

### **Answers to last month's questions**

1. Bal-zebub (2 Kings 1:2)
2. The brass serpent Moses had made in the desert. (2 Kings 18:4)
3. Adrammelech (2 Kings 17:31)
4. Ammon (1 Kings 11:5)
5. Baal-peor (Numbers 25:1-3)

### **Back to the Bible:**

And find out:

1. Who did Satan provoke to do a census in Israel?
2. What disciple did Satan enter into?
3. What disciple was told by Jesus that Satan wanted to sift him like wheat?
4. What New Testament man did Satan provoke to lie to the Holy Spirit?
5. Who had seven sons that were overcome by an evil spirit they were trying to cast out of a man?

**Monthly Truths;** “Tradition lives because young people come along who catch its romance and add new glories to it.”  
Michale Novak

**Scripture of the month:** Show us your unfailing love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Psalm 85:7

### **SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**

Some of our most cherished memories come from our

family traditions. Handed down from one generation to another, they bind us to our past and to our future. When you teach a child something your own parents taught you, you'll promote a sense of love and belonging they will treasure forever.

Bedtime is a great time for traditions. Read a child (Grand child) a story your parents read to you. Or tell them something about your parents or grand parents, that they never heard before.

Make a family tradition your own by adding something new to it. You might add a new ingredient to a family recipe or add a personal touch to a holiday celebration.

Billie

## FACINATING FACTS

Three views exist about the writing of Job. First, that it was penned shortly after it happened in the patriarchal age. The second insists Job was written during the days of Solomon, about 950 B.C. The third view states that Job was penned at the time of the Exile, or after. However, the mention of Job by Ezekiel (Ezekiel 14:14) negates such a late date. While the detailed reports of the speeches might indicate the book was written shortly after it occurred, some scholars say it is simply characteristic in style of other wisdom literature written during Solomon's day.

Job is an honest attempt to discuss the problem of the suffering of innocent people. Job discards all theories that

are offered to him and, in the end, accepts his suffering. He does not find a rational explanation, but he sees in God a certainty that overcomes his doubts and fears. Job's story raises a thorny problem. If God is just, why do good people suffer? Job is convinced his troubles are not because of his sin, but he can't find God to argue his case. Then God reveals Himself and Job is satisfied, not by arguments but, by meeting God.

Billie

BROKEN SPIRIT  
JOB 16:1-21

As Henry David Thoreau lay dying, he was asked if he had made his peace with God. The famed philosopher-writer replied, "I was not aware that we had quarreled." Job's friends insist the reason Job was suffering so is because somehow he has broken his relationship with God. Job is firm in his insistence that he and God have not quarreled. Job is right but that does not alleviate his pain. He struggles to understand his sorrow. Yet, in all of his agony, he still trusts the lord.

A second round of debates starts with all parties angrier. Job's friends make no allowance for the stress he is under and continue to peck away at him with empty accusations. They start to name call, saying Job is nothing but a self-opinionated old windbag. They insist that in justifying himself, he proves their point. Here we learn that talking down to people only irritates, rather than helping them out of their misery; sometimes talking about our

problems doesn't, we must simply ride out the storm; and even if friends and family fail us, we can always turn to God for comfort and care.

Job 16:1-6 Job says that if he speaks, the pain stays; if he is silent, it is still there. Sometimes talking doesn't help.

Job 16:7-10 Job says God has worn him out with all the agonies that he has endured. Pain takes a terrible toll on our emotions.

Job 16:11-16 Job gives into his emotions thinking God has forgotten him. God hasn't forsaken us even though it seems as if He has.

Job 16:17-19 Job notes that even in all his tragedy, he still retains his purity. Pain and anger need not drive us to sin.

Job 16:20-21 Job knew the nature of God and still trusted despite all his troubles. God is still our friend, even though it doesn't seem so.

Job's "comforters" were miserable. Their lack of compassion should serve as a reminder to us that those in pain need a tender touch, not a tongue lashing. The more Job defends himself, the angrier and more hostile his friends become. He is standing alone in his faith.

Until next time, love Billie

## TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

It's Christmas time again. I have to admit it is my favorite time of the year. It is a time to reflect on my family and friends. A time to shop, till I drop, and try to find the bargains. I try to only buy things that are on sale but only if it is something that I know would be on my kids list.

When my grandkids were small, we would read the Christmas story by candle light. I really do miss those days, now they are too busy, some with their own families and some live too far away. I do have a new group of great grand ones coming up and I just love to start the old traditions with them. I want to make Christ known and what better way than to read them the story from Matthew and Luke. Try it you will like it.

Billie

## THE AFTERGLOW

The greetings and carols have ended,  
The glad celebrations have ceased  
With the angels ascended to heaven,  
The Wise Men returned to the East.  
But the light that once shone on a manger  
Still brightens the world from afar,  
And listening hearts still hear angels,  
And wise men still follow a star.  
Ellis Rowsey

## AGAPE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Agape Women's Fellowship met at the home of Pat Smith on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The ladies turned in the gifts that they have been making for our shut-ins. A committee was formed to pack and deliver the gifts.

Officers were voted on, except for secretary. That office will remain vacant for the time being. The rest of the offices were voted to stay the same. Chairperson Billie Welch, Treasure Norma Billing, Sunshine chairman Nellie Keiser. After the meeting we had a very nice Christmas party with hand made gifts being exchanged. Our next meeting will be at the home of Connie Falck, on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Her address is: 131 Magnolia Ave. Apt #87, all ladies are invited to attend, we try to start at 7:15pm.

Billie

## ADVENTUROUS SENIORS

Kaleb's Kids will resume on January 19<sup>th</sup>. On November 29<sup>th</sup> twelve of our seniors gathered for our annual Praise and Thanksgiving luncheon, on December 8<sup>th</sup> three of us ventured to the Santa Rosa Mall, to see what we could get that was on sale. Our annual Christmas party was held on December 13<sup>th</sup> with twelve in attendance. Our next outing will be on January 10<sup>th</sup>, at Leisure Lake recreation room. It will be a potluck lunch. It will also be our fund raiser for the year, so bring a few items that you would like to see someone else take home.

Billie

### December Birthdays

- 5. Gloria Robinson
- 8. Meg Phelps
- 10. Rick Azevedo
- 20. Claudette Morris

### December Anniversaries

- 16. Bob & Meg Phelps