

JANUARY 3

Read Genesis 7–9

CHAPTER 7

AND the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

2 Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that *are* not clean by two, the male and his female.

3 Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.

4 For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.

5. And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him.

6 And Noah *was* six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.

7 ¶ And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark,

because of the waters of the flood.

8 Of clean beasts, and of beasts that *are* not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth,

9 There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah.

10 And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.

11 ¶ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

12 And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

13. In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark;

14 They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that

creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort.

15 And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein *is* the breath of life.

16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.

17. And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.

18 And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters.

19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that *were* under the whole heaven, were covered.

20 Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.

21. And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:

22 All in whose nostrils *was* the breath of life, of all that *was* in the dry *land*, died.

23 And every living substance

was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained *alive*, and they that *were* with him in the ark.

24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

CHAPTER 8

AND God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that *was* with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged;

2 The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained;

3 And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated.

4. And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.

5 And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth *month*, on the first *day* of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.

6 ¶ And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made:

7 And he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth.

8 Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground;

9 But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters *were* on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark.

10 And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark;

11 And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth *was* an olive leaf pluckt off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth.

12 And he stayed yet other seven days; and sent forth the dove; which returned not again unto him any more.

13 ¶ And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first *month*, the first *day* of the month, the waters were dried up

from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry.

14 And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried.

15 ¶ And God spake unto Noah, saying,

16 Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee.

17 Bring forth with thee every living thing that *is* with thee, of all flesh, *both* of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth.

18 And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him:

19 Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, *and* whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark.

20 ¶ And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

21 And the LORD smelled a sweet

savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

CHAPTER 9

AND God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.

3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.

4 But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

5 And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of

every man's brother will I require the life of man.

6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

7 And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein.

8 ¶ And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,

9 And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;

10 And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth.

11 And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

12. And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:

13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:

15 And I will remember my covenant, which *is* between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

16 And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that *is* upon the earth.

17 And God said unto Noah, This *is* the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that *is* upon the earth.

18 ¶ And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham *is* the father of Canaan.

19 These *are* the three sons of Noah: and of them was the whole earth overspread.

20 And Noah began *to be* an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard:

21 And he drank of the wine, and

was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.

22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without.

23 And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid *it* upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces *were* backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness.

24. And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him.

25 And he said, Cursed *be* Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.

26 And he said, Blessed *be* the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.

27 God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.

28 ¶ And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years.

29 And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years: and he died.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

The last ten verses of chapter 9 record the shame and sin of Noah and Ham. Noah was more than 600 years old. He had been an obedient servant of God for many years, yet he fell into sin and shame. And, to make matters worse, Ham did not respect his father, but told his brothers what his father had done. As a result, Noah pronounced a curse on his descendants.

Two important lessons are to be learned from these verses. First, no matter how long you have been a follower of Christ, you must guard against sin. Satan, as a roaring lion, is walking about, seeking whom he may devour (I Peter 5:8). His desire is to destroy the testimony of the Christian. Second, God does not excuse the sins of the saints. God will not allow sin to go unjudged. Because of the sin of Ham, judgment fell upon all of Canaan. They were made the lowest of servants to their brethren.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

“Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee” (Proverbs 3:29).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

For today’s memory verses (Assignment 1), follow instructions on page 9.

HYMN FOR TODAY

O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST by Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

It has been wisely said that no thinking person ever regarded the beginning of a new year with indifference. Each of us faces many concerns and questions as we stand on the threshold of the unknown future.

The mystery of time is the subject of this hymn text, a paraphrase of Psalm 90. The hymn is considered by many to be one of the finest ever written and perhaps the best known of the 600 hymns by Isaac Watts, often called the “father of English hymnody.”

At an early age Isaac displayed unusual talent in writing poetic verse. As a young man he became increasingly concerned with the congregational singing in the English speaking churches. Only ponderous metrical psalms were used until this time. To use any words other than the actual words of Scripture would have been considered an insult to God.

Challenged by his father to “write something better for us to sing,” young Watts began to create new versions of the psalms with inspiring and expressive

style. Eventually, at the early age of 25, he published an important hymnal titled *The Psalms of David in the Language of the New Testament*. In addition to “O God, Our Help in Ages Past,” several of Watts’ other paraphrases based on psalm settings are hymn texts still widely sung today. They include such favorites as “Joy to the World,” Psalm 98; and “Jesus Shall Reign,” Psalm 72.

After more than 250 years, Isaac Watts’ hymn is still a timely reminder of God’s faithfulness throughout the past and His sure promises for our future.

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.*

*Under the shadow of Thy throne still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood or earth received her frame,
from everlasting Thou art God, to endless years the same.*

*Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all its sons away;
they fly, forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be Thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.*

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1878

WILLIAM SOLOMON HOTTELL WAS BORN IN COOPERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

He wrote Sunday school literature for forty-six years for the Union Gospel Press of Cleveland, Ohio. He spent sixty-five years in the ministry, and, it is said, had no formal education.

Perhaps few people influence our churches as much as those who write literature. Pray today that God will keep them faithful to the Word of God and to the Son of God. It is our responsibility to see to it that the literature in our church is checked carefully and that it is still faithful to the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures, the deity of Christ, and the fundamental doctrines of the faith.

