youth messenger

Vol. XLIII, No. 1



EDUCATED
WITH A PURPOSE

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

THE TRUE SCIENCE OF EDUCATION
page 3

MOSES, THE LEADER
page 9

SAMUEL, THE DEDICATED
page 14

DANIEL, THE PRINCIPLE-DRIVEN YOUTH
page 20

TIMOTHY, THE MISSIONARY
page 26

PUZZLE
page 30

STREAMS OF BLESSING
page 32



EDUCATED WITH A PURPOSE

Friends, we hear a lot about the need for young people to believe that they have a purpose in life. Some have been conceived with a purpose—they were prayed for before they were born, and their parents respected the instructions given by God in preparation for the birth of these children. In the case of John the Baptist, for example, the Bible mentions that he was already filled with the Holy Ghost before birth.

In the case of others, such as the Bible characters mentioned in the articles of this magazine, it was not necessarily revealed that they were conceived or born with a specific purpose. Yet they were **educated** in such a way that God chose to use them in serving noble purposes.

Whether you are born with a purpose, or you were educated in such a way that you can be used in God's great plan of salvation, you are equally important. You can reach your maximum potential as long as you're willing to cooperate with other heavenly and earthly instrumentalities to make a difference in the life of those for whom Jesus came to die.
I encourage you to pursue your dream of becoming a channel of blessing, no matter how small or how great your sphere of influence may be.

—Adrian Finaru

The True Science of Education

COMPILED FROM THE WRITINGS OF E. G. WHITE



A BROAD THEME

"True education means more than taking a certain course of study. It is broad. It includes the harmonious development of all the physical powers and the mental faculties. It teaches the love and fear of God and is a preparation for the faithful discharge of life's duties.

"There is an education that is essentially worldly. Its aim is success in the world, the gratification of selfish ambition. To secure this education many students spend time and money in crowding their minds with unnecessary knowledge. The world accounts them learned; but God is not in their thoughts. They eat of the tree of worldly knowledge, which nourishes and strengthens pride. In their hearts they become disobedient and estranged from God; and their entrusted gifts are placed on the enemy's side. Much of the education at the present time is of this character. The world may regard it as highly desirable; but it increases the peril of the student.

"There is another kind of education that is very different. Its fundamental principle, as stated by the greatest Teacher the world has ever known, is, 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness' (Matthew 6:33). Its aim is not selfish; it is to honor God, and to serve Him in the world. Both the studies pursued and the industrial training have this object in view. The word of God is studied; a vital connection with God is maintained, and the better feelings and traits of character are brought into exercise. This kind of education produces results as lasting as eternity. For 'the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom' (Proverbs 9:10), and better than all other knowledge is an understanding of His word." *—Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students,* pp. 64, 65.

SOUND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

"Physical culture is an essential part of all right methods of education. The young need to be taught how to develop their physical powers, how to preserve these powers in the best condition, and how to make them useful in the practical duties of life. Many think that these things are no part of school work; but this is



a mistake. The lessons necessary to fit one for practical usefulness should be taught to every child in the home and to every student in the schools. . . .

"Skill in the preparation of food is very important, and it is not less important that the food be of the proper quantity and quality. . . .

"Exercise is an important aid to physical development. It quickens the circulation of the blood and gives tone to the system. If the muscles are allowed to remain unused, it will soon be apparent that the blood does not sufficiently nourish them. Instead of increasing in size and strength, they will lose their firmness and elasticity, and become soft and weak. Inactivity is not the law the Lord has established in the human body. The harmonious action of all the parts—brain, bone, and muscle—is necessary to the full and healthful development of the entire human organism. . . .

"Every student should understand how to take such care of himself as to preserve the best possible condition of health, resisting feebleness and disease; and if from any cause disease does come, or accidents occur, he should know how to meet ordinary emergencies without calling upon a physician and taking his poisonous drugs.

"The Lord Himself has spoken upon this subject of the care of the body. He says in His word, 'If any man destroyeth the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are' (1 Corinthians 3:17, RV). This scripture enjoins a conscientious care of the body, and condemns all ignorant or careless neglect."—*Fundamentals of Christian Education,* pp. 425–427.

CHARACTER MOLDING WHILE WE'RE YOUNG

"It is impossible for us to overestimate the advantages of youthful piety. The impressions received in youth are to many as enduring as eternity. It is in youth that the statutes and commandments of God are most easily inscribed on the tablets of the soul."—*Special Testimonies on Education,* p. 37.

LEARNING USEFUL SERVICE

"Manual training should be continued as a part of . . . school duties. There are many students who object to this kind of work in the schools. They think useful employments, like learning a trade, degrading; but such persons have an incorrect idea of what constitutes true dignity. Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is one with the Father, the Commander in the heavenly courts, was the personal instructor and guide of the children of Israel; and among them it was required that every youth should learn how to work. All were to be educated in some business line, that they might possess a knowledge of practical life, and be not only self-sustaining, but useful. This was the instruction which God gave to His people.

"In His earth-life, Christ was an example to all the human family, and He was obedient and helpful in the home. He learned the carpenter's trade and worked with His own hands in the little shop at Nazareth. He had lived amid the glories of heaven; but He clothed His divinity with humanity, that He might associate with humanity, and reach hearts through the common avenue of sympathy. When found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and worked for the recovery of the human soul by adapting Himself to the situation in which He found humanity. . . .

"The time spent in physical exercise is not lost. The student who is continually poring over his books, while he takes but little exercise in the open air, does himself an injury. A proportionate exercise of all the organs and faculties of the body is essential to the best work of each. When the brain is constantly taxed while the other organs of the living machinery are inactive, there is a loss of strength, physical and mental. The physical system is robbed of its healthful tone, the mind loses its freshness and vigor, and a morbid excitability is the result.

"The greatest benefit is not gained from exercise that is taken as play or exercise merely. There is some benefit derived from being in the fresh air, and also from the exercise of the muscles; but let the same amount of energy be given to the performance of helpful duties, and the benefit will be greater, and a feeling of satisfaction will be realized; for such exercise carries with it the sense of helpfulness and the approval of conscience for duty well done.

"In the children and youth an ambition should be awakened to take their exercise in doing something that will be beneficial to themselves and helpful to others. The exercise that develops mind and character, that teaches the hands to be useful, and trains the young to bear their share of life's burdens, is that which gives physical strength, and quickens every faculty. And there is a

reward in virtuous industry, in the cultivation of the habit of living to do good.

"The children of the wealthy should not be deprived of the great blessing of having something to do to increase the strength of brain and muscle. Work is not a curse, but a blessing. . . .

"The approval of God rests with loving assurance upon the children who cheerfully take their part in the duties of domestic life, sharing the burdens of father and mother. They will be rewarded with health of body and peace of mind. . .

"The children and youth should have the lesson continually before them, at home and in the school, by precept and example, to be truthful, unselfish, and industrious.

