



THE LORD'S PRAYER

E. J. WAGGONER

THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL FOR CHILDREN – VOL. 5

Source:
Present Truth
1900

Cover:
Samuel as a Boy, Praying in the Temple
Bible Heroes, 1898



Fonts:
Liberation Sans Narrow
Linux Biolinum
Linux Libertine



September 2023
practicaprophetica.com
srac.info

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About This Series

IN 1891, E. J. Waggoner was sent from America to England, and took over the publishing of the *Present Truth* periodical. Some time around the end of August 1892, we observe the transition from the previous editor, with a sudden increase in articles from the pen of Waggoner. In some issues, there are up to a dozen articles authored by him. This “stream opened up in the desert”¹ was not to stop until the end of 1903, when he returned to America.

Shortly after taking over the editorship of *Present Truth*, Waggoner introduced a colum for children. His own three children would have been aged about 4, 7, and 10 at that time. The children’s column took on various names over the next ten years:

- Children’s Corner
- Children’s Page
- Easy Steps for Little Feet
- For Little Ones
- For the Children
- Gospel Primer
- Light for Little Ones
- Little Folks
- Little Ones
- Our Little Ones
- The Children
- The Home

Most of the articles collected for this set of children’s books, “The Everlasting Gospel for Children,” were originally published in the series that the individual volumes are named from. In the remaining few cases, I tried to organize the articles into a volume that fit with their theme, or in some cases, I placed some articles among pre-existing themes, even though they came from different years.

¹ *Isaiah* 35:6.

This short series, “The Lord’s Prayer,” appeared at the end of 1900. Waggoner expounded the Lord’s Prayer in articles written for adults numerous times, and we have collected these in the book titled, *The Lord’s Prayer, and Other Related Articles*. But this time he unfolded these scriptures for children.

Frank Zimmerman
practicaprophetica.com



1. The Lord's Prayer

Present Truth, November 1, 1900

Matthew 6

⁹ After this manner therefore pray: Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done in earth, as it is in
heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For
yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.
Amen.

HOW many times you repeat the words of the prayer taught
by our Saviour to His disciples. Most likely you say them
every day, and perhaps twice a day, at morning and evening.

But do you always think of their beautiful meaning, and really
pray them in your heart, or are they only to you a “vain repeti-
tion”?² Do you know that there is a great difference between “say-
ing your prayers,” and praying? Perhaps you know the little
child’s hymn beginning,

I often say my prayers,
But do I ever pray,³

—and this is a good thing for you, dear children, to think about.

A short time ago, I saw some long strips of paper fastened to-
gether, covered with prayers which the Hindu people make to
their false gods. These had been taken from a tree in India, where
they had been placed by a native who believed that every time
the wind stirred these paper leaves, it was the same as though he
had repeated all the prayers written on them.

² **Matthew 6** ⁷ But when you pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do:
for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

³ John Burton (1803-1877), Hymn: *Do I Really Pray?*

There are also “prayer wheels” used by some heathen nations, who believe that every time the wheel is turned, it is counted as though they said a prayer. You will think this very foolish, for of what use would such prayers be, even if the people who use them could repeat them the hundreds of times they fancy they are counted as doing? You think, perhaps, that you are in no danger of doing anything so foolish. But when Jesus tells is about these poor heathen who...

Matthew 6

⁷ ...think that they shall be heard for their much speaking,

–He adds the warning,

⁸ Be not like unto them.

He says that when we “say prayers,” without really praying in our hearts to our Heavenly Father, our words are of no more value than these “vain repetitions” that the heathen make to their gods of wood and stone that can neither see nor hear.

⁸ ...Your Heavenly Father knows what things you have need of before you ask Him.

Why then does He want us to come to Him in prayer and make our requests known to Him? It is because He loves us; He wants to talk to us, and to have us talk to Him. He wants His children to learn to know Him.

You know that the best, the quickest and easiest, and indeed the only way to get really acquainted with anyone, is to talk with him yourself. In other ways you may learn much about anyone, but to know the person himself you must talk with him.

As you come to talk with God in prayer, it will help you much, and keep you from saying over your prayers as a mere form, without even thinking of the meaning of the words, if you remember that God is really present with you, and listening for every word that you say.

His Word tells us that:

Psalm 145

¹⁸ The Lord is near to them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth.

And again,

James 4

⁸ Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you.

If earthly parents hear
Their children when they cry,
If they with love sincere,
Their children's wants supply,
Much more will You your love display,
And answer when your children pray.⁴

So as you come and talk with God, as you thank Him and praise Him for all that He has done and is doing for you, and ask Him for all that you need, He will also talk to you. His Holy Spirit will speak to your heart, and bring His Word to your mind, giving you new thoughts of God, and filling you with love for Him.

When Jesus was on earth He spent much time in prayer. He loved to talk with His Father in Heaven. His disciples asked Him to teach them to pray as He did. So as a model prayer He gave them what we call "the Lord's prayer." He did not mean they were to see only these words that He gave them, but He said,

Matthew 6

⁹ After this manner therefore pray.

So we need to study this prayer that He has given us, that we may learn of Him how to pray, not with His words only, but in His Spirit. For a few weeks we will study together the prayer that Jesus has taught us, and as we do this, let us pray the prayer of the disciples of Jesus,

Luke 11

¹ Lord, teach us to pray.

⁴ John Burton, Hymn: *Pleading the Promise*, 1824.



Child Praying
(First Steps for Little Feet, 1885)

2. Our Father

Present Truth, November 8, 1900

Matthew 6

⁹ Our Father...

THESE are the first words of the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples. Last week we told you of the heathen who think that they must cry aloud many times before they can get the attention of the gods that they worship. The Bible tells us that these idols have eyes, but they see not, and have ears, but they hear not. So no matter how many times nor how loudly they may be called upon, they pay no attention, for they can see and hear nothing.

But Jesus tells us:

Matthew 6

⁵ When you pray, enter into your closet, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father which sees in secret.

When Jesus himself prayed,

John 17

¹ [He] lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, Father.

This sweet name by which He has taught us to call the great God who made all things in heaven and earth, is the assurance that He will do for us all that we ask. For even a true earthly father will always supply all the needs of his children as far as he is able.

