

Seeking Out The Old Paths

Volume 11 Issue 1

January 2005

FIRST IN THE BIBLE

Genesis 1:5 - "The First Day."

A wonderful picture is presented in the story of creation. It is not without significance that God's first work on the first day was the creation of light. All the great mass of material creation had been called into being, but thus far "the earth was without form, and void; and the darkness was upon the face of the deep," and then as the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters, there came from Him Who dwelleth in the light that no man can approach unto, the divine order and command, "Let there be light," and there was light. Clouds rolled back and darkness vanished away before the great all engulfing stream of light that came from God Almighty Himself. Out of chaos came order, out of darkness came light that revealed the beauty of God's handiwork on this earth.

On this first day of the New Year, let's look at some of the "First Days" of the Scripture and see what they have to say.

I. The first day of the year.

On the eighth day after the birth of Christ, He was circumcised, according to the Law. This would correspond with our New Years Day. God's gift to the world on the first day of creation was the wonderful gift of light, but on this day we think of a more wonderful gift still - the gift of His only begotten Son. Galatians 4:4,5 "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." By His example of obedience to law for the sake of man, as the example of the life of perfect obedience which alone is acceptable in the sight of God.

II. The First Day of Creation.

God's gift to the world on creation's first day was, as I already reminded you, the gift of light. This is His gift to us still. He gives us light, the light of conscience, the light of reason, the light of revelation, the light in the face of Jesus Christ, the

Incarnate Son of God. Matthew 4:16, "The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up." John 8:12, "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." I John 1:5-7, "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."

III. The First Day After the

Flood. Genesis 8:13 "And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of

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"We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good." Numbers 10:29

Dryden Road
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3201 Dryden Road
Dayton, Ohio 45439
298-6555

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School - 10 A.M.

Morning Worship - 11 A.M.

Evangelistic Service - 6 P.M.

TUESDAY

Youth Service - 7:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

Prayer Service - 10 A.M.

THURSDAY

Family Service - 7:30 P.M.

“Where A Warm
Welcome Awaits You...
In This Church We
Teach Holiness Too...”

Pastor
Bennie D. Sutherland
Editor
Frank Lindsey

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Around Home

Prayer List

Please remember the following people in our church who need a touch from the Lord.

Patsy Roberts, Verna Williams, Edna Pelfrey, Demia Abner, Vee McElhaney, Nona Rains, Rebecca Lakes, Bessie Richmond, Jean Sheldon, Evelyn Houston, Donna Maggard, Mabel Wells, Willidean Curtis, Opal Houston, Odie Boggs, Sharon Whitley, Rachel Thompson, Flodie Baldwin, Carl DuHamel, Steve Phillips, Carl Henson, and Ray Driscoll.

Births



Congratulations to the Ward family. Jeff & Holly Ward recently added a new addition to the family. Gavin Chase Ward was born November 30, 2004. Steve & Shannon Phillips are the grandparents.

Honesty is the best policy, but there are too few policyholders.

January Birthday's

Edward Metcalf.....	1
Shannon Phillips.....	2
Luke Osborn.....	3
Cary Tussey.....	4
Christin Hasty.....	7
Timothy Brooks.....	7
Brooklyn Coffman.....	8
Rhonda Spencer.....	8
Amy Keeton.....	12
Joshua Keeton.....	12
Kim Abner.....	13
Lee Abner.....	13
Shamineka Pearson.....	14
Patricia Rice.....	14
Brandon Tussey.....	19
Amanda Mills.....	20
Dorothy Taylor.....	20
Natalie Dotson.....	23
Loretta Carter.....	23
Autumn Griffiths.....	25
Darryl Dotson.....	25
Caleb Blevins.....	26
Chuck Stiver.....	29
Pam DuHamel.....	31
Tonya Hibbitts.....	31
Carl Wells.....	31

Anniversaries

Steve & Shannon Phillips11

Deaths

We extend our sympathy to the Pearson family. Paul Pearson Jr. passed away January 14th. Paul was the brother of Gerald Pearson.

MY PRAISE TO THEE I BRING

*Oh, Thou Almighty King,
My Praise to Thee I bring!
My soul can't help but sing,
When You draw near!
Darkness turns into day!
Burdens just roll away!
Peace is now here to stay!
Gone is all fear!
Jesus, my life long Friend,
Thou Master of the waves and wind,
On You I can depend,
When mighty billows roll!
Then in death's darkest night,
You'll be my Guiding Light,
'Til the shoreline comes into sight,
Heaven, home of the soul!
Robert F. Dotson © 2004*

No Decision To Make

The late J. Edgar Hoover was once asked, "Should I make my child go to Sunday school and church?" His reply was both Scriptural and practical. "Yes," said the former head of the FBI, "you certainly should, and with no further discussion about the matter. You may be startled by my answer, but what do you say to Junior when he comes to breakfast on Monday morning and announces he isn't going to school anymore? You know! He goes! How do you answer him when he comes home covered with mud and says, 'I'm not going to take a bath.' Junior bathes, doesn't he? Why all this timidity, then, in the realm of spiritual guidance and growth? You say you're going to let him wait and decide what church he wants to go to when he is old enough? Quit your kidding! You wouldn't wait until he's grown up to choose whether he wishes to be clean or dirty, would you? Do you let him decide for himself whether to take medicine when he's sick? Do you? How shall we respond, then, when Junior says he doesn't want to go to Sunday school and church? That's easy! Just be consistent. Tell him, 'Son, in our house we ALL go to Sunday school and church, and that includes you!' Your firmness and example will furnish a bridge over which youthful rebellion will then travel into many rich and satisfying spiritual experiences."