THE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

"In the selection of a home, parents should not be governed by temporal considerations merely. It is not altogether a question of the place where they can make the most money, or where they will have the most pleasant surroundings, or the greatest social advantages. The influences that will surround their children, and sway them for good or evil, are of more consequence than any of these considerations. . . .

"No pains should be spared to select places for our schools where the moral atmosphere will be as healthful as possible; for the influences that prevail will leave a deep impress on young and forming characters. For this reason a retired locality is best. The great cities, the centers of business and learning, may seem to present some advantages; but these advantages are outweighed by other considerations. . . .

"The youth educated in large cities are surrounded by influences similar to those that prevailed before the Flood. The same principles of disregard for God and His law; the same love of pleasure of selfish gratification, and of pride and vanity are at work at the present time. The world is given up to pleasure; immorality prevails; the rights of the weak and helpless are



disregarded; and, the world over, the large cities are fast becoming hotbeds of iniquity. . . .

"The continual craving for pleasurable amusements reveals the deep longings of the soul. But those who drink at this fountain of worldly pleasure will find their soul-thirst still unsatisfied. They are deceived; they mistake mirth for happiness; and when the excitement ceases, many sink down into the depths of despondency and despair. O what madness, what folly to forsake the 'Fountain of living waters' for the 'broken cisterns' of worldly pleasure! We feel to the depth of the soul the peril that surrounds the youth in these last days; and shall not those who come to us for an education, and the families that are attracted to our schools, be withdrawn, as far as possible, from these seductive and demoralizing influences? . . .

"There is a refining, subduing influence in nature that should be taken into account in selecting the locality for a school. God has regarded this principle in training men for His work. Moses spent forty years in the wilds of Midian. John the Baptist was not fitted for his high calling as the forerunner of Christ by association with the great men of the nation in the schools at Jerusalem. He went out into the wilderness, where the customs and doctrines of men could not mold his mind, and where he could hold unobstructed communion with God.



"When the persecutors of John, the beloved disciple, sought to still his voice and destroy his influence among the people, they exiled him to the Isle of Patmos. But they could not separate him from the divine Teacher. . . .

"God would have us appreciate His blessings in His created works. How many children there are in the crowded cities that have not even a spot of green grass to set their feet upon. If they could be educated in the country, amid the beauty, peace, and purity of nature, it would seem to them the spot nearest heaven. In retired places, where we are farthest from the corrupting maxims, customs, and excitements of the world, and nearest to the heart of nature, Christ makes His presence real to us and speaks to our souls of His peace and love."—Ibid., pp. 38–46.

AIMING HIGH FOR UNSELFISH MINISTRY

"God is the source of intellectual as well as spiritual power. The greatest men, who have reached what the world regards as wonderful heights in science, are not to be compared with the beloved John or the great apostle Paul. It is when intellectual and moral power are combined that the greatest standard of manhood is reached."—Ibid., p. 50.

" 'Daniel sat in the gate of the king' (Daniel 2:49)—a place where judgment was dispensed, and his three companions were made counselors, judges, and rulers in the midst of the land. These men were not puffed up with vanity, but they saw and rejoiced that God was recognized above all earthly potentates, and that His kingdom was extolled above all earthly kingdoms."—*Fundamentals of Christian Education,* p. 412.

"Each should aim just as high as the union of human with divine power makes it possible for him to reach.

"Many do not become what they might, because they do not put forth the power that is in them. They do not, as they might, lay hold on divine strength. Many are diverted from the line in which they might reach the truest success. Seeking greater honor or a more pleasing task, they attempt something for which they are not fitted. Many a man whose talents are adapted for some other calling is ambitious to enter a profession; and he who might have been successful as a farmer, an artisan, or a nurse, fills inadequately the position of a minister, a lawyer, or a physician. There are others, again, who might have filled a responsible calling, but who, for want of energy, application, or perseverance, content themselves with an easier place.

"We need to follow more closely God's plan of life. To do our best in the work that lies nearest, to commit our ways to God, and to watch for the indications of His providence—these are rules that ensure safe guidance in the choice of an occupation.

"He who came from heaven to be our example spent nearly thirty years of His life in common, mechanical labor; but during this time He was studying the word and the works of God, and helping, teaching, all whom His influence could reach. When His public ministry began, He went about healing the sick, comforting the sorrowful, and preaching the gospel to the poor. This is the work of all His followers.

"'He that is greatest among you,' He said, 'let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For . . . I am among you as he that serveth' (Luke 22:26, 27)."—*Education,* pp. 267, 268.





MOSES, the Leader

BY OLIWIA ZAJAC

A WOMAN IN THE TIME OF CAPTIVITY

Jochebed, daughter of Levi, sister of Kohath and wife of Amram, was the mother of Miriam, Aaron, and Moses. Her name is often overlooked or forgotten, yet it has a beautiful meaning: "Yahweh is glory." She lived in terrible times. Her nation was in Egyptian bondage which meant that every day she as well as her relatives, friends and other compatriots were forced to do hard and arduous slave labor. Every day she had to watch the suffering and exploitation of her people. Hard times, however, create strong people. Despite the hardships, Jochebed trusted God and never stopped serving Him.

When Jochebed's third child was born, Satan pushed Pharaoh to use an even crueler form of abuse against the Israelites. Every newborn Hebrew male child was to be killed. Initially, this was to be done by the women present at the birth of the infants. Fortunately, they preferred to remain obedient to the one God and did not do what Pharaoh expected of them. So, it came to an even more terrible order. Newborn boys were to be thrown into the Nile River.

FIGHTING FOR EACH DAY

Imagine what Jochebed felt at the time. She loved her child so much that she wanted to grasp at least three months of life for him. We can read that he was beautiful in her eyes. In some translations it even uses the word "gorgeous". We don't know if this was just her impression since it is obvious that every child will always be the most beautiful for his mother. This is the result of boundless love, the same love that binds God to humans. Jochebed did not part with her son for three months. She enjoyed every moment, movement, and glance. She delighted in him as



much as she could. She was quick to soothe his cries so no one would hear them, and at night she would wake up to make sure the baby was still next to her. Love for the child was intertwined with fear and despair about what tomorrow would bring.

Although Jochebed and Amram were determined to save their son from death, they could no longer safely continue. The three-month-old baby is beginning to be curious about the world, babbling and no longer sleeping as much as a newborn. A mother's arms are unable to hide him from the outside world. However, she was not going to give up. So, God gave this brave woman an idea and inspired her on how she could try to save her youngest child. After many fervent prayers, Jochebed decided to weave a basket of reeds, silt, and straw, and to put the baby in there so that he could float along the current of the Nile.

To the very end, she tried to ensure the care of her baby, so she instructed her daughter Miriam to guard the basket and watch what would happen to it. The whole plan was also supervised by God and His angels, who did not allow the basket to sink or for any harm to come to Moses sleeping in it. This is how the basket was found by Pharaoh's daughter. Her heart was instantly full of compassion and pity for the unknown mother. She felt sorry for the child, so she decided to adopt him. She readily agreed to Miriam's proposal to bring her a woman who could feed and nurture this little child.

