

STUDY NUMBER SEVEN

II Kings 1:3-17

TEXT

- v. 3 But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?'"
- v. 4 "Now therefore thus says the Lord, 'You shall not come down from the bed where you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'" Then Elijah departed.
- v. 5 When the messengers returned to him he said to them, "Why have you returned?"
- v. 6 And they said to him, "A man came up to meet us and said to us, 'Go, return to the king who sent you and say to him, "Thus says the Lord, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed where you have gone up, but shall surely die.'""
- v. 7 And he said to them, "What kind of man was he who came up to meet you and spoke these words to you?"
- v. 8 And they answered him, "He was a hairy man with a leather girdle bound about his loins." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite."
- v. 9 Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him, and behold, he was sitting on the top of the hill. And he said to him, "O man of God, the king says, 'Come down.'"
- v.10 And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty." Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.
- v.11 So he again sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said to him, "O man of God, thus says the king, 'Come down quickly.'"
- v.12 And Elijah answered and said to them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty." Then the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.
- v.13 So he again sent the captain of a third fifty with his fifty. When the third captain of fifty went up, he came and bowed down on his knees before Elijah, and begged him and said to him, "O man of God, please let my life and the lives of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight."
- v.14 "Behold, fire came down from heaven, and consumed the first two captains of fifty with their fifties; but now let my life be precious in your sight."
- v.15 And the angel of the Lord said to Elijah, "Go down with him; do not be afraid of him." So he arose and went down with him to the king.
- v.16 Then he said to him, "Thus says the Lord, 'Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron - is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of His word? - therefore you shall not come down from the bed where you have gone up, but shall surely die.'"
- v.17 So he died according to the word of the Lord which Elijah had spoken. And Jehoram became king in his place in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, because he had no son.

INTRODUCTION

In our study of the life of Elijah, we have travelled with him from the palace of Ahab to the brook Cherith to Zarephath, back to a confrontation with Ahab, and on to Mount Carmel, and then into the wilderness out of the will of God,

Mothers P. 365

and then in our study last week we saw our prophet blessed in the will of God, obeying the injunction of the Lord to confront Ahab with his sin and to pronounce judgment upon his household in the vineyard of Naboth.

call of Elisha
Naboth

The study that we have before us today is dated about 4 years after the Naboth experience of last week's study. We can date this as about 10 years from the time when Elijah calls Elisha alongside to be taking Elijah's place.

✓ We would then say that after Elisha is called as a prophet, there is a six year interval, and then the account of Naboth's vineyard that we looked at last week, and now there is a four year interval between that experience and the one recorded today.

Today

✓ During this 4 year period, several things have happened. First, Ahab has died in battle and Ahaziah, the son of Ahab and Jezebel, has ascended to the throne. Secondly, Jezebel is still alive and exercising her influence in the palace. Thirdly, there has been a weakening in the national strength of Israel, partly because of its leadership and moral condition as well as its spiritual condition. This is reflected in the attitudes of the countries around the nation.

✓ I Kings 22:51-53 tell us about Ahaziah the new king, an offspring of Ahab and Jezebel. "Ahaziah, the son of Ahab, became king over Israel and Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, and he reigned two years over Israel, and he did evil in the sight of the Lord and walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat who caused Israel to sin, so he served Baal and worshipped him, and provoked the Lord God of Israel to anger according to all that his father had done."

When a country has weak leadership, the rebels standing in the wings consider this as their opportunity. When the book of II Kings opens, the first statement is, "Now Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab." Moab recognized the weakness politically and militarily in the kingdom of Israel, and so they rebelled against the subjugation that had been theirs for a number of years under the reigns of previous kings.

✓ We learn a lot about Ahaziah by his attitude in this situation. Here God begins to stir up the circumstances around Ahaziah to get a favorable response from him.

It was the king's duty in this situation to fast and pray and to lead the people in declaring his dependence upon Jehovah God when enemies came against the nation.

We also see the kings going forth in leading the people into battle, but Ahaziah, who should have been fighting, stayed home in the secure place in the palace, involved in self-indulgence.

Ahaziah, as a child of Ahab and Jezebel, with a mind perverted and a character warped, ascending the throne at a time of serious political and economic struggle, decides to stay home from the battle. Evidently he had seen his father killed and he felt that the better part of valor was to stay protected in the palace while his forces went forth to war.

Father took A stray Arrow in the Battle with the King of Aram for (taking) over Ramoth Gilead N.E.

