



Will the Real Church Please Stand Up?

Editor's Note and Study to Show Thyself Approved

A South Dakota rancher and his bride received a leather-bound Bible as a wedding gift from the groom's grandfather. They wrote a thank-you note and stowed the Bible away on a closet shelf, out of the way. As time passed, the grandfather repeatedly asked the couple how they liked the Bible. The rancher was confused as to how to respond. Hadn't he already expressed his appreciation? But the grandfather persisted. Eventually the young man dug out the gift; as he leafed through it, \$20 bills fluttered out, 66 in all--one at the beginning of Genesis and in each succeeding book. But that wasn't the only treasure, or the best; the spiritual riches of Scripture were there just waiting for someone to seek them out. Like the couple in this story, many today hypocritically express appreciation for God's word, but don't actually take time to search the treasures hidden in it. And yet, *"No church can advance in holiness unless its members are earnestly seeking for truth as for hid treasure."* Our effort to seek truth will be rewarded abundantly. As Proverbs 2:1-5 puts it, *"My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God."*

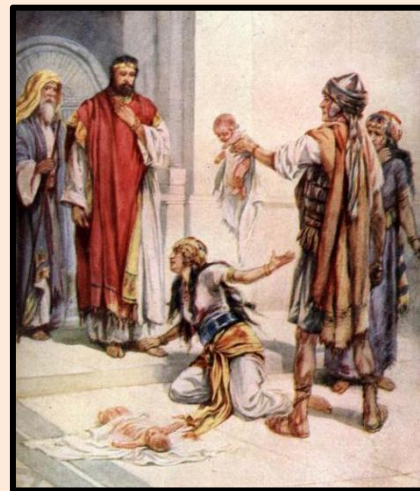
One exciting way to study some of the stories of the Bible, is to pick out the "picture words" in a story, and then using the Bible as its own expositor/interpreter, plug the meanings you discovered from "digging" in the Bible back into the story. This concept is based on 1 Corinthians 15:46 *"Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual"* and 1 Corinthians 10:11 *"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."* According to John 16:13, the Holy Spirit is given to guide us into all truth, so prayer is important in this process. Also, please note, the Bible says, *"And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean."* Ezekiel 44:23 In Bible study, this means when you "plug" meanings back in, if the original object was bad or negative, the spiritual meaning must also be bad or negative. If the original was good or positive, the spiritual application must be good or positive. We are counseled to, *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* 2 Timothy 2:15 This means if you come to a conclusion that does not harmonize with the basic gospel, the surface truth or melody of the Bible, you have wrongly divided the truth. If this happens, reject this meaning (1 John 4:1-6; 2 John 9-11), and continue "digging" for a more accurate meaning.

Let's dig into an Old Testament story that illustrates the wisdom God gave to King Solomon. It's found in 1 Kings 3:16-28. First let's read it and underline the various nouns or picture words in the story.

"Then came there two women, that were harlots, unto the king, and stood before him. And the one woman said, O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child [context--newborn baby] with her in the house. And it came to pass the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also: and we were together; there was no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house. And this woman's child died in the night; because she overlaid it. And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom. And when I rose in the morning to give my child suck, behold, it was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, which I did bear. And the other woman said, Nay; but the living is my son, and the dead is thy son. And this said, No; but the dead is thy son, and the living is my son. Thus they spake before the king."

Then said the king, The one saith, This is my son that liveth, and thy son is the dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son is the dead, and my son is the living. And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king. And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other. Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it."

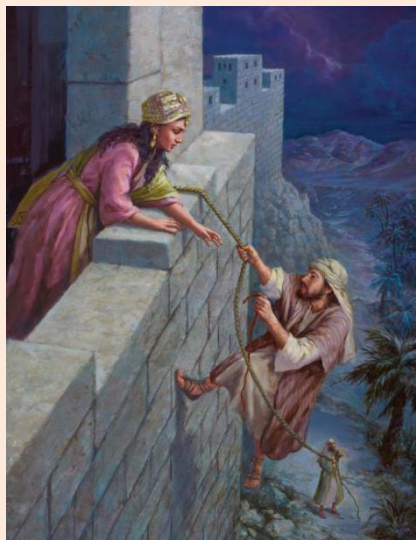
Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof. And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment."