MORE DANGERS

Jochebed's faith was wonderfully rewarded. The princess asked her to take care of the child in his early years. This meant that Moses' life in his family home was no longer in danger. His parents no longer had to hide him, and his siblings could play with him in peace. Jochebed knew, however, that this was not the end of the dangers. She had to raise her son so that he would not turn away from God when he would be taken away to Pharaoh's palace. A huge responsibility rested on her shoulders. She understood that it was not by accident that God had saved their son. She felt that Moses could be the beginning of the blessings prepared by God for His people. She and her husband believed that the Israelites would

soon be liberated from slavery, and that the deliverer who would accomplish this must be ready for his mission. If Moses was to become an elected leader in the future, then he had to, above all, trust God and live according to His will. She did not know how his stay in Pharaoh's court would affect him. However, she did not lack the courage to fight for her children. She accepted a responsible task and was ready to do everything to ensure that Moses was raised properly and that he did not forget his identity.

A MEMBER OF THE PHARAOH'S FAMILY

We often forget how much the education system offered during the reign of the 18th Dynasty. At that time, Egypt was a growing, powerful state. Moses, as a potential candidate for the position of future Pharaoh, had access to the best teachers in ancient Egypt. In addition to learning literature, architecture, military science, or traditions, he was required to learn about the religion of the Egyptians. Although Satan failed in carrying out his cruel plan to kill the child, he did not stop attacking him with various temptations. The young man was urged to worship idols under threat of losing his power and privileges. It is not known whether Moses would not have succumbed to the pressure of the priests and the royal family to participate in their idolatrous rituals if his real mother had not developed in him a Godly attitude in his early years.

"For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life" (Proverbs 6:23).

The effects of Jochebed's mission were evident throughout Moses' life. He steadfastly stood by his God and repeatedly tried to make the Egyptian priests and diviners aware of the futility of their practices.

By the time he grew up, Moses was highly educated. He was a respected historian, poet, military commander, and legislator. At this point, many would have been tempted by the prospect of forever holding on to this life filled with wealth, fame, recognition, and greatness. Moses, however, remembered his mother's teachings. He knew that there was a treasure far more precious than all the honors and titles of the Pharaohs. He knew that he could not forget his Creator and must strive for the heavenly glory of the one true God.

FOR LIFE AND ETERNITY

Isn't it amazing that it only took a few years for Moses to remember God for a lifetime?

Parents often underestimate their role in the early years of their children's childhood. They mistakenly claim that Christian knowledge will be better understood by children when they are older. Many mothers should be



inspired by Jochebed's attitude. Her work allowed Moses to save himself from the pernicious influence of idolatry and sin in Pharaoh's court. Even in the midst of all these temptations and earthly pleasures, her son had a strong relationship with God and was able to stand firm in his faith. Through fervent prayer and daily devotion to him, the woman was able to shape his character. His mind was filled with the fear and love of God. The teachings instilled in him in early childhood became a shield to ward off temptations. Sensing that God had prepared an important role for him in the future, she devoted more work to him than to Aaron or Miriam. Nevertheless, each of her children was able to grow up to serve a useful role in the divine plan.

"It is the mother's privilege to bless the world by her influence, and in doing this she will bring joy to her own heart. She may make straight paths for the feet of her children through sunshine and shadow to the glorious heights above. But it is only when she seeks, in her own life, to follow the teachings of Christ that the mother can hope to form the character of her children after the divine pattern."—*The Adventist Home,* p. 234.

From the very beginning, the child should be a participant in family devotions and learn to pray and rely on the Bible with his parents. Then trust and love for God will be the natural result. The authority of the mother and father should be used wisely even in the smallest matter. Children should be taught about eternal reality and not neglect to sensitize them to what rules should never be broken. With this approach, Moses was never able to accept the lack of the Spirit of God among the people living in Pharaoh's palace. Although his people were humble, poor, and despised ,he never stopped identifying with them. This was because he preferred to choose obedience to God over serving sin.

MOTIVATION FOR US

Let's consider how much more accurate our work in preaching the gospel would be if we fully grasped the impact we are having on our neighbors. It is possible that we have even less time than Jochebed had. This should motivate us to make the quality of our service to children, relatives, friends, or colleagues in other circles even better. Human words only express people's thoughts; words that speak of Christ are spirit and life.

Every mother is a teacher of her children and has an impact for all eternity. The future of

many souls depends on us. We cannot stand by indifferently when God's plans and intentions are disregarded by people.

Like Jochebed, we must decide what our priorities are and what values we want to follow. Moses would never have become the leader of Israel had it not been for his mother. His spiritual life was far more important to her than the physical one. Putting the boy in the basket was protecting his mortal life. Teaching him the truth about God and raising him in a spirit of love and loyalty to the Highest was protecting his eternal life. We must strive more and more to protect the eternal life of those around us.

We cannot care for others by caring only for their physical health. If we truly love our neighbors and want the best for them, then we will be ready to tell them about Jesus. Let us pray for courage and readiness to act when we come to face different experiences.

GUIDED BY GOD

The education that Jochebed began, God completed in due time. Moses, in killing an Egyptian, made a terrible mistake. To save his life he had to flee to the desert. There Jethro, the priest of the Midianites, welcomed him into his family. The revered and great prince became a humble shepherd. Being surrounded by nature and herds helped Moses become closer to God. His heart and character were being purified and prepared so that one day he could care for the entire people of Israel. By caring for his flock, he was developing a sense of responsibility for the vulnerable.

Although the mission entrusted to us may seem monotonous at times, we must not give up. We must constantly believe and wait patiently with prayer on our lips for what God has decided to accomplish through us. We often lack the faith to appreciate the hard work and responsibility of Christian mothers. Every day they do their best to bring up their children in the likeness of God. They perform the same activities every day, the effect of which is not immediately visible. However, it has a huge impact on future life in the Kingdom of God. Just as God cares for people, a shepherd cares for his sheep, and a mother zealously rears her children. She fights for them and guards their ways. By revealing the character of Christ, she teaches her children how in the future they can shine with the splendor of heaven in their surroundings—just like Moses among the Egyptians. Let us prepare to enjoy these priceless moments!

"Then it will be found that many who have blessed the world with the light of genius and truth and holiness owe the principles that were the mainspring of their influence and success to a praying, Christian mother."—*The Adventist Home,* p. 239.



SAMUEL, the Dedicated

BY CSONGOR MATIAS

Have you ever wondered where the path of your life might have taken you, if you hadn't been raised by your parents? What if, from a very early age, your care, education, and upbringing were placed in the hands of someone else? In our society, most decisions about our future typically rest within our control, or at the very least, within our family or extended family. Typically, considerations about one's future revolve around career, financial stability, and an overall comfortable lifestyle. However, when contemplating life in its broader context, what truly holds significance?

