The Christian Courier

August, 1996

Send correspondence to: 1034 S. 140th St., Seattle, WA 98168
Writers are responsible for their own articles.

Methuselah - Family Man

I recently heard or read that although Methuselah was the oldest living man, 969 years, his life was not very worthwhile. The point was that since he lived so long, there should have been a lot of achievement, righteousness or wisdom written of him. But he must not be very important because all that's written is that he begat sons and daughters.

I forget where I heard or read this: but I hope it wasn't in either of our papers, because I object very strongly to this sentiment.

Now, in reading of Methuselah's life, Gen. 5:22-27, that is all that is said about him. It doesn't say if he was righteous or not, or even if he was a good parent or not. My objection to this sentiment (that his life was unremarkable) is that being a parent is a very worthwhile and important undertaking. It is a task monumental in importance, effort required, and often difficulty. But it is a task that brings enormous satisfaction and reward as well. Raising children is ordained by God, and an especially important task for Christian couples.



Psalms 127:3-5. *"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."* A blessing that comes from God, described as an heritage, a reward, and something to make you happy, does not make one's life unremarkable or not worthwhile.

With the joys of parenthood come enormous responsibilities as well. Eph. 6:4. *"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."*

With two very young children, I don't feel qualified to tell you how to raise your kids. I feel more like the man who had a seminar titled: "How to Raise Children". When he had children of his own, the title changed to "Suggestions for Raising Children". Then when his children became teenagers he discontinued the seminar.

All I will do is simply point out that there are two elements of that scripture. Bring them up in the nurture of the Lord (lovingly taking care of their needs - physical, emotional and especially spiritual). Second, bring them up in the admonition of the Lord, teaching them of God, and leading them to Him.

In both of these tasks of parenting it is necessary to get God's help through study and prayer. Psa. 127:1. *"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it..."*

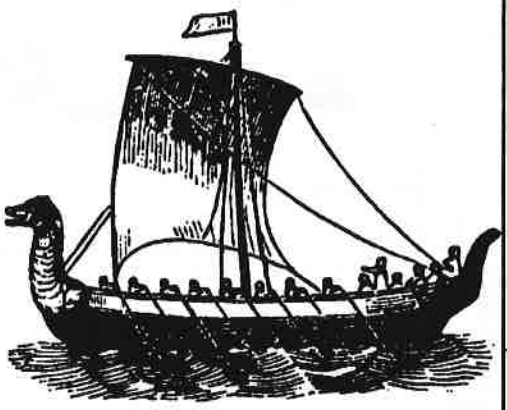
So, was Methuselah a righteous man? We don't know. Was it filled with personal ambition and achievement? We don't know. Was he a good parent? We don't know.

But was Methuselah's life important? Was his life filled with blessings, challenge, and even difficulty to be overcome? Was his life worthwhile? ***YES***. Because he was a parent.

In Christian love,
Bro. Terry Warford
22023 29th Avenue South
Des Moines, WA 98198

The Travels of Paul: Fourth Journey

Paul's Defense in Jerusalem





When the Roman soldiers bound Paul and took him to the castle for questioning, they actually saved his life, for the Jews were attempting to kill him. The multitude followed after, even to the castle stairs, crying out, *"Away with him!"* (Acts 21:35-36), desiring serious punishment on him — even to the death.

The chief captain was astonished when Paul spoke to him in Greek (vs. 37). Until that moment he believed Paul was the Egyptian responsible for recent seditions against Jerusalem (vs. 38). The Egyptian had attempted to take Jerusalem by force, but lost over half of his followers in a battle against the Roman garrison, led by Felix (Josephus, p. 596, 683). The Egyptian and some of his followers had escaped, but were never to be seen again, although at that moment the chief captain thought it was Paul.

Paul indicated that he was not an Egyptian, but a Jew from Tarsus in Cilicia (vs. 39). As he stood at the top of the stairs, Paul asked for, and got permission to speak to the Jews (vs. 40). How strange that a crowd so unruly moments before would be so quiet at this time when Paul beckoned with his hand that he wished to speak.

They listened as Paul spoke to them in the Hebrew tongue (Acts 22:1-2). He recounted his past from his education as a Jew at the feet of Gamaliel, his persecutions against the Christians, his visit by Christ on his way to Damascus, and his conversion to Christianity (vs. 3-16). He went on to say that he left Jerusalem at Christ's to preach to the Gentiles (vs. 17-21).

