

House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 8

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Columbia

CHURCH of CHRIST

501 Jamestown St

Columbia, KY 42728

Phone: (270) 384-6467

Web: columbiakycoc.org

Email:

columbiakycoc@gmail.com

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Michael Tanksley

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Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. CST

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HOUSE TO HOUSE/HEART TO HEART is published monthly. It is sent to select Columbia routes and individuals free upon request. Send all correspondence to address above. To God be the glory.



HAVE YOU SEEN

God?

Allen Webster

A five-year-old said to her newborn brother in the hospital, “Quick, what is God like?” She figured that, having just come from “heaven,” he might have some inside information.

Alas, he merely made a gurgling sound and rolled his eyes. Little girls are not the only ones who want to know what God looks like. Philip once requested of Jesus: “Show us the Father” (John 14:8). Many people have that desire.

Consider: “No one has seen God at any time” (John 1:18). “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live” (Exodus 33:20). “You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form” (John 5:37). “God is a Spirit” (John 4:24), and thus “invisible” (Colossians 1:15). He dwells in “unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see” (1 Timothy 6:16).

Nonetheless, it pleased Him for whom nothing is impossible to manifest Himself at times in some visible form. In the form of a man, He wrestled with Jacob

(Genesis 32:24, 30). Abraham talked with Him (Genesis 18:22). Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy elders of Israel “saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone . . . they saw God, and they ate and drank” (Exodus 24:9–11). Moses, later, saw the back of God (Exodus 33:23). Yet, since the essence of God is spirit, and since physical eyes cannot see spiritual beings, it remains true that in the absolute sense no man has seen God.

Still, we can “see” God. Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see¹ God” (Matthew 5:8). Jesus is not just saying that we will see God in heaven. A more literal translation is, “They shall be continuously seeing God for themselves.”² If we do not see Him in the here and now, then we may not see Him in the there and then.

How can we see the invisible? Moses, “by faith . . . endured as seeing Him who is invisible” (Hebrews 11:27). We see God

by looking for Him. Two men were discussing New York City. One said that New York was a wicked place filled with cheap sensations and morally degraded people, with sin on every corner. The other said New York was a grand place filled with art museums, great music, and stimulating lectures. It is a little of both. We see what we have trained ourselves to see. Dale Carnegie said, “Two men looked out from prison bars, One saw mud; the other saw the stars.”³ In every sphere of life, in every day and hour, we should condition ourselves to see God.

WE CAN SEE GOD IN CHRIST

Jesus told Philip that if he had seen Him, he had “seen” the Father (John 14:8–9; Hebrews 1:1–3). A person can see God in this world without laying eyes on a physical being. Those who see only with the eyes see little.

Multitudes looked upon Jesus and saw nothing but a man. To them He was as a root out of dry ground, without form or comeliness (Isaiah 53:2). They looked upon Him without benefit. Others saw Him with different eyes. As they looked into His face, they became conscious of God. As they fellowshiped with Him, they said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16). And when Jesus had gone home to heaven, they still saw God, as we can by reading of the life of His Son.

WE CAN SEE GOD IN NATURE

If an ordinary man goes out on a starry night, he sees only a bunch of pinpoints in the sky. An astronomer looks at the same sky and calls the stars and planets by name. From the same sky, a navigator guides his ship toward its destination. David looked at the same sky and saw God’s glory (Psalm 19:1–6).

With the naked eye, we can see two or three thousand stars on a clear night. The North Star, Polaris, seems close, but scientists say that the light we see from Polaris left that star over 400 years ago in the late 1600s. It had been on its way since Shakespeare’s time! Many stars are as much as 3,000 light-years away. The light seen tonight started out when David wrote Psalm 19. These stars could

explode, and we would not know it for hundreds of years.

Joel Chandler Harris saw in rabbits and foxes and opossums the stories of Uncle Remus that are timeless. We can look at the same animals and see the design and wisdom of God (cf. Proverbs 30:24–28). We can see God’s wonderful wisdom in the human body. “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works” (Psalm 139:14). “Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20). Truly, “This is my Father’s world.”

WE CAN SEE GOD IN OUR BLESSINGS

Evidence of God’s goodness is all around us. “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning” (James 1:17; cf. Romans 8:28–39; Hebrews 13:5–6). We cannot take a breath, eat a bite, enjoy a smile, or warm by a sunbeam without enjoying God’s wonderful benevolence.

