



Hunger For Truth

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HUNGER FOR TRUTH
MINISTRIES

Proverbs 7:2 – Matthew 5:6 – John 8:32 – II Timothy 3:16-17 – Hebrews 4:12
“Let us Hunger For Truth”

Please note that back issues of Hunger For Truth are viewable and printable at:
www.studytoanswer.net

It is our desire that Hunger For Truth edifies, blesses and encourages you in your walk with the Lord. Thank you all for taking the time to read this and for your prayers for us. We greatly appreciate your comments and we praise God for each and every one of you.

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He Hardened His Heart

By: Andrew Lacroix

Morning: He Hardened His Heart

“But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them, as the Lord had said.” (Exodus 8:15)

Moses was trying to get Pharaoh to let the Israelites go, but free labor, among other things, denied Moses his request. This forced God’s hand. This was the second of what would be ten plagues upon Egypt, its land, and its people. Pharaoh had the choice; he chose, when the frogs came, that he would let them go. However, at the first moment of grace and respite from God, he changed his mind, hardened his heart to God and His people, and refused to let them leave.

Sadly this event is similar to many of our lives as Christians. When a crisis comes sometimes we turn to God and pray for respite and live right; but as soon as God answers our request, we “harden our hearts” and return to our lackluster Christian lives and don’t live for Him like we should. We shouldn’t need our own plague of frogs to move us to respond to God’s moving in our hearts. Perhaps it is our failure to respond, like Pharaoh failing to let Israel go that caused the “plague” in the first place. When God gives us respite we need to be softened and say “yes” as opposed to hardening our hearts again to the next earnest plead of our loving God. Do we want God to say to us, “I had all this for you and all these could have been yours, but you hardened your heart to Me of all people?” I pray your answer and mine to that previous question would be a resounding “no” while we still have time to do right and respond to His working in our hearts and lives.

Greater Abominations Than These

By: Andrew Lacroix

Evening: Greater Abominations Than These

“Then said he unto me, hast thou seen this, O son of man? Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these.” (Ezekiel 8:15)

Ezekiel was in a different time span, as the Lord had translated him to Jerusalem to see all the wickedness of those who lived before him. He saw how the Israelites set up idols on the very altar that was supposed to be used for worship of Jehovah. He saw the abominable beasts the Israelites had taken up. These were primary worship idols of the pantheistic Gentiles. He saw God’s own people weeping for a god of the Babylonians. Yet God said there were “greater abominations than these”.

He was referring to the Israelites’ taking up sun worship, at the same time turning their very backs on the very temple of God. So how does this bode for us? When we turn our backs on the House of God, the people of God, and the things of God for “idol worship”, we have committed the sins of the Israelites, and thus we are guilty of an abomination unto the Lord. By our forsaking Him and allowing other things to impede our lives and intercept our love and devotion for Him, we are in effect choosing the world over the One who saved us from the world.

We must repent and return to the glimpse of God Ezekiel the prophet had when he was translated. We must realize that the idols of this world will look to set up shop on the altar that we as Christians should have in our hearts for God. Will we allow them there and commit greater abominations or do we break down every idol in our path and bring ourselves to the temple of true worship, turning our backs on the world and its idols?

The article copied on Pages 3-4 of this issue of Hunger For Truth is a great study on Ruth and Boaz from the 8/15/13 issue of the newsletter BBC Update by Dr. Thomas Strouse, who is Pastor of Bible Baptist Church of Cromwell, CT. I highly recommend the preaching, books, articles, studies and newsletter put out by this faithful local NT church and theological seminary. You can visit their website at www.bbc-cromwell.org to access this information. May God bless this reading:

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

How did Naomi and Ruth know that Boaz was "Mr. Right" for Ruth? After all, Naomi laid out a strategy for Ruth to pursue, and Ruth willing said, *"All that thou sayest unto me I will do"* (Ruth 3:5). Before considering an answer to this practical query, several factors must be considered.



