

# The Bible Standard

*"Send out your light and truth! Let them lead me;..."*

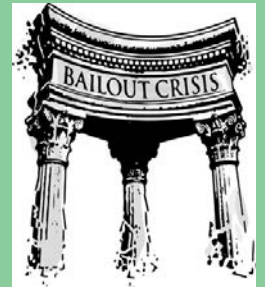
*Psalm 43:3*

## **"LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE"**

*Isaiah 62:10*

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**FINANCIERS TREMBLE**  
**THEIR SILVER AND THEIR GOLD**  
**WILL NOT DELIVER THEM—Ezekiel 7:19.**



**“Men’s Hearts  
 Failing Them For  
 Fear” Luke 21: 26**



IN THESE TROUBLED DAYS, and probably for the first time ever, thinking people are puzzled and apprehensive on a truly universal scale as the prospect of a failure and collapse of our world order looms like a dark specter before their minds. In the history of nations we read that, when their terms of existence became unacceptable, men sought and usually found alternatives. It was assumed that alternatives were there for the finding. At worst, when a nation or even an empire weakened and crumbled to anarchic decay, peoples from without would move in and take over. However unpalatable to some, there were alternatives and with them hope in some way.

The puzzling, frightening thought which continually and ever more insistently asserts itself today is that the world of our times is fast running out—or has already run out—of alternatives. There are now no “peoples from without” to look to, since all nations are being drawn into a “one world” all enveloping situation by such influences as the advance of modern technology, the world-wide flow of information and communication, and the shift for corporate business and financial interest from a national basis to a global scale. Weapons of mass destruction proliferate. Whole populations are disturbed, no longer able to control affairs within their own national boundaries. They feel increasingly exposed to menacing situations and the effects of unmanageable crises of many kinds which, in recent years, have spilled out across traditional borders to encompass the whole world.

Many of the experts who study threats to our world order are sounding dire warnings. We hear their fears of world-wide economic collapse, ecological disaster, famine, epidemic disease, devastation of environmental effects of modern weaponry, and the

reaction to all of these in terms of social and political turmoil. There is even—as voiced by science—the potential for universal annihilation and planetary devastation. Such things, it is believed, could well be the penalty for failing to seek an alternative in Christ, as a more viable world order. But so vast, complex and intractable are the problems now facing humanity, that here in what is sometimes dubbed “the brain age,” none of these—the world’s wisest men and women—can find a universally acceptable, workable alternative, and factions among them are even unsure that there is one. Fear begins to stalk the earth.

On this subject we wish to consider the Bible text of Hebrews 12: 26, 27, which will be the basis for our comments: “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.” (v. 27) “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, “as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.”

It will probably be advantageous to comment on these verses, before making direct application to the conditions coming on our world and its society. The shaking seems to be a manifestation of Divine displeasure with Satan’s present rulership, as established in the various elements of man-made human society, that are based on sin, error, injustice and greed (John 12: 31). These are the things that will not stand under the light of this day and are in the process of being removed—by the great Time of Trouble that is now working in the earth, under the Lord’s direction. This work will eventually overthrow the wrong and establish the right, in preparation for the setting-up of Christ’s Kingdom of righteousness—during the Millennial Age. This text applies to our day and is describing a tearing down that is now in progress, with

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the view of removing all unrighteous things that are shakable, whether they be in human society's religious sphere (ecclesiastical heavens) or of earth's secular aspects (governmental, industrial, and financial) control.

### **BANK SECURITIES ARE BEING SHAKEN**

Everything false, bogus, and inequitable will be shaken. In financial parlance this is equivalent to saying that the "water" will be squeezed out of all the stocks and bonds. Now, in the opening of the New Dispensation, when everything is being "shaken," we are to expect that all such stocks and bonds will be shaken in value until everything like dishonesty and inequity shall have been shaken out.

One hundred and thirty-six years ago the world's great bankers and financiers concluded that it would be to their interest to demonetize silver and have only a gold standard. This dually accomplished what they foresaw and intended; it curtailed the world's monetary supply and enabled the bankers the better to control the entire situation throughout the world. By an elaborate banking system (valuable in some respects), it made each gold dollar multiply itself and do the work of five dollars or ten dollars, assisted by bank checks and drafts. Thus the profits of the larger banks increased amazingly by reason of higher discount and interest charges, making them rich at the public expense.

The public, of course, acquiesced to the law demonetizing silver and making gold the single standard. But they did it under misapprehension, because they believed the banker's tale that this was really the best thing for the people, and not merely a measure in the interest of the banker and at the expense of the people. It is perhaps but fair to say that less than one-half of the bankers understood the philosophy of the matter; the others were guided by the wealthier and more astute, who did fully understand.

The result has been great profits to the bankers, and great power; for without them, corporation stocks and bonds could not be handled as efficiently. The bankers took over large issues of industrial stocks and bonds, by what is known as the underwriting process. They were capable sales agents for the bonds at a good round percentage of profit, advancing money on the bonds and holding them for sale to the public.

### **THE DAY OF RECKONING**

Now we see fulfilled the Scripture declaration: "He takes the wise in their own craftiness" (Job 5: 13). How so, do you ask? The reply is that the great banks have been well filled with these bonds and stocks on which

they had hoped to make large profits; but which, on the contrary, they are now able to sell only limitedly. These stocks and bonds reckoned in as part of the banks' assets show them to be wealthy, with immense surpluses; but now that the "water" is taken out of these stocks and bonds it will show an immense shrinkage in the resources of these banks. They will become suddenly poor without actually losing a cent, by reason of the market value of their securities falling.

This fact is realized by all banks. They realize that, if the Day of Reckoning has come, and their holdings—their securities—are to be reckoned at their actual value, it will mean that, instead of large resources and surpluses, some of the richest banks have become insolvent and the governments have been called upon to bail them out. This will be difficult, for the rich men of the world have their capital invested similarly, and the reaction will be bound to unfavorably affect all the great commercial enterprises of the world. As all went well, amazingly well, for the bankers and the wealthy by reason of the demonetization of silver, so when the Day of Reckoning shall have fully dawned, things will go especially hard with these same people. And, although the stoppage and the reconstruction will involve the whole world, poor and rich alike, nevertheless in many respects the rich will feel the pressure most.

