

The Bible Banner

September 2023



Pressing on the Upward Way

An atheist, who was also an invalid, sent his little daughter to live with friends who taught her to read. She proudly told her father when she came home, "I have learned to read."

"Well," said he, "Let me hear you read that," pointing to a board at the foot of the bed on which he had printed in large letters, "God is nowhere." Carefully she sounded out the words in the way that seemed right to her, "God is now here."

The unbelieving father was startled and perplexed, but God blessed that new reading to the salvation of his soul.

Greek Moussaka

2 cups burger delight (see below) 1/3 cup olive oil
2 lbs. (1 kg) eggplant or zucchini, cubed (enough to fill a standard skillet)
2 onions, sliced, sautéed salt & seasonings to taste
1 qt. (about a liter) tomato sauce
Fry cubed eggplant or zucchini. Layer ingredients in 9×13 inch (22×33cm) lasagna dish as follows: eggplant, onions, burger, tomato sauce. You may choose to garnish with bread crumbs. Bake ½ hour at 350°F (175°C) to combine flavors.

Burger Delight

2 cups bulgur wheat or steel cut oats ½ medium onion, in pieces
1 qt. canned tomatoes OR 1 can tomato paste (6 oz./170 g) and 3 cups water OR 4 Tbsp tomato powder and 3 cups water
2-3 garlic cloves 1 cup walnuts or sunflower seeds
1 Tbsp vegetable salt 2 Tbsp molasses or sucanat

Place the wheat or steel cut oats in a sauce pan. Place the other ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth. Add to wheat/oats. Simmer approximately 20 minutes or until wheat kernels are soft and liquid is absorbed, stirring occasionally. On a cookie sheet, bake at 250-275°F (135°C) for 45-60 minutes or until it is a loose burger-like consistency. Stir occasionally. Do not overcook. Remove from oven while still moist. FREEZES WELL. I usually make a double batch and keep it on hand.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"The adventure of the Christian life begins when we dare to do what we would never tackle without Christ."

---William Penn

PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

Cultivate Bible Knowledge-- Write the texts for both the prophecies of the Messiah and Jesus' fulfillment of them on pieces of paper beside each other. Cut them apart, making different puzzle cuts for each one, as pictured. Hide them around the room for others to find. After finding them, see if you can match the prophecies to their fulfillment by reading the texts. Test to see if your answers are correct by seeing if the puzzle pieces fit together. (Note: You can make this easier or harder depending on how different you cut the puzzle pieces.)



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That Your Prayers Be Not Hindered

Editor's Note and Study to Shew Thyself Approved

A little boy came to the preacher and asked him to have the folks in prayer meeting pray that the Lord might cause his sister to read the Bible. The preacher made the request known, but as soon as someone began to pray about it, little Johnny got up and left. Everyone thought him very rude, and the next day the preacher scolded him for it. But Johnny said, *"Sir, I wanted to go and see my sister read the Bible for the first time."*

Oh, for the faith of a child in a world where many adults have outgrown believing in the power of prayer. However, many adults will admit the reason for their lack of belief in prayer is that sometimes their prayers have not been answered. The question is why? I like the way one evangelist stated it. *"We must have a warrant for our prayers. If we have some great desire, we must search the scriptures to find if it be right to ask it."*¹ Could it be that prayer out of its biblical context is actually presumption and not faith? Indeed, there are times, when God would desire to answer our prayers, but is hindered by our own actions and attitudes, since He will only act in consistency with His own holy nature and loving wisdom. While God will always hear the prayer of repentance, *"Blessings are promised on conditions."*² Let's examine a few hindrances to prayer.