Dr. Thomas Strouse

First, the great overarching motivational agenda for all women in ancient times was not merely to have children, but to have a male offspring in hopes of mothering the Messiah. The Seed Promise (cf. Gen. 3:15) that Jehovah gave the sinful couple in the Garden was for Eve to give birth to their Saviour,¹ and hence Adam named his wife "Eve" (חַוָּה),² indicating he had requisite faith in God's means of redemption. Because of the faith of Adam (and Eve), the LORD accepted their faith and covered them with the product of the first blood sacrifice (cf. Gen. 3:20-21). Subsequently, Eve thought her firstborn Cain was the incarnate Jehovah, saying literally, "I have begotten a man, even Jehovah" (אֶת־יְהוָה אֵישׁ לָקַיְתִי אִישׁ). This interpretation is confirmed in her later statement as Scripture stated, saying, *"And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew"* (Gen. 4:25). Eve, no doubt, told her daughters of this hope, who in turn told the women on Noah's ark, who in turn passed on this hope of having the Messiah to the nations represented in the Table of Nations (cf. Gen. 10:1 ff.). Thus, Daniel used the *hapax legomena* expression *"the desire of women"* (נְשִׂיִם חֲמוּמָה)³ as a periphrastic (roundabout way of speaking) construction referring to Christ the Messiah (cf. Dan. 11:37). In other words, the Antichrist will not regard the desire that women had (i.e., to birth the Messiah); he will be opposed to the ultimate product of this desire—Christ!

Second, the Scripture gives the record of four women in the Messiah's lineage who were highly motivated theologically to mate with a Jewish man in hopes of producing the Messiah (cf. Mt. 1:3-6). These women were Tamar (cf. Gen. 38), Rahab (cf. Josh. 2), Ruth

¹The Apostle Paul confirmed this interpretation, saying, *"And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety"* (I Tim. 2:14-15).

²This is a redemptive pun on the word "living" (חַי).

³The Hebrew refers to "women's desire (to bear the Messiah)" and not to "a desire for women," as is often fallaciously taught.

(cf. Ruth 1-4), and Bathsheba (cf. II Sam. 11). Three of these women used unsavory methods (immorality or deception) to get into the messianic lineage, as God honored their faith and not their means. Ruth, with the same theological motivation of her soon-to-be mother-in-law Rahab, used aggressive but honorable means to pursue Boaz.

Third, the Christian perspective on interpreting Ruth and the Song of Solomon especially, must be built upon the truth found in Paul's letter to Titus, which states, *"Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled"* (Tit. 1:15). In other words, a man's commentary on the Bible is really a commentary on the man. If the reader of Scripture sees impure and immoral behavior in passages of Ruth, he is reading in his wicked presuppositions. Scripture avers about the virtue of the woman Ruth, saying, *"And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman"* (Ruth 3:11).⁴

So why did Naomi eagerly propose her unusual plan⁵ and Ruth submissively accept it without question or hesitation? The women followed several biblical teachings and concluded Boaz was "Mr. Right" for Ruth.

- 1. Ruth met Boaz in the place of truth.** She did not go back to Moab, but went to the geographical location of truth—Bethlehem Judah. The Messiah was promised through the man Judah (cf. Gen. 49:10) and in the Promised Land (cf. Mic. 5:2). In this dispensation, the Baptist assembly is the divinely-ordained place of truth to meet one's mate.
- 2. Ruth honored her "mother."** As a grown woman, Ruth nevertheless submitted to her guardian's biblical advice (cf. also Ruth 1:16-17). Ruth probably was aware of the biblical truth of the Law, which stated, *"Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee"* (Dt. 5:16).

Continued on page 4

⁴ Cf. Prov. 31:10-31.

⁵ The plan was unusual for the Western mind, but apparently it was an accepted biblical practice (cf. Dt. 25:5 ff.; Ezk. 16:8).