We are the children of God, because He made us. We are born of Him,—brought from His own being. You will remember that we are told of the first man that:

Genesis 2

⁷ The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground.

But where did this dust of the ground come from? This question, is answered for us in the 33rd *Psalms*, where we learn that:

Psalm 33

⁶ By the Word of the Lord were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

This world, like all the other worlds,—the planets and stars that we see shining in the heavens at night,—is one of “the host of heaven,”⁵ and “all the host of them” were made by the breath of the Lord’s mouth. That which gave to each thing its own shape and character was the Word that God spoke when He breathed it into existence.

Perhaps this is a new thought to you, and though you of course believe it, because the Word of God tells us that it is so, you wonder how it is that the solid, material things that you see around you, earth, the rocks, the trees, the animals, and even you yourself, could be formed from the breath of the Lord.

You may understand this better when you remember that everything can be changed by heat into the invisible gases that are in the air. For instance, if you put a stick of wood into the fire, the heat will soon turn it back again into what it was made from,—gas and sunbeams. You see in the bright blaze the sunlight that was stored up by the plant when it was growing; the gas that it gathered from the air escapes up the chimney, and what have you left? Just a little ash, that in a hotter furnace would be all burned up, and changed into gas that could not be seen any more than the air that you breathe. If the whole world should be burned in this intense heat, it would pass away, leaving nothing visible behind.

From this you may be able to understand better that it is the breath of the Lord, as His Word tells us, that contains all the elements from which this and all the worlds were formed. And therefore when...

Genesis 2

⁷ The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground,

⁵ *Deuteronomy* 4:19.

—He was taking some of His own substance, and shaping it into His own image. Then He breathed into man’s nostrils the breath of life, and so His first human child was made,—born of God, for:

Luke 3

³⁸ ...Adam...was the Son of God.

But all that God did for this first man, He has done for every child of Adam. Every one has been formed by God from the dust of the ground, and into every one He has breathed the breath of life. Notice what David said of himself, and this is just as true of you and me:

Psalm 139

¹⁶ Your eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect, and in your book were all my members written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

This tells you that long before you came into this world, your Heavenly Father thought of you, and was preparing your substance in the dust of the ground. And at last, when all was ready and the fullness of time was come, He formed that substance into a living being bearing His own image, and you appeared in this world,—a child of God into whose nostrils He breathed His own breath of life. Think then, how greatly He must love you. He says,

Isaiah 49

¹⁵ Can a mother forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet I will not forget you.

But O, He has so many “prodigal sons,” those who have wandered away from the Father’s house, and who will not own Him as their Father, and obey Him. And there are many, many more who know nothing of Him. No one has ever told them the wonderful story of their own creation, and their Father God.

But Jesus, the only begotten Son, has come into the world to bring us all back to the Father’s house, to...

Hebrews 2

¹⁰ ...bring many sons unto glory.

And,

John 1

¹² As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.

He came to show us the great love of our Father for His children, to make us know God, that our hearts might be won to love Him and that we might obey and serve Him for ever. Though our hearts are so sinful that we cannot of ourselves do the things that are pleasing to God, His Word says that:

Galatians 4

⁶ Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Father!

When the Spirit of Jesus the Son comes into our hearts, we know that God is our Father, for...

Romans 8

¹⁶ The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

The Spirit of the Son is the spirit of obedience; it makes us love to please our Heavenly Father, and to do His will, for Jesus said,

Psalms 40

⁸ I delight to do your will, O my God: yea, your law is within my heart.

So the Spirit of Jesus writes the law of God the Father in our hearts; it sheds abroad the love of God in us,⁶ and...

1 John 5

³ This is the love of God that we keep His commandments.

Does it not then mean a great deal for us to come to God with the words "Our Father" upon our lips? Let us not take this sweet

⁶ *Romans 5:5.*

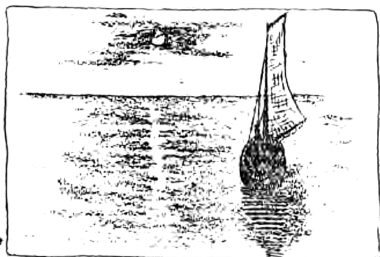
and holy name in vain, but ask Him to fill us with the loving, obedient spirit of His Son, that like Jesus we may...

John 8

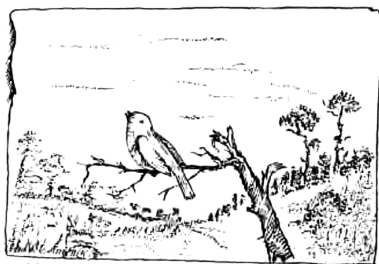
²⁹ ...do always the things that please Him.



Daniel praying towards Jerusalem
(Bible Revival website)



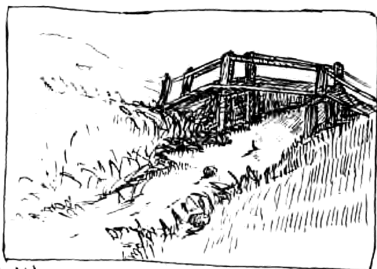
Little-boat-of-silvery-light,
Who-has-made-you-shine-so-bright?
"Twas-our-Father."



Little-bird-with-golden-wing,
Who-has-taught-you-how-to-sing?
"Twas-our-Father."



Little-blossom,sweet-and-rare,
Who-has-made-you-bloom-so-fair?
"Twas-our-Father."



Little-streamlet-in-the-dell,
Who-has-made-you-can-you-tell?
"Twas-our-Father."

Little-girl-with-face-
so-bright,

Who-has-made-your-
heart-so-light?

"Twas-our-Father"



Who-has-made-your-
throat-to-sing-

Like-the-merry-bird
of-spring?

"Twas-our-Father"

All: 'Twas-our-Father;God-above
He-has-made-us,He-is-love.

(Youth Artwork from the original Present Truth article)

3. Who is in Heaven

Present Truth, November 15, 1900

Original title: The Children. The Lord's Prayer. 'Which Art in Heaven'

Matthew 6

⁹ Our Father who is in heaven...

