

# From Where We Stand . . . Don't Wait Till The Crop Dies

The stranger asked the old mountain farmer, "How does the land lie around here?"

The old man looked up and slowly replied, "Well — I don't know about the land a-lying; it's these real estate people that do the lying."

In a very real sense, the land does not lie. It bears a record of what men write on it.

In a larger sense, a nation writes its history on the land, and a civilization writes its record on the land. The record is there to be read by succeeding generations for thousands of years. It can be read easily by those who understand the simple language of the land.

What kind of record are we writing for our grandchildren yet unborn. What kind of record will the farmers of a thousand years hence read in the land we leave to them.

Will it be a record of a once-prosperous nation of farmers who were faithful stewards of the soil — a nation of farmers who conserved the soil and made it continuously prosperous. Or will they read a history of a nation that mined the fertility out of the soil and let the rest of the good earth erode down the gullies to the sea.

Will they read that the good cropland of the nation was used to the fullness of its capacity, but continually restored to productivity, or will they read a story of neglect and waste.

Man has been writing records on the land through some 7,000 years, and in many places the story is not a pleasant one.

Agriculture, much as it was practiced within the life span of some still living, began in the Near East just about 7,000 years ago. Why did eleven great empires flourish and then die in this once fertile region. Much of the history is written on the land.

In the Biblical account of Moses and his flight out of Egypt with the Israelites, he said as he came to Mt. Nebo, "For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks and waters, of fountains and depths that

spring out of the valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness; thou shalt not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass."

When Moses looked across the Jordan river into the Promised Land, he described it as "A land flowing with milk and honey."

Today, much of that land is bare and red, with the good soil washed off the slopes to bedrock and the silt in the valleys slashed with deep gullies. It is hard to imagine it now as a land of milk and honey.

The story is the same on all too much of the land of the world.

The national association of Soil Conservation Districts have proposed an "Eleventh Commandment" in the hope of preventing that story from being written here.

"Thou shalt inherit the holy earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by thy herds, that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land thy fruitful fields shall become sterile stony ground and wasting gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or perish from off the face of the earth."

Tomorrow has been set aside as "Soil Stewardship Sunday". Soil conservationists believe the land should tell a pleasant story of our passing this way America is truly a land of milk and honey. It is up to each one of us to see that this beautiful land does not tell the same tragic story that the Promised Land of the ancient Israelites tells today.

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



## Letters To The Editor

Editor Lancaster Farming  
Dear Sir,

If a wheat grower will carefully analyze the provisions of the 1964 certificate program, he will become amazed at the terrific amount of freedom it allows him in making his own decisions in the management of his operation. It would be difficult, indeed, for anyone to devise a substitute program that would compare with this one in benefits and protection, and yet allow as much in the way of free individual initiative and management.

Here are some provisions that deserve careful study:

1. The 10 percent mandatory diversion under which the grower may choose whether to — (a) Divert this acreage, adding it to his conserving base, and earn a payment of about \$15 per acre national average, or (b) He may plant it to wheat for storage only, to be used to fill out his certificate quota in years of crop failure or low yield.

2. The 20 percent voluntary diversion which deserves very careful study by every grower. With a diversion payment of about \$25 per acre, national average, it would only be in abnormally high yield years that the average grower could realize more net return by planting than by diverting. It must be remembered that he can divert this additional 20% without losing any of his certi-

Editor Lancaster Farming  
Dear Sir,

Many of the discussions, representations and statements on the matter of the wheat referendum during the past several weeks have been an insult to the intelligence of the farmers of Lancaster County.

In the first place, our representative in Congress has come out with the unqualified charge that the election has been "rigged." He bases his charge lar-

Editor Lancaster Farming,

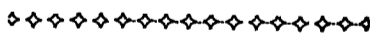
I would like to take time to comment on some of the absurd arguments put forth by the federal government along with various editorialists in trying to influence a positive vote in the wheat referendum this spring, along with some of my own recommendations.

Their first (and biggest) mistake is in assuming that the only possible course of action is to subordinate farming in America with controls like those of a socialist or Communist state. They would have the vast, inefficient federal government make the decisions once entrusted to the individual farmer. It appears as though they have no faith in the ability of the individual American farmer to think for himself.

It is indeed unfortunate that our federal agricultural officials lack the intelligence and understanding that Alex-

gely on what he calls "confusing nomenclature" on form MQ-24. Perhaps Congressman Dague's contacts with his farmer constituents have been so few and far between that he does not know that they are sufficiently literate to read the aforesaid form and understand that it must be signed and returned to the ASC so as to be put on the voting list—a process of registration. Some one should inform the Congressman on this point of the intelligence mental qualifications

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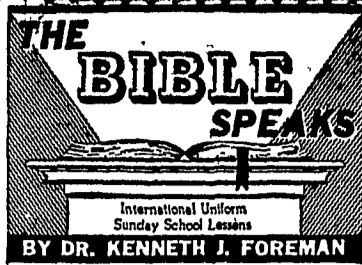
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International Uniform  
Sunday School Lessons  
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

## Deliverance

Lesson for May 19, 1963

Bible Material: Psalms 91; 107.  
Devotional Reading: Psalm 13:1-6.