1884

E. STANLEY JONES WAS BORN IN CLARKSVILLE, MARYLAND.

1852

CHARLES WAGNER WAS BORN IN WILDERSDILLER, LORRAINE, GERMANY.

Wagner was a French protestant clergyman.

1813

JAMES CALVART WAS BORN IN PIKERING, ENGLAND.

Calvart was a Wesleyan missionary to Fiji. He probably did more than any other person in seeing the Fiji Islands change from paganism to Christianity. He labored nearly thirty years, 1838 to 1866, in this difficult field.

Let us pray for missionaries today. May God give us some Judsons, Livingstones, and some Calvarts. Maybe, dear mother, you are rocking a Calvart today.

Somewhere I heard the story of a church that had gone an entire year without a public profession of faith. At the end of the year the board called the aged pastor on the carpet and said, "Pastor, we feel that you should resign. Not one person has come forward professing faith in Christ this year."

The pastor said, "Yes, you are right, but there was one—wee Bobby Moffat." The pastor resigned in failure, and perhaps should have, except that wee Bobby Moffat became one of the great missionaries of his day. You may have in your lap today a wee Bobby Moffat. In your Sunday school class Sunday there may be a wee Bobby Moffat. Pray that God will give us some faithful missionaries.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1624

WILLIAM TUCKER, FIRST BLACK CHILD BORN IN AMERICA, BAPTIZED IN JAMESTOWN.

1947

NAACP REPORT SAID 1946 WAS "ONE OF THE GRIMMEST YEARS in the history of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People." The report deplored "reports of blow-torch killing and eye-gouging of Negro veterans freshly returned from a war to end torture and racial extermination" and said "Negroes in America have been disillusioned over the wave of lynchings, brutality and official recession from all of the flamboyant promises of post war democracy and decency."

CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM L. DAWSON ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF HOUSE EXPENDITURES COMMITTEE.

He was the first black to head a standing committee of Congress.

UNITED STATES POPULATION: 150,697,361.

BLACK POPULATION: 15,042,286 (10 per cent).

1961

ADAM CLAYTON POWELL ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE.

1966

FLOYD B. McKISSICK, NORTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY, NAMED NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY.

1969

REP. ADAM CLAYTON POWELL JR. SEATED BY CONGRESS.

A Christian Life:

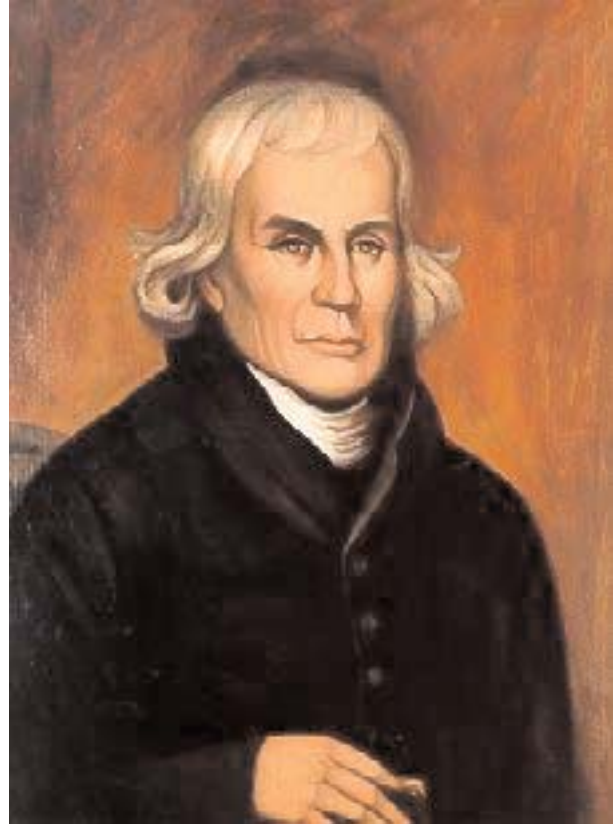
FRANCIS ASBURY

1745-1816

The founding father of American Methodism. Francis Asbury was born in England. He was converted to Christ at the age of 13, and soon began to hold meetings. Wesley licensed him at the age of 18 as a local preacher. As he grew into maturity, he became so concerned for the colonists in America, that in 1771 John Wesley sent him across the Atlantic to minister to the 316 members of the Society who had emigrated to the New World, and also to extend the frontiers of the Methodist movement.

Asbury's efforts to convert people to Christ prospered, and quickly Wesleyan societies spread up along the Atlantic Seaboard. After the Revolutionary War, Asbury led in the establishment of the movement in the wild, new settlements of the frontier. Annually, he rode 6,000 miles and preached from 300 to 500 sermons. He was ordained a deacon, then an elder, then a superintendent, and later a bishop.

A man of tremendous vitality and executive ability, he was a tireless worker. During his years on the circuit, he amassed a total of 270,000 miles, perhaps the greatest mileage ever compiled by a horseman. His last entry in his journal reads, "My consolations are great. I live in God from moment to moment."



The Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

WHY MEMORIZE THE WORD?

(Assignment 1)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for the next seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see “The Treasure Path to Soul Winning,” page XIII near the front of this book.)

A Command

() Deuteronomy 6:6

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

An Imperative

() Deuteronomy 11:18

Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.

A Necessity

() Job 22:22

Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart.

A Promise

() Proverbs 3:3-4

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

so shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.