WE CAN SEE GOD IN THE BIBLE

The Bible shows God’s picture; it tells His story; it invites us to become His friend. “He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel” (Psalm 103:7; cf. Exodus 24:4). Without the Bible, we would be left to guess who the obvi-

ously powerful and intelligent being was who set this world in motion.

Do you want to see God? Sir Isaac Newton said, “I can take my telescope and look millions and millions of miles into space, but I can lay it aside and go into my room, shut my door, get down on my knees in earnest prayer, and see more of heaven and get closer to God than I can assisted by all the telescopes.” James said, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (James 4:8).

This requires a pure heart (Psalm 17:15; 41:12; 42:1; 63:2; 140:13; Job 42:5). Purity of heart cleanses the soul’s eyes so that God becomes visible (Philippians 1:9–11). Sin obscures truth and God (John 3:19–20; Matthew 13:13–16; 1 Corinthians 2:14–15; Titus 1:15–16; 1 John 3:6). Evil and ignorance often come in a package.

Further, the Master promises that if we keep our hearts pure we shall see God in the next world (Job 19:26–27; 1 Corinthians 13:12; Hebrews 12:14). “It has not yet been revealed” (1 John 3:2) in a complete sense how our eyes will be changed so that we can see a spirit-being, but we know that “we shall see Him as He is.” His “servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face” (Revelation 22:3–4; cf. 5:13–14; 11:16–19; 2 Thessalonians 1:10).

Look for God today. You just may see Him.

Endnotes:

¹ *optanomai*, for which we get “optometrist,” used 58 times in the New Testament.

² Future indicative tense in the middle voice.

³ <https://quotefancy.com/dale-carnegie-quotes>.





The Keeper of the Spring

Peter Marshall told of a town whose water supply came from a spring on the mountain above it. The town paid a mountain man to keep the spring clean of leaves, limbs, and other debris. In an economic move, they decided to cut the service. At first, no one noticed any difference. Gradually, however, the spring became polluted and the townspeople paid a terrible price in sickness, misery, and death.

Christian marriage is “keeper of the spring.” Henry W. Grady, a journalist, decided to go to Washington, DC, to write a series of articles about “The Capitol of America.” On the way, he stopped overnight at a farm home. That changed his entire outlook. He wrote, “The home is the capitol of America.” The ills of today’s society can be traced to the breakdown of the home. Living together without marriage, “marriages” between those of the same sex, divorce, illegitimate children, and marital infidelity are commonplace.

God planned the home for humanity’s well-being and His own glory (Genesis 2:18–25). He intended it to be the keeper of the spring for all humanity.

The home was planned for the continuation of the human race (Genesis 1:28). Humanity began by miracle but was to continue by natural law. Of course, children can be produced outside marriage and without the benefit of a home, but only by paying a price in unhappiness and incurring God’s righteous wrath (Hebrews 13:4). Reproduction is intended as a blessing, not a curse (Psalm 127:3–5). Abortion, unwanted/unloved children, tears, shame, and huge welfare rolls are the payment for removing the keeper of the spring.

The home was planned for meeting the needs of men and women. Deep-

seated emotional and sex drives are God-given. There are physical needs (1 Corinthians 7:1–4), to be sure. From the dawn of time, God’s blessings have been given to the marriage bed. But needs are more than merely physical. They are deep and complex. No one-night stand or visit to a brothel can meet the deepest needs. Neither can two people living together in sin hope to find the long-term satisfaction God intended. The basic unhappiness many feel stems from the absence of the keeper of the spring.

The home was planned for the creation of a Christlike character. First Peter three discusses Christian character. In the first six verses, the apostle discusses the subjection of godly women to their husbands. The most unhappy people in the world are those in whose lives there are no rules. In turn, husbands are to dwell with wives according to knowledge, giving wives honor (3:7–9).

To be a good husband, a man needs to learn much about himself, about women, and about God. Sadly, many have never learned and do not care that they do not know. A husband should be thankful for the blessing of living with a godly woman. He should say it and show it. “He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord” (Proverbs 18:22). Their lives thus shared; they are heirs together of the grace of life. A word of warning: failure to so live hinders prayer (1 Peter 3:7). How we need the keeper of the spring!