The liquidating process has been in process for nearly a century with World War phase I and the great depression of 1929 setting the platform for the further weakening of the nations. We are now beyond that time and have passed through World War phase II, numerous smaller conflicts such as Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq. As some of the railroads were in financial difficulty following World War I leading into the depression of '29 so have their progeny, the world's airlines, been floundering on the brink of insolvency with some of them folding their wings and calling it quits. Now the transportation corporations and all companies, because of increased fuel prices and even individual home owners are being pushed to the brink. These are now joined by the large banks and some insurance companies due to the storm disasters; adding to the problem have been large and small banking institutions in unwise loans. They have been caught with thousands of home mortgages going into default. This condition has not only hit here in America but has enveloped the global economy. The question is asked, who is paying for all this financial bail-out? It is the taxpayer who holds the bag. With these transactions the "water squeezing" is leaving the financial picture of society in a very dubious position and will undoubtedly accom-

plish their thorough “shaking.” But meantime the wars, not waiting for the more gradual processes of the law and the ordinary deteriorating business climate, have brought the financial world to a crisis. The nations of the world are being shaken. The casualties of the wars have amounted to many millions of human beings, and trillions of dollars of debt. Financial values are greatly impaired, as are also national credits. The thing needed is solid money backing, as in every war, the precious metals have practically disappeared from all nations. Their home securities will not be salable for cash, and a general attempt will be made to sell American securities, stocks, and bonds, etc. But who will buy these? America will be practically the only market for them, and as we have already seen, American banks and bankers are loaded down—heavily.

When we learn the immense amount of these American shares and bonds held mostly in European and Asian banks and others, we need not wonder that American bankers pale at the thought of their being dumped upon the American market. According to the U.S. Department of the Treasury/Federal Reserve Board as of July 2008 the grand total of American securities held by foreign entities is 2,676.4 billions of dollars. If but a fraction of these be diversified to realize solid payment, it would mean an avalanche—a financial deluge. American banks, already overloaded with these “securities,” cannot purchase all; hence prices would tumble and wrecks follow.

In view of these matters, is it any wonder that American bankers fear to see the stock exchanges open for business? The U.S. and other governments have stepped into the picture and are working to bolster the world’s financial markets. The government at home has submitted over seven hundred and eighty-five billions of dollars here in the U.S. in order to keep the ship afloat for a time. The face value of the stock market has been preserved temporarily and thereby the banks and bankers have been permitted to continue counting these fictitious prices.

### EFFECT OF SILVER DEMONETIZATION

Had silver not been demonetized, bankers would not have had as easy a time as they have enjoyed for over 135 years, in cornering the financial market, and getting large rates of interest and premiums—but neither would they be in the same distress at the present time, for the world would have had twice as much financial backing

with which to do its business. When we consider that the gold coin of the world is not sufficient for paying the interest of the national debts, we perceive how the banking institutions have had the people, figuratively, by the throat, and now are being choked themselves by their own device. The interest upon the debts cannot be paid in gold, because there is not enough of it to pay the interest. Hence the only thing remaining to be done is to issue more bonds, payable *In God We Trust*. Now that nobody will buy the bonds, what is to be done? Interest on foreign holdings of American “securities,” at a percentage per annum, means drainage of one hundred and seven billions of dollars every year, needed to pay that interest. Now we seem to be coming to a dead stop through these wars, weather-related calamities and unwise loans and expenditures. The wheels of finance which worked so favorably for the bankers in the past are turning in the opposite direction and lacerating them financially.



Apparently our financial “house of cards” is trembling and about to fall. Various expedencies are being tried by the governments and the ablest financiers of the world. We might hope that their skill would accomplish the end they desire and save the present financial institutions—from being “shaken” to pieces. But, if we are right in our understanding of the Scriptures, if the great Day of Settlement has come, in which all the shakable things are to be shaken

and nothing remains, except that which cannot be shaken, then we may be sure that all human effort will fail, and that the greatest of all crashes of a financial kind that has ever happened—will eventually take place. But despite these dark clouds, God has provided a light at the end of the tunnel.

### GOLD IN SHORT SUPPLY

It will be noticed that we are saying nothing new—that what we have just said has been stated in part, at least, by many, and published in the media worldwide. We are merely bringing together these things, and showing their relationship to the testimony of the Bible, that we are now in the great day of “shaking.” To some this will be considered a fanatical pessimism, because the vast majority of people have absolutely no confidence in the Scriptures. Nevertheless, when these things shall come to pass in the very near future, some may be helped to an understanding of the true situation, to a recognition of the fact that the “shaking” upon the nations financially, socially, politically and religiously is of the Lord and

not accidental. Under normal conditions American business should be prospering as never before. But with the gold standard in Europe and in America, there is an insufficiency of solid money and the business of the entire world is stagnated. The world's needs and wants are as great as ever, but it has not the financial backing wherewith to purchase. The demonetization of silver seems to be referred to by the Prophet Ezekiel (7: 19) saying: "They shall cast their silver into the street," treat it as a commodity and not as money. The Prophet then tells how gold will become scarce and eventually be completely withdrawn from society as the Hebrew text implies "Their gold shall be removed." Therefore, neither silver nor gold is available to deliver in this day of the LORD'S wrath.

Corporation magnates, and the bankers who hold their securities, perceive that if it is difficult to raise money for the meeting of the interest on stocks and bonds, it will be even more difficult to issue new bonds to replace maturing ones, no matter how sound and well managed they may be. Is it any wonder that the trepidation of the financial and political princes of the earth is great, as they look into the future? Their well-grounded fears were prophesied by our Savior as one of the signs of this present time: "Men's hearts failing them for fear and for looking after those things coming upon the earth"—the social order, and because of the shaking of the "heavens," the ecclesiastical systems and the "earth," the secular powers (Luke 21: 26).