A Biblical example that resonates with this theme is the life of Samuel the prophet, as recounted in the Bible. (1 Samuel chapters 1,2,3) This interesting story begins with Hannah, Samuel's mother, who faced the heart-wrenching challenge of infertility. In her earnest desire for a child, she fervently prayed to the Lord for a son, making a solemn vow that if granted the blessing of motherhood, she would dedicate her child to God's service. Her plea was answered and Samuel was born—a child of distinct significance, later an incorruptible judge and the founder of Israel's sacred schools.

Hannah's heartfelt promise not only reflects her deep faith but also the wholehearted devotion she had towards God's cause, and this commitment shines through in her son Samuel's journey later on. She probably envisioned a beautiful mom-and-son connection, spending happy days together in the coziness of their family home. However, she knew she had made a solemn promise

to God about dedicating her child to His service. This turning point in Samuel's story sets the stage for his remarkable destiny, blending a touch of divine intervention with a mother's determination to see her son fulfill the purpose she believed was meant for him.

From the earliest dawn of intellect, Hannah had taught her son to love and reverence God, and to regard himself as the Lord's. By every familiar object surrounding him, she had sought to lead his thoughts up to the Creator. But when he reached the age of approximately 3–4 years old, and was no longer breastfed, Samuel was entrusted to the care of Eli, the high priest in Israel. This abrupt separation from his parents and the familiar surroundings of his home likely stirred a myriad of emotions within young Samuel.

ONWARD TO THE TEMPLE

The transition from the warm embrace of his mother's care to the solemn chambers of the Tabernacle, under the guardianship of Eli who was also not young anymore, would likely have been accompanied by a sense of confusion and longing. Without his mother's soothing presence and the guiding principles that had framed his initial understanding of the world, Samuel might have felt a sense of isolation in this strange new setting.

Having been guided by his mother's teachings to rely and trust in God alone, Samuel found solace in the regular rhythms of the sanctuary and its sacred services. The mother's consistent prayers and her yearly visits, accompanying her husband to worship at Shiloh, were a steadfast reminder of her love. The hand-woven garments she brought served as a tangible expression of her support, forming an unbroken chain that sustained the young Samuel far away from home.

A CORRUPT ENVIRONMENT

Young Samuel continued to grow, finding favor not only with the Lord but also with men. Diligent and devoted, he carried out his expanding responsibilities with zeal. Despite being in the tabernacle dedicated to worship and service, Samuel was not immune to the influence of evil. The sons of Eli, in contrast, showed no fear of God and lacked regard for others. Their lives stood in direct opposition to Samuel's. While Samuel delighted in doing the will of God and assisting Eli with temple services, the sons of Eli pursued self-gratification and amusement.

The allure of a self-indulgent and uncomplicated existence played a pivotal role in transforming Hophni and Phinehas into the corrupt and malevolent priests they eventually became. The temptation of a life centered around their personal desires and comforts steered them away from the path of virtue and moral rectitude. As they succumbed to

the seduction of self-centered pursuits, their once sacred duties as priests were overshadowed by greed, moral laxity, and a blatant disregard for their sacred responsibilities. This shift marked the beginning of their descent into corruption and contributed to the erosion of the moral fabric that should have defined their roles as religious leaders.

HOW TO HANDLE IT

Samuel consciously distanced himself from such negative influences, choosing instead a humble life marked by self-sacrifice and service—values that seem less appealing to many youth and adults today. The prevailing trend in our society and even amongst the professed people of God, appears to be a mindset centered on personal gain: 'What benefits can I obtain from my actions? In planning our futures, the common approach is to assess each course of action based on how it benefits us, often prioritizing comfort, financial stability, and an easy life. This often leads us to focus primarily on ourselves, or at best, our immediate family.

Similar to the tragic trajectory experienced by Hophni and Phinehas, numerous individuals who possess the potential for significant service to God and humanity often find themselves ensnared by the allure of a self-centered existence, succumbing to corruption, and ultimately spiraling into self-destruction. The prevailing societal currents sometimes entice individuals away from a path of selfless service and virtue.

Nevertheless, the divine call bears a distinct purpose, urging us away from the pitfalls of selfishness and corruption. Instead, it encourages us to enrich our surroundings by adopting the life and principles exemplified, firstly, by Hannah and subsequently by Samuel. The stark contrast between Samuel's selfless dedication to God's service and the self-destructive choices made by Hophni and Phinehas serves as a poignant reminder of the divergent paths individuals can take. This interplay underscores the transformative impact that a life devoted to God and service can have, inspiring us to choose a path that contributes positively to our world. Ultimately, it leads both ourselves and others who follow this example towards a heavenly destination.

Samuel consciously distanced himself from negative influences, choosing instead a humble life marked by self-sacrifice and service.

SAMUEL AND ELI

The role of Samuel under the leadership of Eli extended beyond mere service. As the aged priest discovered the iniquities and corrupt actions of his own sons, he was saddened and lost confidence in himself. Subsequently, he directed all of his attention to young Samuel, who was helpful and affectionate. Eli, in fact, loved this youth more tenderly than any father has ever loved his child. It was indeed remarkable that such a warm affection existed between the chief magistrate of the nation and a simple child. As the infirmities of age overtook Eli, and he grappled with anxiety and remorse due to the profligate course of his own sons, he turned to Samuel for comfort.

Samuel maintained a constant connection with God. In order to serve as a comforter and sometimes a counselor to such a wise and experienced man as Eli was, he had to learn the art of listening carefully and following precisely God's guidance. He consistently allowed God to equip him for every step in his role and responsibilities. At one point, God chose to communicate directly with Samuel rather than Eli, especially in matters of high importance. Samuel genuinely let himself be guided by God at every step of his spiritual journey and in the responsibilities entrusted to him.

"It was not customary for the Levites to enter upon their peculiar services until they were twenty-five years of age, but

Samuel maintained a constant connection with God.

Samuel had been an exception to this rule. Every year saw more important trusts committed to him; and while he was yet a child, a linen ephod was placed upon him as a token of his consecration to the work of the sanctuary. Young as he was when brought to minister in the tabernacle, Samuel had even then duties to perform in the service of God, according to his capacity. These were at first very humble, and not always pleasant; but they were performed to the best of his ability, and with a willing heart. His religion was carried into every duty of life. He regarded himself as God's servant, and his work as God's work. His efforts were accepted, because they were prompted by love to God and a sincere desire to do his will. It was thus that Samuel became a coworker with the Lord of heaven and earth. And God fitted him to accomplish a great work for Israel."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* p. 573.

THE CHALLENGE

This remarkable outcome would not have been possible if both Hannah and, subsequently, Samuel had not consistently prioritized the interests of others and the cause of God. If you and I grasp the importance

of wholeheartedly performing our duties from an early stage, placing the interests of God and others first, we will gradually find ourselves fitting into increasingly important roles, both in society and in God's cause. You and I have the potential to be as precious in God's sight as Samuel was. By steadfastly maintaining our Christian integrity, we can wield a powerful influence in the work of God. Such individuals are crucial in the present moment, and God has a unique purpose for each of us. There has never been a time when individuals, faithful to their God-given trust, could achieve greater results for both God and humanity than in our present day.