To live at home day by day
what I profess in church on
the Lord's Day -- this is victory!

the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry." Noah and his family came forth then from the ark, having been preserved from the Flood. God's gift to you is still the gift of preservation. You have passed through the troublous waters of life during the past year in the ark of God's love and care. As a New Year opens before you, remember His preservation in your past and His faithfulness promised to you in the future. The preserved life should also be a dedicated life, a life dedicated should be a sacrificing life like Noah did when he came out of the ark.

IV The First Day of the Tabernacle. God had brought His people out of Egypt and they had crossed the Red Sea! They murmured at Marah, yet they were led on to Elim and then on to Mount Sinai, where they stayed a year, while they were taught His will. Exodus 40:1-2, "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, On the first day of the first month shalt thou set up the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation."

Exodus 40:34-35, "Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle." It was the manifested presence of Himself as the reward of the obedient worship according to His will. You have the same gift given to you this New Year's Day.

V. The First Day of Judah's Repentance. Hezekiah was deeply moved by all the misery and degra-

ation that had come as a result of his father Ahaz' evil reign. He set his heart and shoulder to the work of restoration, and revival. He sent the call first to Judah, which hardened to it, and then to Israel who ignored and disregarded it. They sanctified themselves, the Levites and the temple, I Chronicles 2:12-19, verse 17 says, "Now they began on the first day of the first month to sanctify, and on the eighth day of the month came they to the porch of the Lord, so they sanctified the house of the Lord in eight days; and in the sixteenth day of the first month they made an end." When the people were sanctified, the priests sanctified and the House of God sanctified, then they could sacrifice right, worship right, and sing right!

VI The First Day of Ezra's Return from Babylon. But Judah fell away and then the seventy years of Babylonian Captivity followed. Then came the return under Zerubbabel, the House of the Lord was rebuilt and worship restored. Later there was another large return led by Ezra, whose very purpose was to ??? that he might seek the law of the Lord and teach it to the people. In Ezra 7:8-10 "And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. For upon the first day of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments." Ezra brought them out of Babylon, back to Israel, and you know how he

went up and how he worked when he got there. He brought them out, to take them through, to be able to bring them in to the place of God's promise and blessings.

There shall yet be another first day, a day that shall know a dawn, but no sunset, the first day of heaven. There we shall possess all these "first day" gifts in perfection, if we only strive our very best to use them to the fullest now.

Brother Kim L. Meyers

New York City counted 50,000 people sleeping in the streets. It was a pitiful sight by day and a dangerous one by night. So ten years ago New York began providing homes for the homeless. Well, after 10 years New York City streets, alleys, doorways, and subways are still hosting 50,000 homeless, and that is despite spending \$18,000 per homeless person per year. So a commission reports that these most generous efforts were a total failure and the private charities can do it better and cheaper. Our hats go off in salute to the Salvation Army.

It matters not what you do--
Make a nation or a shoe;
For he who does an honest
thing, In God's pure sight
is ranked a king.

John Parnell

Who Will You Serve?

Find the words hidden in the puzzle.

Joshua 24:15

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

AMORITES
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FOR THE PAST ONE HUNDRED years people have been blessed by the Hymns of Fanny Crosby: "God Will Take Care of You," "Blessed Assurance," "I Am Thine, O Lord," "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross," "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior," "Draw Me Nearer," and "Rescue the Perishing," to name just a few.

Rather than destroying her life, Fanny Crosby's blindness shut out enough of the world so she could hear the music of heaven. She said, "Sightless, I see, and, seeing, find soul-vision, though my eyes are blind." That vision strengthened her to work until the age of ninety-one. She worked tirelessly, writing, speaking, ministering in the slums and missions of New York City, and praying for those spiritually blinded by sin.

When she died at age ninety-five, the simple tombstone erected on her grave captured the essence of her life: "Aunt Fanny. She hath done what she could."

ADAM CLARKE WAS A clerk in a store that sold fine silk to people of the upper classes in London. One day his employer showed young Adam how he could increase sales and profits by subtly stretching the silk as he measured it out. Young Adam Clarke looked his employer straight in the eye and said, "Sir, your silk may stretch but my conscience won't."

C.H. Spurgeon, commenting on death for the Christian, observed that it's wonderful to "have the tenement gradually taken down, and yet not to feel any trouble

about it, but to know that you are in the great Father's hands, and you shall wake up where old age and infirmities will have passed away, and where, in everlasting youth, you shall behold the face of Him you love."

There is an inscription in the dome of our Capitol in Washington which few people know about. It says: "One far-off divine event toward which the whole creation moves." A visitor saw this inscription and asked the guide what it meant. He said: "I think it refers to the second coming of Christ." When the dome of our Capitol was erected, some God-fearing officials ordered that inscription to be etched in the dome of our seat of government, believing that its truth was vital to the concern of our nation.

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