### BE WISE YOU RULERS!

*"Be instructed . . . you judges of the earth"* (Psa. 2: 10) Would that the cultured and influential princes of earth could take the proper view of the situation and realize the fallacy of their counsels, the impossibility of averting the great changes which are upon us by reason of the time having come for Messiah to take to Himself His great power and reign! Could the wise of earth realize the situation and fully submit themselves to the Divine requirements of absolute justice and truth. What a blessing it would be to the world! If these princes would turn their attention, from the grasping of power and greed for money, to the enlightenment and uplifting of the people, they would become ministers of the New Dispensation, which would be ushered in with rejoicing. But the Lord informs us that this

will not be the case, and that as a result, Messiah's Kingdom is now ushered in by a "Time of Trouble such as was not since there was a nation" (Daniel 12: 1).

### THE GLORIOUS OUTCOME

*"He calms the storm so that its waves are still. Then are they glad because they are quiet; so He guides them to their desired haven. . . . Whoever is wise will observe these things, and they will understand the lovingkindness of the LORD"* (Psa. 107: 29, 30, 43).

Psalms 107 seems to be prophetic, tracing to a considerable degree the experiences of the people of God throughout this Christian Age. It may be applied to the Church and also in a world-wide international way. The cause of all the trouble in the world is sin. God in His wisdom has arranged in His plan for the removal of sin and its effects. He will permit sin to bring storms and difficulties of life to both classes of the human race for their correction; to be tossed about, buffeted and thereby learn to appreciate the sacrifice that our Savior made, whom God has provided to be the Great Deliverer of the Elect and eventually of the world. The whole matter has been Divinely arranged to have Christ step forth with His Church, in power and supreme authority, to command all the storms to cease and bring order out of confusion. Yet this must wait for the Divinely appointed time.

During this age the Elect has been selected, and the storms and difficulties of life have been valuable to them in developing and refining their characters in preparation for the kingdom honors, privileges and opportunities in the heavenly realm. They will be a great help to the world, who will be seeking everlasting life on the human plane during Christ's 1,000 year reign (Rev. 20: 4).

The establishment of the New Covenant at the start of the Millennial Age will see the Ancient and Youthful Worthies, as the earthly representatives of Christ and the Church, taking the oversight of the instruction of the world and ruling in human affairs. This will be after the Messiah has commanded, "Peace to the angry nations and bidden the raging billows be calm." Whoever has gained wisdom and has observed the lovingkindness of the Lord, can see a light at the end of the trouble, even though for a short space, His righteous sword is unsheathed for the punishment of iniquity and the overthrow of Satan's evil empire.

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Mark 4: 38-41

# PROPER SELF-ESTEEM

The two previous issues discussed the lack or opposite of self-esteem, and then its exaggeration. Now, it would be in order to look at ways to develop this proper character attribute. We need to use caution in the development of the grace of self-esteem because there are elements of it that need to be curtailed and diminished rather than embellished. This restraint is necessary because of our present imperfection in heart and mind, which has the tendency to make us self-satisfied with our personal ability and character attainments. Such an attitude leads to the development of the disgrace of pride, rather than keeping such things in a condition of restraint. This will be accomplished if we exercise a sober reflection of our inabilities in our present condition and work to keep this quality of self-esteem in its proper place, by exercising a controlling self-discipline on all of its avenues of use.

Furthermore, most people do not specially need to be encouraged to develop the self-confidence and self-respect of self-esteem; for seemingly most people's need seems to be in the direction of discouraging these. But there are some who do need to be encouraged therein, who lack in self-confidence and self-respect; and such development should be to the degree that these two qualities make faithful servants of truth, righteousness and holiness, no more and no less. More than this would develop pride; less than this would prevent one from making the most of his capabilities and lead him to act unworthily of himself as a servant of God. This results when some brethren need to cultivate self-confidence, others who need growth in self-respect, and still others who need to develop both. To such we offer on each of the relative qualities some suggestions, which we hope will prove useful in supplying these lacks.

## CULTIVATION

We will begin with the cultivation of self-confidence. How should we proceed? First, we should recognize we have this lack and seek a correct diagnosis of our infirmity; for without such a recognition we would hardly look for a means to have the lack supplied. Second, we

should understand the need to supply this lack; and finally, we should identify the method to pursue for supplying the lack. We are not to seek to supply it merely by our own human abilities, rather, we are to use a Bible-oriented method, such as, *making ourselves believe that we are capable of being or doing anything that God desires us to be or to do*. The reason that this is the proper way to proceed is that it enables us to have a sober view of our capabilities as a Christian; for that is the view that God has in mind, and He never wishes us in self-confidence to fall short of or go beyond our abilities. Hence we have to learn just what God desires us to do. This we find out by an attentive study of our spirit of consecration, our actual talents and our providential situation; for it is by these that God decides what He desires us to be and to do.

Having recognized God's uses of us in these respects, we see in a general way what He desires us to be and to do toward improvement of ourselves, the brethren and others. Then in a particular way as in the details of our daily lives, He indicates His desires as to our activities, by the relation of the principles of His Word, by the motives of His Spirit and by the indications of His providences as to the performance of this work. Having learned what revamping job needs to be done with our character we are *to exercise persistent determination in believing that we have the ability to be or to do it*. This strength of mind we are to reinforce by using those parts of God's Word, that relate to accomplishing the work; then, finally, we are to perform these things. Let us keep saying to ourselves: I *can*, I CAN, I CAN be or do it, because God would not wish me to be or to do it, if I could not perform it. This will arouse the quality of self-confidence and a repeated exercise of it will develop it further. In this way we can develop self-confidence.

## DEVELOPMENT

Now let us see how we can develop the self-respect of self-esteem. To develop self-confidence will help us to develop self-respect in the sense that it will convince us that we have, by God's grace, been working in the

Holy Spirit, by the Word and the Divine providences, the ability to accomplish God's will for us. With this conviction we are off to a good start in developing self-respect. The following will prove helpful. First, we are to recognize our lack of it. Second, we are to find out the degree of self-respect that is proper for us to feel and show; for we may go beyond the amount that is right and develop arrogance, haughtiness, disdain and contempt of others and other evils by which an exaggerated self-respect manifests itself. We may fall short of developing the right amount of self-respect, and retain more or less of the base, ignoble, servile and cringing spirit that an inadequate self-respect produces. Third, let us fix our wills to think of ourselves and to act with the dignity called for by our personal and official standings before the Lord, both as to deeming ourselves above feeling and doing things unworthy of our stations and as to feeling and acting in ways worthy of our respective positions before the Heavenly Father. Such a course will cultivate in us an appropriate and much-needed self-respect.