The home was planned for the training of children. Children must be trained (Ephesians 6:1–4; Proverbs 22:6). Some train their horses or dogs better than they train their children. Training requires love, patience, discipline, and

time—lots of time! Think of all the values children must learn. They must learn that there are things that must be done on time and done right. They must learn the value of Christian virtues (Galatians 5:22–23; 2 Peter 1:5–8). Others may teach facts, but parents have the best opportunity to instill values. When lawlessness, destruction, lying, cheating, and stealing are commonplace, the keeper of the spring is missed.

The home was planned for a shared life and as a haven of safety and recuperation. One’s home should be his/her castle. We all need a place where we can go to be refreshed. Bars and “happy hours” grew out of people needing a haven but not having the home God desired for them. In a Christian home and in Christian companionship, there is emotional refreshment. Paul said that Onesiphorus often refreshed him (2 Timothy 1:16). How we need it!

Let us all vote to bring back “the keeper of the spring.” —Anonymous

God’s Plan for Saving Man

Divine Love: John 3:16

God’s Grace: Ephesians 2:8

Christ’s Blood: Romans 5:9

Holy Spirit’s Word: Romans 1:16

Sinner’s Faith: Acts 16:31

Sinner’s Repentance: Luke 13:3

Sinner’s Confession: Romans 10:10

Sinner’s Baptism: Acts 22:16

Christian’s Love: Matthew 22:37

Christian’s Work: James 2:24

Christian’s Hope: Romans 8:24

Christian’s Endurance: Revelation 2:10



Kid Wisdom

A teacher was giving a lesson on blood circulation. Trying to make it clear, she said, "Class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face." "Yes," the class said. "Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood does not run into my feet?" A little fellow shouted, "Because your feet aren't empty."

"Rejoice with me."

LUKE 15:6

Wasting My Time

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time," she said to her mother. "I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!"

Internet Humor

My brother-in-law has a great e-mail. It starts PS81_10b@, to represent the second half of Psalm 81:10, which states "Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it." He is a dentist. —submitted by Jeanne Warsing, February 2005 edition of *Reader's Digest*

"Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing."

PSALM 126:2

For more material on the home and family, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, grandparents, and family finances, go to www.housetohouse.com.

HABIT



HABIT. The only way to get rid of a bad habit is to stop it at once. If you try tapering off, this is the result. You drop the "H" and you still have . . .

A BIT. You think you are getting over it by dropping a little bit of the evil thing, so you go on and drop the "A," but you still are . . .

BIT. That is to say, you are deceiving yourself. You are where you were. You are still bitten by the evil thing. However, you think you are progressing, so you drop the "B," but you still lack. You still have . . .

IT. And "it" is the sting of habit. "It" has been the trouble all along. You are where you started. Even when you drop the "I" you still have . . .

T. Which stands for temptation. And *temptation* is a longer word to get rid of than *habit*. Better do the thing wholesale and drop all the letters at once.

"Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul" (1 Peter 2:11).

Why is it that opportunity always knocks, but temptation feels free to walk right in? —Anonymous

Just for Fun Word Search, Psalm 23

R F R U B T B P C P
 Z E O V N A G O B A
 N F S I M M M Q T S
 H I O T E F B J N T
 S N W R O R B Y N U
 A V C R E R Y R N R
 L Y T X A V E J A E
 Y G O O D N E S S S
 K W A T E R S R Q U
 S D R E H P E H S I

The Lord is my **shepherd**; I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green **pastures**; He leads me beside the still **waters**.

He **restores** my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they **comfort** me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You **anoint** my head with oil; my cup runs over.

Surely **goodness** and **mercy** shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord **forever**.



JESUS, THE RECRUITER

Most college coaches recruit by writing letters, making calls, and visiting. They send overnight packages. They bring good players in for visits and show them the advantages of coming to their school. They may also point out why they should not go to other schools. Jesus once ran a “school”; of course, He recruited students. He was the most unusual recruiter.

- Jesus did not look at physical size or speed or prior experience. He looked at the heart (John 2:25).
- He recruited not for four years but for a lifetime. He asked each to give the rest of his life to His cause (Luke 9:62).
- He recruited those that no one else seemed to want. He saw value where others did not (Acts 4:13).
- When He invited them for a visit, it was to a lowly place—not some grand facility (John 1:39).
- He chose recruits in spite of flaws and weaknesses. He wanted to teach and train them (John 1:42).
- He offered them something unusual. He said, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head” (Matthew 8:20). He told them they would have hardships and persecutions (Mark 13:9; John 12:32–33). Ultimately, He promised them they would have eternal life.
- He told the Twelve the truth. Most coaches promise they will be there for years but may leave for a better job. Jesus told the disciples that He would have to die, but that He would return and be with them forever (Matthew 16:21; 28:18–20).
- He recruited them to do the unusual—to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15).
- He would be with them until the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). Many coaches are through with players when they graduate.
- Jesus was unusual in that no other “team” ever achieved such success and became immortalized in the process (Colossians 1:21–23). —Anonymous

Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 26:8

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark “Sermon Scripture Checklist for Children” as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State: _____
 Phone: _____

Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

Answers to Previous Quizzes

V. 26:6 Starts with the Letter “G”: 1. Gabbatha (John 19:13); 2. Gabriel (Luke 1:26–38); 3. Gaius (3 John 1–5); 4. Galatia (1 Peter 1:1); 5. Galatians (Galatians 1:6–9); 6. Galilee (John 6:1); 7. Gallio (Acts 18:12–17); 8. Gallows (Esther 7:9–10); 9. Gamaliel (Acts 22:3); 10. Garden (Genesis 2:15); 11. Gardener (John 20:15–16); 12. Garlic (Numbers 11:5); 13. Gate (Matthew 7:13–14); 14. Gath (1 Samuel 17:4); 15. Gaza (Judges 16:1–3); 16. Gehazi (2 Kings 5:25); 17. Genesis (Genesis 1:26; 3:1–6); 18. Gentiles (Galatians 3:14); 19. Gentle (2 Timothy 2:24); 20. Gerah (Exodus 30:13); 21. Gershon (Exodus 6:16); 22. Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36–56); 23. Gideon (Judges 8:35); 24. Gilboa (1 Samuel 31:1–7); 25. Gilgal (1 Samuel 11:15)

V. 26:7 Places in Acts: 1. Jerusalem and Rome (Acts 1:4; 28:16); 2. Jerusalem (Acts 2:5, 47); 3. Damascus (Acts 9:3, 6–7, 11–18); 4. Ephesus (Acts 19:24–41); 5. Athens (Acts 17:15–16, 21); 6. Azotus (Acts 8:38–40); 7. Thyatira (Acts 16:14); 8. Cyprus (Acts 4:36); 9. Corinth (Acts 18:1–3); 10. Caesarea (Acts 10:1); 11. Philippi or Macedonia (Acts 16:9); 12. Tarsus (Acts 21:39); 13. Antioch (Acts 11:26); 14. Miletus (Acts 20:17); 15. Philippi (Acts 16:12–34); 16. Berea (Acts 17:10–11); 17. Antipatris (Acts 23:31).

Starts with the Letter “V”

Directions: Find answers in the following passages: Genesis 4:12; Leviticus 11:13–14; Esther 1:9–22; Nehemiah 2:13; Proverbs 31:10; Ecclesiastes 5:5; Matthew 27:51; Mark 7:7; Luke 1:27; John 15:1; Acts 9:15; 28:3–5; Romans 1:24–26; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; 1 John 5:4 (answers not in order). Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

1. Cain’s curse included being a _____ on the earth.
2. Following men’s traditions makes worship _____.
3. One of the entrances into Jerusalem was the _____ Gate.
4. _____, modest queen of Ahasuerus, was deposed.
5. The _____ of the temple was rent (torn) when Jesus died.
6. Jesus will take “_____ on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
7. The Lord said, “He [Saul] is a chosen _____ of Mine.”
8. Our faith is the _____ that overcomes the world.
9. Homosexual activity is described as _____ passions.
10. “I am the true _____, and My Father is the vinedresser.”
11. Paul was bitten by a _____ while he laid the sticks on the fire.
12. Jesus was born of the _____ Mary.
13. A _____ woman’s price is far above rubies.
14. “Better not to _____ than to vow and not pay.”
15. _____ Type of unclean bird under Moses’ Law.



Where Did the Lord's Church Begin?

Jesus told Peter, "On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). Note that Jesus stated, "I will build My church"—not churches.

With so many religious organizations in the world, how does one identify that church—the one Lord promised to build?

We are able to identify something by the characteristics it possesses. For instance, imagine a parking lot filled with vehicles. Someone tells you the identifying characteristics of one automobile. Could you find the one described?

Let us say those characteristics are a Ford Explorer, blue, Alaska license plate, dent on passenger's side near the front, with Goodyear tires and tinted windows. You locate an automobile with all of those characteristics except it has Michelin tires; is that the vehicle? No. Or, you found one that fits every description, except it does not have tinted

windows; is that the automobile? No. All characteristics must be met.