Here we have two women/two churches-(Isaiah 54:6 and Ephesians 5:23-25) who live together in the same house. A house is a structure used for protection and interaction of families, etc. Churches (the people) often utilize houses (structures) *"Likewise greet the church that is in their house..."* Romans 16:5 A good structure has a good foundation and pillars of truth.² In 1 Timothy 3:15, Paul says, *"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."* Consider also of the wise man's house and the foolish man's house (Matthew 7:24-27). A solid house/structure is built when we hear what God says and do it. (Matthew 7:24). A house/structure built on sand, where man's ideas

take precedence over the word of God, is worthless in a storm, tempest, or crisis. (Matthew 7:26) But although mentioned, the house is not the focus of this particular story, the two women are.

The two women who live in the same structure were both harlots. Spiritually harlotry represents idolatry and the worship of false gods. In Jeremiah 5:7 God says, *"How shall I pardon thee for this? thy children have forsaken me, and sworn by them that are no gods: when I had fed them to the full, they then committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses."*



Revelation 19:2 connects a harlot or whore with fornication/immoral practices, and fornication is the opposite of sanctification since 1 Thessalonians 4:3 says, *"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:"* Since we are sanctified through truth in God's word (John 17:17), by contrast, fornication would be connected with erroneous beliefs not founded in God's word. So in addition to idolatry, like worshiping idols, a woman who is a spiritual harlot is a church connected with erroneous, unbiblical doctrines. But because of the sacrifice of Christ there is hope for those who have been deceived into this in the past. Indeed, *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all."* Isaiah 53:6 Jesus told the unbelieving Jewish leaders, *"Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him."* Matthew 21:31b,32 Consider Rahab, once a harlot in Jericho, who by way of relation to Boaz, holds a place in the genealogy of Christ (Matthew 1:5) and also is cited as a hero of faith in Hebrews 11:31. Praise God, there is hope for harlots who repent of sin and believe in Jesus Christ!

But back to the story. The harlots appeal to the king. The king in this story is Solomon, a son of David, and a type of Christ, the son of David. (2 Chronicles 1:1, Matthew 21:9) Solomon is a form of the Hebrew word shalom, meaning peace. Isaiah 9:6 prophesies that Jesus is the Prince of Peace, saying, *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."* In this story, the King of Peace must decide which woman is the rightful mother of the living newborn baby boy. 1 Peter 2:2 unlocks the spiritual meaning of a newborn, saying, *"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"* Hebrews 5:13,14 adds, *"For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."* So these are baby Christians or *"babes in Christ"* 1 Corinthians 3:1 And sadly, in the story, one of the baby Christians has died, apparently crushed by the same church that gave birth to it. This is the church of which *"in Jesus Christ"* it was *"begotten...through the gospel."* 1 Cor. 4:15 Yet, the poor baby died because of a mother in deep sleep rolled over it. What does that represent? *"For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered. And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed: And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned. Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men: Isaiah 29:10-13* In a time of darkness/"night," this insincere mother church has crushed or suffocated its own newborn offspring due to a lack of vision or prophetic understanding because it is teaching, not from the Bible, but instead the precepts of men (tradition/pseudoscience?). What a sad result follows for, *"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."* Proverbs 29:18

