

## **Who is the LORD that I should obey his voice?**

**January 3, 2016**

**A brand new year, 2016 is settling in and many people have made New Year resolutions that may start off with a bang but end shortly because the effort will prove to be too strenuous for them. Permanent changes in lives come only through the Spirit of God who leads and guides into all truth.**

**There is a God in heaven who created us and who calls us to be workers in his vineyard. We can resist the spirit, but there are consequences to rejecting the call of God. When God comes on the scene and enters the picture of a person's life, he is never the same again. Accepting and answering the call of God changes a person's heart and eternal destination and gives him a purpose and a divine guide forever.**

**In Genesis chapter 11, there is a story of man's rejection of God's divine plan and the end result of that choice. God had destroyed the inhabitants of the earth with a flood because of wickedness, with the exception of Noah and his family and a remnant of all living creatures. Noah's family survived the flood through the intervention of God directing Noah to build an ark and taking his family as well as a remnant of all living creatures aboard the ark until the water from the flood subsided. God made a covenant by placing a rainbow in the sky to remind people that the earth would never again be destroyed with water. God had placed truth in the heart of Noah and he upon emerging from the ark built an altar of worship to the LORD. God smelled the aroma of Noah's sacrifice and made a promise that from that day forth, there would be seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer and day and night for as long as the earth remains.**

**See Genesis. 8:20-22. I would think that Noah's children would be obedient to God's will and be faithful to the LORD since they were witnesses to the destruction that had come to the earth because of sin, yet as time went by, the descendents of Noah ignored the LORD. In chapter 11 of Genesis, the Bible tells us that the whole earth had one language and one speech. As they journeyed towards the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and they dwelt there. If you read the instructions that God had given to Adam and Eve, He told them to inhabit the whole earth. (See Genesis 1:28). They were to spread out over the land and raise their families according to the law of God. Yet these people chose to stick together and decided that they would make a name for themselves by making bricks and baking them and by using asphalt for mortar to build a city and a tower whose top would reach the heavens. They feared that if they didn't do this that they would be scattered abroad over the face of the earth.**

**In verse 5, we read "But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of man had built." They had not sought the LORD; in fact they were leaning on their own understanding and had rejected what the LORD had already given them for instructions. The LORD knew that these people had one language, one purpose, and the**

determination to complete the task that they had set their hearts on to accomplish. He thwarted their plan by confusing them with various languages so they could not understand each other. The LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the earth and they ceased building the city. The name is called Babel because of the confusion caused by language barriers set by God to destroy the plans that had not originated in His mind. He forced them to take up residence in various parts of the earth just as he had instructed them to do from the beginning.

God's plan will be accomplished either by willing and obedient servants or by the discipline of the Almighty hand of God.

In the very next chapter of Genesis, God called Abram to leave his country, his family, and his father's house and to go to a land that He would show him. Abram's father worshipped idols and God had a plan that He desired Abram to be a central figure for. Abram took Sarai, his wife, and his nephew Lot, and all of his animals and servants and headed for a land that he had no foreknowledge of. He obeyed God for his faith was in Jehovah and God revealed his plans to Abram on several occasions. Hebrews 11:8 says "that by faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of Canaan as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. His wife Sarah received strength to conceive and bear a child when she was past the age by faith for she judged Him faithful who had promised." Hebrews 11:5 says that it is impossible to please God without faith for those who come to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him. Those who reject his words and refuse to acknowledge Him will suffer the consequences of his judgment.

In the book of Exodus, God had revealed his will to Moses as he tended to sheep in the mountains where he had sought refuge from the Pharaoh of Egypt. He sought Moses after it was determined that Moses was sympathetic to the slavery plight of the Israelite slaves. Moses was told to go and lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt, but he was afraid to accept the assignment. God showed his power to Moses and sent his brother, Aaron, to go with him to Egypt where Moses had been raised as an Egyptian son of Pharaoh's daughter. In chapter 5, Moses and Aaron approached Pharaoh and said, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Let my people Go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness'." And Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go."

Pharaoh was ignorant of who God is. In Isaiah 40:28 it says, "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. It goes on to say that even

youths shall faint and be weary and young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

Pharaoh challenged the power of the greatest of all and he learned the hard way that God is all powerful and his plan will come to pass.

2 Corinthians 2:11 warns us not to be ignorant of Satan’s devices lest he take advantage of us. We learn about God’s provisions and promises, his plans and his will by reading and following the commandments that are written in his word. Those who are ignorant of the word of God are at a disadvantage and because of lack of knowledge of the truth and the love for truth, they will be deceived.

Genesis 1:1 says that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. He is not a created being; he is the creator of all the universe and every living thing that dwells on the earth.

Psalms 90:1-2 says “LORD, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth, and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”

Psalms 100 exhorts us to make a joyful shout to the LORD all you lands. Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, HE is God; it is He who has made us and now we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; be thankful to Him and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting and His truth endures to all generations.

Psalms 14:1 reads like this: The fool has said in his heart “There is no God.” They are corrupt; they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.

John 3:18 says “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” Acts 17:24 tells us that God doesn’t dwell in temples made with hands for He made the world and everything in it, since He is LORD of heaven and earth nor is He worshipped with men’s hands as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath and all things. He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; For in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, “For we are his offspring.”

Paul spoke these words to the people of Athens for he recognized that they were very religious because of their many objects of worship and one made to the unknown God.

He spoke to them about the unknown God who is Christ, the Savior of the world.