

## Once upon a time

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

Many years ago on that small hillside farm I fell asleep on hot muggy summer nights to the telling of bedtime stories. Here's one of the favorite farm fairy tales told to us kids by Grandmother Heidi:

Once upon a time there was a king named Good King Ronnie I. After serving his apprenticeship to the court jester, Ronnie took over the leadership of his kingdom that included a good bit of farmland.

In the third year of Ronnie's reign many problems befell his farmers. It didn't rain and the crops dried up. Then, Ronnie opened some of the royal granaries because they were so full of grain and the price of feed for livestock increased. And still, there was too much milk, meat and eggs for the people of Ronnie's land.

The farmers decided to walk to Good King Ronnie's castle and tell him of their problems and ask his help. But to get there, they had to walk through a deep, dark forest.

About a hundred farmers gathered on the far edge of the forest to begin the trek to the castle. But alas, they couldn't agree on the way to go through the forest.

The farmers who each had a cow were first in the group.

"I have the biggest cow so I should lead the way," said the farmer with the black and white cow.

But the farmer with the brown and white cow disagreed. And the farmer with the little cow with the big eyes had a third opinion. So, each went his separate way.

Next were the pig farmers. The farmer with the red pig got into a heated discussion with farmers who had spotted pigs or black and white ones. So each of them also went their separate way.

It was the same with the steer farmers -- the black steer farmer going one way and the white one another.

The chicken farmers split up, too. The farmers with chickens that laid eggs followed one path and the farmer with eating chickens went another.

And, even though the farmers who planted seeds did so in the same way, at about the same time and in the same soil, they couldn't agree either.

The farmer who planted with a green-colored plow went one way and the farmer with a red one went another. And those who made the plows didn't want to be there in the first place and only showed up for appearance sake.

A kingdom scribe was tagging along with the group to write a story. After he saw each farmer taking his own path, he just gave up and went home.

Meanwhile back in the castle, the time of the farmers' appointment with Good King Ronnie arrived and passed.

"Where are my farmers?" the king asked.

"I thought they wanted to talk to me."

The king's secretary replied:

"None have arrived Your Highness. But there are reports of people wandering around out in the deep, dark forest and crying out with bleak little voices in the wilderness."

So, Good King Ronnie grabbed his hearing trumpet and held it out the window of the castle. Sure enough, off in the distance he could hear a hundred little voices bleating "help, help," but he couldn't make out any more of the words as they all ran together.

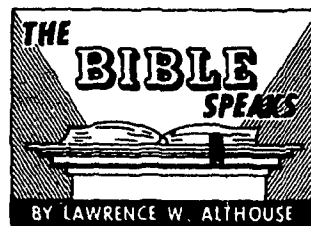
"We'll just have to forget about the farmers," Good King Ronnie said.

"I have a lot of other things. There's those naughty red barons over in the next kingdom. And, there's the battles in all of those other places.

"Besides, my royal steed needs exercise."

Moral to the story:

If farmers ever hope to get their show on the road and be heard, it's about time they get their act together.



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

## HIS HISTORY, OUR STORY

September 11, 1983

Background Scripture:

Deuteronomy 26:5-10; Psalms 106; Acts 7:2-53.

Devotional Reading:

Deuteronomy 26:5-10.

Belief in God has always had two main sources. Many of us, beholding in wonder and awe the world about us, experience him as the God of creation. At the same time, we may behold him in the fabric of events and phenomena that we call history. This is one of the great contributions which the Hebrew religion has made to the world: the perception that the God of creation is also the Lord of history.

Remember His Works

The Jews had no creeds, no confessions of faith, and few speculations about what God is like. What they had and still have is a conviction that God is and has been perceptively present in the affairs of the world. The Hebrew religion was always much more concerned with what God does than with who God is. In fact, any inquiry into who God is has usually been based upon what God had done in human history.

Thus, the Hebrew call to belief in God usually came as a challenge to remember what God has done. The Psalmist, thus, says: "Remember the wonderful works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgements he uttered" (106:5).

And in Deuteronomy the Hebrew's declaration of belief in God is set in the form of a brief recital of God's role in the history of Israel: "A wandering Aramean was my father; and he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number; and there he became a nation...And the Egyptians treated us harshly, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage. Then we cried to the Lord God of our fathers and the Lord heard our voice...and brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm..."

The Righteous One

In Christianity's early days, this remembrance of God's mighty works continued to be an important factor in interpreting Christ to the Jews. When Stephen was taken before the Sanhedrin to answer charges of blasphemy, he made his defense with a long recitation of God's acts, beginning, as was customary, with "our father Abraham." What enraged those who listened to him and brought about his violent death was not his remembrance of God's mighty acts, but his conviction that Jesus of Nazareth was the fulfillment of God's plan and purpose. Just as the Sanhedrin's forefathers resisted God's plan, so now were they, said Stephen: "And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have betrayed and murdered..."