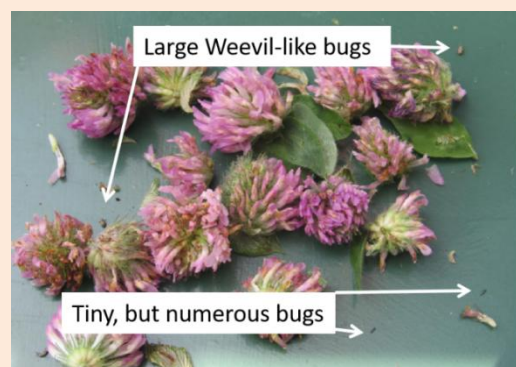
Because both women/churches claim to be the mother of the living child, here the King of Peace uses a sword to discern who the real mother is. *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* Hebrews 4:12 The Word of God discerns that the rightful mother is the one who loves the child so much that she is willing to be disadvantaged if only the life of the baby Christian is saved. A mother loves. *"For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother."* Proverbs 4:3 Indeed, only the worst of mothers does not have compassion on her own child. Isaiah 49:15 asks, *"Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee."* This story reveals great truth. God's real church will be those whose hearts are discerned to have a love for truth from God's word AND a love and compassion for souls. When we ask for the real church to stand up it will be, not only the one who hears and follows God's word, but the one who, repenting of past mistakes, pursues a better course, unselfishly loving the Son in the form of the least of these. *"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."* Matthew 25:40



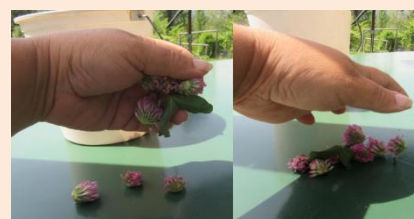
Red Clover Treasures

Over a decade ago, when I was comparing various herbal cancer remedies, I found that the herb that was most frequently included in almost all the primary herbal formulas was red clover. It was used by Jethro Kloss, Hoxey, Santillo, Montagna, Winters, and more.¹ Thankfully, Red Clover is indigenous to Europe, central Asia, northern Africa and is naturalized in many other parts of the world. In his book, *Back to Eden*, Jethro Kloss says of Red Clover, *"Red Clover is one of God's*

*greatest blessings to man. Very pleasant to take and a wonderful blood purifier... It is good for cancer... When I was a boy, my parents had me gather it for their postmaster, who had a serious cancer. He lived to be an old man, without an operation... Red Clover is effective in bronchial troubles and whooping cough."*² We got to witness some of this when our youngest boy, who was less than a year old, got the whooping cough. Other than fresh air, and the fact that he was still nursing, red clover was his only remedy. Yet he never even missed a



week of church! Later, we used red clover and several other herbs (like thyme and plantain) successfully for croup too. Indeed, the dried and the fresh flower heads of red clover made into a tea are especially beneficial as a general tonic, and are one of my favorite remedies. The Natural Remedies Encyclopedia, states, *"Internally red clover is considered among the very best anticancer herbs. It is a powerful blood purifier... It fights infection... is soothing to the nerves... It is used for coughs, bronchitis, inflamed lungs, kidney problems, liver disease, weakened immune system, bacterial infections, HIV, and AIDS."*³



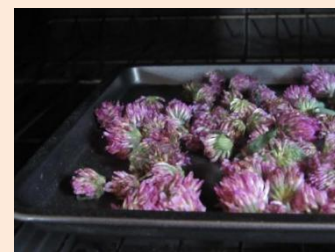
But after collecting blossoms, I found Red

Clover blossoms have one problem, bugs, bugs and more bugs. There are large crunchable bugs that must absolutely be eliminated, and numerous tiny bugs that I prefer not to drink either. Over the years, the best method I have found for eliminating these is to repeatedly throw each handful down on a flat surface a few inches below. After several throws, wipe the bugs off the surface, and continue until no bugs come out. This seems to take 20-30 times. After going through each handful, my favorite drying method is to place them on a cookie sheet in the propane oven over ONLY the pilot light. They take a couple of days to dry this way. If this is not an option for you, I have also used the windowsill of a hot car (but sometimes the color fades more.)