### CAUTIONS

Having pointed out how a proper self-esteem may be developed, it would be in place to add several cautions. First of all, we suggest that most people do not need to develop it; for most members of our race have too much of it, by imperfection, heredity, training or environment, or by a combination of two or more of these influences. Especially is this true of its element of self-satisfaction, which is never to be developed, though it is necessary to overcome exaggerated self-dissatisfaction. This is done, not by gaining self-satisfaction, but by eradicating the over abundant self-dissatisfaction present.

We should, first of all, carefully note whether or not we need to curb rather than develop self-esteem. Then, second, let us exercise great care if we find ourselves deficient in the self-confidence and self-respect of the grace of self-esteem, so that we do not overdevelop self-esteem, which there is greater danger of doing than there is of under doing it; for in the cultivation of needed self-esteem great care must be taken to strive for a balance in it, as against going to either extreme of self-esteem.

The third caution that we would point out in this matter is to be on our guard at all times against developing too much self-esteem, which means pride, and which is the chief danger connected with developing a suitable self-esteem; because pride is the most dangerous evil of all the disgraces, with the exception of those disgraces—that directly impinge against the higher primary graces.

As an example; superstition (the exaggeration of faith), unbelief (the lack of faith) and disbelief (the opposite to faith), which these three are direct impingements against a proper faith. Therefore, let us guard ourselves well in connection with the development of self-esteem.

### CURBING EXAGGERATED SELF-ESTEEM

When self-esteem is overdeveloped, it needs to be curbed and modified. It should not be destroyed; for it is a grace, but too large amount of it must be restrained and adapted. In other words, we must strike a balance between a lack of it and too much of it. In this grace, as in all other character graces, it needs regulation so far as an over abundance or too little of it is concerned; we must take the golden middle road between these two extremes. We have just shown how to foster its lack. Here we desire to show how to draw back from the extreme of its superabundance.

The presence of too much of it is recognized from the fact that it seeks to gain control of our thoughts, motives, words and acts. Because of being a lower primary grace, it, like the secondary and tertiary graces, must never be allowed to control our thoughts, feelings, words and acts, for such control belongs exclusively to the rulership of the higher primary graces. If it controls, pride is controlling and will increase by means of that control.

The methods that are to be used in such a case are: (1) amalgamate the higher primary graces together with the efforts of self-esteem to control, whereby self-importance is given a back seat, (2) displacing pride, controlling of self-esteem, by its opposite grace, humility, which is cultivated and exercised by blending the higher primary graces and subjecting self-esteem to their control which produces humility, and (3) restraining the efforts of self-esteem to control by using graces other than its opposite grace, and incorporating the higher primary graces or other graces such as the lower primary, secondary and tertiary graces in restraint of pride, as conceited self-esteem.

Persistent determination and exercise in the use of these three special methods will prove helpful in obtaining a proper self-esteem. Pride is a self-important self-esteem, having three forms: (1) arrogant self-confidence—self-sufficiency and its related disgraces (2) self-satisfaction—self-complacency and its related disgraces mentioned above; (3) overweening self-respect—arrogance and haughtiness and their related disgraces also mentioned above; these methods should be used against all three elements of pride, and thus it will be overcome by faithful resistance.

Our self-esteem in two of its wrong phases—in its lacks and in its exaggerations, leads to trials, in the sense of bringing us trouble by their activities. How many are the troubles that have come upon the world through pride! In religion, denomination, state, labor, society, family, business, education, science, literature, art, philosophy and in the interrelation of several of these, the history of the world proves that pride is one of the champion trouble-breeders. This is also true among the consecrated, in each in his personal life and in various aspects of them in their relations with one another. Particularly is this true among leaders. It has been said that according to observation, 95% of the leaders who have fallen have done so through pride. Limiting our remarks to the Epiphany, we have found the proportion of such falls even larger than 95%. Into how many humiliations have various of the Lord's people been brought by the exercise of self-sufficiency, self-complacency, arrogance and their related disgraces—all elements of pride!

While not so great a troublemaker as haughty self-esteem, self-appreciation's lack has wrought mischief to worldlings and consecrated alike. How many failures and mistakes in religion, denomination, state, labor, society, family, business, education, science, literature, art, philosophy and in the interrelations of several of these has the lack of self-confidence and self-respect caused! All the consecrated who lack these two elements of self-esteem, looking back at pertinent experiences, can see many a failure and mistake with consequent troubles to have been theirs through the presence of such lacks. It is hard to say which of these two lacks causes us the most trouble; but it is certain that lack of self-confidence has occasioned us more failures than the lack of self-respect, while the lack of self-respect has caused us to make more mistakes than the lack of self-confidence. Thus the superabundance or lack of self-esteem causes us trials in the sense of troubles.

### THE TRIAL OF SELF-ESTEEM

Our proper self-esteem must undergo trial in the sense of testing; for, like every other phase of character, it must be tested by various experiences, that its fitness or unfitness for the position that God offers us may be manifested. This testing is done by experiences of trials of all kinds, but the most crucial tests of proper self-esteem come from our exaltations and our humiliations.

We are given exaltations in order to demonstrate whether our proper self-esteem can be changed into self-important self-esteem or whether it will remain in proper balance. Accordingly, experiences of success, honor, prominence, popularity, and superiority are allowed to

come into our lives. They certainly test this quality! How many fail, amid such experiences, to maintain a balanced self-esteem, and are swept off their feet into self-sufficiency, audacity, conceit, self-complacency, arrogance, haughtiness, boastfulness and self-exaltation!