ALL the children of God dwell in "the Father's house." This is a very large place, for He dwells everywhere and in all things,⁷ and in Him we live, and move, and have our being,⁸ as we learned last week.

Yet Jesus has taught us to pray to "our Father who is in heaven." This shows us what it is that makes heaven; it is the preserve at God. Wherever He is, is heaven; and since He is everywhere, there is no place, even on this sin-cursed earth, where we may not find heaven below, if we remember that God is there.

Love but the Lord, and all is bright;
Love but the Lord, and earth is fair;
Love but the Lord, the Father's house
Is here, and there, and everywhere.⁹

This was the precious lesson that God taught Jacob when he was alone in a desert place, cut off from home and friends by his own wrong-doing, with only a stone for a pillow. In his sorrow and fear, God appeared to him and comforted him: and when he understood that the presence of God was with him even there, he said:

Genesis 28

¹⁷ This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

You will remember, perhaps, that he said also,

¹⁷ How dreadful is this place!

⁷ *Jeremiah* 23:24.

⁸ *Acts* 17:28.

⁹ J. Gage Pigg, Hymn: *The Father's House*, 1880.

He did not mean that it was a terrible place to be in, but a holy and sacred place where he would fear to do evil.



Jacob at Bethel - After his dream, he vows to God
(Harold Copping)

Do you not think, dear children, that if you should keep always in mind the presence of God, and of the holy angels who always behold His face, it would keep you from doing some things that you do, and help you to do some things you don't do that you ought to do? Would it not make you feel that...

Exodus 3

⁵ ...the place whereon you stand is holy ground.

God says,

Isaiah 57

¹⁵ I dwell in the high and holy place; with him also that is of a humble and contrite spirit.

It is the presence of God that makes holy; so wherever He is, is a "high and holy place." Yet He dwells, as He says, with the humble and contrite in heart; and this shows us that those who are of a humble and contrite spirit dwell in "the high and holy place." And what a happy place this is also; for remember that...

Psalms 16

¹¹ ...in His presence is fullness of joy;...[and] pleasures for evermore.

So no matter where you are, or what your outward surroundings and circumstances may be, you may have the "fullness of joy" that is always to be found in the presence of the Lord, for He is with you everywhere, and this will make heaven for you.

You will not be the only one who will feel the sweetness of the Lord's presence with you, if you live in the constant sense of it. Those around you will feel it too, for the sweet atmosphere of heaven will shed a holy influence round you, that will bring brightness and blessing to all with whom you associate.

As some rare perfume in a vase of clay
Pervades it with a fragrance not its own;
So, when Thou dwellest in a mortal soul,
All heav'n's own sweetness seems around it

thrown.¹⁰

Last week we learned that God the Father sends the Spirit of His own Son Jesus into the hearts of all His children. Jesus dwelt always in the presence of God, and even when He was here on earth, He spoke of himself as...

John 3

¹³ ...the Son of man which is in heaven.

John called Him...

John 1

¹⁸ ...the only begotten Son which is in the bosom of the Father.

Jesus knew always that He was in the bosom of the Father, and this was what made heaven to Him through all the temptations and trials of His life on earth. It gave Him perfect peace and fullness of joy through all. So if His Spirit abides in our hearts, it will make us sharers in these blessings. He says,

John 14

²⁷ Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you,

—and,

John 15 [also John 17:13]

¹¹ These things have I spoke unto you that you might have my joy fulfilled in yourselves.

The Spirit of the Son of God in our hearts raises us up...

Ephesians 2

⁶ ...to sit with Him in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Heaven is not only the place of love and joy and peace; it is also the place of power.

Psalms 115

³ Our God is in the heavens; He has done whatsoever He has pleased.

¹⁰ Harriet Beecher Stowe, Hymn: *Abide in Me, O Lord*.

Revelation 5

¹¹ Ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands...

—of angels, stand in His presence, and...

Psalms 103

²⁰ ...do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His Word.

He is...

Acts 7

⁴⁸ ...the Most High,

Luke 2

¹⁴ ...God in the highest,

—the One who is above all principalities and powers.¹¹ How safe, then, we are, in His keeping, for so long as we abide in Him, we are lifted far above everything that could harm us.

So while the words, “Our Father” teach us that we are the children of God, and that He loves us with an everlasting love, the words which follow, “who is in heaven,” show us His mighty power to protect us, to provide for us, and to defend us and deliver us from all evil. They show that He is able to fulfil all the petitions¹² that we make to Him, and that we can never come to Him in vain.¹³

He who...

Psalms 115

³ ...is in the heavens,

“...upholding the unnumbered worlds throughout immensity, at the same time cares for the wants of the little brown sparrow that sings its humble song without fear.”¹⁴

¹¹ *Ephesians* 1:21.

¹² *Psalms* 20:5.

¹³ *Isaiah* 45:19.

¹⁴ Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, ch. 10 “A Knowledge of God.”

And,

Matthew 10

³¹ ...you are of more value than many sparrows,

–so you may rest in perfect peace, trusting in the tender love and great might of...

Matthew 6

⁹ Our Father, who is in heaven.



Sparrows

(Bible Natural History, 1856)

4. Hallowed Be Your Name

Present Truth, November 22, 1900

Original title: The Children. The Lord's Prayer. Hallowed Be Thy Name

Matthew 6

⁹ Hallowed be your name.

NOTICE that the very first petition, the first sentence in the Lord's prayer, which He has given to "teach us to pray,"¹⁵ is not for something for ourselves, or bringing our own needs before Him. It is a praise petition, a request that the Father's own name may be hallowed,—held holy or sacred.

You may think that this petition is one that does not make any difference to you personally. But the truth is, as we shall see, that this one really affects you more than any of the others. For the name of the Lord, which we pray may be hallowed, is simply the declaration of what God himself is; it shows us His character.

And all that we are or hope to be, all that we have or ever shall have, depends upon what God is; for everything comes from Him. So we are told to...

Psalm 30

⁴ ...give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness.

"Holy" means whole, perfect, pure, beautiful. As we come to God in prayer, the words "Our Father" assure us of His tender love; "who is in heaven" tell us of His power, and of the joy and peace that we find in His presence; and as we pray, "Hallowed be your name," we think upon His perfect, pure, lovely character, and we...