Thus, it is not enough to see God at work in human history. We need also to see him at work in our own personal story. If we look closely at our own lives, we must be able to discern his presence in those events which are personal. Along with our contemplation of who God is, we need to have a remembrance of what God has done in our lives as well as in the broad scope of history. In Jesus Christ, we must learn to see his plan and purpose—his story/history—as our story too.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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To Fertilize Alfalfa Stands

The fall of the year is one of the best times to apply phosphorus and potash to established alfalfa stands. Many growers will topdress the field after the last cutting is removed. In addition, the stand can be fertilized next spring after the first cutting is removed. When the plants are fertilized in the fall they will be stronger next summer.

Since alfalfa is a very heavy feeder of both phosphorus and potash, these elements must be replaced for top yields. If the area is to be grazed in the fall instead of removing the final cutting, the fertilizer should be washed down with a rain before livestock should be allowed on the field; also bloating may result if grazed soon after application. Use the application rates as recommended on your soil test results.

To Protect Show Animals

September, in Lancaster County, is fair time. It is also a time to be concerned about the health of show animals. Fair should be a place where we can exhibit our animals; they should not be a place for spreading diseases and other ailments. Be considerate of other exhibitors and of other show animals. If your animals have an infectious or contagious problem, leave them at home; it's like keeping a sick child out of school to protect those who are healthy. If you do show, consult your veterinarian about necessary tests and protective vaccines.

When you return your livestock to the farm after the show, isolate

them from other animals on the farm before introducing them to their herd mates.

To Check Feed Bins

We are coming into the fall season where we see considerable temperature change from day to night. This causes a lot of moisture condensation, as we see it on car windows in the morning. This same type of condensation takes place in the bulk feed bins on our farms. It causes the build-up of molds on the bins and in the feed.

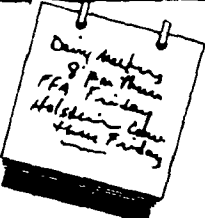
When feed bins are cleaned out, they should be inspected thoroughly, right down to the boot. Also, when you are taking feed out of the bin, keep a close watch for chunks of feed, it will tell you if a problem is developing.

After cleaning out the bin, it should be sprayed with a mold inhibitor and allowed to dry. You can use calcium propionate solution, as the inhibitor, at the rate of 2 ounces per gallon of water for this spray.

To Check Stored Grain

Farmers should check all their stored grain at this time of year, because heating of stored grain can be a symptom of insect activity or just too much moisture. In either case, the heating problem should be corrected before the grain is ruined. If grain requires fumigation to control pests, it should be done while the air temperature is still fairly high or above 60 degrees F. If it's moisture, then check for possible leaks in the floor.

## Farm Calendar



Saturday, Sept. 10

Mon-Valley District 4-H Dairy Show at 2 p.m. at Washington County Fairgrounds.

Pennsylvania State Jersey Sale at 12:30 p.m. at the Guernsey Sales Pavilion, Lancaster.

Fourth Annual Agricultural Foods Exposition from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Independence Mall, Philadelphia. Continues tomorrow.

York Interstate Fair, York Fairgrounds. Continues to the 17th.

Monday, Sept. 12

NT Ag Extension staff at the Bradford County Extension Office from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 13

Inter-State District 6 meeting at 7 p.m. at Blue Ball Firehall.

Bradford Co. Dairy Princess Committee meets at 8 p.m. at the Extension office.

Wednesday, Sept. 14

Big E Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Mass. Continues through Sept. 25.

Core recertification credit course from 7:30 to 9:45 p.m. at Hunterdon Co., N.J., Extension center.

Fayette County Holstein Family Picnic at 7:30 p.m. at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Brown, Acme R2.

Estate Planning, Bradford County, from 1 to 3 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m.

Beekeeper meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Stephen Stoltzfus home,

Honey Brook R2.

Thursday, Sept. 15

State Council of Farm Organizations legislative breakfast at 8 a.m. at the Quality Inn, Villa Leo Restaurant, New Cumberland.

Bradford Co. rural development meeting at 9 a.m. in the Extension office.

Saturday, Sept. 17

Delaware Valley Old Time Power and Equipment Association antique exhibition at Washington Crossing State Park, N.J. Continues tomorrow.

NE Pa. Sheep Show and Sale at Harford Fairgrounds.

Bradford Co. 4-H County Council at 8 p.m. at the Extension office.

## Otis

