edson and Emma, to useful employment, you close a door to the tempter. Nothing besides prayer will deflect him so effectively as earnest, useful labor. Can you not see, my children, of how much greater value is the approval of God than the friendship of this world? Will it improve your condition in the day of final reckoning to know that the world was pleased with you? All earthly honors are soon to pass away. It is moral worth that will endure, and will stand the test of trial.

In these days of superficial attainments, of false show, the temptation to be satisfied with a mere outside polish is peculiarly strong. Your safety, my children, is in being content to enjoy a quiet, unassuming position. Seek more earnestly the inward adorning; be not content with hollow forms, with time-serving policy. If you could but realize the capabilities of the human mind and your own accountability for the Creator's gifts, the wise improvement of these talents would constitute your chief happiness. It would give you a joy, pure, unselfish and ennobling.

You should learn to rely upon your own energies and upon your heavenly Father. Youth who have been thrown upon their own resources will generally put forth the effort necessary to develop and invigorate their moral and intellectual energies. There are too many youth like the swaying willows that grow beside the meadow brook. You want to make your life the sturdy

oak, springing from hardy soil amid the clefts of the rock. These have battled with the storm and tempest and yet grown into giant proportions. The great men who have done service to our country were not reared in the lap of luxury. Our greatest men are self-made.

All earthly honor is perishable, all earthly treasures valueless when we are passing from this life. There will be nothing enduring but the heavenly treasure, and the favor of God will be more valuable than choice gold. There is time now to prepare for the future immortal life. It will not answer to neglect the preparation essential for our heavenly home. But many will be found wanting in that great day. The precious hours of probation will have passed by unimproved, and when it is too late the mournful cry will be heard, The harvest is passed, the summer is ended, and my soul is not saved. When the righteous Judge shall proclaim the destiny of all fixed—"He which is filthy, let him be filthy still . . . and he that is holy, let him be holy still"—it will be a time when the most careless, the most trifling will come to their senses and discern that the truly wise were those who loved God and kept His commandments.

Long have the gates stood ajar for you, long has the heavenly light been shining upon your path. Let it not be slighted, but gather up its precious rays to reflect upon others. Jesus loves us and we should love one another. We should be meek and lowly, pure and undefiled, and if we are thus we shall meet the approval of God here, and the blessed "Well done" when the Master comes.

The Flowers of Faith

*Along the paths of earth life
Are roses bright and fair,
And blossoms, rich with perfume,
Are waving in the air.*

*And there are also briars
And thorns along the way.
'Tis best to shun the brambles,
And cull the flowers each day.*

*God's promises are flowers
Which grow on every hand;
Our sins are thorns and briars
In number like the sand.*

*God's love will surely cover
The past, tho' dark as night,
Then grasp the precious promise
And walk within the light.*

*'The thorns but wound and grieve us,
To gather them is wrong,
But flowers of faith give comfort,
And waken joyous song.*

— Eliza H. Morton.

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