Psalm 96

⁹ ...worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.¹⁶

Moses once asked the Lord to tell him what His name was, and the Lord answered him:

¹⁵ *Luke 11:1.*

¹⁶ *Also Psalm 29:2.*

Exodus 3

¹⁴ I AM THAT I AM.

He meant that His name is that which He himself is. So you can take the words “I AM,” and fill out the sentence with all that His Word tells us that He is. He himself afterwards did this for Moses, for...

Exodus 34

⁶ [He] passed by before him,...

⁵ ...and proclaimed the name of the Lord:

⁶ ...The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

⁷ Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin.

Knowing the name of the Lord, His love, His mercy, and His grace, His perfect and holy character, we know that...

Psalms 18

³⁰ His way is perfect,

—and all that He does is just and right.¹⁷ So we can safely trust in Him, and...

1 Samuel 3

¹⁸ ...let Him do what seems good to Him.

In You I place my trust;
On You I calmly rest;
I know You good, I know You just,
And count your choice the best.¹⁸

Since God is our Father, we are heirs of all that He is, and all that He has; for His Word says,

¹⁷ *Deuteronomy 32:4; Nehemiah 9:33.*

¹⁸ Henry F. Lyte, Hymn: *My Spirit on Thy Care*, 1834.

Romans 8

¹⁷ If children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together.

We may inherit His pure and holy character, and this will give us His name also, for that is the description of His character. All those who are taken when Jesus comes, to live with Him for ever in the Father's house, have the...

Revelation 14

¹ ...Father's name written in their foreheads.

This means that they share in His Divine nature, and so are just like Him in character. Is it not then a very wonderful and precious thing that we should be called by His name? In giving us His name, He gives us His nature, so that we may be...

Matthew 5

⁴⁸ ...perfect, even as our Father in heaven is perfect,

—and so way have the family likeness which proves us to be His children. There is power in His name to make us holy, whole, perfect.

Do you remember what Peter said about the lame man who was healed at the gate of the temple? When he was asked by what power, or by what name, the great miracle had been done, he said it was by the name of Jesus of Nazareth:

Acts 3

¹⁶ His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong,...[and] given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

There is power in His precious name to make us perfect and strong in soul and body, when we take it by faith, as the lame man did. But suppose that we should take His name, and not become like Him in character, what should we then be doing? Recall the third commandment,

Exodus 20

⁷ You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Is not this what those are doing, who take His name, but do not know its power to make them like Him?

The Lord said of His people, the Jews, that by their sinful ways they caused His holy name to be blasphemed and profaned wherever they went.¹⁹ They were taking His name in vain, and causing the people among whom they were scattered because of their sin, to think that there was no saving power in Him.

This third commandment is a precious promise given to us by our Heavenly Father, to save us from dishonoring Him in this way. It is a promise that if we will take His holy name upon us in faith, believing in His power to save us from our sins, it shall not be in vain, for He will lead us...

Psalms 23

³ ...in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.



¹⁹ Romans 2:24.

5. Your Kingdom Come

Present Truth, November 29, 1900

Original title: The Children. The Lord's Prayer. Thy Kingdom Come

Matthew 6

¹⁰ Your kingdom come.

THIS Kingdom of God that Jesus has taught us to pray for,— where is it? what is it? He tells us himself where His Kingdom is. He says we are not to say,

Luke 17

²¹ Lo here! Or, lo there!

—as though His kingdom were in any special place. And then He adds,

²¹ ...for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

By this He means that your own heart, your own life, your own body is His kingdom; this is where the great King of glory wants to set His throne and to rule. And in doing this He is only taking His own rightful place, for His kingdom is within us, whether we will let Him reign there or not. He will not force His way in, even to take possession of His own kingdom, but He leaves it to us to choose who shall be our king. He says,

Revelation 3

²⁰ Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in.

Knocking, knocking, who is there?

Waiting, waiting, O how fair;

'Tis a Pilgrim, strange and kingly,

Never such was seen before;

Ah, my soul, for such a wonder,

Will you not undo the door?²⁰

²⁰ Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896), Hymn: *Knocking, Knocking, Who is There?*

Think of God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, the King of all the worlds, knocking and waiting at the door of your heart, for you to say,

“Come in, and take your own place, and reign over me.”

Is this what you mean, dear children, when you say to Him daily, “Your kingdom come”? If not, if you do not really want to let Him have the complete control of your life, the words are only a mockery, and not a prayer at all.

But although He is so gentle with you, and knocks and waits so patiently, yet:

Psalms 45

⁵ [His] arrows are sharp in the heart of the King’s enemies,

—and He will...

Matthew 13

⁴¹ ...cast out of His kingdom all things that offend, and do iniquity.

Psalms 5

⁴ Evil cannot dwell with Him,

—so when you let Him in, every evil thing will have to go out. It will be cast out by His pure and holy presence within you,

2 Thessalonians 2

⁸ ...destroyed by the brightness of His coming.

Do you remember the story of Dagon, the false god of the Philistines? These poor people had given to Dagon the place in their hearts that God had made for himself. The Philistines went to war with Israel, and in one of their battles they carried away the Ark of the God of Israel, that represented His presence with them.

The Ark was carried by the Philistines into the temple of their god Dagon, and set up there and left. But in the morning Dagon had fallen down from the high place they had made for him, and

was lying in the dust. Thinking that this might have been an accident, they set Dagon up again, but the next day they found that the idol had not only fallen down, but was broken to pieces.²¹



Dagon is broken before the Ark of the Lord

(Biblische Figuren, 1560)

God loved these poor Philistines, and wanted to teach them that He was the one true God, their true King, with power to cast down all their idols, and put every evil thing away from them, so that they should worship and serve Him only.

Let the King of glory into your heart, and He will rule there and cast out all His enemies. Who or what are these enemies, do you ask? Do you not know that there is one who has sought to take the Lord's place in the heart of every one? He who said,

Isaiah 14

¹⁴ I will be like the Most High,

¹³ I will exalt my throne,

²¹ 1 Samuel 5.