1. **An unforgiving attitude hinders prayer**— Moody wrote, *"I firmly believe a great many prayers are not answered because we are not willing to forgive someone."* Mark 11:24-26 backs this line of reasoning. *"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."*
2. **Selfish family relations, selfish unthankfulness, or stinginess hinders prayer**— *"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."* 1 Peter 3:7 In addition, selfish unthankfulness to God for previous blessings may hinder prayer for we are to *"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving..."* Psalm 100:4 Keep in mind that thankfulness to God includes returning a faithful tithe and offerings. (Malachi 3:8-11) Selfish stinginess also shows unthankfulness and may hinder prayer. (Proverbs 21:13) *"In every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."* Philippians 4:6
3. **Holding onto known sin hinders prayer**— *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:"* Psalm 66:18 (Also Isaiah 59:1-3) When we hold onto sin, we are denying Christ. Jesus stated, *"But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."* Matthew 10:33 Titus 1:16 defines, *"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate."* The Bible stipulates, *"the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:"* Acts 17:30 You are responsible for what you know or have had the opportunity to know. *"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."* James 4:17
4. **Not abiding in Christ hinders prayer**— The promise is, *"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."* John 15:7 This is a promise for those who make Christ first, last, and best in everything. It is for those who develop so close a relationship with God that they can truly say *"All day long I've been with Jesus."* We abide with Jesus by spending time with Him and in His word. *"The Bible is a letter God has sent to us; prayer is a letter we send to him."*³ In a healthy relationship, both parties talk, and both parties listen. It is actually rather rude if we do all the talking, and never take time to listen to God in His word. It is equally impolite to ignore His wise counsel. Amos 3:3 rightly asks, *"Can two walk [or abide] together, except they be agreed?"*
5. **Having carnal motives hinders prayer**— *"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."* James 4:3 Sometimes, we ask for things that aren't best for us or that we don't really need. God promises to supply our need,⁵ not every foolish desire. We need to pray that He will answer according to His will and in His time. (Isaiah 55:8, 2 Peter 3:8)
6. **Lack of human effort hinders our prayers**— *"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."* Matthew 21:22 When we truly believe something is right, we will demonstrate this out by our own efforts in the prayed for direction. For example, a man prayed fervently every morning at family worship for the poor in the community, but he was never known to give anything to the poor. One morning at the conclusion of family worship, after the usual prayer had been offered for

the poor and destitute, his little son said, "Father, I wish I had your corncrib." "Why, my son?" asked the father "Because," answered the son, "then I would answer your prayer myself." God desires us to do our part. *"While you pray that you may not be led into temptation, remember that your work does not end with the prayer. You must then answer your own prayer as far as possible, by resisting temptation, and leave that which you cannot do for yourselves for Jesus to do for you."*⁴

7. **Unbelief hinders prayers—** *"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth [talks faith one moment, and acts unbelief the next] is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord."* James 1:6,7 Faith is simply taking God at His word. Indeed, *"God's promises are to be our pleas in prayer."*³ Charles Spurgeon once said: *"There is no need for us to go beating about the bush, and not telling the Lord distinctly what it is that we crave at His hands. Nor will it be seemly for us to make any attempt to use fine language; but let us ask God in the simplest and most direct manner for just the things we want...I believe in business prayers. I mean prayers in which you take to God one of the many promises which He has given us in His Word, and expect it to be fulfilled as certainly as we look for the money to be given us when we go to the bank to cash a check. We should not think of going there, lolling over the counter chattering with the clerks on every conceivable subject except the one thing for which we had gone to the bank, and then coming away without the coin we needed; but we should lay before the clerk the promise to pay the bearer a certain sum, tell him in what form we wish to take the amount, count the cash after him, and then go on our way to attend to other business. That is just an illustration of the method in which we should draw supplies from the Bank of Heaven."*

Indeed, *"faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* Romans 10:17 Let me illustrate cashing in God's promises like you would a check. Recently, I cashed in seven promises while praying intensively for days about a certain need for a mission project. One of the promises was, *"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."* John 14:13,14 However, as previously mentioned, I also had to fulfill the stipulation that went with this promise. In this case, the stipulation is *"Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."* 2 Timothy 2:19b As on this occasion I claimed God's promises, I also prayed for God to increase my faith. We need Him to give us faith to move mountains (Matthew 21:21). I did this by saying, *"Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief."* Mark 9:24 And, true to His promises, God answered my prayer in a very substantial way.



