

## FROM WHERE WE STAND

### "The Good Old Days" Were They?

As the kid in the three cornered pants gently nudges the old greybeard out of sight we often set to thinking about "time" and what it does to all of us.

We sometimes hear references to "The Good Old Days" and a rather nostalgic note in the voice of the talker. We wonder just what was good about them.

Several weeks ago I asked my Dad, now 79 years young, just what was it that made the good old days so good. His answer bears repeating, we believe. "The best thing about the good old days," he said, "was that we were young. I think we ought to hear more about the good NEW days."

When he was queried about the high taxes we pay for schooling today he said, "No, school taxes are not too high. Maybe we don't get all we pay for, but taxes are not too high."

But maybe we get more in these good new days than we give ourselves credit for. We in the rural areas should be doubly aware of this. In the not-too-distant past only the urban children or the very rich rural ones could ever hope to have a first class education.

As we walked home from a wrestling match at the high school a few nights ago with our sixth-grader, the conversation turned to the stars.

We learned that Sirius the dog star forms part of the constellation, Canis Major, and Cassiopeia the Queen was on her throne as usual. Betelgeuse still holds a place of prominence at the shoulder of Orion, the mighty hunter, and he still wears that belt of three bright jewels. We sit right out on the edge of this galaxy called the Milky Way, and that small blob you can see right up through there between the queen and the hunter in the constellation Andromeda, is the galaxy nearest to our own.

Now all this was rather startling to a guy who has always had trouble locating even the Big Dipper unless it is in the water bucket. But our eleven-year-old calmly stated that he had learned about astronomy in science in school. No, not science in high school—

science in the sixth grade.

Our rural youngsters can learn things in school today that they never thought of teaching a few years ago, and wouldn't have had time to teach if they had thought of it.

Boys can choose from a wide range of courses that will prepare them for almost any career including the business of farming. Girls have as wide a choice as the boys and can learn to hold down many positions in industry or become more proficient in making a more pleasant and comfortable home for the family.

School will not, and never would, make something of a person against that person's will, but if the desire to become something is there, our modern schools will help the youngster to become something, easier.

As the old year draws to a close we had better stop pining for the good old days and start appreciating THE GOOD NEW DAYS.

At least that's how it looks from where we stand.

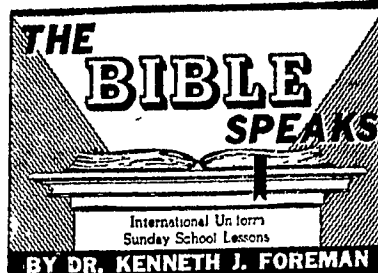
## Resolutions

I just looked over my last year's New Year resolutions. I find that all the material and less important things I have carried out to the letter. It has been the more noble things I pledged to do where I have fallen short.

Our financial report for the year exceeded our plans and expectations. I had resolved to finish a book and the last two chapters are being completed. I also resolved to plan things to make our life more interesting. I think this has been carried out to our complete satisfaction.

However, when it comes to the resolution where I planned each day to pass a compliment, or give some encouraging words, or make someone feel more important, I find there were many days in my busy, hectic life I forgot all about these resolutions. I shall make them again and I hope next year to do a better job.

—Eastern Indiana Farmer



Bible Material: Acts 12  
Devotional Reading: Joshua 1 5-9.

## God, Our Help

Lesson for December 27, 1959

AT SUNSET, not a ray of hope. Alone, behind high walls, guarded by four squads of soldiers under special orders, his friends not knowing whether he was alive or dead. But by midnight—the man was free, talking with his friends. (Naturally, hunted by the police . . . but they never found him.) What was the explanation of it? Nobody has ever quite succeeded in explaining it. The man himself said an angel did it; but an angel is hard to explain, too. The real explanation, every one felt, was in one single word: GOD. The man's friends had been praying to God, and God sent the angel. God had much more for Simon Peter to do.



Dr. Foreman

### In Great Crisis

Did God help people in "Bible times" only and not since then? By no means. God himself cannot be seen, remember; so it is always possible for some one to doubt—to say, "Well, I didn't see God there." Nevertheless all through history there have been special occasions, crises as they may be called, when believers have been quite sure that God must have been specially interested and active.

For instance, in World War II, on D-Day, innumerable ships occurred during that great invasion of the Normandy coast. One writer who was there said that everything that could go wrong went wrong, and some things that couldn't. But in spite of it all, the Allies got their foothold in the enemy's land. What accounts for that? Or take the German guided missiles. If they had been just a few weeks farther ahead with production, England might have been completely smashed and the war would have had a different ending.

What held the Germans up? Hitler, of course; but what made Hitler (ordinarily a shrewd man) so stupid?

### "Out of Weakness"

For some people it may be easier to believe that God takes care of nations and of great events, than that God takes care of me. Let us not deny his presence in the great crises. Last June a streamliner with 180 passengers on board ran over a suitcase filled with enough dynamite to blow the train in two—and the fuse was lighted! But the fuse went out, and the train was not hurt. When the passengers learned about it, isn't it likely that most of them said, "Thank God!"