—Satan (which means the adversary or enemy), has seated himself on the Lord’s throne in the hearts of the children of men. But the kingdom does not belong to him, for:

1 Chronicles 29 [Matthew 6:13]

¹¹ Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom,

—so Satan is a usurper and a thief. And oh, what sad havoc his evil reign has wrought among men! He first led Adam and Eve to disobey God, then Cain to kill his brother Abel. And every evil deed that has ever been done in this world has been prompted by this wicked...

Ephesians 2

² ...spirit that now rules in the children of disobedience.

Satan is stronger than we,—so strong that we are just led captive by him at his will so long as we let him rule. He puts angry thoughts into our minds, naughty words in our mouths, and makes us do unkind things. He keeps us from doing the good that we would like to do, and makes us do the evil things that we hate.²²

But, thank God, there is One stronger than Satan, One who has already conquered him, and so can cast him out with a single word. Jesus showed this when He commanded the evil spirits to come out of the bodies of those who were possessed with them, and they obeyed His word in fear and trembling. So the Lord Jesus can cast Satan out of our hearts, and every high thing that exalts itself against Him, and bring every thought into captivity to himself.²³

But perhaps you want to know what we may expect if we let Him in to rule. Here is what His word tells us that His kingdom brings:

Romans 14

¹⁷ The kingdom of God is...righteousness, and peace, and joy.

²² *Romans* 7:15, 19.

²³ *2 Corinthians* 10:5.

This is what the King will bring in with Him. He is the...

Hebrews 7

² ...King of Righteousness,

–and He is able to...

Daniel 9

²⁴ ...make an end of sin...and to bring in everlasting righteousness,

–so that you will be saved from doing the naughty things that you hate, and will have power to do what is right. And He is also the...

Hebrews 7

² ...King of Peace.

Ephesians 2

¹⁴ He is our peace,

–and we are told to...

Colossians 3

¹⁵ Let the peace of God rule in our hearts.

You remember how the angels sang,

Luke 2

¹⁴ ...peace on the earth,

–when Jesus came to live here; and so will His coming bring sweet peace to your heart. No more strife, no angry, bitter words, no quarrelling, where He reigns. No; for He will...

Matthew 13

⁴¹ ...cast out of His kingdom all things that offend.

And His kingdom is “joy.” You know that the nature of a kingdom depends on the character of the king. A wise, good king means a happy people. Surely, His blessed reign of peace must bring fullness of blessing to all His subjects.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing.²⁴

But are you wondering if the Lord wants the hearts of the very little children for His kingdom? Yes, even the tiniest; for when He came to earth to show us where and what His kingdom is, He took the form of a tiny babe. This shows us that all, from the very first moment of their birth, are the subjects of His kingdom. Through all the years of helpless infancy and growing childhood, the...

Romans 14

¹⁷ ...righteousness, and peace, and joy

–of the kingdom of God ruled in His heart, showing what God can do for every little one. It showed His power and His willingness to put the kingdom of God into the heart of every child who will receive it. And Jesus said that only those who...

Mark 10

¹⁵ ...receive the kingdom of God like little children,

–can ever enter therein. So every little child can “receive the kingdom of God.” Do you not want to be a child of the Kingdom? Will you not pray in spirit and in truth,

Matthew 6

¹⁰ Your kingdom come.

Next week we will tell you more about this heavenly kingdom, and of how the will of the great King shall at last be fully done,

¹⁰ ...on earth, as it is in heaven.

²⁴ Isaac Watts, Hymn: *Joy to the World*, 1719.

6. Your Will Be Done

Present Truth, December 6, 1900

Original title: The Children. The Lord's Prayer. Thy Will Be Done

Matthew 6

¹⁰ Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

HOW different the Lord's Kingdom is from the kingdoms of this world, we found in our talk about it last week. The kingdoms of this world are gained and held and ruled, not by love, but by force. The power of the nations is measured by the size of their armies and navies, and the number and deadliness of their weapons of warfare. And the laws that they make have to be "enforced" by magistrates and police courts, and prisons and punishments for those who do not obey them. This is the only way that the kings of this world can cause their will to be done.

But in the Kingdom of God it is not so.

"'God is love.' 1 John 4:16. His nature, His law, is love."²⁵

—and this is the power by which He does His will. Remember the text we quoted last week, showing that...

Luke 17

²¹ ...the kingdom of God is within you.

When we let Him reign within us, we can say as Jesus did,

Psalms 40

⁸ Your law is within my heart.

Proverbs 4

²³ Out of the heart are the issues of life,

—God's Word tells us. The life blood from the heart carries life to every part of our bodies; so when the law is in the heart, all our members will be...

²⁵ Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 33.

Romans 6

¹³ ...instruments of righteousness unto God.

He will rule our whole bodies by His law of love, and use our hands, our feet, our tongues, and all our members, to do His own sweet and holy will.

Philippians 2

¹³ For it is God that works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

And since He is love, “His good pleasure” will always be our highest good and happiness, and the blessing and helping of others through us. So shall we not say, as Jesus,

Psalms 40

⁸ I delight to do your will, O my God: yea, your law is within my heart.

Jesus has taught us to pray,

Matthew 6

¹⁰ Your will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven.

So if we would know how God’s will is to be done on earth, we must see how it is done in heaven. In the book of *Ezekiel* we have a picture of the Kingdom of God, a description of His living throne, which shows us the nature of His Kingdom, and how His will is perfectly done in heaven. After describing the different living creatures that form the throne, Ezekiel says,

Ezekiel 1

²⁰ Whithersoever the Spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go...

¹² And they went every one straight forward.

That is, whatever it was the will of God that they should do, that was the only thing that they wanted to do, and they did it. They knew the will of God, they delighted in it, and they did it. Then the prophet explains how this was by saying:

Ezekiel 10 [margin]

¹⁷ For the Spirit of life was in them.

The Spirit of God's own life filling these living creatures makes them know and do His will perfectly, and delight in it. And this is the only thing that makes it possible for the will of God now to be done in us as it is in heaven. In the 8th chapter of *Romans* we learn that the only way for us to do His will is to be filled with...

Romans 8

² ...the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus,

—and then...