The New Testament gives characteristics that describe Christ's church. Consider **the time and place of the establishment of the Lord's church.** The Scriptures teach that the church was established in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). Prior to Pentecost, the kingdom (church) is spoken of in the Bible as being in the future. Jesus said, for instance, "I will build My church" (Matthew 16:18). "Will build" is future tense; thus, the church had not yet been established at that time. John the Baptist, Christ's forerunner, taught, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2). "At hand" meant it was near.

Jesus informed His disciples that the kingdom would come with power in their lifetime. "There are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power" (Mark 9:1).

Hundreds of years earlier, Isaiah 2:2–3, Micah 4:1–2, and Zechariah 1:16 said that the word of the Lord would go forth from Jerusalem. Zechariah wrote, "Thus says the Lord: 'I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house shall be built in it.'" "My house" refers to "the house of God, which is the church of the living God" (1 Timothy 3:15).

Between His resurrection and ascension, Christ told His disciples, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you" (Acts 1:8). He told them to preach "in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47).

Where? At Jerusalem (Acts 2:1–4). The prophecies regarding the time and place of the establishment of the church had been fulfilled. After the Day of Pentecost, the church is always mentioned in Scripture as being in existence. Therefore, any religious organization that had its beginning at some other time or some other place cannot be the Lord's church. —Andy Cates

Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.

Recommended Resource



Throughout history, people have wondered how they fit into the Universe. Is there really a Creator? What evidence is available, and what does that mean for humanity? The answers are the foundation of faith and of finding our purpose in life. A free, online video course is available at www.mathetis.org/courses/God-the-ultimate-reality/.

I want to learn more about the Bible!

If you knew for sure that the religious path you are on would not get you to heaven, would you change? If there was the possibility of a doubt, would you investigate? Why not request a personal Bible study today?

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Prayer requests or comments: _____

I would like:



A Bible Correspondence Course



A DVD Bible Study



An In-Home Bible Study

Featured Tracts!



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- What Does It Mean to Be Forgiveness
- The Devil's Favorite Sermons
- Be Faithful Steps of Salvation

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In Pursuit of Focus?



The Council of Nicaea



16 Surprising Facts about the NT



When Persecuted It Is Best to ...



Does Mark 16:16 Belong in the Bible?



Not Far from the Kingdom



That Church Is Dead



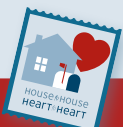
What Responsibilities Do Members Have to Elders?