* Verse 2 prepares us for the section of study that we're going to be doing today. "And Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber which was in Samaria and became ill; so he sent messengers and said to them, 'Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron whether I shall recover from this sickness.'"

Splattered
all over the
Patio

Although Ahaziah thought he was safe in the palace, he did not anticipate that the fragile lattice work could not support his weight, and so he fell from the upper chamber in the palace to one of the landings below, and the fall was very serious so that he became quite ill. In fact, he was fearful of his life. *Every thing hurt + what didn't hurt didn't work!*

The lattice work evidently was something similar to our modern-day screens, and when he leaned out the window of the upper chamber, he did not anticipate that the fragile lattice work would give way, and thus he was plunged to his injuries.

Ahaziah fell through the lattice, and in his helplessness, he became religious.

Although Ahaziah could not choose his parents or his environments, he could choose his God. What source will he turn to in the hour of his desperation and helplessness?

Partly because Jezebel is still in the palace calling the plays and partly because of his family history, Ahaziah makes the choice. He sent messengers and said unto them, "Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron whether I shall recover from this sickness."

Here is a public sign that their king is a Baal-worshipper. He commands the messengers to go and inquire of Baal-zebub. This is the god of the flies of the Philistines. They worshipped the lord of the flies because he protected them from the diseases that the flies carried.

* We see God first crossing him in his affairs with the nation Moab rebelling and secondly, smiting him in his body, but still living without God in prosperity, so in adversity, he despised the chastening hand of the Lord. *

Jezebel is still living and controlling her son like she did her husband Ahab.

Ahaziah knew where to look if he wanted to turn to the priests of Baal.

Isaiah 45:22, "Look unto me," the Lord says, "and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth."

Ahaziah is disobedient to the scriptural law which is stated in several places.

Ex. 20:3, "Ye shall have no other gods before me."

Lev. 19:31, "Do not turn to mediums or spiritists; do not seek them out to be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God."

Lev. 20:6, "As for the person who turns to mediums and to spiritists to play the harlot after them, I will also set my face against that person and will cut him off from among his people."

Calling all
the plays

Lev. 20:27, "As for a man or a woman, if there is a medium or a spiritist among them, they shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones, their blood guiltiness is upon them."

Deut. 18:10,11, "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell or a medium or a spiritist or one who calls up the dead."

Look into his crystal ball & speak the future!! *

All Ahaziah really wanted of God is that he be the great fortune teller, that he reveal to him the consequences of this happening.

It is now, with this background, that we pick up with the study of today's passage.

Verse 3: "But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, 'Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and say to them, "Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?"'"

How exciting once again to see the message of the Lord coming to his available servant, Elijah the Tishbite, and the response that we get from him in quick submissive obedience to the command of the Lord. He is told to meet these messengers of King Ahaziah and to ask them the following question: "Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron?"

is it because there is no God in America that we call on Allah - Confucius - New Age - Astrological Charts
The question is given to illicit the attention of these messengers because there was no way for Elijah to have known the purpose of their mission apart from divine wisdom or knowledge.

What the question of trying to illicit from Ahaziah is a recognition of the fact that Israel is the possession of the living God, and He it is who waits to be a counsellor, a guide, and a friend, and now who is being totally disregarded by Ahaziah as he turns to the priests of Baal.

we are doing the same thing in our land!
* Verse 4: "Now therefore, thus says the Lord, 'You shall not come down from the bed where you have gone up, but you shall surely die.' Then Elijah departed."

This message and mission of Elijah is not only to question their actions but also to provide the information that was requested by Ahaziah, and that is a message of judgment. He will not come down from the bed where he has gone up, but he will surely die.

" Then Elijah departed. "

Having met these messengers confronting them with the question and the pronouncement of judgment, he leaves them and the messengers, feeling that it is not necessary for them to go any further, and over-whelmed by the words they have heard from Elijah, we see their actions recorded in verse 5.

* Verse 5: "When the messengers returned to him he said to them, 'Why have you returned?'"

There had not been enough time for them to have gone all the way to Ekron and to fulfill the mission, and so his obvious question is, "Why have you returned without fulfilling my request?" They are certainly putting their lives in jeopardy in being disobedient to the original mission of the king and returning to the palace.

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Verse 6: "And they said to him, 'A man came up to meet us and said to us, 'Go, return to the king who sent you and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed where you have gone up, but shall surely die.'"

The servants explain the reason for their early return by giving an accurate accounting of the words spoken by the prophet and the pronouncement of judgment upon Ahaziah.