At this word "Gentiles" the Jews refused to listen any longer (vs. 22), and called for his death as they cast dust into the air (vs. 23). The formality of a trial was far from their minds.

The chief captain couldn't understand why the Jews could be so upset at one whom he thought now to be one of their own, and not the Egyptian. He commanded that Paul be brought into the castle for scourging so that he might know why they shouted so against him (vs. 24).

As he was being prepared for the scourging, Paul asked the centurion, *"... Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?"* (vs. 25).

Of course it was unlawful; and Paul's appeal on the basis of his Roman citizenship was all that was needed to abort the savage punishment he was about to endure. This was shocking news to the chief captain, who came immediately to him and asked, *"... Tell me, art thou a Roman? ..."* (vs. 26-27). Paul responded affirmatively (vs. 28). The chief captain was very afraid because the penalties for binding a Roman citizen without a trial were severe (vs. 29).

The next day the chief captain called the Jewish Sanhedrin for a meeting. He brought Paul before them to try to find out why they were so angry against him (vs. 30).

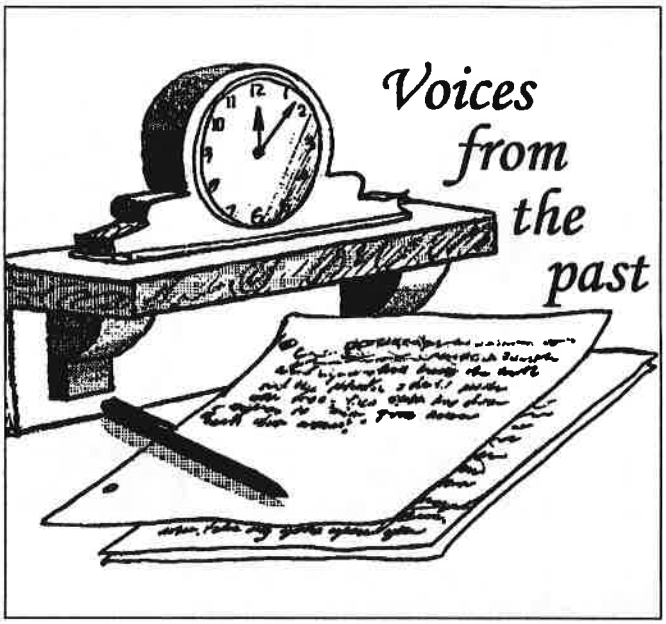
Next: Paul's second defense.

Written in love of the truth.

Ellis Forsman
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Seattle, WA 98168

Let Us Cultivate Patience

We know that when we plant a garden, if we do not cultivate it, grass and weeds will grow. The vegetable seeds which we plant will come up, but they will wither away and die. So it is with our patience.



When we become children of God, we are just as the freshly planted garden. Perhaps we may worry because we don't have a great deal of money or are not rich in worldly goods as some wealthy man of the world. We should put our trust in God and wait for the heavenly riches which are not of this world as the Psalmist says: *"Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass."* Psa. 37:7.

We have in the race that is before us many temptations which can cause us to detour and lose our reward and discourage us with God. Hear the Hebrew writer: *"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,"* Heb. 12:1. We must have patience as Paul the apostle writes: *"So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer;"* II Thes. 1:4-5.

We find that patience is one of the seven Christian graces as recorded in II Pet 1:5-10.

