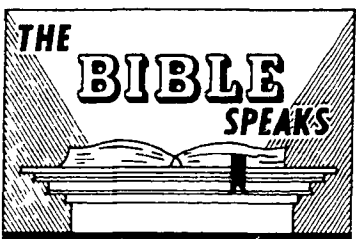




While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat,
and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. Genesis 8:22



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

STRANGE VISIONS

Lesson for September 30, 1979

Background Scripture:
Daniel 7 through 8;
Revelation 4.
Devotional Reading:
Revelation 21:1-7.

The ancient Hebrews saw God revealed in the events of their national history. Jesus used simple stories to reveal the most profound truths about God and his Kingdom. Sometimes, in the Bible, however, we find still another medium of revelation that is difficult to understand and subject to great confusion and controversy. This kind of writing is called "apocalyptic."

There are two books in the Bible which are apocalyptic writing, Daniel and Revelation. It is often assumed that these books were intended to be mysterious puzzles that can

be deciphered only by those most enlightened. Both have been the battlegrounds of countless speculations and disputes. Regarding these books as too obscure and esoteric, many Christians avoid them.

The Dreams Of Daniel

Actually, however, the term apocalypse means "revelation," indicating that the purpose of this type of literature is not to hide or confuse, but to reexplain. The problem is that the language employed in these books seems to be quite beyond the comprehension of the common reader, Harsh-headed and pragmatic as most of us are, the

apocalyptic visions leave us baffled.

If, however, we realize that the language of the apocalyptic books is very much like the imagery of our dreams, than we can begin to understand how these visions can speak to us today. Not only are these images like our dreams, but the writer of Daniel tells us plainly: "In the first year of Belshazzar..., Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, and told the sum of the matter". (7:1).

From our study of the interpretation of dreams we

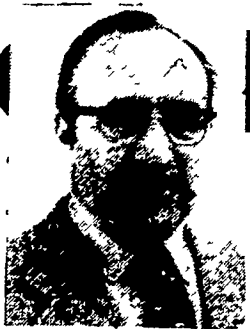
have found that if we would understand the meaning of a dream, we must look behind the confusing imagery to find the message. If, for example, we dream that we are running down a sidewalk that goes nowhere, we know that the dream is about neither sidewalks or running, but about our unconscious feeling that we are "going nowhere in life." If we get too hung-up on the images, we may miss the dream's message.

For Ever And Ever

So it may be with apocalypses in the Bible: the message is often clear enough if we do not get hung-up on the images. If we read

them with that in mind, it becomes evident that both are messages of hope to people who are in the midst of dark times. They are dreamlike messages that would help us to see beyond the horizon of the present and behold the ultimate victory of God. As Daniel puts it, "the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the Kingdom for ever, for ever and ever." (7:18).

The language of the Bible's apocalyptic books may not be everyone's cup of tea, but the message behind those visions is one of assurance for all who would trust and persevere in God.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
Phone 394-6851

TO FERTILIZE ALFALFA STANDS

After the last cutting of alfalfa is removed, it is a good practice to topdress the field with a phosphorus-potash fertilizer. Many good growers have been doing this for years with good success. The fall application permits time for the soil elements to reach the root zone of the plants and become available for next spring's growth.

Well fertilized alfalfa fields will produce more top quality forage and will be able to withstand adversities much better. Also, after the removal of the first crop next spring, another application of fertilizer should be made. Research continues to show that a nitrogen application on established stands of alfalfa is not a good investment.

TO BEWARE OF FROSTED CROPS

I'd like to repeat the word of caution about the use of frosted Sudan Grass and any of the Sudan-Sorghum hybrids. These plants may

produce prussic acid when being frozen, which would be toxic to most farm animals. We urge growers to be on the alert after a killing frost. When frosted, the plants should be made into silage or hay, and allowed to ferment or cure for 30 days before using. On the other hand, after the frost, the plants may be allowed to die down in the field, and then can be grazed or used in any manner. In addition, producers who are grazing animals on alfalfa or clover, should not allow their herd to eat the forage when the frost is on the plants. This could be the cause of serious

bloating. Allow the plants to thaw and dry before grazing.

TO CONTROL

LIVESTOCK PARASITES
Both internal and external parasites are hard on livestock and costly to the owner. We urge all dairy and livestock producers to check their animals this fall and learn of any stomach worm infestation. Many young animals raised in this area and to the south of us will be carrying heavy worm infestation. Your local veterinarian can diagnose a fecal sample and give treatment suggestions. Body lice are quite common on all types of livestock and will

reduce their vitality. Before colder weather arrives, and before the hair coats get heavier, we suggest a louse treatment, or two, to eliminate this pest.

TO SELECT GOOD WHEAT SEED

Due to the general infection of Scab in our winter wheat last summer, growers should be extra careful this fall by planting clean seed. Certified seed should be free of this problem. Farmers

who are using home-grown seed should do an extra good job of cleaning, to blow out the infected wheat kernels. In addition our crop specialists recommend that home-grown seeds be treated with Vitavax-200, a fungicide that should give the best protection against our problems of last summer. The month of October is wheat seeding time in this part of the state and we urge growers to get their seed needs on hand very soon.

Farm Calendar

Monday, October 1
Adams County PFA annual meeting at 7 p.m. at Bermudian Springs High School.
York Co. 4-H lamb round-up at Thomasville Auction.
York Co. 4-H Horticulture Club meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the 4-H Center.

Tuesday, October 2
Lebanon 4-H leaders recognition banquet at Friendship Fire Hall, Lebanon.

Wednesday, October 3
New Holland Parade Fair

opens and continues through Saturday.
Berks Co. Sheep Round-up at Leesport.
Eastern National Livestock Show at Timonium, Md., continues through Sunday.

Thursday, October 4
Lancaster Conservation District meeting at Farm and Home Center at 7:30 p.m.

York Co. Farmers Association annual banquet at Colonial

(Turn to Page 31)

RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong

