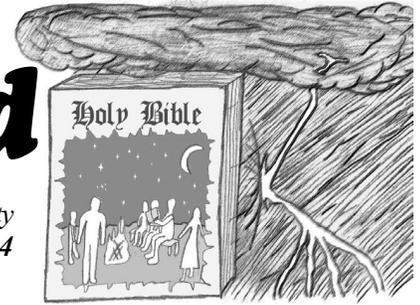


Shelter in the Word

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty
You are my refuge and shield: I have put my hope in your Word. —Psalm 91:1, 119:114*



Vol. 2, No. 4

Helping you become self-sufficient in the Word—for a lasting relationship with the Almighty

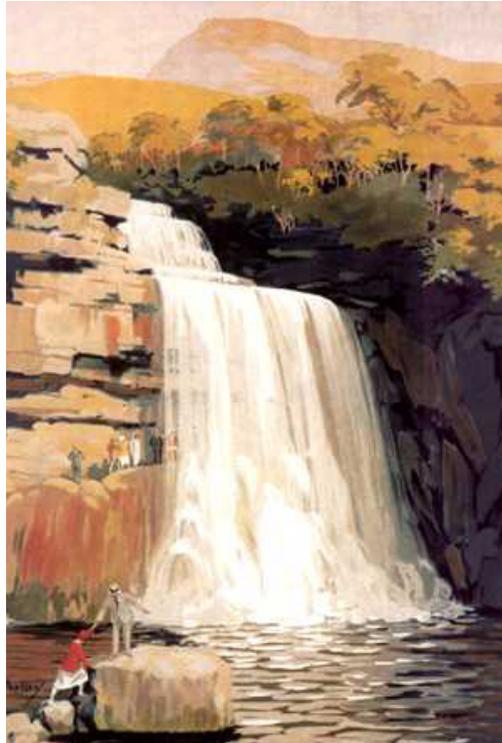
July/Aug 1999

Times of Refreshing

by Pam Dewey

When Walt Disney translated his dreams from the movies to the real world by creating Disneyland in California in the mid-1950s, he inspired a whole new generation of recreational possibilities, the advent of the *Theme Park*. Vacationers could sample a wide variety of experiences in one central location that would take years to travel to otherwise. In fact, some of those experiences would be impossible anywhere else, as they were based on fantasy and science fiction. Disney created a number of “lands” that took only a short walk to move between. There was a Frontierland, going back in history, Tomorrowland, going into the future, Fantasyland, going into the imagination, and much more.

Later this same *Theme Park* idea was expanded across the country to Florida and came to life as Disney World. It was much like Disneyland, with some of the same attractions, only on a grander scale. Before he



died in the early 1970s, Disney also envisioned another World that he wished to make available to vacationers. He didn’t live to see its completion, but his associates took his idea for an “Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow”, adjusted it for changed conditions, and created EPCOT Center. Here vacationers could not only go backward in time for a peek at the history of communications, forward into new frontiers of science, but also around the world for miniature visits to such lands as China, Mexico, England, and Norway.

Since the 1950s, many other *Theme Parks* have sprung up across the country and around the world. Busch Gardens recreates for visitors various animal habitats from around the world, from an

African veldt with giraffes and elephants, to misty jungle environments populated by “Gorillas in the mist”. Sea World recreates the oceans of the world, from a south polar penguin exhibit to tropical ocean settings with sharks, sting rays, and giant turtles.

What is the appeal of such *Theme Parks*? Why do people spend large amounts of money and time to travel from all over the world to such places as Walt Disney World?

Theme Parks give them an opportunity to:

1. Come out of their everyday world with its stress—or boredom—and thus be refreshed.
2. Experience a small sample of a variety of environments that they might never otherwise visit.
3. Learn things about their world and themselves that can’t be learned just by reading or watching a video.

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After 10—Feast of Tabernacles Supplement

If you have ever gone to Disneyland or Disney World, you are familiar with one of the typical ways you enter a new experience in such a *Theme Park*. As you approach the attraction, after waiting in line for a time, you find yourself alongside a conveyor belt. It is going a different direction from the one you were headed, at a different speed. Once you step on it, you are propelled where those walking by outside cannot see—into “another world”. Usually you step from that conveyor belt into a vehicle of some sort, pull down the safety railing, and sit back as you turn the corner into an environment totally unlike that you came from.

God Himself built into creation, long before the birth of Walt Disney, several such *Theme Parks*. But unlike our *Theme Parks*, they don’t occupy a special “place” you can fly or drive to. They are actually *Theme Times*—they occupy special times.

Our daily world occupies a certain “time frame”. We move along in it at a certain rate, based on our perception of time—days, weeks, months, years. All of this is connected in our minds with the calendar we use. But most people, including most folks who would label themselves as “Christians”, are unaware that the Bible itself does not use the same calendar we do in Twentieth Century America. The characters in the Bible lived by a totally different calendar. It’s as if we and they are on two conveyor belts, going in different directions at different speeds.

If you step off our belt, onto the other one—into “Bible time”—you can experience a different dimension. It’s not a “3-D” one like Disneyland.

You’ll have to use your imagination more, and your Bible to get your bearings. But if you take that step, you will find that you will get some of the same benefits that vacationers do at EPCOT Center. You will:

Come out of your everyday world with its stress—or boredom—and be refreshed.

Experience environments—past, present and future—you may not have even known existed.

Learn things about God’s creation and yourself that can’t be learned just by reading about them—even by reading the Bible!

God created His “conveyor belt of time” so that there are varied themes to experience depending on the time of year you choose to step on that belt—away from your regular way of counting time. We will explore a few of those themes in future articles.

But first let us first understand just how different “time” is in the Bible.

Calendar in Bible Times

If you want to make an appointment to see a friend later this year, you will both likely look at a calendar on your wall or your desk, and discuss what month and day you will meet. But you will not likely pause to wonder where the names of the months came from, how they got in the order they are in, why they have varying numbers of days, why we have a “leap year” at times with an extra day in February, and so on. Most of us just learned these facts by memory in our grade school years, never questioning their origin. The assumption of most may be “it’s always been this way”. But it hasn’t “always been this way”! Just as a quick sample, consider the name of our “tenth month”. It is called “October”—yet the prefix *oct* means

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“eight”. Think of such words as “octopus” (an eight-legged creature) and “octet” (a singing group with eight members). Obviously, something is amiss here! In fact, the last four months of our year have names which should indicate “seven, eight, nine and ten”—since *sept* refers to seven, *oct* eight, *nov* nine, and *dec* (like in “decimal”) refers to ten.

Another question most don’t ever ponder is why we change the “calendar year” on January 1. We do not intend in this article to explain all of the details of the current calendar—we merely want to note that all of its details have been developed by man. If you would like to learn about how we got our current calendar, the article on “calendars” in any good encyclopedia should be able to meet your need.

In the Bible, however, there is a system of dividing up the year that was in place from the beginning of the creation. God, at the point of the Genesis 1 creation account, built into the creation a calendar and a clock. They did not need gears or paper or computers to keep working. For the components were the sun, moon and stars. A year is not simply the time it takes to daily mark off each day of a calendar. Rather, it is how long it takes the earth to go around the sun. A month is not how long it takes to daily mark off each day of one page of a calendar. Rather, it is how long it takes the moon to go through all its “phases”—from a tiny sliver, to a crescent moon, to a full moon, to a crescent in the other direction, to totally black... and then starting again as a crescent.

Even though we use the word “month” (which is derived from the same root as “moon”) to indicate a period just about as long as this process takes (around 30 days), on our calendars the month is **not** in any way connected to that process now. Check your calendar if you have one that notes the “phases of the moon”. The “new moon” is at a different time on every calendar month.

But in the Bible, the situation is very different. For whenever a Biblical passage speaks of the “first day of the month”, it actually **does** mean that day when the moon is new. It is important to understand this principle in order to clearly understand some of the events in the Bible.

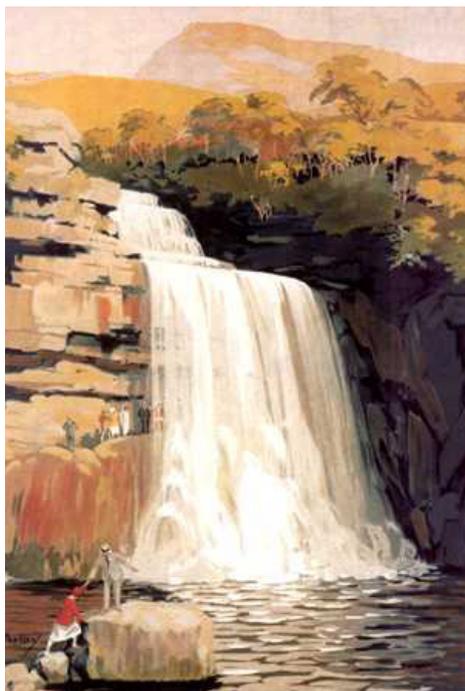
Another important thing to know about the calendar of the Bible is that the year begins, not in what we call January, but in the spring of the year in the

Middle East where Biblical events took place. Thus, if a Biblical passage speaks of the “First month”, it means that month around the time of the Spring Equinox (the time when the day and night are equal in length).

Once you understand these two principles—that months are based on the changes in the moon, and the year begins in spring—you can begin to learn about the *Theme Times* that God created for Mankind.

Theme Times

This idea of *Theme Times* shouldn’t be totally foreign to you. People all over the world get excited about such times they have created for themselves. I grew up in a small town in northern Michigan that was known as the “Cherry Capital of the World” for its many cherry tree groves. Thus, its civic leaders decided many decades ago to create a week-long “Cherry Festival”. As with most such town and city festivals, it featured a carnival with rides, a parade with floats and bands through the city streets, competitions at the fair grounds (such as pie-eating and cherry-pit spitting contests), community decorations, fireworks displays at night, special guest performers and celebrities. In fact, this festival grew so large in later years that the parade eventually drew an audience of tens of thousands, and one year President Gerald Ford was the Grand Marshall. Tak-



ing care of arrangements for this annual *Theme Time* has by now become a year-round occupation for some in the town!

Perhaps your town or city has a similar festival—most do. In Michigan, for instance, there are festivals honoring everything from Maple Syrup to Ice Fishing. Why is this so? What is there about *Theme Times* that appeals to people?

I believe that God built into man the absolute **need** for regular rest and refreshment, both on a weekly level, and at periodic times throughout the year. And I believe He also built in a desire and appreciation for decoration, pageantry, variety, surprise, excitement. Meeting these needs and desires allows for physical, mental **and** spiritual rejuvenation.

And God created in His plan for Mankind from the very beginning a way for those needs and desires to be fulfilled. But the knowledge of that way has been

lost by most of mankind. And thus they have, in order to meet these subconscious needs and desires, created festivals, fairs, conferences, camp meetings, and a variety of man-made holidays to try and fill that void.

Gen 1:14 And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years,

In this passage about the creation, the word “season” is not translated from a Hebrew word that has anything to do with the concepts of “summer, winter, spring and fall.” It is, rather, from the word “moedim”—which means “appointed times”. That is, appointed times of festivals. Thus the sun, moon and stars are used to calculate the calendar by which God indicates times He intended to be for regular refreshment for His people.

For God intended His people to have *Theme Times*, times of feasting, parades, parties, even costumes and decorations. But His intent from the very beginning is that those special times be centered around worshipping and rejoicing before Him. He intended for those times to be joyful and fun—but for the centerpiece, rather than honoring Maple Syrup or Cherries, to be honoring Him. There is nothing wrong with man-made festivities related to these kind of local specialties. But what “lessons” for life does one learn from such times? Since most people have only limited “vacation time”, would it not seem more suitable for Christians to find out what “times” God created specifically for them, and use those times to full advantage? And since the Bible is the foundation of the Christian Faith, wouldn’t it be sensible for Christians to look in that book to find how and when God intended for them to rejoice before Him?

The *Theme Times* in the Bible are based on the calendar of the sun, moon and stars. When God took Israel out of bondage in Egypt, He told them.

Ex 12:2 “This month [beginning with the first new moon in Spring] is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year.

And then later He told them about the “moedim”—the “appointed times” they were to have to rejoice before Him.

Lev 23:1 The LORD said to Moses,

2 “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘These are **my appointed feasts**, the appointed feasts of the LORD, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.

Note that He didn’t say “These are your feasts” or “These are the feasts of the Jews” or any such limiting designation. He said these are “**my appointed feasts**”. He put in place the sun, moon and stars so that men could see when the time approached for such celebrations!

There are three such annual times of celebration, with seven special days connected to them. In future issues of *Shelter in the Word* we will cover some of the Biblical details about these special times. Each one has many lessons *built in* to the observance, lessons about history, the future, prophecy, the ways of God, the truth of the Bible. And, most important of all, each one points **directly** to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As a complete set, these celebrations teach about His life, death, resurrection, empowerment of His church with the Holy Spirit, and eventual Return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

God did not intend these to be times of solemn, gloomy, boring “religious rituals”. He intended for them to be, in one sense, regular “family reunions” of those who call Him Father, and who call Jesus Elder Brother. He intended His people to have fun at these times, rejoicing in many ways including singing, feasting, laughing, enjoying camaraderie among people of all ages. They are not times when just individual families stay in their isolated homes to have small parties, but rather times when the whole “family of God” in an area get together and celebrate.

Future articles in *Shelter in the Word* will show you how to use your Bible to step out of this present world onto the “conveyor belt” that will take you into the *Theme Times* of God. 

Read About Times in the Bible:

There are many references to these times (usually called “Feasts”) scattered throughout the Old and New Testaments. Two chapters that summarize these times are Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16. This year, the year-end harvest *Feast of Tabernacles* occurs on September 25 to October 2. The supplement at the back of this issue gives suggested things to do on each day of this Feast.



It's About Time

Biblical Chronology Made Easy!

Jesus

Our study of the *relative* time periods of four Old Testament characters has now brought us to the very beginning of New Testament times and to the lifetime of the most significant individual of all, Jesus of Nazareth.

The Birth of Jesus

No one knows for certain the exact time or year of Jesus' birth. Almost all biblical scholars agree it was likely not in December. By combining numerous scattered facts in the Bible and with the history of the courses of the Old Testament priests, it is very likely that Jesus was born in the fall, around the first month of the Jewish civil year.

Most scholars agree that Jesus was born **before** the year 1 AD. There is no documentation that would allow us to pin down either the date or the year. However, many scholars agree He was likely born in about 4 BC. This of course sounds odd, as the designation "BC" means "Before Christ"! But as we noted in an earlier article in this series, the original calculations for the year of Jesus' birth were based on faulty information. Since the date had been accepted for hundreds of years before the error was discovered, and since it was later obvious that there was no way to pin down the exact year, scholars agreed to just leave the calendar "as is".

It is also impossible to pin down, *to everyone's satisfaction*, the year of Jesus' death (though many Bible writers will claim to know). But since Christ started

His ministry at about the age of 30, and it lasted for a little over three years, we can be quite sure that He died some time in the late 20s or early 30s AD. For an easy number to remember, Jesus died about 30 A.D.

New Testament Writings

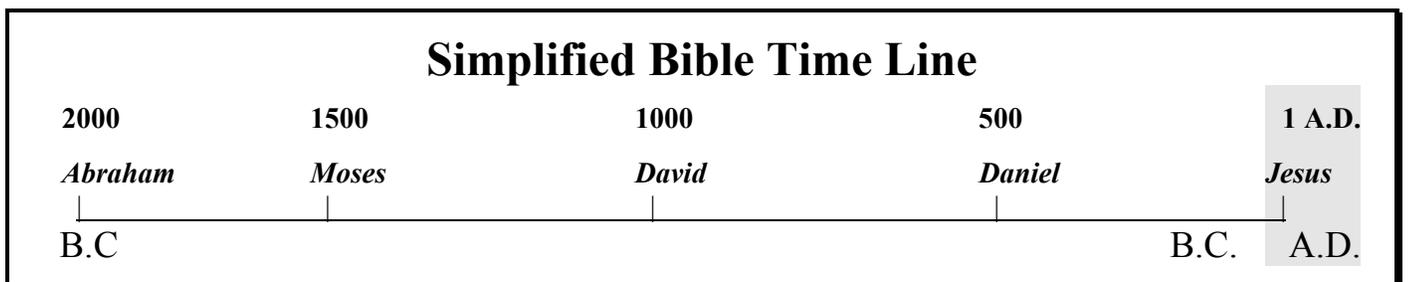
The first book written that is now included in the New Testament was not written until some time in the late 40s or early 50s AD. This was likely one of the letters of the Apostle Paul. Again, we have no historical documentation to know exactly when any of the books of the New Testament were written, but it is generally agreed that all were written before the end of the first century.

An important historical event in the first century is the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. The Jewish leaders rebelled against Rome in 68 AD. Many Christians and Jews fled the country to escape the war that they knew would come. The Romans sent armies against the Jews and finally destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D. A self-governing Jewish state was not reestablished again until 1948 A.D.—our present century. Since none of the New Testament books mention the destruction fall of Jerusalem (many treat it as an existing city), we can be fairly sure that they were written before 70 A.D. The Book of Revelation mentions only a "new Jerusalem", not the present city, so many think that it was written after the fall of Jerusalem, but some time in the 90's A.D. by a then very old Apostle John.

The Old Testament addresses, in topics, events that covered a span of over 4000 years, and was written over a span of at least 1000 years. Surprisingly, in comparison, the New Testament covers events that took place during a period less than 100 years, and was written over a span of less than 50 years!

The material covered in the New Testament includes the life, death, resurrection, and teachings of Jesus, and the acts and teachings of His Apostles during a period of about 60 years after His death and resurrection. Thus, when considering the *relative* time period of Jesus and anyone connected to Him in the New Testament, you need only remember that **all** of these events and characters can be grouped in the 100 year period from just before 1 AD up to 100 AD.

—PSD & NSE



A Wonderful Principle

by Tommy Willis

Phil 6:7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This principle is a wonderful principle that can change our life if we will learn to apply it. Here God is telling us not to worry about anything, but instead take it to Him in thankful prayer, and His peace will watch over us if we will learn to do so.

This principle is not learned over night. We usually don't learn to apply it till after many years of failure and frustration. It takes many years to sink in.

Although my first response now to problems is to pray, it was not that way for many years while I was attending church. I would run the problem over and over in my mind until I was miserable. God had to keep leading me back to this principle, so I would learn to go to the Source that would give me victory: Jesus Christ.

It really relates to positive thinking. I was never much good at positive thinking. No matter how hard I tried my mind would always go back to negative thinking. But after I learned to start really applying this principle of taking it to God in prayer-then I began to understand how I could be positive about matters. It made the difference between losing and victory!

There is no reason for us to have fear about anything because God says if we are praying and meditating as we should then things will work out. That's what this scripture is trying to tell us. That if we will apply ourselves to prayer that God will give us His peace to endure through it all.

It relates to where Jesus said:

John 16:23 I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

I began to understand is that God does not look at us only "sinners". Certainly we have to want not to

sin, try not to sin, and seek God out for strength to do that. But our righteousness in God's sight does not depend on us being perfect, but on what Christ has done for us!

When we ask in Jesus' name, we have to ask for something that *He* would ask for. We cannot expect God to give us a sinful thing—something that would hurt others or ourselves. But we do not have to fear that Christ will withhold good from us because we are "not good enough".

Because of the work that was done on the cross, God now sees us cloaked in a robe of righteousness because of the Blood of Jesus Christ! When He sees us asking, He sees a *person made righteous* asking! Now it made sense to me why God should fulfill the request. If we have faith that God makes us righteous because of Christ's shed Blood, then we will have boldness to enter the Throne Room (Heb 10:19) As long as we have faith in Christ, then God's promise is to fulfill the request! Psalm 34: 4 really relates to this matter. Here David says:

Ps 34:4 I sought the Lord and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Showing us that David had fears just like we all do, but that he took a positive action to do something about them. As he learned to take it to God in prayer he learned that God would deliver him from all his fears. Do you want to walk in a life without fear? Then learn to really apply yourself to prayer as these scriptures are telling us! The more I apply them the more God delivers me from fear so that I can function. We really need to apply this principle in order to deal with the stress of every day life. Things can come along at work, or school, or with family pressure. And it all can really add up until it overwhelms us. Many things will come along in your life as you go about your daily task of living. And the problems can really add up until you are burdened down with it all.

God allows these pressures of life to come so we will learn to come to see our need for Him. **If we could handle it all by ourselves we would not see our need for Him.** But He allows the pressure so that we would go to Him and seek Him out, and therefore we can receive the victory that only He can give us through the resurrected Life of Christ.

Think about this principle. When trials come along this year (and come they will it's all a part of life), if you will learn to take it to God in prayer there will be much more growth in your life.

Now is the time we should be preparing. So many brethren are distracted by the cares of this life

that they are distracted for the prayer life necessary to walk in God's peace. Jesus explained:

Luke 21:34 Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.

35 For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth.

36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.

The cares of this life will be a distraction. But those who are watching and learning to pray always will be given His peace to endure till the end. This is what it is going to take to make it through the days ahead. In the meantime you will need it for the stress of every day life.

Did not Jesus say to pray that we don't enter temptation? If you are praying as you should, there will be a lot less temptation in your life!

Ask God to guide you in your daily decisions. Take the time to slow down and sit and talk with God. Spend quality time with Him. Get to know Him as you would from spending time with one of your friends or parents. It is not complicated. You don't have to become a biblical scholar to talk to your heavenly Father. And as you learn to communicate with Him this way He will lead you to become grounded in Him.

Prayer is the next best thing to knowing God, for prayer will help us get to know Him. Think of this principle throughout the year. When pressure comes along to tempt you to worry, learn instead to take it to God. As we learn this, then God's promise to us is that we will be given all *the peace* necessary to handle every situation. No matter how difficult it is God's promise is to sustain us through it all if we will learn to go to Him and seek Him out this way.

This does not mean that there won't be problems and struggles, but things go so much better with God directing our thoughts and actions. You will see purpose in problems (the growth of yourself and others), rather than just difficulty and misery.

"He is our Peace" (Eph 2: 14) As we learn to draw closer to the Prince of Peace we will be given all the peace necessary to lead a full life:

John 10:10 I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. 

Sharing His Blessings with Others

The previous article explained the blessings available from Christ when we ask. He wants us to be like Him. This article talks about how we can be.

When was the last time you were really stretched for someone? ... the last time you supported someone else during a hard time and really felt the strain? Maybe you've done this often, maybe never.

I guess the Bible speaks of it as "bearing one another's burdens." Wow, is that hard! Even when one knows it's the Lord's wisdom and the Lord's power flowing through one to another, helping to support someone else in hard times is probably the hardest thing to do known to mankind.

First, there's the emotional stress that accompanies support that leaves one with a physical tiredness. Pastors and counselors can relate to this. Others may have only been on the receiving end of the care, never quite able to give, ...yet.

The second, additional battle involved with lending support is getting one's self out of the way. A person must choose to gladly give one's time and resources with abandon, out of sheer love, to help those who are stuck in life's circumstances and not able to help themselves at the moment—those who are reaching out to grasp for help and acceptance. Put self aside for a moment, a day, a weekend, and concentrate on whatever is good for that other person.

There is yet a third internal battle that may rage within one giving support, especially if that person is a Christian. That battle would be to get the "Christianity" out of the way so love can shine through. **Think for a moment of a very big problem you've had in the past and needed help. Or, think for a moment of the most needed person you know.** Would that person turn to you for help? Why or why not?

One reason a person in need may not turn to a Christian is because they feel they will be judged and not helped. This is the internal battle ground. The person who wishes to help another must lay aside the judgments and love, pure and simple. Even better, enter into that place in life where the person in need lives. Jesus did. He was judged for it.

Hold back all those "Thou shalt not's" and "Thus saith the Lord's" that echo within our heads when we see someone overtaken with life and become reachable, become lovable, become approachable. Jesus did and the world was never the same.

Give "support" a try. Your world will never be the same either.

—Tom and Mary Katherine O'Haver, editors of @rest, a weekly e-mail letter: atrest@newlife.net 

Your Index Card Files

We are still studying eternal judgement in the Bible for a future Shelter article. This story, By Joshua Harris, is not a Biblical account of judgment, but provides good food for thought. —NSE

In that place between wakefulness and dreams, I found myself in the room. There were no distinguishing features save for the one wall covered with small index card files. They were like the ones in libraries that list titles by author or subject in alphabetical order. But these files, which stretched from floor to ceiling and seemingly endlessly in either direction, had very different headings. As I drew near the wall of files, the first to catch my attention was one that read “Girls I Have Liked”. I opened it and began flipping through the cards. I quickly shut it, shocked to realize that I recognized the names written on each one. And then without being told, I knew exactly where I was. This lifeless room with its small files was a catalog system for my life. Here were written the actions of my every moment, big and small, in a detail my memory couldn’t match. A sense of wonder and curiosity, coupled with horror, stirred within me as I began randomly opening files and exploring their content. Some brought joy and sweet memories; others a sense of shame and regret so intense that I would look over my shoulder to see if anyone was watching.

A file named “Friends” was next to one marked “Friends I Have Betrayed”. The titles ranged from the mundane to the outright weird. “Books I have Read”, “Lies I Have Told”, “Comfort I Have Given”, “Jokes I Have Laughed At”. Some were almost hilarious in their exactness: “Things I’ve Yelled at My Brothers”.

Others I couldn’t laugh at: “Things I Have Done in Anger”, “Things I Have Muttered Under My Breath at My Parents”. I never ceased to be surprised by the contents.

Often there were many more cards than I expected. Sometimes fewer than I hoped. I was overwhelmed by the sheer volume of the Life I had lived. Could it be possible that I had the time in my 20 years to write each of these thousands or even millions of cards? But each card confirmed this truth. Each was written in my own handwriting. Each signed with my signature.

When I pulled out the file marked “Songs I Have Listened To”, I realized the files grew to contain their contents. The cards were packed tightly, and yet after two or three yards, I hadn’t found the end of the file. I shut it, shamed, not so much by the quality of the music, but more by the vast amount of time I knew the file represented. When I came to a file marked “Lustful Thoughts”, I felt a chill run through my body. I pulled the file out only an inch, not willing to test its size, and drew out a card. I shuddered at its detailed content. I felt sick to think that such a moment had been recorded. An almost animal rage broke on me. One thought dominated my mind: “No one must ever see these cards! No one must ever see this

room! I have to destroy them.” In an insane frenzy I yanked the file out. Its size didn’t matter now. I had to empty it and burn the cards. But as I took it at one end and began pounding it on the floor, I could not dislodge a single card. I became desperate and pulled out a card, only to find it as strong as steel when I tried to tear it.