On another occasion, I recall cashing in the promise of *"But my God shall supply all your need."* Philippians 4:19 We were going to have to have to walk six miles in sub-zero wind chills because we couldn't get our car to start, despite all our mechanical efforts. Claiming God's promise, I told my husband, *"Either God is going to fix that car before tomorrow, or for some reason we don't need it, because God promises to supply all our needs."* Again, I claimed and "reminded" God of His promise, and "at the last minute" He sent us both a volunteer mechanic*, and the part to fix the car. God is faithful. *An unexpected visitor who called ahead and guessed the problem

If you have fulfilled all the stipulations, God WILL answer your prayer in His time and according to His will. Meanwhile, let us remove all hindrances, while making our humble request like the disciples, *"Lord, teach us to pray..."* Luke 11:1

1-- Dwight L. Moody 2- James White, {2SG 46.3} 3-Matthew Henry 4- Signs of the Times Nov.18,1886, par. 9 5-Philippians 4:19



Prophetic News Notes – Fire Storms

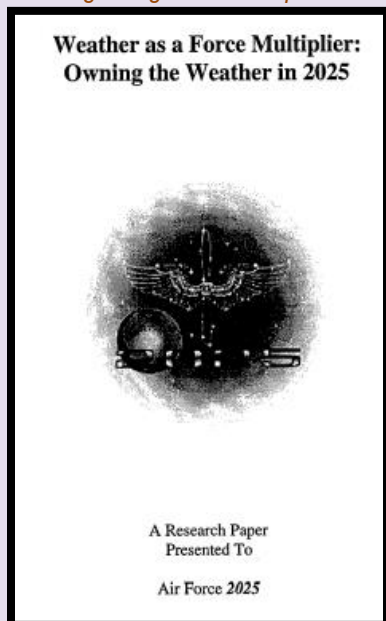
The Maui fire and others like it have become a hot topic of discussion, and differing opinions often appear. Some note strange anomalies like melted and liquidized aluminum and glass from cars in the midst of a grass fire area.¹ Others have noted trees burning from the inside out, cars burning inside wooden structures that were not yet on fire, apparent spontaneous combustions, etc. Some suggest directed energy weapons and weather modification techniques.



One cannot dispute the fact that directed energy weapons exist since the U.S. Government Accountability Office states, *"Directed energy weapons [DEW]—such as lasers—use energy fired at the speed of light. These weapons can produce force that ranges from deterrent, to damaging, to destructive. Many countries, including the U.S., are researching their use..."*

“DEWs can also damage or destroy enemy assets. To do this, a high energy laser can emit electromagnetic energy with a wavelength the target material absorbs most effectively, melting the material.”² It is certainly of interest that, “The AFRL [Air Force Research Laboratory] Directed Energy Directorate operates two major telescope sites that are used to advance SSA technologies. One of these sites is located on Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, and the other site is located on Maui, Hawaii.”³

And while it might be comforting to find that a paper from the Department of Defense declares that *“United Nations (UN) treaties prohibit using weather modification to kill or maim people. Modifying weather to cause injury or death is outlawed. For instance, causing lightning to strike exposed enemy infantry is illegal.”⁴* Statements like these actually demonstrate that military-grade weather



modification is also now possible. Another military document reveals that *“In 1957, the president's advisory committee on weather control explicitly recognized the military potential of weather modification, warning in their report that it could become a more important weapon than the atom bomb.”⁵* In addition, the U.S. Forest Service informs us that, *“A laser ignition device for controlled burning of forest logging slash has been developed and successfully tested.”⁶*

Certainly, the technologies are in place that, in the wrong hands, could be misused to cause fires and floods, etc., and make enemy attacks appear, to the uninformed, to be a natural occurrence. But let's pause to take a look at what the Bible has to say about fires in the last days. We find in Revelation 18 that Babylon is burnt with fire as a judgment of God, and the words are declared, *“Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double... Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.”* Revelation 18:6, 8-10

These verses actually suggest that Babylon has dealt out fire to others. Revelation 11:18 also states that God will *“destroy them which destroy the earth.”* But Revelation 13 reveals a purpose behind the “fire from heaven.” *“And I beheld another beast [kingdom-Daniel 7:23] coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. Rev. 13:11-14*

These verses reveal that a seemingly peaceful kingdom [with horns like a lamb] will speak like a dragon [breathing fire like Leviathan—Job 41:1, 19, 21] even making fire come down from heaven. The purpose will be to deceive people and coerce them into making an image to the amalgamated beast/kingdom and into worshipping the beast and ultimately receiving the mark of the beast.