Having the extraordinary ability to literally hear the voice of God and converse with Him from a young age, Samuel was uniquely prepared to become a great prophet for God in the future. During his lifetime, Israel had turned away from God, losing His presence among them, quite literally, when the Philistines took away the ark of the covenant. Samuel played a pivotal role in initiating a spiritual reformation among the people, calling them to cast away the foreign gods from their midst.

In response to Samuel's guidance, the people erected an altar and offered burnt sacrifices to God. Subsequently, the Israelites engaged in a conflict with the Philistines and emerged victorious. This victory, brought about through the divine intervention Samuel had inspired, ensured that the Philistines no longer posed a threat to the Israelites throughout the remainder of Samuel's lifetime as a prophet.

"By signs and wonders and mighty miracles multiplied, God delivered Israel from Egypt and led them through the wilderness and finally into the Promised Land. There He ruled them by judges 'until Samuel the prophet,' to whom, when he was a child, God spoke, and by whom He made known His will. In the days of Samuel the people asked that they might have a king. This was allowed, and God chose Saul, and Samuel anointed him king of Israel. Saul failed to do the will of God; and as he rejected the word of the Lord, the Lord rejected him from being king and sent Samuel to anoint David king of Israel; and David's throne God established forevermore."—Ibid., p. 761.

Samuel's entire life was dedicated to following God's guidance, constantly learning and advancing while shouldering responsibilities in both the temple services and civil matters as a judge. His implicit trust in God's guidance was always his highest priority. He learned to live a life of self-denial and sacrifice. What has he enjoyed in return, one may ask? A life lived in service. There is a saying that goes, 'A life lived in service is not a sacrifice but an honor.' He enjoyed not only the respect and honor of the people but also the recognition of God,

You and I have the potential to be as precious in God's sight as Samuel was. By steadfastly maintaining our Christian integrity, we can wield a powerful influence in the work of God.

who blessed him with a life rich in experiences and dedicated service to others.

A WORTHWHILE LEGACY

As Samuel was laid to rest, the nation had lost the founder and president of its sacred schools, but that was not all. It had lost him to whom the people had been accustomed to go with their great troubles—lost one who had constantly interceded with God in behalf of the best interests of its people. The intercession of Samuel had given a feeling of security; for "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). The people felt now that God was forsaking them. The king seemed little less than a madman. Justice was perverted, and order was turned to confusion.

"It was when the nation was racked with internal strife, when the calm, God-fearing counsel of Samuel seemed to be most needed, that God gave His aged servant rest. Bitter were the reflections of the people as they looked upon his quiet resting place, and remembered their folly in rejecting him as their ruler; for he had had so close a connection with Heaven that he seemed to bind all Israel to the throne of Jehovah. It was Samuel who had taught them to love and obey God; but now that he was dead, the people felt that they were left to the mercies of a king who was joined to Satan, and who would divorce the people from God and heaven."—Ibid., p. 664.

WHAT ABOUT US?

What profound lessons can we glean from the extraordinary life of this God-fearing prophet, teacher, priest, and judge? When the divine summons beckons us to His service, hesitation should find no refuge in our hearts. God, with His intricate design, extends a purpose to each one of us. He comprehends the inherent value within us, awaiting realization when we relinquish control and entrust our lives to Him. In this surrender, He beckons us to cultivate trust, acknowledging that His plans precede our very existence. The pivotal inquiry echoes: Are we prepared to relinquish our comfort, perhaps for the unseen promises that lie ahead? Will we forge an unshakeable trust in His meticulously crafted plans for us? The answers, intertwined with our journey of faith and trust, await our courageous response. What will yours be?

DANIEL, the Principle-driven Youth

BY DORIN BURCA

The name of Daniel the prophet is well known in the biblical account as one who was faithful to his God and his masters in all circumstances of his life. A legitimate question remains: What enabled Daniel to have such a character and unwavering spirit? Solomon tells us in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

GOD'S PLAN FOR ISRAEL

God had a plan for the Jewish nation, to be a light to the world. For some time, Israel was faithful to their God, but there were a number of kings that did wickedly before the Lord. About one hundred years before the days of Daniel, Hezekiah was king of Judah. After a reign of thirteen years, he was on his deathbed, and pled with God to lengthen his days. God answered his prayer and Hezekiah was given another 15 years of life.

Due to the sign given in the natural world that God gave to king Hezekiah, a delegation from the court of Babylon came to see the king of Judah. When at Jerusalem these diplomats arrived, instead of opening the Torah and sharing the truths of God, Hezekiah opened his treasure houses and showed them all his wealth.

The Babylonians coveted it and later came to steal it and ravish the nation. In Isaiah 39:6, 7 the prophet foresaw that the Babylonians would take everything—even their sons to be taken as captives into this foreign land.

The same type of warning came in Jeremiah 5:15, which was fulfilled with accuracy. Sure enough, in 607 B.C., the Babylonians came, besieged Jerusalem, and killed king Jehoiakim.

There is a Hebrew maxim which says "Jerusalem was destroyed because the education of her children was neglected."

A great number of Jews were taken into Babylon, among them a young man by the name of Daniel, later known as the prophet Daniel. But what made Daniel such a great prophet? What made him an intelligent, skillful, and successful statesman? The answer is simple: the education Daniel received at home.

EDUCATION AT HOME

The time when Daniel was born was not an easy time to be brought up in the fear of the Lord and to honor His name. Society was corrupt; from the king to the simple folk, people were involved in wicked things, and idolatry was flourishing. But not everyone in Judah bowed their knees before Baal and Ashtaroth. There were families and parents that were very concerned about their children and their upbringing.

Considering all the events and prophecies given by Isaiah and Jeremiah, there were indeed some families in Judah that took the issue of education very seriously. One of these families was the family of Daniel. His mother, from his early childhood, taught Daniel the fear of the Lord. She instructed him that one day a foreign nation would come, whose language he wouldn't speak, with a culture he wouldn't know and would take some of the children of Judah to Babylon. Daniel grew up with his parents preparing him in case he would be one of the captives, so that he would be ready to face different challenges and temptations.

"Daniel had a godly mother who knew of the prophecy concerning the destruction of their city. She repeated to her son the words of God, that some day Hebrew children must stand in the heathen court of Babylon. Carefully did this mother teach her son to read the parchment scrolls of the prophets. The history of Israel was studied; the story of Nadab and Abihu was told and retold. The effect of strong drink was impressed upon the mind. The laws of his own being were studied. He knew that excess in eating and drinking would so dull the mind that the voice of God could not be heard."—*The Story of Daniel the Prophet* by Stephen N. Haskell, p. 19.