On the other hand, our proper self-esteem is subjected to humiliations, to furnish us with opportunities of demonstrating whether such humiliations will push us into the other extreme, where self-distrust becomes extreme, with its concomitants of discouragement, despair and a defeatist complex, where self-dissatisfaction becomes extreme, with its concomitants of self-discouragement, self-despair and an inferiority complex, and where self-disrespect becomes extreme, with its concomitants of degradation, servility, cringing and a debased complex, whether in spite of such humiliation, we retain a balanced self-respect. Some of our trials of self-esteem will be single—testing only one phase of it; some will be compound, involving two or the three phases of it.

Some of such trials will involve no other test than the test of self-esteem; and some of them will involve it and one or more other points of character. However they may come on our proper self-esteem, it is for us to faithfully exercise our holy qualities, in harmony with the Spirit, Word and providences of God, so as to maintain such proper self-esteem, and thus become victors in its tests. We are to strive therein, as well as in the testing of all others of our graces, to be hourly and daily victorious, that in the end of our testing period we may be finally victorious.

Among humans we find multitudes of examples of self-esteem in its exaggeration, deficiency and balance. We have shown how these prevail in the various spheres of human activities, and each one of us can recall examples of the three elements of self-esteem in its exaggeration, deficiency and balance, as they exist and act in these many spheres of human activities; therefore we will not here name individuals showing the three forms of self-esteem in its exaggeration, deficiency and balance in these various spheres.

### THE RESULTS OF SELF-ESTEEM

Briefly, in conclusion, we would point out the results of a proper cultivation of the two elements of self-esteem that, when lacking, should be cultivated.

To cultivate the *self-confidence* of self-esteem to the degree of a sober self-reliance will have the good result of saving one from making a failure in one's proper undertakings, both from the standpoint of saving one from the defeatist attitude of self-distrust and from the audacious attitude of self-sufficiency, for both of these extremes are



from different standpoints opposed to the successful development of character. Self-confidence, properly developed, will hold us back from undertaking what is beyond our capabilities to achieve, and from failing to undertake what we can successfully accomplish with God's help. It will, on the contrary, keep us in the golden middle of endeavor pointed out by our abilities as the way that we should take, and will help us to bring to a success our proper endeavors. In this way we can forward God's purposes in and through us, and profit others and ourselves.

Likewise we will find the proper development of the *self-respect* of self-esteem to be fruitful of good results. It will restrain us from acting unworthily of ourselves as children of God, and thus restrain us from sin, selfishness, worldliness and error, especially the advocacy of error. These are some of its negative fruits. But it also yields positive fruits, for it conduces to make us act worthily of ourselves as the instructed, justified and

consecrated people of God, and thus it encourages us to grow in wisdom—truth—in the virtues of justice, in the graces of love and in the executiveness of power, and thus continually conduces to transforming our characters into Christlikeness. It also enables us to exercise that dignity which our various offices before the Lord call upon us to exercise, to the developing of ourselves, to the more favorable influencing of others and to the honoring of God and Christ, who have honored us with our various offices: those of soldiers, ambassadors, princes, teachers, and noblemen under God.

Certainly these rewards are a strong inducement to us to develop and exercise correct self-esteem in a balanced self-confidence and self-respect. We trust that all of us will yield to such inducements to cultivate these to the degree that we need them. \* \* \*

If you have enjoyed the series of articles on the development of self-esteem as a grace, you will find the God book (\$4.50) helpful in learning more about all the Christian graces.

### *“Pride Goeth Before Destruction”*

*A KING in procession had come to the town,  
Riding an ass that was playing the clown:  
For as people hailed and saluted their king  
And started in joy his great praises to sing,  
The ass made a curtsy and smiled and bowed  
And sat down to salute the worshiping crowd.  
The king in his rage had the ass fully stripped,  
And there on the street had him publicly whipped.*

*Which reminds us of some that our Master has used  
Who, puffed up in pride, their office abused;  
And not honoring Him in all their ways,  
They took to themselves His honor and praise—  
But pride brings destruction, or something quite near it,  
And so they were stripped of the Truth and its spirit;  
For they are devoid of true wisdom, alas,  
Who possess the audacity of the ass!*

*Poems of Dawn  
Page 299*

# THE PLACE USURPED BY SANTA CLAUS



BEGINNING long beforehand and increasingly until Dec. 25 each year throughout the Christian world, the benign, smiling face of a genial, jovial personage greets people in stores, shops, offices, public schools, Sunday schools, churches and homes, appearing in Christmas decorations, cards, stationery, gift wrappings, and festivities. This personage is Santa Claus, also known as Saint Nicholas. He is set forth as the god of Christmas and good cheer, the great friend and benefactor of every good child. He has become so endeared to the hearts of multitudes of both young and old that each year at this season they join in ardently singing his praises.

Here in brief is the legend that is very vividly related, sung and pictured to the children: "Far up in the polar regions, amid the ice and snow, lives Santa Claus in a great house of many rooms crammed with things that will delight the hearts of children. He and his assistants are very busy during most of the year in his workshop, making nice toys for good little children all over the world. He sees, hears and knows all that the children do and say. He keeps a 'Book of Remembrance,' in which he records all their words and actions. As one popular song puts it, 'He sees you when you're sleeping, and he knows you when you're awake.' On Christmas eve Santa Claus comes down secretly from the sky in a sleigh, carrying a huge bag filled with many delightful gifts. His sleigh is drawn by swift reindeer that 'fly upon the wings of the wind' and 'ride upon the clouds.' Only those who wait and watch can ever see him. When he comes he brings gifts as rewards to all good little children, so you must be good and obey your parents if you want Santa Claus to bring you something real nice."

Do you say this is merely a charming and harmless legend, an innocent fantasy, having a certain value in teaching small children to be obedient (at least for part of the year!)? Let us see. How do the children react to such a legend, usually as follows: "Santa Claus is our friend, who has all the things we want, and he will give

them to us if we are good." Is it any wonder that they open their hearts to Santa Claus, strive to please him, talk about him, dream about him and wait and watch for him with longing hearts?