Some Things You Might Not Know about God

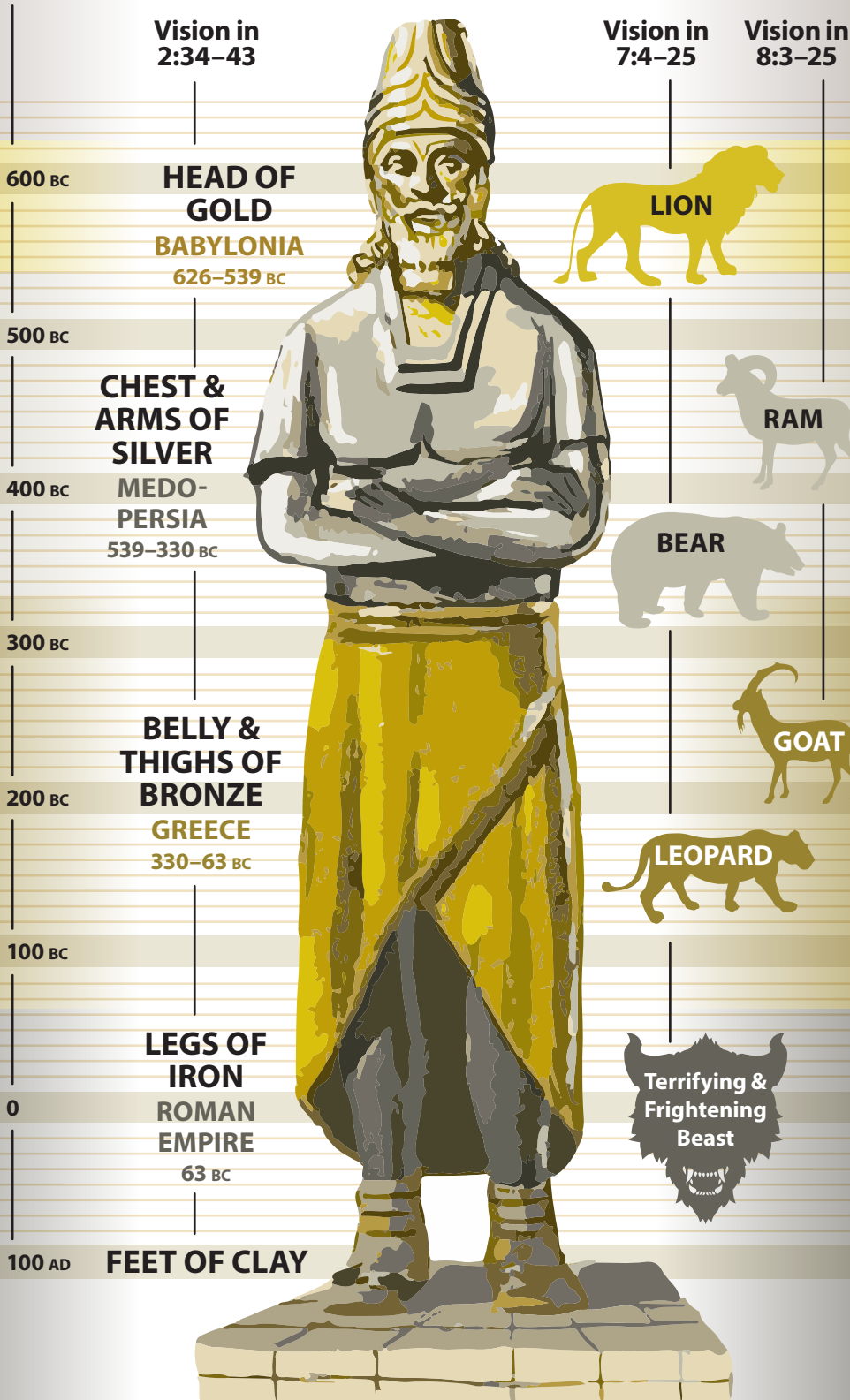
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IDENTIFICATION OF THE 4 KINGDOMS

Chronology of Major Empires in the Book of Daniel



Great Things Little Children Learned the Hard Way

- No matter how hard you try, you cannot baptize a cat.
- When your mom is mad at your dad, do not let her brush your hair.
- If your sister hits you, do not hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- You cannot trust dogs to watch your food.
- You cannot hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- Never ask your three-year-old brother to hold a tomato.
- Do not sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- Never hold a Dustbuster and a cat at the same time.
- Do not wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- The best place to be when you are sad is Grandpa's lap.

Well Said . . .

"If religious books are not widely circulated among the masses in this country, I do not know what is going to become of us as a nation. If truth be not diffused, error will be; if God and His Word are not known and received, the devil and his works will gain the ascendancy; if the evangelical volume does not reach every hamlet, the pages of corrupt and licentious literature will; if the power of the gospel is not felt throughout the length and breadth of the land, anarchy and misrule, degradation and misery, corruption and darkness, will reign without mitigation or end." —Daniel Webster, U.S.

Secretary of State 1841-1843



I Don't Have Any Clothes...

Daniel Defoe gave some good advice through his fictitious character Robinson Crusoe.

The first thing Crusoe did when he found himself shipwrecked on a deserted island was to make a list. On one side he wrote all his problems. On the other side he wrote all his blessings.

On one side he wrote, "I do not have any clothes." On the other he wrote, "But it's warm and I don't really need any."

On one side he wrote, "All of the provisions were lost." On the other he wrote, "But there's plenty of fresh fruit and water on the island."

On down the list he went. He discovered that for every negative aspect about his situation, there was a positive aspect, something to be thankful for.

Are you on an island of despair? Perhaps it is time to sit down and take an inventory of your blessings. Some may be long overdue in expressing thanks to God.

Under all circumstances, we can say with the psalmist, "Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name . . . To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever" (Psalm 30:4-12).

Under all circumstances, we can resolve to give thanks in the assembly and praise God among many people (Psalm 35:18).

Under all circumstances, like David we can count our blessings. "The king shall have joy in Your strength, O Lord; and in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! . . . For You have made him most blessed forever; You have made him exceedingly glad with Your presence" (Psalm 21:1-6).

Take an inventory of your blessings today and watch your worries fade away. Be thankful! —Tom Moore



Columbia Church of Christ
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