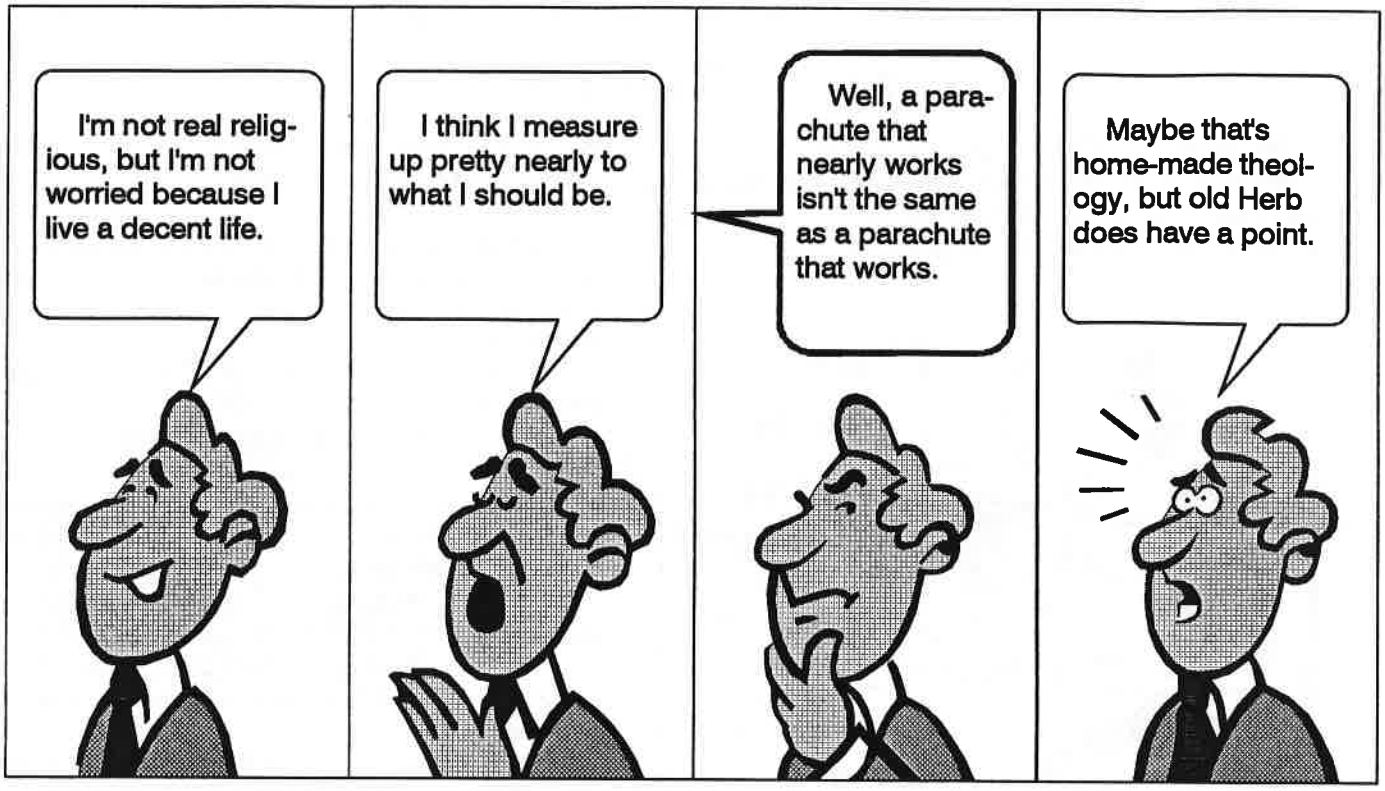
Again, we find that there is something to gain in Heb 10:35-36: *"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."* We can't make God do things our way, neither can we hurry him in any way. Let us consider Lam. 3:25-26: *"The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord."*

Hear Paul again: *"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"* II Cor. 4:17. If we suffer in this life with illnesses and poverty, misfortunes of all kinds while on our road to heaven, at the end of this road God will give all the faithful our prize at the last great day as is recorded in the letter to the Romans. *"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us,"* Rom. 8:18. Let us also investigate Isa. 30:18. *"And therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the Lord is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him."* Finally hear Paul once more: *"Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."* Rom. 15:5-6

Bro. Willie Doan

It Is Written, January, 1956

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."
(1 Cor. 15:58)



Omissions

It is not so much the things I do
That cause me to regret.
It's the little things I leave undone,
The things that I forget;
It's words I fail to utter,
The songs I fail to sing,
The letters I forget to write,
That may great comfort bring.
It's the little acts of kindness,
The joy I fail to give,
The smiles I fail to scatter,
As day by day I live.
It's the sick I fail to visit,
Flowers I fail to send,
It's the hand I fail to offer
Unto a fallen friend.
It's not so much the things I do
That cause me to regret,
It's the little things I leave undone,
The things that I forget.
— Author Unknown

Cards and Letters



Comanche, OK

The congregation at Comanche just finished a wonderful week of friendship, fellowship, and spiritual uplifting. Brother Mark Perigen, formerly of the Bellflower congregation, and now living in Northern California, was our "featured" speaker. As in all times past, he did a great job.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Mark, Tammy, Steven, Chelsea, Kayla, and Alysa for taking the time out of their schedules to spend a week with us. We truly felt blessed to have them in our home and in our services.

Being a holiday week we were fortunate to have several come on Wednesday or Thursday and stay the rest of the week, into Sunday. It gave us a lot more time to visit, play and eat.