My favorite method for making tea is to put one of those stainless steel sink strainers in the top of my cup. Next, I put a small handful/finger pinch of herbs in, and then just pour boiling water over it. Let it steep about 5-7 minutes at least. Sometimes I do as many as three mugs with the same herbs. I try to switch cups after 5 minutes for this. (Note: 5-7 minutes is fine for blossoms and leaves, but depending on the size, roots or bark may need to be actually boiled or at the very least steeped for 10-15 minutes.) I love how one clover tea drinker put it, *"This is God's method. The herbs that grow for the*

*benefit of man, and the little handful of herbs kept and steeped and used for sudden ailments, have served tenfold, yes, one hundred fold better purposes, than all the drugs hidden under mysterious names and dealt out to the sick."*⁴ I thank God for the treasure of this remedy. Indeed, it is written, *"He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man..."* Psalm 104:14



1- <https://www.swiftrunnerministries.com/resources/cancer%20ferrell.pdf>, pg. 158 2- *Back to Eden*, Revised and Expanded 2nd Edition, pg. 172
2- 3- The Natural Remedies Encyclopedia, 6th edition, pg. 143 4- The Place of Herbs in Rational Therapy, pg. 12

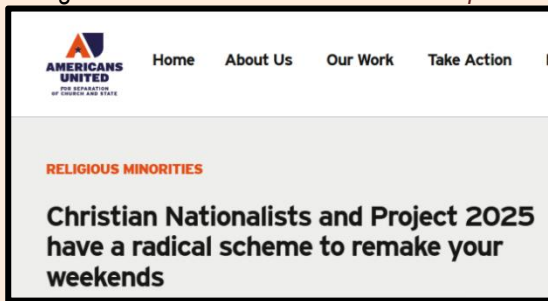


Prophetic News Notes -- Jonathan Berry and Project 2025

Jesus said to the Jewish Pharisees, *"The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath."* Mark 2:27,28 So much is encapsulated in these short verses. By this statement Jesus reinforced that the 7th day the Pharisees strictly kept was indeed the Sabbath, but it was given as a blessing. In addition, Jesus made clear that the 7th day Sabbath is "the Lord's Day." Jesus also made clear here that the 7th day Sabbath was made, not just for Jews, but for mankind since the underlying Greek word for "man" here is "ἄνθρωπος/anthropos" which refers to mankind or humans. This verse also defines that

Jesus, *"the Son of man"* is Lord of the time that the law of God calls the Sabbath. Yet, Daniel 7:25 warns that the wicked little horn power would *"think to change times and laws."* Revelation 13 & 14 later detail the forced implementation of a law contrary to God's law. Today some, like Americans United for Separation of Church and State, have been *"sounding the alarm about Project 2025."* They are

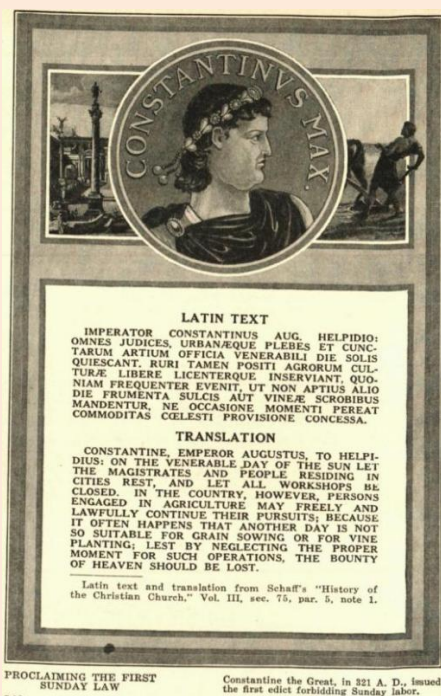
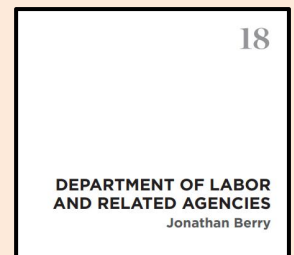
calling it “a radical Christian Nationalist blueprint to remake American society along theocratic lines.”¹ They also warn, “The architects of



Project 2025 want to control how you spend your weekend. A section on employment policy, written by Jonathan Berry, a member of the conservative Federalist Society, would, if implemented, subject Americans’ leisure time to government oversight by limiting what you can do on Sundays.”¹ Because of such strong statements as this, and our prophetic perspective that, at some point, America will enforce a Sunday law, several of you have asked us what we think about Project 2025, especially regarding its statement on “Sabbath Rest.”