ARTICLE

Continued from page 3

3. Ruth recognized that Boaz was spiritual. Boaz's tenor around everyone exuded spirituality. For instance, he greeted his workers with a beatitude from Jehovah (cf. Ruth 2:4). He commended Ruth for trusting in Jehovah (cf. Ruth 2:12).
4. Ruth realized that Boaz was single. She was interested in one who was a biblical candidate for marriage, and not in a divorcee (cf. Mk. 10:11-12; Rom. 7:2-3).
5. Ruth experienced that Boaz was considerate. She already knew that he was considerate of her needs before their relationship blossomed (cf. Ruth 2:8 ff.). She did not anticipate that she would have to change some inconsiderate man into becoming a gentleman after marriage!

6. Ruth knew that Boaz had means to support her. Since he was her kinsman or גַּאֵל (Ruth 2:20; 3:2), this necessitated that he had met the requirements: he was a "near" relative (cf. Lev. 25:48); he was able (cf. Ruth 4:4-6); he was willing (cf. Ruth 4:6); and he could pay the price (cf. Lev. 25:26-27).⁶

7. Ruth appreciated that Boaz was mature and witty. Boaz did not identify himself with younger field workers (cf. Ruth 3:10), suggesting that he was older and more mature (his actions belied this perspective). He also punned to her as she did to him (cf. Ruth 2:10-11). They both enjoyed clever repartee.

The women considered that Boaz was "Mr. Right" for Ruth for the aforementioned reasons. Of course, Scripture confirms their choice as the biblical choice, based on biblical precepts (cf. Ruth 4:13-22; Mt. 1:5). Christian young people ought to follow this biblical example for the Lord's full blessing when looking for God's will in a spouse.

⁶Of course, Boaz prefigured the Lord Jesus Christ, the ultimate Kinsman-Redeemer Who met all of the qualifications (cf. Rom. 8:3; II Cor. 8:9; Mk. 10:45; I Pet. 1:18-19).

“Account” (Part 12) (By: Craig Glickman)

This is the continuation of a long, yet informative study on every appearance of the word “account” in the Bible. This word appears 31 times in the King James Version (*Account, Accounted, Accounting, Accounts*). For sake of space, I will show only the reference but I encourage you to take your Bible and read the passages.

Isaiah 2:22 – *For wherein is he to be accounted of? Or ,for of what account is he?*; Matthew Henry's Concise commentary says this:

Isaiah 2:10-22 – The taking of Jerusalem by the Chaldeans seems first meant here, when idolatry among the Jews was done away; but our thoughts are led forward to the destruction of all the enemies of Christ. It is folly for those who are pursued by the wrath of God, to think to hide or shelter themselves from it. The shaking of the earth will be terrible to those who set their affections on things of the earth. Men's haughtiness will be brought down, either by the grace of God convincing them of the evil of pride, or by the providence of God depriving them of all the things they were proud of. The day of the Lord shall be upon those things in which they put their confidence. Those who will not be reasoned out of their sins, sooner or later shall be frightened out of them. Covetous men make money their god; but the time will come when they will feel it as much their burden. This whole passage may be applied to the case of an awakened sinner, ready to leave all that his soul may be saved. The Jews were prone to rely on their heathen neighbours; but they are here called upon to cease from depending on mortal man. We are all prone to the same sin. Then let not man be your fear, let not him be your hope; but let your hope be in the Lord your God. Let us make this our great concern.