Defeated and utterly helpless, I returned the file to its slot. Leaning my forehead against the wall, I let out a long, self-pitying sigh. And then I saw it. The title bore “People I have Shared the Gospel With”. The handle was brighter than those around it—newer, almost unused. I pulled on its handle and a small box not more than three inches long fell into my hands. I could count the cards it contained on one hand. And then the tears came. I began to weep. Sobs so deep that the hurt started in my stomach and shook through me. I fell on my knees and cried. Cried out of shame, from the overwhelming shame of it all. The rows of filled shelves swirled in my tear-filled eyes. No one must ever, ever know of this room. I must lock it up and hide the key. But then as I pushed away the tears, I saw Him. No, please not Him. Not here. Oh, anyone but Jesus. I watched helplessly as He began to open the files and read the cards. I couldn’t bear to watch His response. In the moments I could bring myself to look at His face, I saw a sorrow deeper than my own. He seemed to intuitively go to the worst boxes. Why did He have to read every one?

Finally He turned and looked at me from across the room. He looked at me with pity in His eyes. But this was a pity that didn’t anger me. I dropped my head, covered my face with my hands and began to cry again. He walked over and put His arm around me. He could have said so many things, but He didn’t say a word. Then He got up and walked back to the wall of files. Starting at one end of the room, He took out a file and, one by one, began to sign His name over mine on each card. “No!” I shouted, rushing to Him. All I could find to say was “No, no...” as I pulled the card from Him. His name shouldn’t be on these cards, but there it was written in red so rich, so dark, so alive. The name of Jesus covered mine. It was written with His blood. He gently took the card back. He smiled a sad smile and began to sign the cards. I don’t think I’ll ever understand how He did it so quickly but the next instant it seemed I heard Him close the last file and walk back to my side.

He placed His hand on my shoulder and said, “It is finished” (John 19:30). “Go now and leave your life of sin” (John 8:11). I stood up and He led me out of the room. There was no lock on its door. There were still cards to be written.

Matt 12:36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 

A World of Lies



It is the job of architects and construction people to design and build good houses for people to live in. If they work to give their customers good value for their money, they are serving their fellow man. If their design and construction goals are to build the *best looking* houses possible for the *least cost*—and to let the customers solve all of the problems later, they are not serving their fellow man but deceiving them and really serving themselves. I think all of us can understand this.

It is the job of writers—those people who convey information to others—to convey accurate information that will help the people who receive it. If they tell only part of the story, or tell outright lies to make people believe and do what they want, then they are deceiving them and really serving themselves.

In *Shelter in the Word*, I hope to bring important news to our readers—news that will help you and help you serve others. Our Y2K articles are one example of this. We would also like to deal with issues in medicine, schools, government, etc. We are planning an article on prisoners—Christ told us to visit them. Are they just a bunch of criminals getting what they deserve? Or did you know that independent investigations of prison populations show that about half of the inmates are there unjustly?

The biggest problem I have in this research is finding: “**what is true?**”

Are our governments trustworthy? Ever since President Nixon was forced to leave office due to the “Watergate” incident, Americans have realized that their leaders do not always tell them the truth about important issues. President Bill Clinton took public lying to a whole new level with numerous lies and deception to the entire country over television and in court testimony. Was he removed from office? Is there a great public outrage at this?

As I struggle to find the truth about events in our world, these scriptures keep burning in my brain:

Ex 20:16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor (NKJV).

John 8:32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

Jer 5:31 The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?

Rev 22:14 Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the

right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

15 But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and **whoever loves and practices a lie** (NKJV).

Do our TV news networks tell us the truth? Have you ever noticed that all of them nearly always cover a story from the same angle? For example, in the Waco tragedy of April 1993 when 76 “Branch Davidians” died in a fire, surrounded by Federal agents, did any network suggest that the Government is completely over-reacting to a religious cult whose main crime was not paying the tax on weapons that are legal for them to own? While numerous small publications and films were published indicating that the Government was responsible for the tragedy, why were all of the mainstream networks, with all of the investigative resources at their disposal, silent for six years until the evidence is finally coming out in a public court?

We could go on to list many other cases where all of the major networks and publications have taken the same approach to a story, while other news sources have taken an opposite approach—only to find out later that the major media was wrong. Does that tell us something about our news?