⁴ The righteousness of the law may be fulfilled in us,

—even now. For it is His Holy Spirit that brings His Kingdom into our hearts, and puts His laws there, so that He rules our whole bodies, and controls all our life.

As “God is love,”²⁶ His will is to make every one and everything in His Kingdom just as happy as it is possible for them to be, and to have every place beautiful and perfect, and filled with that which will give pleasure. So think what a glorious, happy time it will be when His will is as fully done on earth as it is in heaven.

Zechariah 4

¹⁹ And the Lord shall be King over all the earth: in that day there shall be one Lord, and His name one.

Then sin, and all the results of sin, sickness, sorrow, pain, death—all these shall flee away. The Spirit of God shall fill all things with the knowledge of the will of God, and give them the power to do it. The animals will be peaceful and gentle, so that the wolf and the lamb, the lion and the ox can live and feed together,²⁷ and...

Isaiah 11

⁶ ...a little child shall lead them.

²⁶ 1 John 4:16.

²⁷ Isaiah 65:25.

How the loving heart of God must long for this happy time
when His will shall be done on earth as in heaven. Shall we not
pray more earnestly than before “Your Kingdom come,”

And sum up all our prayers in one
When we pray, “Your will be done.”²⁸



Ezekiel's Vision of the Living Creatures who do God's will
(Bibel in Bildern, 1860)

²⁸ *Unknown.*

7. Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

Present Truth, December 13, 1900

Matthew 6

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

WHOM does all the bread in the world belong to? Jesus has taught us to go every day to our Heavenly Father, and ask for our bread for that day, “our daily bread.” This shows that all the bread, all the food that there is anywhere, belongs to God, and He is the only One that can give it to us.

Psalms 24

¹ The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof.

He says,

Psalms 50

¹² If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and the fullness thereof.

This shows us also that in whatever way our food comes to us, it is in reality the gift of God. Do you think that your daily bread belongs to your father, who earns it by his hard labor, or your mother, who prepares it for you, and that they are the ones who give it to you? Think, then, who gives the life and strength by which your father works to get bread for you, and your mother is able to take care of you and provide for your needs. It is God who...

Acts 17

²⁵ ...gives to all life, and breath, and all things.

So all the bread belongs to God, and He gives it freely to all. When the children of Israel were wandering in the wilderness, God wanted to teach them that He was the One who fed them and supplied their every need, so instead of giving them their food in the way that He usually provides it,

Exodus 16

⁴ [He] rained down bread from heaven for [them].

Day by day the manna fell upon their encampment, and they drank the living water that He caused to flow from the rock to quench their thirst.

When their wanderings were over, and they were about to enter the promised land, Moses saw that there was danger of their soon forgetting that the same God of love was still, providing for their daily needs, only in a different way from when the bread fell down direct from heaven for them. So he warned them that when the time should come that they would have plenty of silver and gold and flocks and herds, and food to eat and drink, they should not say in their hearts,

Deuteronomy 8

¹⁷ My power, and the might of my hand has gotten me this wealth.

¹⁸ But you shall remember the Lord your God: for it is He that gives you power to get wealth.

So in whatever way our food comes to us, it is God who...

Psalms 145

¹⁶ ...opens His hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing,

—and all that anyone can do is, like the birds and the beasts, and all living creatures that He feeds, to gather what He gives. For God not only feeds all mankind, but all of His creatures...

Psalms 104

²¹ ...seek their meat from God.

He who made all things makes for each creature just the food that is best suited for it, and teaches it where to find it and how to get it.

Job 38

⁴¹ Who provides for the raven his food, when his young ones cry unto God?

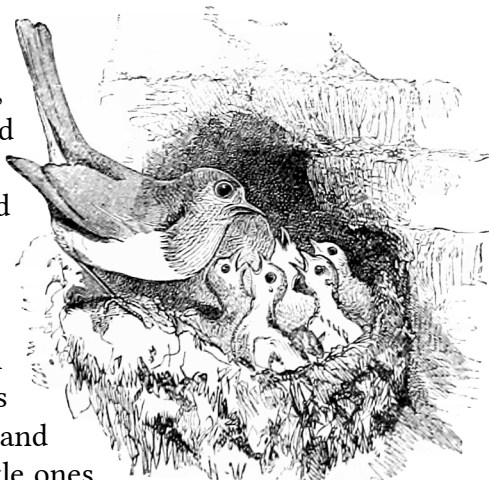
—was one of the questions that the Lord asked Job. And this is answered in the 147th *Psalm*:

Psalm 147

⁹ He gives to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry.

So the cry of the hungry raven, as of every other bird and beast and living thing, is a cry to God for food, and He hears and answers.

But in our little picture you will see how God gives the food to the young ravens which cry. He does not himself drop it into their mouths, but he uses the parent bird to supply their needs. He provides the food, and teaches the father and mother birds to gather it for themselves and their little ones. And so it is with His little children: He gives strength to the father and mother to gather for His little ones and for themselves the daily bread that He has provided for them.



Psalm 104

¹⁴ He causes grass to grow for the cattle,
And herb for the service of man:
That he may bring forth bread out of the earth.

But do you think you would like to be as the children of Israel were in the wilderness, or, as the multitude whom Jesus fed in the desert, and receive your food directly from His hands, or see Him rain it down from heaven for you? Do you not know that God is still raining down bread from heaven day by day, and that all that comes upon your table has come to the earth in this way? Read what God says of this in *Isaiah*:

Isaiah 55

¹⁰ The rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and returns not thither, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater.

What is it that gives “bread to the eater”? It is the rain and snow that God sends down from heaven. We are told also in His Word that the showers that water the earth from...

Psalms 65

⁹ ...the river of God, which is full of water,

—greatly enrich it and fill it with corn, and...

¹¹ Crown the year with His goodness.

So as we see the rain fall we may remember that God is as really raining down bread from heaven for us as He did for the children of Israel. Let us ask Him to open our eyes, so we may see Him everywhere, in all things, working out His loving purposes of good to all His creatures, and give thanks to Him whose...

Psalms 145

⁹ ...tender mercies are over all His works,

—and who gives us each day “our daily bread.”

8. Forgive Us Our Trespasses

Present Truth, December 20, 1900

Exodus 33

¹⁸ Show me your glory.