The time when Daniel grew up was not an easy one, because the entire society was inclined to do evil; even their own king was doing wickedly. But due to the faithful parents that invested their time and energy in teaching their son the principles of faith and morality, the results would be seen in the following years. This was an age when most of the young men in the capital of Judah were wild and reckless. But God chose from this nation a number of youths who would stand in the highest courts of Babylon and remain faithful and firm to the God of Heaven.

THE TEST

When Daniel was about eighteen years old, he was carried off (kidnapped) to Babylon along with other young men from Judah: Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar had selected some choice young men, intelligent and good-looking to train them in the best school of Babylon and have them serve in his kingdom.

What did Daniel and his friends have to study at the University of Babylon?

Math – It is known that Babylonians were very good at math. One thousand years before Daniel ended up in Babylon, people were already solving equations with tables of inverse values, square numbers, extracting square root, cube root, and numbers to the third power. They were also using the decimal and sexagesimal number systems. They also divided the hour into 60 minutes and the circle into 360 degrees.

Astronomy – They were known to keep records of and predict eclipses.

Languages – Daniel had to learn Acadian, the national language of Babylon; Sumerian, the language of religious tradition; and Aramaic, the language of international commerce, diplomacy, and politics.

CHANGE OF IDENTITY

Another thing that happened to Daniel and his three friends at the University of Babylon, was the change of their Hebrew names. "Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel [the name] of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego" (Daniel 1:6, 7). In Bible times, names usually had an important meaning. Their Hebrew names had deep spiritual meaning. For example, Daniel means "God is my Judge." The kings and princes of Babylon and other pagan nations were given the names of their deities to assure them the protection and favor of their gods. Now, Daniel's name is changed to Belteshazzar, which indicated that his life was supposedly under the protection of the Babylonian god, Bel.

King Nebuchadnezzar did four things in his attempt to transform Daniel and his three friends:

1. Isolation – from their homeland.
2. Indoctrination – they were supposed to be taught in the best school of Babylon.
3. Intimidation – Daniel was given food and drink from the king's table.
4. New identity – Daniel was given a new name – Belteshazzar.

After all of these attempts to change his mind and identity as well as indoctrinate him into the



Babylonian culture and religion, what came next for Daniel to face? "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself" (Daniel 1:8).

When the portion of food and drink was assigned to Daniel, he could have said, "When in Babylon do as Babylonians do" or "Whatever you do in Babylon stays in Babylon." But Daniel was living with a purpose. He **purposed** in his heart. The most important verse in the book of Daniel is Daniel 1:8, where it states that Daniel purposed in his heart. Everything else that would happen in his life depended on the purpose set when he came to Babylon.

It says Daniel purposed in his heart. I like the beginning of the verse: "But Daniel."

- You give them food consecrated to idols – "But Daniel."
- You need someone to interpret the dream – "But Daniel."
- You want someone to deal with the king's business – "But Daniel."

Daniel, despite the pressure and influence, purposed in his heart. I think he was a real model for the other boys. He is a positive model. When you look at the text, they see Daniel and his decision and decide to join him.

TEN TIMES BETTER

After the ten-day test, when Daniel and his friends ate only vegetables and drank water, the eunuch could not believe how they looked. They looked healthier and much better than the other students at the University of Babylon.

But after three years of their being in the greatest school of the time, the king himself was the one to give the final exam. Daniel had to appear before King Nebuchadnezzar for the test. The historical account is amazing: "And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm" (Daniel 1:19, 20).

"At the court of Babylon were gathered representatives from all lands, men of the highest talent, men the most richly endowed with natural gifts, and possessed of the broadest culture that the world could bestow; yet among them all, the Hebrew youth were without a peer. **In physical strength and beauty, in mental vigor and literary attainment, they stood unrivaled. The erect form, the firm, elastic step, the fair countenance, the undimmed senses, the untainted breath—all were so many certificates**

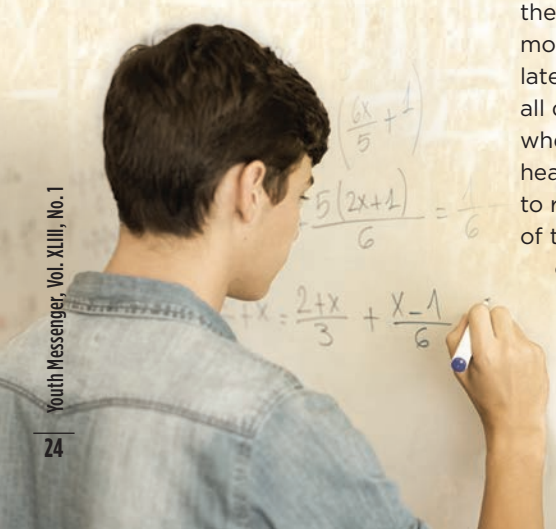
of good habits, insignia of the nobility with which nature honors those who are obedient to her laws."—*Prophets and Kings,* p. 485. [Emphasis added.]

"God brought Daniel and his associates into connection with the great men of Babylon, that in the midst of a nation of idolaters they might represent His character. How did they become fitted for a position of so great trust and honor? **It was faithfulness in little things that gave complexion to their whole life.** They honored God in the smallest duties, as well as in the larger responsibilities."—Ibid., p. 487. [Emphasis added.]

Beside all the difficulties and tests that Daniel had to face, he purposed in his heart to remain faithful and honor his God, the God that he was taught of when a child in his parents' home. We need such an education today. We need mothers and fathers that will understand the meaning and significance of building characters that will be prepared to stand the fiercest tests that their children will face later in life.

"Now can be seen the results of the home training. Pure food, clean thoughts, and physical exercise placed them on the list of 'children in whom was no blemish, but well-favored.' But what of their intellectual ability? They had not been educated in the schools of Jerusalem much less in those of Babylon. Was there not great danger that they lacked in the sciences or the essential branches? On examination these four passed as 'skillful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science,' and able to learn a difficult, foreign language. God had fulfilled his promise in these children of the home school."—*The Story of Daniel the Prophet* by Stephen N. Haskell, p. 20.

Daniel passed the first test at the court of Babylon; he became one of the wise counselors to the king Nebuchadnezzar. Can you imagine that from a Hebrew captive, he would be among the first counselors to a pagan monarch? The tests that came later in his life and ministry, all depended on the first one, when Daniel "purposed in his heart." This meant he decided to remain faithful, regardless of the circumstances or the consequences of his decision. This tells us that faithfulness to Jehovah was greater and far more important than his position at the court of



Babylon, his name, and ultimately his own life. This was proven repeatedly. Even at the court of the king of Medo-Persia, when Daniel was hated and spied on by the closest people in his circle, he did not compromise by shutting down or hiding his prayer life for about thirty days. He could have said, 'to avoid any conflict with the king, I would live my private life with closed windows at this time'. Did he react in that way? No, Daniel was the same as he was when he came about 70 years before to Babylon. He opened his window towards Jerusalem and prayed to his God three times a day. What an example for all generations, for young and old, for poor and rich, for free people and bond. And all of this is because of his union with God, which was imprinted in his character while a child in Judah.