Gill's exposition of the entire Bible says:

Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils,.... "From that man" (y), meaning antichrist, the man of sin; who is but a mere man, a poor, frail, mortal man; though he sits in the temple of God, as if he was God, showing himself to be God, by taking that to himself which belongs to the Deity. This is advice to the followers of antichrist, to cease from going after him, and worshipping him, seeing he is not the living God, but a dying man:

for wherein is he to be accounted of? The Targum is, "for he is alive today, and tomorrow he is not, and he is to be accounted as nothing;"

and much less as Peter's successor, as head of the church, and vicar of Christ, and as having all power in heaven, earth, and hell. It may be applied to men in general, in whom no confidence is to be placed, even the greatest of men, [Psalm 118:8](#) and particularly the Egyptians, in whom the Jews were apt to trust, who were men, and not God; and whose horses were flesh, and not spirit, [Isaiah 31:3](#) so Vitringa; but the first sense is best.

Mark 10:42 – Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary says this:

Mark 10:32-45 – Christ's going on with his undertaking for the salvation of mankind, was, is, and will be, the wonder of all his disciples. Worldly honour is a glittering thing, with which the eyes of Christ's own disciples have many times been dazzled. Our care must be, that we may have wisdom and grace to know how to suffer with him; and we may trust him to provide what the degrees of our glory shall be. Christ shows them that dominion was generally abused in the

world. If Jesus would gratify all our desires, it would soon appear that we desire fame or authority, and are unwilling to taste of his cup, or to have his baptism; and should often be ruined by having our prayers answered. But he loves us, and will only give his people what is good for them.

Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible says:

But Jesus called them to him,.... Who were at some little distance from him, though so nigh, that he could discern the heat and passion they were in, and knowing that they had the same ambitious views with the two brethren:

and saith unto them, to check their pride and vanity and reprove them for their ambitious desires of superiority and pre-eminence over, one another; by showing them that this was a part which the Heathens that knew not God acted and therefore was very unbecoming them:

you know that they which are accounted, or "seem to" or rather "do", rule over the Gentiles; or are reckoned worthy of government who are, men of honour, reputation, and esteem; who are either by birth or merit thought to be deserving of high places: these exercise lordship over them; rule over them in a lordly tyrannical and arbitrary way: and their great ones; their nobles and lords under them exercise authority over them; the Gentiles; by a delegated power from those who have the supreme rule.

Emotions in The Bible (By: Craig Glickman)

There are many verses and passages in the Bible that relate to emotions and feelings of man and our Lord Himself in trials, suffering, affliction, and of course peace and joy. The following is an ongoing study of passages that have convicted, comforted, edified, encouraged or blessed me through hearing messages, devotions and studies over the years. I hope this is a blessing and help to you and I, and that the Lord may be honored and glorified in this series of studies on emotions in the Bible. Each issue, Lord willing, will have a verse or passage in the Bible covered. I am excited and privileged to do this. Praise God! I intend to break each passage down into the following: **Passage, Emotion(s), Cause, Effect, What does the passage say?, What does the passage say to you and I?, What should you and I do about it?, How do you and I stay accountable?**

Passage: Proverbs 4:7

Emotion(s): Thinking

Cause: Thinking godly biblical thoughts

Effect: Becoming godly wise

What does the passage say?: In case what you just read confused you, let's take a look at our passage: "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

Proverbs 4 is the passage, written by Solomon, of a father teaching his children how to get wisdom. It points to our heavenly Father and how we can only get wisdom, the principal thing, and understanding by seeking God and striving to trust in and obey His word, the Bible!

What does the passage say to you and I?: The 1st question we need to ask is what is wisdom? Wisdom is having the mind of Christ! This should be the goal of every believer! Wisdom is also defined as *knowing what to do/say and when to do/say it*. Knowledge is simply knowing about something or someone. Understanding is knowing what something means (comprehension,

intelligence). O' believer, How do you and I achieve the goal of getting wisdom (the mind of Christ)? The answer is simple, by practicing the master and basic spiritual disciplines: (James 1:22)

The Master Disciplines: Hearing

Doing

The Basic Disciplines:

Attention: Choosing to listen to God

Obedience: Choosing to obey God

Meditation: Choosing to think like God

Endurance: Choosing to persevere for God

What should you and I do about it?: Strive to have the mind of Christ in all that we say and do. In other words, think like Christ! Before you act or speak, make sure it is in agreement with the Bible. Godly wisdom is knowing the Bible, knowing what the Bible says to do or say and when to do or say it! This must be applied to everything we think, say and do in our daily lives and walk with God!