## THE PLACE USURPED BY SANTA CLAUS

Whose place has Santa Claus taken in children's minds and hearts, as year by year the harmless (?) legend has been repeated to them? Santa Claus, the smiling, generous, fictitious giver of good gifts and rewarder of good children, has thereby been allowed to usurp more or less in their minds and hearts *the place that belongs to and that should be occupied by the Heavenly Father*, the true, generous Giver of "every good gift and every perfect gift" (James 1: 17), the "rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11: 6)! And, furthermore, the story of Santa's bestowing of gifts has been allowed to steal more or less in their minds and hearts *the place that should be occupied by "the sweetest story ever told,"* the story of God's giving His only begotten Son to come to earth to redeem mankind.

*Santa Claus has really been allowed to usurp a place that belongs to God and Jesus!* God said (Ex. 20: 3), "You shall have no other gods before me"; and Jesus said (Matt. 19: 14; Mark 10: 14), "Suffer the little children to come unto me." But through the Santa Claus legend another god has been put ahead of Jehovah, and Jesus' position has been minimized. Homes have been opened, though often unwittingly, to a thief wearing a red suit, and little or no resistance has been offered while this idol has stolen the hearts of children.

Stripped thus of his disguise, we see that the harmless (?), jovial, generous, fun-provoking Santa Claus is really one of the masterpieces of Satan's subtle workmanship. Satan is the real author of the harmless (?) charming Santa Claus legend—in fact, if we change the order of the letters in the name *Santa*, they spell Satan! In many ways Satan has deceived fallen mankind into changing "the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man," and "the truth of

God into a lie,” and has caused them to worship and serve “the creature [Greek, *the created thing*] more than the Creator” (Rom. 1: 23, 25). The Santa Claus legend is but one of these deceptions. By it he has turned the hearts and minds of little ones to a false god for them to worship, with false hopes, fictions and fabrications for their vivid imaginations to feed upon.

### THE PROPER COURSE FOR CHRISTIANS

Let all who have named the name of Christ refrain in every way possible from following “cunningly devised fables” (1 Tim. 1: 4; 4: 7; 2 Tim. 4: 3, 4; 2 Pet. 1: 16). Let us not “hold [Greek, *hold down, suppress*] the truth in unrighteousness” (Rom. 1: 18). *Let us tell our children that the Santa Claus story is merely a fable, that it is untrue!* Let us tell them the truth, and let us speak it to them in love (Eph. 4: 15)!

ABOVE ALL, LET US LIFT UP THE STANDARD OF TRUE BIBLE TEACHING BEFORE OUR CHILDREN. Let us tell them of our great, loving God Jehovah, our Heavenly Father, the Giver of every good and perfect gift, and His great gift of His Son Jesus to die for us, so that we might have eternal life (John 3: 15-17). Let us tell them that God, the greatest Giver, has placed into the hearts of people also the Godlike desire to give—to give their hearts and minds to Him and His Son Jesus, to give of their time, means, *etc.*, for the furtherance of His work, and to give gifts of various kinds to one another.

Let us tell the children the story of Jesus’ human birth, which occurred about Oct. 1, according to the Bible testimony, (BS #492, a copy free upon request and *The Time is at Hand*, pp. 54-62), and how some time afterward the wise men brought gifts to the child Jesus, and that likewise it is specially appropriate at this season that we exercise the Godlike spirit of giving—to God and Jesus and Their cause, and also to one another. We can explain to them that the little gifts they receive are from God through their loving parents, family and friends; they will treasure them just as highly and will appreciate them even more than if they are told that they come from Santa Claus. The children should be taught to have and express gratitude to God for all gifts received, as well as to the loved ones through whom He has bestowed the gifts.

Furthermore, in Christian child-training the lesson of “it is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20: 35) should not be neglected. Let the children give something for the furtherance of the Lord’s work, and also give to others, preferably buying with their own money any gifts that they desire to give. Teach them that they are to give

unselfishly, without expecting anything in return. This will help to keep them from developing selfish and self-centered characters and will help them to learn the joy of giving to others and bringing blessings to them.

### A SAD AWAKENING

What a sad awakening comes to parents when a child whom they had taught never to tell a lie becomes old enough to learn personally the truth and to be amazed at the lies that his parents have told him about Santa Claus coming down chimneys, rabbits laying Easter eggs, storks bringing babies, *etc!* And in view of this, is it any wonder that so many children begin to wonder about and, as they grow up, lose faith in what their parents and others have told them about God and Christ, such as Jesus’ virgin birth, His sinlessness and His crucifixion as a ransom price for all mankind, God’s great plan of salvation, the establishment of His Kingdom on earth, the resurrection, restitution, the hope of eternal life, *etc.?*

Some time ago a mother, who had told her little boy the Santa Claus falsehood, had the following experience: When her son learned for himself the truth about Santa Claus and realized that his mother had deceived him, he approached her about the matter and asked her some questions. Why had she told him what was not true? And why then did she insist that he always tell the truth, and punish him when he would tell what wasn’t true? And how old would he have to be before he would be allowed to tell lies to others, like she had done to him?

The mother was brought quickly to her senses, and to a realization of how she had sinned against God and her child. She then acknowledged to her son that she had done wrong and was sorry. He reminded her of how she had taught him to pray to God to forgive him whenever he had done wrong. She consented to his suggestion that she should do the same; so they both kneeled in prayer.

Christian parents, how can you substitute the pagan legend of Santa Claus for the true story of God’s great love? How can you consent to let the image of Santa Claus usurp more or less the place of the Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus in your child’s heart? The clouds of judgment hang heavy over many homes. Terrible things are happening among our children. After they lose faith in their parents, the next step is usually to lose faith in God, Jesus Christ, the Bible and in Christian standards in general. No wonder there are problems with some of the youth of today! It follows closely on the heels of *negligence by the parents!*

\* \* \*

## DECEMBER 25

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord-Luke 2: 10, 11.