We need to be awake to the fact that just as in Jobs' day, Satan, the dragon, and his helpers can make it look like fire is a judgment of God. The purpose is to cause people to condemn the righteous and do the will of Satan. Even though the fire recorded in the book of Job came from Satan, it was attributed to God. Job 1:16 records, *“While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.”*

While admittedly, there are some natural fires, and there may be weaponized fires, and also we know there will be judgments of God that come, ultimately, God is in control of all three. He has to allow evil to come to its full that we might learn to hate sin. People will also be tested to see who they really serve. God's purpose in allowing destruction is ever to wake up people to turn to Him and follow His ways before it is too late. Whatever the cause of the fires, the message is clear, you never know if you will have a tomorrow to repent and follow God. Turn to Him today, for *“behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”* 2 Corinthians 6:2

1—Screenshot - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lq2WV-B26pA&ab_channel=HawaiiRealEstate 2-- <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-23-106717>

3--[https://www.afrl.af.mil/Portals/90/Documents/RD/Air%20Force%20Maui%20Optical%20and%20Supercomputing%20\(AMOS\)%20Site AFMC-2019-0163%20\(1\).pdf?ver=2020-08-26-102118-883](https://www.afrl.af.mil/Portals/90/Documents/RD/Air%20Force%20Maui%20Optical%20and%20Supercomputing%20(AMOS)%20Site%20AFMC-2019-0163%20(1).pdf?ver=2020-08-26-102118-883) 4- https://media.defense.gov/2017/Dec/28/2001861722/-1/-1/0/T_COBLE_BENIGN_WEATHER_MODIFICATION.PDF

5—Screenshot <https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/pdfs/ADA333462.pdf> 6--<https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/treesearch/28116> Extra interesting info-- <https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/pdfs/ADA392587.pdf>



The Big Rocks of Life

One day an expert on time management was speaking to a group of businessmen. As this man stood in front of the group of high-powered overachievers, he said, "Okay, time for a quiz." Then he pulled out a wide-mouthed Mason jar and set it on a table in front of him. He then produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar. When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, "Is this jar full?" Everyone in the class said, "Yes."

Then he said, "Really?" He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. Then he dumped some gravel in and shook the jar causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces between the big rocks. Then he smiled and asked the group once more, "Is the jar full?" By this time the class was on to him. "Probably not," one of them said.

"Good!" he replied. And he reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in and it went into all the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel. Once more he asked the question, "Is this jar full?" "No!" the class shouted. Once again he said, "Good!" Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim.

Then he looked up at the class and asked, "What is the point of this illustration?"

One energetic over-achiever raised his hand and said, "The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard, you can always fit some more things into it!"

"No," the speaker replied, "that's not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is: If you don't put the big rocks in first, you'll never get them in at all."

What are the big rocks of your life?



The Bible says, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* Matthew 6:33 Remember to surrender yourself daily to the Lord. Take time to commune with God and spend time reading His Word.

Remember to put these BIG ROCKS in first or you'll never get them in at all.



The Value of Dandelion

The humble dandelion, also known as *Taraxacum officinale*, is seldom appreciated in people's lawns. However, besides being highly nutritious when the greens or blossoms are eaten, dandelion root also has many medicinal benefits. In fact, one lifestyle center I knew of used it along with two other herbs as its foundational herbal healing remedy for all its patients.