OUR NEED TODAY

What is our greatest need today? We think we need many things, yet much of what we have we never use, or we don't need at all. The greatest need of today is of men like Daniel. Inspiration calls them men that cannot be bought or sold. "The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."—*Education,* p. 57.

No matter the circumstances, Daniel and his friends remained faithful.

"Those who steadfastly refuse to defile themselves will be rewarded as was Daniel. The youth of today may bear a weighty testimony in favor of true temperance."—*The Story of Daniel the Prophet,* by Stephen N. Haskell, p. 26.

No matter the circumstances, Daniel and his friends remained faithful, thanks to being faithful to the principles they had learned in their early childhood. You can have a similar experience as Daniel and his three friends. Their secret to a successful spiritual life, was the purpose to serve God with all their heart and with all their might, and as a result from Hebrew captives in Babylon, Daniel became one of the most important political advisors at the court of Babylon and Medo-Persia. Would you make a commitment in your heart to live the rest of your life with a purpose and to serve God unreservedly? Would you purpose in your heart to honor God always and everywhere? God has not changed. He can enable every soul—young and old—who is willing to live a life by principle, with a purpose.



TIMOTHY, the Missionary

BY IONICA BIZAU

We live in exciting times in history. Recent advances in technology have improved our quality of life in many ways. Traveling around the world is faster and easier than ever before. In many ways, we have a better life now than rich people did hundreds of years ago. Yet while many things have changed, the Gospel message remains the same. As Christians, we are all meant to share the Gospel, and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19, 20) still applies to us today. Missionaries have a challenging job: spreading an old message in today's advanced society. That might seem hard enough already, but there is one more problem: In times when people are more and more self-centered, where everyone looks out for their own interests (Philippians 2:21), why would someone be willing to sacrifice their time and comfort to serve others and share the old message of the Gospel?

Two thousand years ago, this was the case of Timothy. When Paul writes to the community in Philippi saying that he would send Timothy there, he describes Timothy as the best choice for two reasons: Timothy would naturally care for their state, and the community knows the proof of him because of his work with Paul (Philippians 2:19–22).

How did Timothy become the right hand of the most influential missionary of the early church? Let's see.

CLINGING TO CHRIST

To be a Christian is to be a follower of Christ—to be like Him in character. Our Master did not live to please Himself. His mission in our behalf was ever before His eyes. We cannot teach others about Jesus unless we first have a genuine experience with Him. Otherwise it would be impossible.

Timothy was not automatically a missionary from birth. No one is. But in the providence of God, that was his calling. From the time he was a young child, he was already learning the Scriptures

from his mother Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois (2 Timothy 3:14, 15). Timothy's father was a Greek. So, even if we have only one parent, grandparent, older sibling, or teacher in the faith, we should really appreciate that person. We have at least one advantage that many do not have.

Timothy looked to the example of Christ, who "humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:8).

Thus, Timothy developed a gentle spirit, seeking guidance from God. He was well respected among the believers in Lystra and Iconium, so Paul invited him to be his companion on his missionary journeys, urging him to be an example even in youth.

Timothy did not indulge in the pleasures and frolics of his culture. Instead he allowed God to use him in ministry. Although egotism and selfishness prevailed in society, this young man was not afraid to be different from the crowd.

In committing to Christ, we commit also to His church. "Very close and sacred is the relation between Christ and His church—He the bridegroom, and the church the bride; He the head, and the church the body. Connection with Christ, then, involves connection with His church."—*Education,* p. 268.

When we are baptized, the church is confirming the evidence they're seeing that Christ is indeed living in our heart. Every one of us needs to take this step and to encourage others to do it as well.

CULTIVATING GOOD INFLUENCES

Like plants in a greenhouse, we grow best when we have good influences around us. Spiritually-minded older people can be of great benefit, and it's good to ask them questions while they are still around. The church is the ideal environment in which to find such persons, who can be mentors like Timothy had in Paul—who actually referred to him as "my own son in the faith" and "my beloved son." (1 Timothy 1:2; 1 Corinthians 4:17). That bond of affection was real—and spiritual fathers and mothers can spare you a lot of the unnecessary disappointment and heartache that typically comes through normal inexperience in life. Then you, in turn, can better help others, too.

BECOMING A MISSIONARY

So, we need to have a personal relationship with Christ through prayer and the study of His Word, get baptized, and share the Gospel with others. The woman at the well (John chapter 4) "represents the working of a practical faith in



Christ. Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver."—*The Desire of Ages,* p. 195.

ACCEPTING THE CALL WHILE YOU'RE YOUNG

Timothy was quite young and not in perfect health (1 Timothy 5:23) when God called him. Like any youth, he likely had much to learn, but by fostering a humble and teachable spirit, he matured in wisdom well beyond his years.

Think of where Timothy went! Bravely facing the centers of pagan worship at the peril of his life, he ventured forth as a witness for the present truth in his day. Even if you never get a chance to go to faraway places, surely there are souls without Christ in your school, at your job, or in your neighborhood. These may be people you care about—and you don't want to see them be lost eternally. Do your part and pray that the Holy Spirit will work in their hearts. Seek opportunities to listen to their concerns; find the "entering wedge" that reveals their inner longing. When you ignore such opportunities, Jesus is saddened. When you take hold of them, He rejoices. The choice is ours!

SCENARIO #1 – WOE

"Christ beholds it all, and He says, It was I who was hungry and thirsty. It was I who was a stranger. It was I who was sick. It was I who was in prison. While you were feasting at your bountifully spread table, I was famishing in the hovel or the empty street. While you were at ease in your luxurious home, I had not where to lay My head. While you crowded your wardrobe with rich apparel, I was destitute. While you pursued your pleasures, I languished in prison.

"When you doled out the pittance of bread to the starving poor, when you gave those flimsy garments to shield them from the biting frost, did you remember that you were giving to the Lord of glory? All the days of your life I was near you in the person of these afflicted ones, but you did not seek Me. You would not enter into fellowship with Me. I know you not."—Ibid., pp. 639, 640.



SCENARIO #2 – JOY

"The redeemed will meet and recognize those whose attention they have directed to the uplifted Saviour. What blessed converse they will have with these souls! 'I was a sinner,' it will be said, 'without God and without hope in the world; and you came to me, and drew my attention to the precious Saviour as my only hope. And I believed in Him. I repented of my sins, and was made to sit together with His saints in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.' Others will say: 'I was a heathen in heathen lands. You left your friends and comfortable home, and came to teach me how to find Jesus, and believe in Him as the only true God. I demolished my idols, and worshiped God, and now I see Him face to face.'