On the other hand, are smaller publications always right? No. **We read dozens of smaller publications from time to time that claim to have a story that the big media are ignoring.** Sometimes, we find that these groups are simply pushing their own agenda and making up a story to suit their needs—and that the big media were right after all.

Sometimes, it seems, that the only way to obtain the truth is to verify the original sources myself. This can be a very big task for a tiny publication such as *Shelter in the Word*. Thanks to the Internet, it is possible to find and confirm many legal and official documents from one’s own home. It is possible to find names and contact information for individuals. But all of these things take much time. We simply do not have time to research everything that could be important.

We concentrate on stories that appear very important and have sources with little apparent motivation to lie and the possibility of independent confirmation. Linda Tripp’s story, before it was confirmed, is a good example of this kind of thing. She was a career government employee, and saying what she said about the president was likely to make life miserable if it was true, and put her in jail if it was false. It could be confirmed through Monica Lewinsky’s testimony and telephone records. What motivation could Linda Tripp have for making up her story?

At the present time, it seems that we have many stories in the “Linda Tripp bombshell” stage. It is hard to imagine how or why they could be false, but all of the work necessary to prove them beyond doubt has not been done.

Y2K Story Hopelessly Clouded

The Y2K problem is a paramount example of a case where there are many lies being told—but it is not always clear by whom. The big difference with this story, is that the truth will come out in less than four months. Big business and government have a strong motivation to try to keep people’s money in banks and stocks. On the other hand, there are many upstart firms trying to make a fortune from selling marginal or unnecessary Y2K supplies.

From our analysis, there are far more lies being told on the “It’s all going to be OK” side than there are on the “It’s going to be bad” side. While governments and utilities are making statements that they are ready, we have received reliable reports of the following:

1. Police and National Guard troops have been training with riot gear to keep hungry crowds confined to neighborhoods or “emergency shelters” should this become necessary in the year 2000.

2. Vacations and leaves for most Federal “law enforcement” agencies have been cancelled for the last half of December and the first of January.

3. The General Accounting Office reported that Iowa, Nebraska, and North Dakota are the only

State Governments which have thoroughly tested their systems and are ready for Y2K.

4. Several different business surveys reported that many large corporations and government agencies are outfitting Y2K crisis management centers with emergency power and supplies to manage their operation if their headquarters is not functioning.

5. Groups of all sizes are *still* expanding their estimated cost and time to be ready for Y2K.

6. A variety of industrial groups have indicated that much more needs to be done to prevent chemical spills and other accidents which might be caused by non-Y2K-compliant computers. The number of people to deal with industrial disasters may be totally overwhelmed if there are multiple problems on January 1, 2000.

7. Some banks have been quietly notifying their customers of changes to their checking accounts. Without getting into the details, these changes essentially allow the bank to take months to pay their checks in an emergency.

By the time we investigate and document these and other points, Y2K will be here!

What Do We Do About It?

1. **Pray for strength and faith in God—to be able to go through these difficult times and to represent His way to others.**

2. Prepare to help yourself and others. **If you have not read our previous Y2K articles, please do so.** Free back issues are available.

3. **Now is the time** to begin withdrawing money from banks to live on for a month or two (the Treasury Department has printed \$50 Billion extra because they thought this would happen). Some banks are being difficult with cash-withdrawal customers.

4. Those who may need, during the next few years, some of the money that they have invested in the stock market should seriously consider getting it out now. The market “price to earnings ratio” is nearly at an all-time high. A market down-turn is likely even without Y2K. The only stocks I would personally keep are those intended as a long-term investment (over 10 years).

Even if the problems of Y2K are miraculously minimized, other potential disasters are on the near horizon. We will report on them as we are able to sift through the chaff in what is too often *a world of lies*.

—Norman Edwards 

Share Your Shelter

Our Savior never argued or tried to force someone to believe in Him. We should not do that either. But if *Shelter in the Word* has helped you, you can share it with others who might be interested in it or helped by it. One of these methods might work for you.

1. Talk to them about what you have learned and encourage them to study the Bible themselves.
2. Copy your *Shelter* and give it to them (almost any office or copy store will do this for \$1 to \$2).
3. Give them your *Shelter* (we will send you a replacement issue if you write or call).
4. Copy just this page or write down the address or phone so they can request their own subscription.

For subscriptions and other literature, write or phone:

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We have moved! In order to prepare for Y2K, acquire a better place for our family to live and reduce costs in the long term, we have moved. Please begin using this address and phone number immediately.