Verse 7: "And he said to them, 'What kind of man was he who came up to meet you and spoke these words to you?'"

Messenger — Not The Message

This message of judgment, and being on a bed of sickness, should have caused Ahaziah to consider his ways and to have put his house in order, and to have recognized that this was a message from the Lord and that it would be faithfully carried out. But Ahaziah is still young, arrogant, and stubborn, and totally resists this message which has been brought to him, and he disregards what is said and is only interested in who said it.

Verse 7: "And he said to them, 'What kind of man was he who came up to meet you and spoke these words to you?'"

on All points

In other words, describe the guy for me so that we can issue a wanted bulletin and take care of him because of the evil tiding which he has brought.

Verse 8: "And they answered him, 'He was a hairy man with a leather girdle bound about his loins.' And he said, 'It is Elijah the Tishbite.'"

As soon as the messengers describe the clothing of the prophet, Ahaziah recognizes him as Elijah the Tishbite.

Make no mistake about it, Ahaziah had heard many times in his youth of the exploits of Elijah the Tishbite. He knew of his mothers' bitterness toward Elijah and her desire to have him destroyed. He knew, too, of the victory on Mount Carmel and also of the pronounced judgment upon his household and the death of his father.

His Mom is Standing there telling Him to Get Him.

It is at this point we reach the crucial crisis in the life of Ahaziah. What is he going to do with the living God while he lays on a bed of illness with a pronouncement of God's judgment. Will he now repent and claim the Lord as his own and begin to serve the living God, and in the last hour avoid judgment, or is his heart going to grow hard?

Isaiah 45:9, "Woe to the one who quarrels with his maker, an earthen vessel among the vessels of earth. Will the clay say to the potter, 'What are you doing?', or the thing that you are making say, 'He has no hands.'"

Ministry Meeting — Choices

* Verse 9: "Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him, and behold, he was sitting on the top of the hill, And he said to him, 'O man of God, the king says "Come down."'"

Here we have the record of the tragic anger and rebellion of Ahaziah. He's going to settle with the prophet rather than recognizing this message as being from the Lord. How much Ahaziah is like his mother and dad who always disregarded the happening or the message as being from Jehovah God, and always wanted to take it out on the prophet himself. It is Ahaziah who issues the command to send fifty men to capture him.

The army of Israel was divided into companies of 1,000, 100, and 50.

Ahaziah is committed to war, and recognizing the prophet to be no ordinary individual, instead of sending a small group, he wants to be sure that the prophet is taken.

Back of this action is the attitude of Jezebel when she told Elijah earlier that the gods could do to her if she did not make his life as one of the prophets he had slain by tomorrow at this time. In essence, she's saying, "Sic 'em, son." And this is exactly what he's doing.

This is a display of impotent stubbornness of one who does not recognize the Lord either in his circumstances or in the message which is being brought to him.

→ Chastening → Message of Judgment.

The captain comes with this challenge of sarcasm and seeming superior authority when he says, "O man of God, the king says, 'Come down.'" The words are a challenge of divine authority. You claim Jehovah. We come in a name greater than thee.

The King !!

It is obvious that these soldiers are committed to war and to the taking of the life of the prophet.

* Verse 10: "And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, 'If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.' Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty."

How swift does the judgment fall and how quickly is the servant vindicated by the living God.

only a burnt spot!

Here is contempt of the prophetic office and the message which has been pronounced, and a resistance against the one who has given it, and now the judgment of God falls.

All of the judgments of God in the Old Testament are represented as a consuming fire. It is a revelation of divine wrath.

Luke 10:16, "The one who listens to you listens to me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

The rebellious hosts of Korah were consumed because they were questioning Moses'

Sons of Aaron: Nadab & Abihu

authority and by the act of fire coming forth, Moses' authority was ratified. Numbers 16:35, "Fire also came forth from the Lord and consumed the 250 men who were offering the incense."

Here we see the fire of the Lord coming forth. This is not something that Elijah could bring forth, but is a vindication of God's authority and character, and the fact that he is the giver of life and also is taker when we reject his rule over us. It is interesting to note in the biography of Elijah that the fire which fell on Carmel consumed the sacrifice and now the fire that falls consumes the sinners who have slighted that sacrifice. And so it is in the New Testament, the fire of God's judgment fell on the sacrifice, Jesus Christ, for on him almighty vengeance fell that would have sunk a world to hell; he bore it for a chosen race and thus becomes our hiding place. And so it is possible to predict with great certainty that the wrath of the lamb is going to fall, even as it has been predicted in the book of Revelation to those who have slighted the sacrifice in rejecting Jesus Christ.