If correctly counted, there were twelve congregations represented, ranging from Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, California and Washington. What a turnout! They were from Goshen and Bohannon Mountain in Arkansas, Lugert, Baron, Randlett, Oklahoma City, and Comanche in Oklahoma, Lorenzo, Newcastle, and Ringgold in Texas, Sea-Tac in Washington, and the congregation in California where Mark's family attends. (I think they just visit around to several in their area when they don't go back home.) There were 20 visitors from the Lorenzo area and congregation alone. Randlett showed up with nine, Lugert with eight, Newcastle with six, California with six, Ringgold had four, Baron and Goshen each brought three, Bohannon Mountain brought two, Oklahoma City and Sea-Tac each had one, and two brought a friend with them.

In all, I think there were sixty-five visitors, with most of them staying several days, if not all week. We've always said, the more the merrier. We did lots of visiting, had ice cream one night, a cookout, and an old fashioned hay ride. Richard didn't find horses to pull the trailer, but Howard's pickup did an okay job. There were few nights that the 17-19 at our house were in bed before 12:30-1:00. We are all tired out, as usual after a full week of running, but very happy and uplifted. We are so thankful for all our loved ones that came to share their time with us. That is what we call a successful meeting.

Teresa was asked by a co-worker once what she did for fun if she didn't dance and drink. They would be hard pressed to have more fun than we did during the July 4th week of 1996, and we'll come nearer remembering what we did than they will!

Once again, thank all of you who came and shared your time and love with us. We will hold the week dear to our hearts for always. God truly blessed us.

We are so full of the meeting that we don't want to forget the visitors who have stopped by or come for a few days during the last few months. Paul and Marge Andrews, from Goshen, were here in the spring, and Paul is always good about giving us an uplifting lesson on Sunday. Larry Wood, from Lorenzo, stops by pretty often while in the area. And Larry Brockman, from Chico, came through one Sunday while on a trip to this area. We are always glad to see anyone who comes in and thank them for their friendship and time spent with us.

Audley and Teresa Barnes

Baron, OK

Greetings from the Baron congregation,

We had a visiting preacher here from Goshen, Arkansas: Brother Paul Auslum and his wife and two sons. Paul delivered us a very inspiring sermon, and we enjoyed having them very much.

Also, Brother Terry Warford and his wife Suzie and youngest daughter came one Sunday, June 9th, and he also delivered a wonderful message. We have known Terry since he was a small boy, and it's always a joy to see him return for a good visit.

Also, every second Sunday of the month Brother Paul Andrews and his mother Margie come, and he always delivers a good sermon. We appreciate all visitors, and invite them back anytime.

Also, Vestie Mays and her granddaughter have visited a few Sundays.

Our son-in-law Don McReynolds has been coming quite often.

Sister Angela Martin, husband Eddie and four-year-old Julea are anxiously waiting the birth of their second child — due the last of August. Angela has had some problems, but is doing better at this time.

Brother Brian Ross has just returned from the Delta Camp Meeting, and enjoyed it very much.

Sister Bonnie Johnson's granddaughter Delbonnie was united in marriage July 6th to Hulus Dugger. We wish them many years of happiness.

We send our love and prayers to all.

The Baron Church of Christ.

P.S. Our son Brett Brown gave us a surprise visit on July 4th. He left this morning, July 7th, going back to camp in Alabama. We sure miss him.

Show Low, AZ

Greetings from the congregation at Show Low,

We are all doing very well here, but that does not mean that we lack the need of your prayers. We should always be in prayer for one another. We keep our brothers and sisters in prayers always, and even more so those who have special needs.

As always, we keep a constant invitation out to any and all who would want to come and visit.

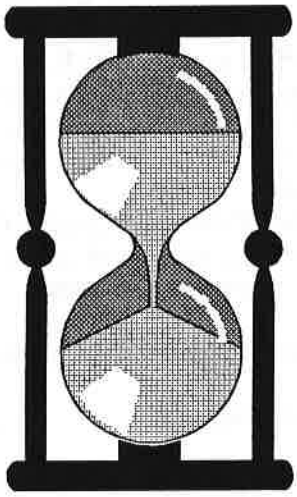
Right now we are missing Bud and Willy Davis for they are gone off to a meeting. My family and I are looking forward to next year when we plan on taking a week and going to one of the meetings someplace. We have been wanting to go this a long time, so if the Lord is willing, this is our plans.