How do you and I stay accountable?: Seek godly counsel from your pastor, parents, close friends who can help you grow to be more like Christ in your thinking.

Only Jesus Saves! (John 14:6)

Behold: See Jesus Christ!

By: Pastor Cas Reeves

The word "Behold" is a word which means to "...see..." It is used when there is something the writer recognizes as important. Something God wants you to know.

- I. Jesus Christ is Alive (Rev. 1:18)
 - A. He is living now
 - B. He is living for evermore
 - C. He is the authority over hell and death
- II. Jesus Christ is Coming Again (Rev. 1:7)
 - A. His coming will be quick – hold fast (Rev. 3:11)
 - B. His coming will be quick – guard (Rev. 22:7)
 - C. His coming will be quick – serve (Rev. 22:12)
- III. Jesus Christ is Inviting You (Rev. 3:20)
 - A. You must hear
 - B. You must open
 - C. You will receive

God wants you to know that Jesus Christ is alive and is coming again, bringing His rewards with Him. Have you heard the knock of Christ on your heart? If so, invite Him into your life and deliver yourself from the power of hell and death.

:) Children For Christ :)

WORD CROSS OUT (TEXT: 1 Samuel 15:22)

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 15:22b – "...Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

Follow the questions below to reveal a hidden phrase:

1. Cross out every word that is a season
2. Cross out evil words
3. Cross out words that start with "B"
4. Cross out words about nature
5. Cross out animal names

Jesus hate boy and forest stream cat obey
 fall loves box summer wants rocks to horse
 winter anger you spring trees you dog pig

Hidden Phrase: _____

<p>“Be careful, father, or while you're taking one lap around the devil's track, your boy will make six.” – Billy Sunday</p>	<p>“I have just put my soul as a blank into the hand of Jesus, my Redeemer, and desired Him to write on it what He pleases; I know it will be His image. – George Whitefield</p>
<p>“There may be some sins of which a man cannot speak, but there is no sin which the blood of Christ cannot wash away” – Charles Spurgeon</p>	<p><u>Praises</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praise God for recent special meetings with Missionaries Ethan Champlin and Roger Napper at H.B.C.! <p><u>Prayer Requests</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for Pastor Gary Freeman (<i>Race Street Baptist Church in Catasauqua, PA</i>) who is battling colon cancer. <i>(NEW!)</i> • Pray for safety for Bro. Craig who will be traveling to Colorado from 9/13 to 9/19 <i>(NEW!)</i> • Pray for the condition of this nation following the abomination that has occurred with the DOMA decision. • Needs of the body of Heritage Baptist Church • Pray for salvation and needs of those affected by the tragedy in Boston, MA on April 15th. • Salvation of Wendy and friend Ben, Jacob, Kaitlyn, Sybil and Bernice (Family of Craig Glickman) • Lacroix family and friend Rick (Salvation) • Rusty and family, Jose, Gary, Rudney (Salvation) • Outreach of Heritage Baptist Church
<p>“No matter what a man's past may have been, his future is spotless.” – John R. Rice</p>	
<p><i>COMING JANUARY 2014: 'Milk for the Meat Eaters' a daily e-devotional by Brother Andrew Lacroix</i></p>	

Hunger For Truth is a bi-monthly e-newsletter publication edited by Craig Glickman and Andrew Lacroix who are members of Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA where the Pastor is Steve Hathaway.

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Thank you for reading this. We praise God for all our dear brothers and sisters in Christ and we greatly appreciate your prayers. May each and every one of you be richly blessed as we serve our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

His Servants,
Craig Glickman Andrew Lacroix
Prov. 3:5-6 1 Thes. 5:18

