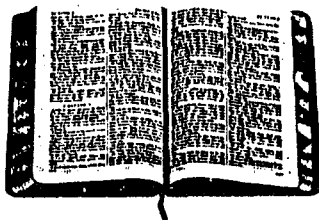


THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

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FOUR LITTLE THINGS WHICH ARE EXCEEDINGLY WISE

"There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise: The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer; The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks; The locusts have not king, yet go they forth all of them by bands; The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces. (Proverbs 30:24-28). Let us briefly consider those four little things that are exceeding wise and learn some good lessons from them.

1. **ANTS!** Although ants are small they are very wise. In Proverbs 6:6-8 Solomon said: "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest." **NOTE:** Although ants are not strong, have no guide, overseer or ruler they are industrious and exhibit wisdom in gathering and providing food in the summer for the winter months.

We should work and provide physical food for others and ourselves. (See 1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Thess. 3:10). We also should prepare in this

life to meet God in judgment. We should be zealous in the Lord's Kingdom and abound in good works! (See Rom. 12:11; Rev. 3:19; 1 Cor. 15:58; John 9:4).

2. **CONIES!** It seems that the coney was a rabbit or rabbit type animal that made their houses among the rocks. Although the conies were little and feeble they showed wisdom in where they built their houses. They built their houses in the rocks.

We should learn a lesson from the conies and give diligence to build our spiritual houses upon a solid foundation — Jesus Christ! (See 1 Cor. 3:11). If we are wise we will do that by hearing the sayings of Christ and doing them! (See Mt. 7:21-29).

3. **LOCUSTS!** Although the locusts are small and have no king, they are able to work together and accomplish a lot (of destruction) because they go forth by bands! In other words, they are *united!*

As Christians we have Jesus Christ as our King! We should be *united* in Him! (Cf. John 17:20-21; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 2:16; Psal. 133:1).

4. **SPIDER!** "The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces." (Continued on page 4)

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Editorial... MUST WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY? (No. 12)

In our past studies we have shown from the Scriptures that the law that required the children of Israel to keep the sabbath day holy was *provisional* and *temporary*. There is no Scriptural *proof* that the LORD ever intended for Christians to keep the law that He gave to the Israelites after they came out of Egypt. The sabbath day was given to a *specific* people for *specified* reasons. When that law had fulfilled its purpose *it ceased to be binding*. When the law that required sabbath keeping was fulfilled, *it was no longer in force!* (Cf. Jer. 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:6-13; 7:11-19; 9:16-17; 10:9-10; Romans 7:1-7; 2 Cor. 3:6-17; Col. 2:14-17; Gal. 3:23-27; Col. 2:14-17; etc.

In our last five studies we have been examining some arguments made by "sabbath keepers" in an effort to show that sabbath keeping is **binding** on Christians today. We have shown that Scriptural *proof* is lacking. Let us continue our study.

ARGUMENTS FOR SABBATH KEEPING CONSIDERED

21. "HEBREWS 4:9 TEACHES THAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD KEEP THE SEVENTH DAY SABBATH HOLY BECAUSE IT SAYS: 'There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.'"

REPLY:

(1) Sabbatarians *assume* and *assert* the desired conclusion without showing *proof* that substantiates it!

(2) Hebrews 4:1-11 says: "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them; but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.

Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, Today, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

For if Jesus ['Joshua' acc. to footnote-CRS] had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath cease from his own works, as God did from his.

Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief." NOTE: In the above verses we have the *context* of the statement made in verse 9.

(3) Please observe that the *text* (4:9) says "a rest" remains to the people of God. It does *not* say "the sabbath" is to be kept holy by the people of God. A vast difference in the two statements!

(4) The ASV says "a sabbath rest" remains for the people of God> It does *not* say "the sabbath rest" is to be kept holy by the people of God! A vast difference in the two statements!

(5) The word *sabbath* in the New Testament (KJV) always comes from *sabbaton* whereas the word *rest* in Heb. 4:9 comes from *sabbatismos* and it appears only this one time! It is a different word. According to STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY the word *sabbatismos* is from a der. of *sabbaton*. NOTE: *Sabbatismos* is not from *sabbaton* but is from a derivative of *sabbaton*. They are different words. *Sabbaton* is neuter gender whereas *sabbatismos* is masculine gender!

(6) We learn from Heb. 3:7-19 that the Israelites failed to *enter into God's rest because of their unbelief*. The *rest* they failed to enter into was the promised land, Canaan. NOTE: They were keeping the sabbath day holy but they did not enter into God's rest. It necessarily follows that *God's rest* in these verses is *not* the keeping of the seventh day sabbath although God did rest on the seventh day!

(7) Verse 11 says "Let us therefore labour to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief." The *rest* that remains for the people of God is something that we can fail to enter. NOTE: In this context this could not have reference to the keeping the seventh day sabbath holy because one does not have to *fear* and *labour* in order to keep the sabbath holy! One had to cease from working in order to keep the seventh day sabbath.

(8) If the Hebrew Christians were keeping the sabbath day holy as Sabbatarians contend, that is *proof* sufficient to show that "*a rest*" that remains for the people of God is *not* remembering the sabbath day and keeping it holy.

(9) No doubt, contextually "*a rest*" that remains to the people of God is not "*the sabbath*" that the children of Israel were told to "*remember*" and to "*keep it holy*." (Exodus 20:8). "*A rest*" that remains to the people of God refers to "*a day of eternal rest*"! It is not a 24-hour day! Unless we *fear* and *labour* to enter "*into his*[God's-CRS]*rest*" we may fail to enter just as those Israelites failed to enter Canaan.

(10) In Rev. 14:13 we read:"... Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." NOTE: When a person dies *in the Lord* he ceases his labours and enters into a period of rest.

No, Heb.4:9 does not prove that Christians should keep the sabbath day holy as the Israelites did. However, in its context it does teach that there is "a rest" that remains for the people of God! (To be continued)

(Continued from page 3)

the world to keep the sabbath day holy.

(2) Even if the above statements were true, this would *not* prove that Christians are obligated to keep the sabbath day holy.

(3) The above statements are *not* true! Here *is proof*. Speaking to Israel, God said: "**For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?**"(Deut. 4:7-8). NOTE: This settles it! No other nation had "**statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law**" which certainly included the sabbath law.

FURTHER NOTE: The sabbath law was given to the nation of Israel because it the Israelites had been servants in Egypt and God led them out of bondage. (Cf. Deut. 5:15).
(To be continued)

(Continued from page 1)

FOUR LITTLE THINGS...

We, like the spider, should use what we have. and take advantage of opportunities. (Cf. Mt. 25:1-13; Eccl. 9:10; Rom. 14:12; 2:6). Let us learn to be wise from these four little things.

(CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

AIRPORT, West Columbia, SC-Sept. 6-11, 1998
CLINTWOOD, VA---September 20-26, 1998
GRIFFITH, INDIANA---October 11-16, 1998
NORTH HUNTSVILLE, Huntsville, AL-Oct. 26-Nov. 1, 1998.
OAK RIDGE, TN---Nov. 8-13, 1998i

SENTENCE SERMONS

Less ability is needed when we have proper motivation.

* * * * *

It is better to be what we ought to be than to receive what we think we ought to have.

* * * * *

Self control is the ability to let your light shine even after your fuse has blown.

* * * * *

Great men are humble enough to serve rather than to be served.

* * * * *

Unless we feel the storm we may not realize the worth of and appreciate the anchor.

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