May the Lord make His face to shine upon thee.

Joseph Davis
RR 2, Box 22034
Show Low, AZ 85901



Precious Memories



***It Is Written*, August, 1956.** No file copy exists.

***The Christian Courier*, August, 1966.** No file copy exists.

***The Christian Courier*, August, 1976** Bro. Dan Treat reported an excellent meeting at Broken Bow with Bro. Earl Atchley. There were two baptisms, Jay and Lawanda Durham. Bro. Wayne Orendorff reported a visit with Bro. Errol Forsman and family, the baptism of Rene Dawson, and the meeting at Port Orchard with Bro. Horace Orendorff. Bro. Roy Snoderly reported on their uplifting meeting at Bellflower with Bro. Richard Johnston, as well as the passing of Bro. Olan Taylor. Bro. Richard Johnston of Yakima reported the marriage of Bro. Mike Brockman and Sis. Charlotte Wisehart, with Bro. Howard McCay officiating, and that they planned a camp-style meeting for the following year. Bro. Howard McCay reported excellent results at the Delta camp meeting with 17 Brothers and Sisters coming forward for prayers, and 3 baptized. They were Kep Orendorff, Mike Fulkerson and Ann Hill. The church at Lorenzo, TX reported their gospel meeting with Bro. Claude Perigen, with Kimberly Forsman added to Christ's body through baptism, and several asking for the prayers of the church. Bro. Horace Orendorff of Yuma, AZ thanked the Port Orchard congregation for their hospitality and love during the meeting there, and for the song they made from his closing lesson on "Good Measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over." He also expressed the church's sadness at the passing of Brother Allen Nelson, and the gladness at the baptizing of Brother and Sister Morgan. Bro. Dayton Clouse of Bellflower reported that Bro. Jerry Perigen baptized his daughter, Laurie during the meeting at Furnish Canyon. The paper also had the obituary of Bro. George Edward Cavin.

***The Christian Courier*, August, 1986** Bro. Paul Andrews of Goshen reported their two excellent meetings, one with Bro. J. W. Bedingfield and one with Bro. Al Way. He reported what an inspiration his grandmother, Sis. Lawson, was, going to the meeting as often as she could, despite sickness, and being 92 years old. He also reported that Bro. and Sis. Buchannon were in a car accident, and that Sis. Letha Ferguson fell and broke a rib at the Baron meeting (also with Bro. Al Way). He reported that they were very happy with the young people that had been baptized in the spring. The news from Baron was much the same as the Goshen report, with the additional news of two brethren coming forward for prayers at the meeting.

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

Aug. 2-4, 1996	Newcastle, TX	Jim Brown
Nov. 24-Dec. 1, 1996	Citrus City, AZ	Rex Mickey

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Erelene Chessman	Bellflower, CA	Fighting cancer
Dixie Fauch	Cedaredge, CO	Major surgery recovery
Letha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Errol Forsman	Lorenzo, TX	Fighting cancer
Luke Carpenter	Sacramento, CA	Cystic Fibrosis
Jessica Carpenter	Sacramento, CA	Cystic Fibrosis
Kathern Ann	San Pablo, CA	Diabetes
Howard McCay	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Mileah Angel	Sea-Tac, WA	Viral pneumonia
Dorothy Williams	Yuma, AZ	Surgery
Horace Orendorff	Yuma, AZ	Very ill
Zelma Broadway	Yuma, AZ	In a rest home

Marriages

Hulus Dugger & Delbonnie Johnson	Baron, OK	July 6, 1996

Our ongoing and continual prayers are also for those of you who we are not aware of by name, but have needs of various kinds. We would entreat the Lord's blessings on each of you as well. Please let the editors know if some have physical or financial needs that we as a Christian family are not aware.

WORD SEARCH: AUGUST

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WORD LIST

ADMONITION
AFFLICTION
ARROWS
CAPTAIN
CENTURION
CHILDREN
CITIZEN
CONFIDENCE
DAMASCUS
EGYPTIAN
FAMILY
FATHERS
GAMALIEL
GARRISON
GENTILES
HERITAGE
HOUSE
KINGDOM
METHUSELAH
NURTURE
PARENT
PATIENCE
PROMISE
QUIVER
REWARD
RICHES
RIGHTEOUSNESS
ROMAN
SALVATION
SCOURGE
SOLDIERS
WEIGHT