Although we cannot agree that this is the proper day for celebrating the birth of our dear Redeemer, but must insist that it was about October first (Studies, Vol. 2, p. 54), nevertheless, since He did not intimate His desire that we should celebrate His birthday, it is quite immaterial upon what day that event, of so great importance to all, is celebrated. Upon this day, so generally celebrated, we may properly enough join with all whose hearts are in the attitude of love and appreciation toward God and toward the Savior. The habit of giving little remembrances one to another at this time of year seems to us specially appropriate. God is the Giver of every good and perfect gift. He is continually giving; and we are receiving from Him; but among all His gifts the One of greatest importance to us is the Gift of His Son to be our Redeemer.

The good tidings of great joy for all people announce blessings consisting of a number of things, i.e., the forgiveness of sins, resulting in the awakening of all the dead; an accurate knowledge of the Truth; the race being placed amid conditions inconducive to sin and error, and conducive to truth and righteousness; a favorable influence Christward operating on all; bringing every knee to bowing to, and every mouth to confession of, His Lordship; the offer of the holy Spirit to all and the privileges of the Highway of Holiness for all. These are the blessings that the Oath-bound Covenant assures "the seed" that it will administer to mankind. The Ransom-price, a perfect human being, had to exist before it could be given as the basis of all these blessings. Therefore the human birth of Him who was to be both Lord and Christ had to take place. And it having taken place the Angel could in announcing it as an embryonic event tell of the blessed growth that had its roots in the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem, and its fruit in man's restitution.

Parallel passages: Gen. 12: 3; Psa. 22: 27-29; Isa. 9: 6; 29: 18, 24; 35: 5, 6, 10; Luke 2: 30-32, 34; John 1: 9; 12: 32; Rom. 14: 9; Phil. 2: 9-11.

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## EXPULSION FROM EDEN

The Word of God must stand, whether it be the word promising Eternal Life or the sentence of Death. There is no variableness with Him, neither shadow of turning. The curse, the Death Sentence, foretold by the Lord, was executed, but not instantly. Adam was not stricken lifeless with a thunderbolt. From the very beginning God foreknew all, and had planned the redemption of Adam, Eve and their children. To this end Jesus came and “died, the Just for the unjust.” As a result ultimately the curse of death will be removed. “There shall be no more curse”—no more dying, sighing, or crying, nor any more pain.—Revelation 22: 3; 21: 4, 5.

All of us were told, and many of us believed fully, that the penalty of Father Adam’s disobedience was eternal torture, in which all of his posterity must share, except a few—the saintly, the Elect. Told that this was the teaching of the Bible, we accepted without proof.—1 Thessalonians 5: 21.

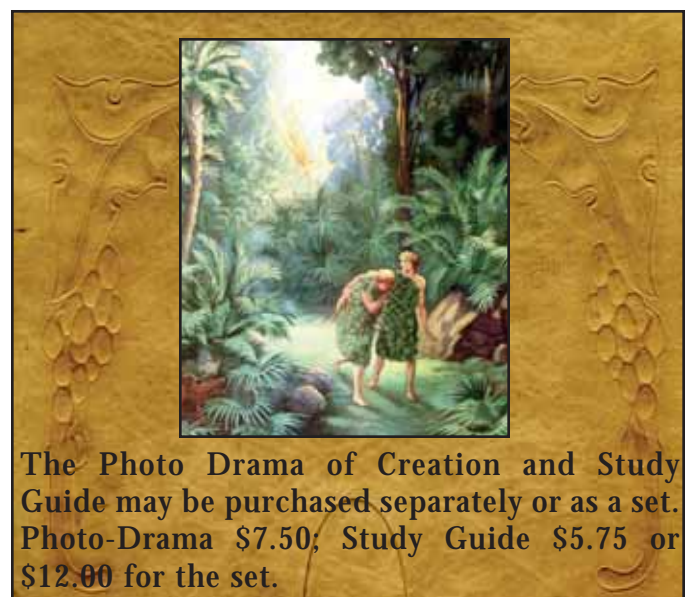
Now Christian people examine their Bibles more carefully. They find that the curse, or penalty for sin, is a totally different one. “The wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6: 23.) “The soul that sinneth it shall die.” This penalty of death has rested against Adam and his family for six thousand years. It has brought sorrow, sighing, pain and trouble; it has blighted our lives mentally, morally and physically.—Romans 5: 12.

It is this curse of death that was pronounced against Father Adam, according to the Genesis account, and also according to the New Testament. “Accursed is the earth for thy sake; thorns and thistles shall it bring forth unto thee. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread until thou return unto the ground from whence thou wast taken, for dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return.” It is from this curse that Jesus redeemed us by dying, the Just for the unjust. It is from this death-curse that Messiah rescues all by a resurrection from the dead. “By man came death, by man also the resurrection of the dead.”—1 Corinthians 15: 21.

### Questions on Lesson 11

#### Genesis 3: 22-24

1. Is there any variableness with Jehovah?  
Psa. 33: 11; Jas. 1: 17
2. Was the death sentence, “you will surely die,” executed the instant Adam sinned?
3. Had God planned the redemption of Adam, Eve and the human family before Adam sinned?
4. Why did Jesus die?
5. Will the curse of death ever be removed?  
Rev. 22: 3; 21: 4, Par. 1
6. What do many churches teach as the penalty for Adam’s sin? Par. 2
7. Do people examine their Bibles more carefully now than they used to?
8. What is the penalty for sin? Gen. 2: 17; Rom. 6: 23; Ezek. 18: 20
9. How long has this penalty rested on Adam and his family? Par. 3
10. What has been the effect of the curse of death on the human race?
11. From what did Jesus redeem us?
12. Who brought death upon the human race and who brought life? Par. 4



The Photo Drama of Creation and Study Guide may be purchased separately or as a set. Photo-Drama \$7.50; Study Guide \$5.75 or \$12.00 for the set.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gentlemen,

Someone left a copy of "The Bible Standard" on the post office table. I picked it up and took it home to read.

Please send me your back copies of the 2007 July-August and September-October issues of the Bible Standard. (*The issues requested contain articles covering Islam, editor*).

Thank you! A donation is enclosed.

Love in Christ,  
T. S., Tulsa, OK

Dear Sir,

Greetings to you in His Holy Name!

I have a great honor and respect for your magazine as it reaches me with spiritual insights and manna. I am blessed and benefited spiritually through the magazine. I thank you for sending this magazine and I would like to receive it regularly without missing a single issue.