THIS was the prayer of Moses many hundred year before the angels sang to the shepherds in the midnight watches,

Luke 2

¹⁴ Glory to God in the Highest.

Do you not think that each of the shepherds, as he heard the angel's song, must have prayed in his heart this same prayer? Do you not think they all must have longed to see for themselves this great glory, that they might join in the glad song of rejoicing, and know the peace and goodwill that it had brought to the earth?

We may be sure that they did, because they went with such haste when the angel told them just where the wondrous glory was shining forth in its fullness. Let us see how the Lord answered the prayer of Moses, and what He showed to the shepherds, and this will open our eyes so that we too may...

2 Corinthians 3

¹⁸ ...behold the glory of the Lord,

—and sing,

Luke 2

¹⁴ Glory to God in the Highest!

When Moses prayed,

Exodus 33

¹⁸ I beseech You, show me your glory,

—the Lord answered him,

¹⁹ I will make all my goodness pass before you.

Then He passed by before him and proclaimed the name of the Lord before him:

Exodus 34

⁶ The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

⁷ Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.

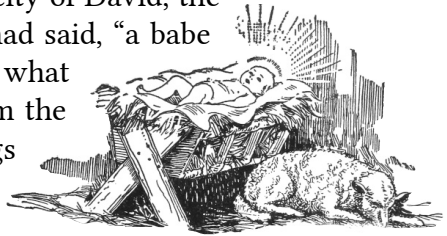
So He showed to Moses that His glory is the goodness, mercy, and grace by which He forgives sin. Now let us see what it was that showed to the shepherds this same glory. The angel said to them:

Luke 2

¹¹ Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; you shall find the babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Hastening to Bethlehem, the city of David, the shepherds found, as the angel had said, “a babe lying in a manger.” Can this be what had brought the angel host from the courts of heaven, singing songs of deeper gladness than when...



Job 38

⁷ ...all the sons of God shouted for joy,

—over the creation of the new earth? Where is the glory of which the angels had sung? Ah, the shepherds saw it, and they made it known abroad, and...

Luke 2

¹⁸ ...all they that heard it wondered.

For this infant whom they saw lying helpless in a manger, was their Saviour,

¹¹ ...Christ the Lord.

No doubt they learned from His mother Mary the baby's sweet name:

Matthew 1

²¹ You shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.

This was the fulfilment of what the Lord had spoken by the prophet long before:²⁹

²³ They shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

From all this we learn what is the only thing that can save us from our sins: it is "God with us." Jesus saves us from our sins because He brings God to dwell with us. This is what the shepherds saw, and what we too may see, in this little babe lying in the manger. But this, the angel said, is to...

Luke 2

¹² ...be a sign unto you,

—a sign that God has come to dwell on earth, and that He is with every little child ever born, to save them from their sins if they will let Him. It was not that God was with Him only, but, "God with us," God dwelling in us to be our Saviour. This wonderful love,

Luke 1

⁷⁸ The tender mercy of our God; whereby the Dayspring from on high has visited us,

⁷⁹ To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace;

—this is the glory of our God. He forgives and blots out our sin by His pure and holy presence within us, making us pure in heart, so that we may see God.³⁰

But the angels sang,

²⁹ *Isaiah 7:14.*

³⁰ *Matthew 5:8.*

Luke 2

¹⁴ Glory to God in the Highest!

Yet the shepherds found Him in a very low and humble place.
Not even in a poor home, but out in the stable of the inn,

¹⁶ ...a babe lying in a manger.

Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining,
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall.³¹

Can this be “God in the Highest”? Yes; for He is the Most High for evermore,” and wherever He dwells is “the Highest,” “the high and holy place.” He says,

Isaiah 57

¹⁵ I dwell in the high and holy place; with him also that is of an humble and contrite spirit.

In sending forth His son in the form of a little child, God has shown that it is possible for every little one to be a child of God, dwelling with Him in “the high and holy place” and showing forth the glory of His love. So each one of you may be, as you often sing.

A gleam of grace to all around.
A little spot of hallowed ground.³²

In our talks together about the petitions in the Lord’s prayer, we have come to this one for you to think about:

Matthew 6 [NMB]

¹² Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us.

This shows us that we must learn of God how to forgive. The coming of Jesus to this earth teaches us of our Heavenly Father’s tender love, that covers all our sins, and blots them out and remembers them no more. He so loves us that He comes to dwell

³¹ Reginald Heber, Hymn: *Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning*, 1811.

³² Anon., Hymn: *Lord, Look upon a Little Child*, early 1800’s.

with us, to save us from our sins. The knowledge of this great love, which makes us at peace with God, makes us at peace also with every one else. And so Jesus brought...

Luke 2

¹⁴ ...peace on earth, good will toward men;

–for can we have a hard and unforgiving spirit in our hearts, toward anyone else, when we think of Him who shed His own blood, to wash away our trespasses against Him?



Jesus washing the Feet of the Disciples
(Bouzonnet Stella after J. Stella, 1700 - Wellcome Collection)



Jesus as a Boy
(Bible Stories for Sunday School, 1922)

9. Deliver Us from Evil

Present Truth, December 27, 1900

Matthew 6

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

THIS is a part of the Lord's prayer, which it is well for us often to think upon, so that we may earnestly pray it from our hearts every day, and keep it in our minds. For this will help us to remember our own weakness and how impossible it is for as to meet temptation and overcome it in our own strength.

Do you think that if you really pray this prayer each day you will be likely to run into temptation heedlessly, of your own freewill? Surely you will not want to run where you have earnestly prayed that the Lord will not lead you.

Yet there are some who think that they are strong enough to endure temptation, so they do not try to keep away from it, but even sometimes place themselves in the way of it. Such are sure to fall into the very temptation that they thought they were strong to resist. For our greatest weakness is to trust in ourselves, and think that we are strong.

But our greatest strength is to know that we have no strength whatever, for then we shall cling always to the mighty arm of Jesus our Saviour, and hide under His wing for shelter. So,

1 Corinthians 10

¹² Let him that thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall.