To be clear, Project 2025, a 900+ page document, is not a US law book. It is the plan of some on the political “right” in America. The Heritage Foundation, who authored this document, state, “Project 2025 is our Playbook, which will take the policy ideas expressed in Mandate for Leadership and transform them into an implementation plan for each agency to advocate to the incoming administration.”² So this is what they want to influence the American Government to do. Admittedly, some of the goals of the political “right,” such as advocating for the right of unborn babies to live, are commendable, and have nothing to do with connecting church and state. Murder of innocent persons is murder whether you are a Christian or not. But some of the statements in the 2025 Mandate for Leadership are also concerning especially since one of the writers of Project 2025, Jonathan Berry, has now been selected by the President as a leader/solicitor in the Department of Labor.³ According to the Department of Labor, “The Solicitor of Labor” is “a Presidential appointee confirmed by the Senate, who serves as legal advisor to the Secretary and other Department officials and its legislative [law-making] program.”⁴ So Jonathan Berry is now in a position to officially recommend the goals of Project 2025 to law makers. Some say he is distancing himself from Project 2025, but he can’t get too far away since his name is on chapter 18 which he wrote. It is entitled “The Department of Labor and Related Agencies.”⁵

Bradley Law Firm, states “Many of the... recommendations in Chapter 18” have already been implemented during “the Trump administration.”⁶ However, according to a “Project 2025 Tracker” the “Mandate time-and-a-half compensation on a Sabbath”⁷ section has not yet been implemented. Here is what the recommendation from Project 2025 actually says, “**Sabbath Rest.** God ordained the Sabbath as a day of rest, and until very recently the Judeo-Christian tradition sought to honor that mandate by moral and legal regulation of work on that day. Moreover, a shared day off makes it possible for families and communities to enjoy time off together, rather than as atomized individuals, and provides a healthier cadence of life for everyone. Unfortunately, that communal day of rest has eroded under the pressures of consumerism and secularism, especially for low-income workers. **Congress should encourage communal rest by amending the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to require that workers be paid time and a half for hours worked on the Sabbath. That day would default to Sunday**, except for employers with a sincere religious observance of a Sabbath at a different time (e.g., Friday sundown to Saturday sundown); the obligation would transfer to that period instead. Houses of worship (to the limited extent they may have FLSA-covered employees) and employers legally required to operate around the clock (such as hospitals and first responders) would be exempt, as would workers otherwise exempt from overtime.”⁸



While this recommendation makes clear that there might be exceptions made for those who keep the 7th day Sabbath, there are still several problems with encouraging Congress to do this. One is that **the foundation for a law referring to “Sabbath” is obviously religious in nature.** It would set a precedent, and “get a foot in the door” so to speak, for mixing church and state inappropriately. Second, its default is Sunday which actually has no relation to God’s seventh-day Sabbath mentioned in Exodus 20:8-11, but is solely an invention of the Papacy⁸ and a tradition of men. Even enforcing Sunday legislation at this seemingly benign level gives credence to the false idea that Sunday is somehow special and different from other days. And third, the words “communal” and “shared” are a warning of where Project 2025 may lead. They signify that it is not good enough for you to have one day to rest and me to have a different day to rest, we must do it on the same day. And this idea certainly seems to match the fruit of their lips, like when Jonathan Berry even refers to Constantine who united pagans and “Christians” with a Sunday law.

Here’s what Berry said at a Catholic Information Center gathering in November 2024. “I really encourage...reinvigorating, where possible, Sabbath rest laws...I’m working on some research on this... literally dating back to Constantine and his recognition of Christianity in the Roman Empire that you’ve got a pretty consistent tradition in Western civilization of taking Sunday off from commerce...One of the things that I think has been so harmful to the world of work and how we think about work is the lack of kind of well-defined