Please send me a copy of your book "God."

Hope to hear from you soon.

Saved for a purpose,  
L. K. B., Andhra Pradesh, India

Hi Friends,

Thank you for the latest article on the end of the age in your magazine. I found it most interesting, and comprehensive in explaining where we are on the stream of

time. This would be an excellent booklet by itself, (*"The State of Israel" and "The Bible vs. the Koran" request free copy of Extra 102. Editor*) and I would find it useful in explaining to others what is happening today.

M. H., Lompoc, CA

Dear Friends: Christian greetings!

I thank you for sending the tracts I requested, especially the one "In Memoriam" and "The Resurrection of the Dead." I know that everything in those tracts is according to the Holy Scriptures. What a joy to find someone who, like me, believes hell is the grave and not a burning place where the unsaved go.

Please send me 25 of each of the above tracts so that I can distribute them to people I have talked to. Also I would like *The Divine Plan of the Ages*. I am enclosing a check for the whole order. If it is insufficient please let me know. I look forward to your publications.

Sincerely,

J. W. D., Diamondhead, MS

Gentlemen,

Thank you so much. I just received the *Photo Drama* and the *Study Guide*. Wow, I am stunned. It is so beautiful. Again, thank you very much for sending it.

Respectfully,

M. V., Indian Springs, NV

## PUBLICATIONS

Please note that there has been a price increase on some of our publications.

### ATTRACTIVE HARDBOUND BOOKS

<i>Life — Death — Hereafter</i> (224 pages) paperback	\$3.50, cloth \$4.50
<i>God</i> (547 pages; describing Jehovah's great attributes, etc.)	\$4.50
<i>Creation</i> (585 pages; describing God's creative work, etc.)	\$4.50
<i>The Bible</i> (794 pages; much useful information on it, its uses)	\$4.50
<i>Christ — Spirit — Covenants</i> (744 pages, very informative)	\$4.50
<i>The Chart of God's Plan</i> (360 pages)	\$5.00
<i>The Millennium</i> (480 pages; expounding many Scriptures)	\$7.00
<i>Daily Heavenly Manna and Devotional Service</i>	\$6.75
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<i>Is there Hope for Any of the Unsaved Dead?</i> (80 pages)	\$1.00
<i>Satan, Satanism, Demonism and Exorcism</i> (80 pages)	\$1.00
<i>Born Again</i> (48 pages)	\$1.00
<i>The Great Pyramid and the Bible</i> (48 pages)	\$1.00
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<i>Jewish Hopes and Prospects</i> (52 pages)	\$ .75
<i>The Teachings of "Jehovah's Witnesses" Examined in the Light of the Scriptures</i> (29 pages)	\$1.50

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SERVICES BY VISITING MINISTERS

John Wojnar

Chester Springs, PA, December 31

Donald Lewis

Las Vegas, NV, November 13

James Shaw

Independence, KS, November 9

Robert Steenrod

North Canton, OH, November 30

## WRITE FOR SERVICE

Please write for ministerial service in 2009 as soon as possible as we are already preparing the schedules for our traveling ministers. An individual or a class may request service. There are no charges for the service and no collections are taken at the meetings. If a free-will donation is made that would be acceptable but is not requested. Our ministers are also available for funeral service and weddings. Write to:

**Bible Standard Ministries**  
1156 St. Matthew's Road  
Chester Springs, PA 19425-2700

or

e-mail: [webresponse@biblestandard.com](mailto:webresponse@biblestandard.com)

For more details see below.

## AVAILABILITY OF TRAVELING MINISTERS

Bible Standard Ministries provides ministerial services for individuals or Bible study groups throughout the country. The routes are made out months in advance and if you desire this service write and we will set up a time that is best for you and that fits into the schedule. A visiting team is composed of a married couple who will visit you and provide a Bible talk, Berean study class, or meeting for prayer, praise, and testimony, etc. When you see a notice in the Bible Standard of a scheduled visit near you and wish to attend, inquire of us immediately for time and location.

## EVANGELISTS' SERVICES

Roger Mullen

Springfield, MA, December 7;

New Haven, CT, December 21

Richard Piquone

Mustang, OK, November 9

## ELDERS' SERVICES

Grand Rapids, MI, November 8

## 2008 LHMM CONVENTIONS

**France:** All conventions in Barlin

*Autumn, November 1, 2*

**Nigeria:** *National Convention,*

*Akwa Ibom State, November 28-30*

## 2009 LHMM CONVENTIONS

**United States:**

*New England, May 16, 17, 18*

*Athens/Nelsonville, Ohio, July 17, 18, 19*

**France:** All conventions in Barlin

*Spring: April 11, 12, 13; Summer: August July 31,*

*August 1, 2; Fall: October 31, November 1*

**United Kingdom:**

*Hyde, August 7, 8, 9;*

*Sheffield/Barlborough, October 26 and 27*

At Christmas time people like to give a little gift to their neighbors, co-workers and friends. A subscription to the Bible Standard would be a gift that would last the whole year and maybe a lifetime as it would enhance one's appreciation for our God and His dear Son, Jesus Christ, as our redeemers. We are offering **gift subscriptions at half price (\$6.00)**. A gift card in your name will be sent with the first issue. We have provided two subscription forms at the bottom of this page for gift subscriptions. If you wish to purchase more than two subscriptions, please use a separate sheet of paper and print plainly.

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# THANKSGIVING

“Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor, and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint committee requested me ‘to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.’

Now therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. That we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks, for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation, for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of His providence, which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war, for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed, for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted, for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which He hath been pleased to confer upon us.

And also, that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions, to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually, to render our National Government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed, to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness unto us) and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us, and generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.”

Given under my hand at the City of New York  
the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

**George Washington**

The first official presidential proclamation  
issued in the United States.



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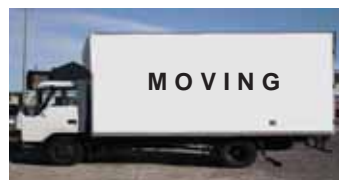
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