If only Eve had turned her back on the tempter, and not listened to his enticing words, and looked at the tempting fruit that he held out to her, how much of sin, sorrow, suffering, and death, she might have saved herself and all her family.

Last month we printed some verses containing a "Lesson from a Spider's Web"³³ to teach you the danger of going needlessly into

³³ See [Appendix](#).

temptation. You can look them up for yourself, but we will quote a few of the verses here:

I sat here one day, when there came by the way
A silly young bottlefly buzzing along;
He tossed up his head, and so boastingly said,
“I’m sure there’s no danger, because I’m so strong.

With one stroke of my wing I’ll demolish this thing,
Where so many poor, weak, foolish creatures have died.”
Then in vain, pompous way, the young bottlefly gay
Rushed up to the web in his confident pride.

But these strong little strings caught his silvery wings,
And soon to his horror the bottlefly found
That he, too, must die, like a poor, common fly,
Though he fluttered, and tugged, and buzzed wildly around.

But when, without our seeking it, or running into it, we meet temptation and trial, than we may pray with trust and confidence to our Heavenly Father,

Matthew 6

¹³ Deliver us from evil.

He is able to keep us from falling³⁴ and is even more anxious to keep us spotless than we are to be kept from sin. There is only one way that we can overcome temptation, and be delivered from evil. Jesus tells us the only way, when He says,

Romans 12

²¹ Overcome evil with good.

Yet in us...

Romans 7

¹⁸ ...dwells no good thing,

—so of ourselves we have no “good” with which to “overcome evil.” For,

³⁴ *Jude* 1:24.

Matthew 19

¹⁷ There is none good but one, that is, God,

—and everything that is good must come from Him. So we may read this in its true meaning,

“Overcome evil *with God*.”

And this is just what His Word tells us to do; for:

Galatians 1

⁴ He gave himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world.

God has given us himself, so that we may be able to overcome all evil. Have you received the wondrous gift? and do you know His power to keep you? You cannot get the evil out of your heart in any other way than by letting Him come in. Then His presence in your heart will drive out evil, because...

Psalms 5

⁴ ...evil cannot dwell with Him.

What is the only way that you can get rid of darkness? It is by letting light shine in, and then where is the darkness? It is overcome, swallowed up, by the light, so that it disappears completely, and is not.

All evil is darkness, which the light of the Son of Righteousness only can dispel. But when He arises and shines in our hearts, where will the darkness or the evil be? It will be destroyed by the brightness of His shining,³⁵ just as the light of day causes the darkness of night to vanish away. Only light can overcome darkness; only good can overcome evil; only life can overcome death; and only God can overcome Satan. Are you not glad that:

2 Corinthians 4

⁶ God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts.

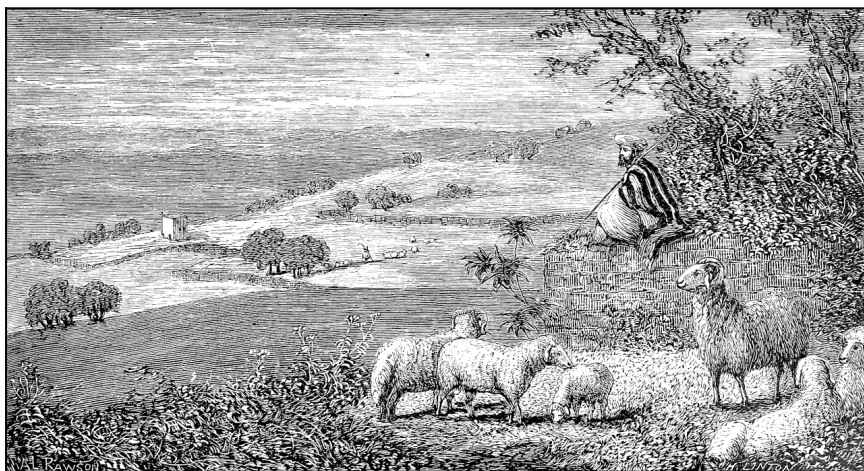
³⁵ 2 Thessalonians 2:8.

When you feel any evil thought rising up in your mind, any naughty temper in your heart, any unkind word coming to your lips, will you not remember that He has given himself to save you from this evil? Will you not ask Him to shine it all away, and overcome the evil with His own goodness?

Then as you learn more and more to know His power over all the power of Satan, you will be able to sing with new meaning the beautiful Psalm of David, that you well know:

Psalm 23

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for You are with me.

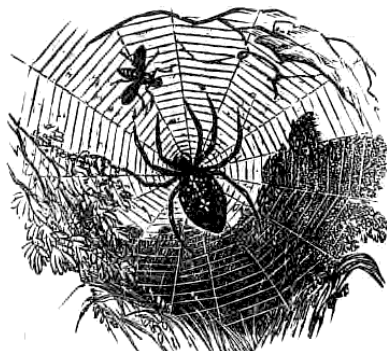


Shepherds Field at Bethlehem
(Holy Bible 1881)

Appendix: A Lesson From the Spider's Web

Mrs. L. D. Avery-Stuttle

Quoted in Chapter 9 – Deliver Us From Evil



A scheming old spider, whose web was far wider
And longer and stronger than those of the rest,
Sat musing one day in a satisfied way,
‘Mong the bones of the victims he’d caught in his nest.

And the crafty old fellow, with sides fat and yellow,
Thus said to himself: “It is strange, I declare,
That the flies will still come when they *know* I’m at home,
And they see all these skeletons hung in my lair.”

I sat here one day, when there came by the way
A silly young bottlefly buzzing along;
He tossed up his head, and so boastingly said,
“I’m sure there’s no danger, because I’m so strong.”

“With one stroke of my wing I’ll demolish this thing,
Where so many poor, weak, foolish creatures have died.”
Then in vain, pompous way the young bottlefly gay
Rushed up to the web in his confident pride.

But these strong little strings caught his silvery wings,
And soon to his horror the bottlefly found
That he, too, must die, like a poor, common fly,
Though he fluttered and tugged and buzzed wildly around.

MORAL

Look out, my boys! You are brave, I know,

But shun ye the paths of wrong;

Look out, look out for the wily foe,

Lest he bind you fast in his web; for oh,

The fetters of sin are strong!