"Others will express their gratitude to those who fed the hungry and clothed the naked. 'When despair bound my soul in unbelief, the Lord sent you to me,' they say, 'to speak words of hope and comfort. You brought me food for my physical necessities, and you opened to me the word of God, awakening me to my spiritual needs. You treated me as a brother. You sympathized with me in my sorrows, and restored my bruised and wounded soul, so that I could grasp the hand of Christ that was reached out to save me. In my ignorance you taught me patiently that I had a Father in heaven who cared for me. You read to me the precious promises of God's word. You inspired in me faith that He would save me. My heart was softened, subdued, broken, as I contemplated the sacrifice which Christ had made for me. I became hungry for the bread of life, and the truth was precious to my soul. I am here, saved, eternally saved, ever to live in His presence, and to praise Him who gave His life for me.' "—*Gospel Workers,* pp. 518, 519. **Isn't it worth it to able to partake instead of Scenario #2?**

In today's culture that is always trying to be up-to-date even in the worst, most degraded things imaginable, why would you want to promote a 2,000-year-old message?

Because you love Christ, He abides in your heart—and He teaches a better way of life, even unto eternity! To share this reality is more rewarding than anything this world has to offer.

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (Philippians 3:7, 8).

"But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in **their** glory shall ye boast yourselves" (Isaiah 61:6). Why not taste and savor the missionary spirit?



Test Your Reading!

EDUCATION AS SHOWN IN SCRIPTURE

ACROSS

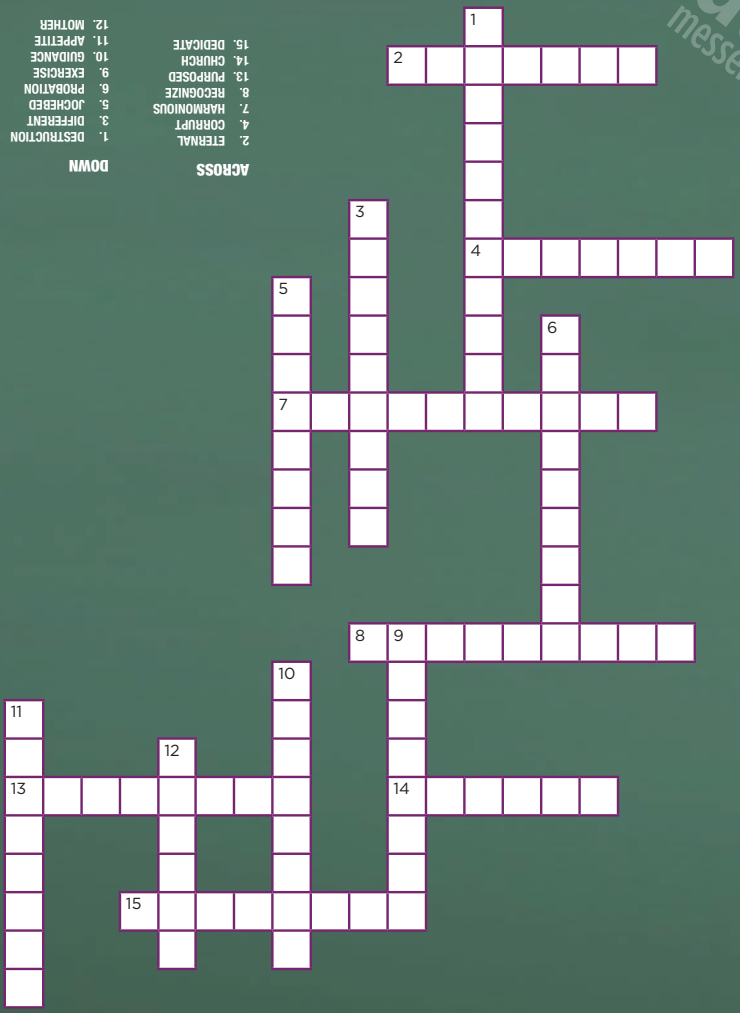
2. Teaching baby Moses about love and loyalty to God was protecting his _____ life.
4. The child Samuel had to face the _____ influence of Eli's sons.
7. True education includes the _____ development of all the physical powers and mental faculties.
8. The redeemed will _____ those whose attention they have directed to the Saviour.
13. Daniel _____ in his heart to be true to God.
14. Connection with Christ involves connection with His _____.
15. Hannah vowed that she would _____ her child to God's service.

DOWN

1. Daniel's godly mother had taught him about the _____ of their city.
3. Timothy was not afraid to be _____ from the crowd.
5. The name _____ means "Yahweh is glory."
6. The time of _____ is given to develop a character fit for eternity.
9. _____ is an important aid to physical development.
10. Samuel's entire life was dedicated to following God's _____.
11. Daniel's first test in Babylon was about controlling the _____.
12. Moses would never have become the leader of Israel had it not been for his _____.



youth messenger



ACROSS

2. ETERNAL
4. CORRUPT
7. HARMONIOUS
8. RECOGNIZE
13. PURPOSED
14. CHURCH
15. DEDICATE

DOWN

1. DESTRUCTION
3. DIFFERENT
5. JOCHEBED
6. PROBATION
9. EXERCISE
10. GUIDANCE
11. APPETITE
12. MOTHER

Editor Adrian Finaru, **Layout** Bethany Muresan.
Youth Messenger ® (USPS 765-030) is published quarterly by the Youth Department of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement General Conference as an educational service for our youth worldwide. **Web**: http://www.sdarm.org, **e-mail**: info@sdarm.org. The *Youth Messenger* is printed and distributed by Reformation Herald Publishing Association, 5240 Hollins Road, Roanoke, VA 24019-5048. Periodical postage paid at Roanoke, Virginia 24022.
Postmaster: Send address changes to, *Youth Messenger*, P.O. Box 7240, ROANOKE, VA 24019-0240. Manuscripts, inquiries, address changes, subscription requests, and donations should be mailed to the address above. Vol. XLIII, No. 1. Copyright © 2024 January—March issue. **Illustrations:** Adobe Stock on front cover and pp. 2–14, 16, 17, 18–29, 32. **Subscription**: United States U.S. $12.00; single issue U.S. $3.00, plus postage; foreign (air mail) U.S. $12.00, plus postage.



Streams of Blessing

by Jonathan Spence

Abundant mercy from above
With truth and justice doth unite
To form the living stream of love,
Which blessing brings with glad delight.
O wounded heart, there floweth clear
A healing balm to soothe and cheer!
No saddened soul should faint with fear
When streams of blessing are so near.

As morning brings her lovely beams
And floods the verdant fields with light,
So hope, in peaceful radiance, streams
In darkened souls—illumes their night.
As zephyrs round the flow'rets play
And fragrance gently bear away,
So faith shall from our hearts each day
Petitions sweet to heaven convey.

Ascending to our Father's throne
Our supplications sweetly rise
Where Jesus' blood doth cleanse, atone,
And make us heirs of paradise
When thus our hearts from sin are free,
From off their altars, Lord, to thee
Shall grateful praise ascending be—
A tribute in eternity.