

THE

HARVESTER

"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)

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A LONG LIFE

Deuteronomy 5:16 says, "Honour thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

We have heard many times that we should listen to our parents, people who have experienced life. Most of the time, the purpose is to avoid making the same mistakes that they made in their lives but if you really read this verse, there is more to it than that.

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The first part of the verse we see a few other times in the Bible such as Matthew 15:4: *“For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.”* The interesting part about the verse in Deuteronomy 5 is the second part, *“that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”* There is a similar wording in Deuteronomy 6:2:

That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.

There is a parallel New Testament passage to our opening verse, Deuteronomy 5:16, in Ephesians 6:1-3:

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

We don't always read that last line, *“thou mayest live long on the earth.”* This seems to go along with the idea that if we do what our parents wish for us to, we could live a long life on this earth.

So, does this mean that everyone who follows God and that does exactly as their parents instruct them lives a long life? Does this mean that people who do not follow God die sooner? Not necessarily in the worldview, but if you think of it spiritually, it most certainly does. We, as Christians, believe in a life after this one. We believe that there is more to following God than what we see. It is part of our faith that there is something better out there for us. If we honor our parents and follow God's commandments we have hope that our days will be prolonged, not in this life but in the next.

Read this passage from Mark 7:6-13:

He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

We see from this passage people who have not continued to follow God's commandments because of his or her own traditions. We go through life holding fast to things that our ancestors have done and sometimes forget what God really wants from us. Parents have to be careful to not allow their own wishes and desires to be the focus of their relationship with their children, but should be focused on raising them in a way that is pleasing to God. We have to raise our children (and children around us) in a way that makes them want to obey and do what we believe is right in the eyes of the Lord. We have to find the best way to reach them and make them want to follow our teachings and our advice. We must make sure that we are teaching everyone (young and old) that there is only one way to a prolonged life and that is through following the commandments of God.

We have all known followers of God who have died at an ear-

ly age; we have also known those who have lived a long life. Of course, there is not a definite answer but it stands to reason that we have a better chance of living a long life here on earth and beyond if we follow God and His commandments. We do this while always being ready because as Jesus said in Matthew 25:13, “*Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*” We don’t know how long we have on this earth and we also don’t know how long this earth will continue to exist, but we need to take advantage of the time that we have. We need to have the same attitude that Paul did in Philippians 1:23-26 when he said,

For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

We should take advantage of our time here as a way to help others continue for their furtherance and joy of faith while always keeping our eyes open for what is to come.

A. D.

APOLOGIA

QUESTION: How did Jesus appear to the human eye?

ANSWER: Let us first define the word *appear* or *appearance*. The noun definition is “the way that someone or something ‘looks’.” *Look* in the context of our query is a noun. How do we know how anyone or anything looks or appears? The

easiest way is to simply view the person with our eyes. After our initial viewing of someone, the next time we see a them our memory prompts us to recognize the person we have already seen. As time passes and the older generation dies, we have memories of how they appeared or looked. But our memories get weaker as we no longer get to see someone in person. We do, however, have the wonderful invention of the camera. When we still have loved ones, we often take many photos and collect them in albums whether they be paper or electronic. Then when someone asks what Grandma or Grandpa looked like we can show them photographs or “fixed images”. When were “fixed images” (pictures) first invented? Wikipedia gives the following information:

The first partially successful photograph of a camera image was made in approximately 1816 by Nicéphore Niépce. After Niépce's death in 1833, his partner Louis Daguerre continued to experiment and by 1837 had created the first practical photographic process, which he named the daguerreotype and publicly unveiled in 1839.

Since Jesus died around 2,000 years ago we readily conclude that no “fixed image” or picture from a camera exists of Jesus Christ. Later in the 19th century the motion picture was invented. Thus, there is no motion picture (movie) that exists of Jesus. Sometimes when we visit in the homes of some of our friends we see paintings or prints of what some artist has conceived to be the appearance of Jesus our Lord. Since Jesus died around 20 centuries ago that would very quickly exclude an artist's impression of how Jesus appeared to the human eye since the artist did not see our Lord Jesus in person.

Do any existing movies or paintings match what the Holy Bible says about how Jesus looked? Did Jesus have long hair and wear a white robe? No Bible verse relates that Jesus had long hair. Carpenters during Jesus' time on earth

worked with both wood and stone. Our Savior worked hard. He had to be the perfect sacrifice. He would have been in good shape. His muscles would have been in good condition. Jesus would not have looked much different than his fellow Jews. Let us consider John 5:13:

Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. (ESV)

One gets the distinct impression that Jesus was typical in appearance as relating to his countrymen. Thus, He would NOT have been outstanding in appearance among his kin and peers. Was Jesus handsome in appearance? The inspired prophet Isaiah expounds in chapter 53 and verse 2:

For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

What little we know of how Jesus actually appeared to the human eye comes from the Holy Bible and does not match any painter's interpretation. Nor does Jesus look like any of the people that have portrayed Him in motion pictures. We do not know exactly how Jesus Christ appeared to the human eye.

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THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

The Harvester

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

- 1. During Jacob's struggle with the angel, the hollow of which part of Jacob's body was touched and put out of joint?**
- 2. What was Samson's offer of reward if the Philistines could solve his riddle?**
- 3. Which bird does Job say is "lacking in wisdom," due to the fact she leaves her eggs on the floor?**
- 4. What occupation did Priscilla have?**
- 5. The fifth trumpet in Revelation is a plague which was also a plague upon Egypt in Exodus. Which one?**

...and remember last month's questions?

- 1. What Egyptian name did Pharaoh give to Joseph? ZAPHNATH-PAANEAH (Genesis 41:45)**
- 2. At what place did the Israelites arrive only to find the water was too bitter to drink, whereupon God caused it to become too sweet? MARAH (Exodus 15:23)**
- 3. How many years did the Lord add to Hezekiah's life after being healed of his sickness? FIFTEEN (2 Kings 20:6)**
- 4. Who did Jesus say was not far from the Kingdom of God? ONE OF THE SCRIBES (Mark 12:28-34)**
- 5. How long did Paul spend in Ephesus? THREE YEARS (Acts 20:31)**

Gospel Meetings

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
Oct. 4 10:30 a.m.	Bangor Hanceville, AL	Timothy Lewis
Oct. 4 2:00 p.m.	New Bethel Cullman, AL	J.D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Oct. 5 - 7	Hopkinsville Hopkinsville, OH	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, K .Y)
Oct. 5 - 9	Home of J.R. and Myrtle Thornton Summit, MS	J.D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN) & Timothy Lewis
Oct. 9 - 11	Valley Valley, AL	Kevin Mills (Newnan, GA)
Oct. 9 - 11	Delventa Beattyville, KY	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)
Oct. 9 - 12	Goochtown Eubank, KY	Aaron Keeton
Oct. 12 - 16	Oak Grove Eubank, KY	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)
Oct. 16 - 18	Pleasant Ridge Woodbury, TN	Thad Eubank (Eubank, KY)
Oct. 19 - 23	Lacy Creek West Liberty, KY	J.D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Oct. 22 - 25	Junction City Junction City, KY	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)
Oct. 23 - 25	Napoleon Woodland, AL	Bill Prince, Jr. (Oxford, AL)
Oct. 26 - 30	Sunday Hill Drive Campbellsville, KY	J.D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)