Little by little, even more mainstream medicine is coming to appreciate it as a nontoxic remedy. For example, a footnoted description from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center states that *"In vitro and in vivo studies suggest that dandelion has lipid-lowering, hepatoprotective [liver protecting], antiviral, anticoagulant, diuretic, anti-inflammatory, and antioxidant activities...Dandelion root extract demonstrated anticancer effects against melanoma, and leukemia, as well as pancreatic, and colorectal cancer cell lines."*¹

Dandelion is gentler than many other remedies with similar properties. For example, dandelion has diuretic properties that help eliminate fluid buildup. However, *"Although most conventional diuretics reduce the amount of potassium in the body, dandelion contains so much potassium that, despite its diuretic action, it does not lower potassium levels."*²

Dandelion is also good for your liver. More than one study has shown *"Protective Effects of *Taraxacum officinale* L. (Dandelion) Root Extract in Experimental Acute [or] Chronic Liver Failure"*³

One study synopsis stated, *"The current study showed that dandelion treatment reduced liver injury, improved liver function, and decreased ECM [extracellular matrix] deposition...The present results are coincided with previous studies that showed the hepatoprotective effects of dandelion against hepatotoxicity induced by several chemicals (Colle et al., 2012; Park et al., 2010)."*⁴ This means dandelion helps your liver both to eliminate toxins and to recover if it has been injured by toxins.

In addition, *"There is some evidence to suggest that dandelions contain compounds that may help with regulating blood sugar. In 2016, some researchers proposed that dandelion's antihyperglycemic, antioxidative, and anti-inflammatory properties may help treat type 2 diabetes."*⁵ One paper on PubMed states, *"This paper presents the properties of dandelion, which can be successfully used in the treatment and prevention of metabolic syndrome. A review of available in vivo and in vitro studies indicates that dandelion extracts can prevent diabetic complications, improve lipid metabolism, as well as exhibit inhibitory activity on sugar-degrading enzymes."*⁶



While proving to be beneficial for lowering blood pressure and improving gut health, dandelion also is said to have antimicrobial, antiviral, and immune-boosting properties.⁷

In fact, *"Several test-tube studies have found that dandelion extract significantly reduces viruses' ability to replicate."*⁷ Perhaps even more astonishing, *"Dandelion extract showed strong activity against HIV-1 RT and inhibited both the HIV-1 vector and the hybrid-MoMuLV/MoMuSV retrovirus replication...This could represent another starting point for the development of an anti-retroviral therapy with fewer side effects."*⁸

It is just like the Great Physician to put so many amazing properties into the humble but prolific dandelion.

Surely, God has made this *"herb for the service of man..."* Psalm 104:14

- 1-- <https://www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/integrative-medicine/herbs/dandelion> 2-- <https://ecosh.com/dandelion-18-health-benefits-backed-by-science/>
 3-- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8063808/> 4-- <https://basicandappliedzoology.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s41936-020-00177-9>
 5-- <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/324083#10-possible-health-benefits> 6-- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9498421/>
 7-- https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/dandelion-benefits#TOC_TITLE_HDR_8 8-- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3261818/>

Kids' Corner

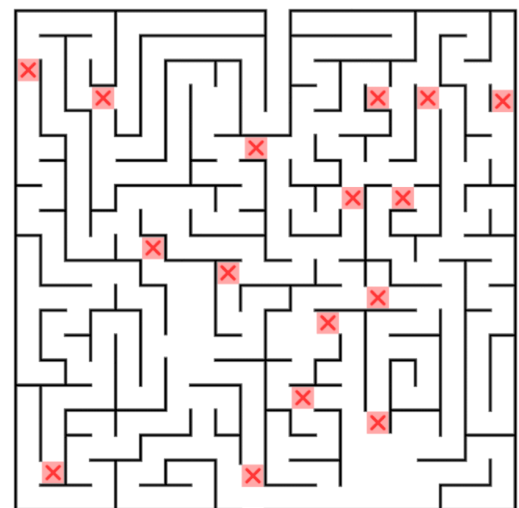
God's Amazing Creatures

The Common Buckeye lives in North America and parts of Central America. This butterfly is easier to spot because of its distinct markings and its habit of resting with its wings spread out for display, unlike many other species that fold up their wings to make them more difficult for predators to spot.



Common Buckeyes are mostly brown with some orange and white. Their wings have eight spots that look like eyes. The two largest spots clearly show four colors in the center, namely black, blue, pink, and orange. The Common Buckeye has six legs, but you might only see four of them because their two front legs are brushy, short, and often folded up against their body. Didn't God create these uniquely designed butterflies perfectly?

Find Jesus by "pressing on the upward way" and avoiding evil (X)!



START

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.
Romans 12:21