Some of them said it (perhaps) who hadn't thanked God for anything in years. Yet God can be in simple ordinary lives, giving help to the weak and the unimportant, just as truly as he helps a Saint Peter or the British Empire. An immigrant woman abandoned by her GI husband, with three hungry children on her hands, said once: "Sometimes I go to bed and I don't think I can get up again. But God, he wakes me up with a song in my throat and I begin again." Sometimes the only way we discover God is to reach a point of weakness where we know that without him we are done for.

### Workers Together

We said that God had more for Simon Peter to do. This midnight miracle was the last of its kind in Peter's life so far as we know. He lived for years after this, a hard-working missionary, no doubt often in danger, but kept and strengthened by what we absurdly call the "ordinary" Providence of God. Then came a day when Roman guards came for him once more, and this time there was no angel to help him. So he was crucified. Had God forsaken him at last? No, his work was done. If you are, as he was, a "worker together with God" you may be sure that until your work is done you are immortal.

We are at the gate of a New Year. What will it bring? Great dangers, great distress, great responsibilities? Whatever it may be, God knows what he is doing. We may see no angels, but with the eye of faith we can see the good hand of God guiding us, protecting us, giving us the help we need, when we need it.

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Davidson

## THIS WEEK

—In Washington

With Clinton Davidson

## Peace On Earth

This week there are prayers throughout the Christian world for an enduring peace on earth and good will among men. That, too, is our prayer this Holy Week.

Christ lived in a time of strife and bitterness; in a time of war, poverty and suffering. He devoted His life to the teaching of the brotherhood of all men, of all nations.

The Christian religion which He gave to the world has endured and grown throughout almost twenty cen-

turies, and has survived all efforts to suppress it. It is the foundation of our civilization and the hope of our future.

The world looks to the Christian nations for the leadership that will continue to work unceasingly toward peace on earth. We are more than ever before confident that they will succeed.

President Eisenhower returns this week from a good will visit to nine countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. He has been acclaimed on all of the three continents as an ambassador of peace.

He told the people of France, Italy, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Greece and Morocco that the great strength of the United States is dedicated to establishment of permanent peace.

There can be no doubt but that President Eisenhower's visits have furthered the cause of peace and they have countered Communist propaganda that the people of the United States want war.

The President is a deeply religious man. As a military man, war taught him to abhor its destructiveness. He is a man of peace as well as a leader of the Christian world.

### The Christian Challenge

Many of the non-Christian nations are ruled by leaders who place a low valuation on life. Freedom exists only in the nations which follow the teachings of Christ.

Christ said that He came that we might have life and have it more abundantly (James 1:12). He lived and taught the dignity of life, its purpose and rewards on Earth as well as after death. He gave meaning to life and the brotherhood of man.

We should remember, at this season of Christmas giving, that Christ said "it is more blessed to give than to receive." He said, too, that "there is no one who has given for His sake who shall not receive a hundred-fold."

In the years since the end of World War II we have given generously to the world both the material and spiritual leadership that has built the foundation of a lasting peace. President Eisenhower's visits just before Christmas have been intended to preserve that peace.

His visits have come at a critical time in world history when the world more than ever depends on the willingness of free peoples to make sacrifices in order that Christianity and peace shall prevail.

Foresters say the key to good farm woods management is cutting low grade timber trees and building a higher percentage of good quality saw logs.

Frost damaged foliage from wild or choke cherry trees and sorghum will poison livestock.

## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

**TO PROTECT MILK SUPPLY**—The treatment of udders of dairy cows for mastitis control should be exercised with special care. Food and Drug Administration officials have warned the dairy producers that no trace of drugs or antibiotics will be permitted in the milk supply. When treating infected udders with penicillin be sure and do not ship any milk from that udder for at least 72 hours after treatment. This is important; please cooperate.

### TO SORT TOBACCO CAREFULLY

Many growers are finding some shedburnt tobacco which needs special care; this small amount of burnt, rotten tobacco has little or no sale value and should not be put into the hands of delivered tobacco. Better check with your buyer before putting it in the filler bales or it might be refused.

### TO KEEP BEDDING UNDER THE COWS

High producing udder tissue exposed to cold concrete floors could be one cause of mastitis infected in your herd, the importance of plenty of bedding under the milking herd at all times cannot be over-emphasized. Proper stall dimensions will aid in keeping the bedding in place. Extra effort to these items will pay dividends.

### TO BE ALERT FOR LICE INFECTION

Cattle and swine are both liable to severe lice infection during the winter months. Long hair coats in cattle make good habitat for the lice and difficult to detect. Two treatments twelve to fourteen days apart are necessary to clean them out. In cold weather louse powder including sulphur and rotenone may be used in place of liquid spray treatments. The important thing is to be on the alert for them and treat before the animals are retarded in their gains or production.

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