and shared times for rest-- ⁹ Berry goes on to explain *"the Soviet experiment"* of a five day work week, focusing on how letting people have random days off didn't work. He stated, *"You will have this day off, you will have this day off. It was a debacle [great disaster]."* ⁹ Berry concludes with, *"So having more of that steadier rhythm of work and rest would be so much healthier, so much happier... than the weird kind of soup of half rest half work that we all seem to be floating in all the time."* ⁹ Furthermore, on a website called First Things, Berry writes (after quoting from several papal encyclicals), *"It is possible that society could spontaneously address this need for communal rest without state intervention, like it's possible that we could have traffic safety without mandates to drive on the right side of the road. Possible, but not plausible. The revival of 'blue laws' and other measures to guard Sabbath rest is thus one more example of a prudent policy intervention to protect the subjectivity, the personhood, of workers."* ¹⁰

I certainly would not call Sunday blue laws prudent policy! However, how much the US Government will be influenced to pass Sunday laws by Berry and Project 2025, we cannot know. What God will allow, and when, is up to Him. However, it is plain that Berry believes that blue laws/Sunday rest laws are *"prudent policy."* And Project 2025 advocating for a communal rest day is a beacon of warning to what may be ahead. The wise will consider the words in Psalms. *"Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law?"* Psalm 94:20 For, indeed, *"They draw nigh that follow after mischief: they are far from thy law."* Psalm 119:150

1-- <https://www.au.org/the-latest/articles/christian-nationalists-and-project-2025-have-a-radical-scheme-to-remake-your-weekends/> 2-- https://www.heritage.org/conservatism/commentary/project-2025?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=10679077640&gbraid=0AAAAACfelfyrmPZhQhyqqrLqIT5egHgGv&gclid=CjwKCAIwmnCBBhA4EiwAtVizmK3gDGEbKjELkM-GEmq21eznLwXgpS6wnMUJ55cMACl2MD86c4WUhoClhYQAvD_BwE 3-- <https://www.congress.gov/nomination/119th-congress/60/5> 4-- <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/sol/about/what-we-do> 5-- https://web.archive.org/web/20231116113522/https://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/project2025/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULL.pdf 6-- <https://www.employmentlawinsights.com/2025/04/trumps-pick-for-chief-legal-officer-may-signal-more-changes-for-dol/> 7-- <https://www.project2025.observer/?subjects=3yPU2PKreUkXIX5AdbwFC> 8-- <https://www.biblepicturepathways.com/resources/24%20Bible%20Lesson%20The%20Mark%20of%20the%20Beast%20.pdf> 9-- Clipped Video-- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXKQEUCEMIQ> or original video-- 37:00- 40:08 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vc4_5ydsUw 10-- <https://firstthings.com/renewing-labor/>



I'll Be Back

A father and his nine-year-old daughter were swimming in the ocean. While they were separated by some distance, the tide began to go out. The father knew he could not reach his little daughter and bring her to safety alone with the tide running so strongly against him. His only hope of saving her was to get help quickly. "Float and swim quietly," he called. "Don't become excited. I'll be back to get you." Then he hurried for a boat and help.



By the time the boat was brought, the little girl had been swept far out to sea by the strong tide. It took a long time for the men in the boat to locate her. When they found her, she was calmly floating and swimming around as her father had instructed. Later, the newspaper reporters swarmed around the little girl, asking how she had been able to remain so calm and to keep up so far out at sea all alone. "My daddy told me that he would come back. I knew he would come, so I wasn't afraid. I did exactly what he told me to do, and I was all right," the little girl replied quietly. Confidence in her father's promise and obedience to his word saved her life. Confidence in our heavenly Father and obedience to His Word will save us eternally. What a treasure indeed is Jesus' promise, *"I will come again..."* John 14:3

Kids' Corner

Did you know no two snowflakes are exactly the same?*



The Bible is a treasure AND the map to find more treasure.
Use the pictures in these verses to "unlock" information about where to find some of God's treasures in nature.

Hast +ed into the of the ? or hast

+n the of the ...? Job 38:22

He [God] maketh with , bringeth forth the of his . Jeremiah 10:13b

* <https://www.discovermagazine.com/the-sciences/why-no-two-snowflakes-are-identical-and-4-other-fun-facts>