DOES God guarantee that His children will not get into trouble? There is a well-known song one line of which is: "Nothing you ask will be denied." Is this true? Experience says, No. The notion that God rewards those who honor



Him by giving them a carefree life with all their wants supplied, is a very old notion. It seems to be found in the Bible. So there have been persons who would say that happiness is a kind of index man in deep trouble and there you have a man in deep sin. Find a man in peace and prosperity and there you have a man of blameless life.

### What God promises

There are places in the Old Testament (none in the New) where the idea just described seems to be found. But in the first place, this Psalm 91 which seems to promise a charmed life to God's people is a poem, and poets are never matter-of-fact. In the second place, this poet must have been acquainted with some of the more ugly facts of life, and indeed from his own writing we can see that he did not shut his eyes to all the evils in the world. A part of this poem, often overlooked, is at the end (verses 14-16). From the piled-up promises of God there spoken, three call for special notice. What God promises is first of all deliverance. The very word deliverance suggests trouble. A mother near the end of her life looks back and thinks, "How did I ever make it? I've gone to bed many a night hardly able to hope that I'd live till daylight. I've got up many a morning feeling that I'd go crazy before sundown. If it wasn't the children it was the bills, it was always something. But somehow God always gave me a song in the night, and somehow He pulled me through." — That's deliverance.

### Protection

But deliverance is not always of the same kind. One day a business man who had been on a trip wired home to his wife that he was safe though his plane had crashed. When he got home, the whole family knelt in gratitude to the God who had protected this husband and father. But the man took a plane several times each week. This was the first time he had ever been in a plane that crashed. What about the occasions, trips by night and day in all weathers, where no accident had occurred?

This Psalm 91, by the way, is one that (according to Matthew) the devil quoted. According to the devil (who may well have known better), Psalm 91 means that no matter what you do, God will keep you from being hurt. He tried to get Jesus to jump to the ground from a high part of the Temple, expecting angels to be on hand to keep Him from so much as a stubbed toe. Jesus refused to try this. Not that He was afraid, Jesus never feared danger. But He did not believe that God's protection is offered to those who deliberately get themselves into trouble. It's one thing to pray for safety on a plane flight. It's quite another thing to take off in a light plane by yourself when the weather bureau says DON'T!

### "I will be with Him"

One of the most joyful promises of God is this: "I will be with Him in trouble." There is something better than being kept always out of trouble. That is to be in trouble with the Lord in there too, at one's side. A great host of God's saints have found that to be true. Paul was one of the most famous of these. The "thorn in the flesh" was not removed; instead, he learned that God's strength is made perfect in weakness. A preacher in a rough slum was interrupted in his sermon by a man who shouted: "You're a liar! You've never had trouble like I've had. Wait till you've had real trouble and you'll sing another song." The preacher went on as best he could after that, but did not see the man afterwards. Within the month, the preacher's wife died, and the funeral was held in the little chapel in the slums. At the service the minister himself stood by the casket and said: "If the man is here who heckled me the other day, there is something I want to say to him. I have lost the one dearest to me in the world; but God has never been closer than now." The heckler was there; and that simple testimony brought him to Christ.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

### To Cull Low Producers

When we consider the dairy feed outlook and the excess amount of milk on the markets today, all dairymen should cull their herds as much as possible. Weather conditions point to another very tight hay and silage situation this summer and fall and if high priced feeds must be purchased, it is essential that they be fed to high-producing animals. Slow breeders and low producers should be sold for meat purposes.

### To Control Alfalfa Weevil

Alfalfa producers who did not spray last fall for weevil control may find a heavy infestation on their crop at this time. The crop may be sprayed now with methoxychlor or guthion and wait the required days before harvest (7 days for methoxychlor and 21 days for guthion), or harvest the crop in the bud stage and then spray the stubble immediately to kill the young weevil. If weevil are present on the first cutting, and the area is not sprayed, they will prevent much second growth.



MAX M. SMITH

### To Use Caution With Plants

Tobacco and tomato growers must be careful when setting out young plants, in the past many plant roots have been burned from either the starter fertilizer or from the insecticide used in the transplant water. Plant roots are very tender; they should not come into direct contact with any nitrogen or potash fertilizer; also in the use of insecticides, growers are urged to use the wettable powders rather than the liquid forms.

### To Plan For High Quality Hay

All hay producers are reminded that the proper stage of maturity when cut is the most important factor in making top quality hay. Too many producers permit the crop to get too ripe before cutting for hay or silage. All of the grasses should be cut at heading time, alfalfa in the bud to early blossom stage, and clover in the early blossom stage. Many grass-legume mixtures will mature in only a few days time during hot, dry weather; therefore, frequent inspection of the field and prompt attention will be required.