II Thess. 1:8,9, "In flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus, and these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power."

Romans 1:18, "For the wrath is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness."

Romans 2:5, "But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God."

Hebrews 2:3, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"

Hebrews 10:31, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Elijah, this is what I wanted to do when Jezebel threatened you earlier with death after the victory on Carmel. *Jonah in Nineveh! Second Chance!!*

Psalms 124:2,3, "Had it not been the Lord who was on our side when men rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us alive when their anger was kindled against us."

Psalms 27:1-3, "The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life. Whom shall I dread? When evil doers come upon me to devour my flesh, my adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. Thou art an host encamped against me, my heart will not fear. Though war arise against me, in spite of this, I shall be confident."

Heb. 13:6, "So that we confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper. I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?'"

Verse 11: "So he again sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said to him, 'O man of God, thus says the king, "Come down quickly."'"

Ezekiel 39:6 : I will send fire on Magog

And on those who live in safety in the Coastlands, and they will know that I am the Lord."

- ① Russia and all the neighboring Republics
- ② Germany, Turkey
- ③ Iran
- ④ Libya
- ⑤ Ethiopia

Joel Rosenberg - Copper Scroll Fire missiles hitting these nations.

Top Song on the Charts : Great balls of fire
They will be screaming it, not singing it.
They are falling everywhere!

SOU God in His Arsenal has unlimited weapons of mass destruction :

- ① Tidal waves
- ② Earthquakes
- ③ Lightning
- ④ Hail - 125 lb. Stones.
- ⑤ Hurricanes
- ⑥ Tornadoes

His Judgment will be Swift & Severe
As it is here!

From: see steven@aystev.com
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 7:23 PM
To: Undisclosed-Recipient;
Subject: Fw: Drummond vs. the Baptists

Sent Me A Woldy That
illustrates MY Point

----- Original Message -----

From: Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 4:23 PM
Subject: Fw: Drummond vs. the Baptists

--- On Wed, 2/18/09, bhoffman <blhoffman@yahoo.com> wrote:

From:
Subject: Fw: Drummond vs. the Baptists
To: "Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2009, 1:08 PM



Brenda



--- On Wed, 2/18/09, Texsun6294@aol.com <Texsun6294@aol.com> wrote:

> In a small Texas town, the owner of Drummond's Bar began
> construction on a new building to increase his business. The
> local Baptist church started a campaign to block the bar
> from opening with petitions and prayers. Work progressed
> right up till the week before opening when lightning struck
> the bar and it burned to the ground.

>
> The church folks were rather smug in their outlook after
> that, until the bar owner sued the church on the grounds
> that the church was ultimately responsible for the demise > of his
building, either through direct or indirect actions or
> means. The church vehemently denied all responsibility or
> any connection to the building's demise in its reply to the
> court.

>
> As the case made its way into court, the judge looked over
> the paperwork. At the hearing he commented, "I don't know
> how I'm going to decide this, but as it appears from the
> paperwork, we have a bar owner who believes in the power > of prayer,
and an entire church congregation that does not."

* Verse 11: "So he again sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said to him, 'O man of God, thus says the king, "Come down quickly."'"

In the sending of this second company by Ahaziah we have the stubborn, unbroken will of the king still in action. He has fallen into the mistake of supposing that his duel was with Elijah rather than with Elijah's God.

This second captain is even more arrogant than the first. He adds to the command, the sarcastic command, the word 'quickly'. In other words, do it before we take some more drastic measures.

Send the whole Army.

* Verse 12: "And Elijah answered and said to them, 'If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.' Then the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty."

Here again the Lord vindicated his servant by divine protection in duplicating the fire of the first encounter to wipe out this army that is arrayed against the prophet of Jehovah God.

* Verse 13: "So he again sent the captain of a third fifty with his fifty. When the third captain of fifty went up, he came and bowed down on his knees before Elijah, and begged him and said to him, 'O man of God, please let my life and the lives of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight.'"

What's it going to take to get us on our knees!

The fact that Ahaziah continues in his persistent rebellion and stubbornness of heart reveals the fact that he is going to do everything humanly possible to win his war against God and God's servant, Elijah.

We have a change of attitude in this third captain. He comes and bows down on his knees before Elijah and instead of commanding him arrogantly, he begs him and says to him, "O man of God, please let my life and the lives of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight."

There is mercy and grace for those who will seek it and who will recognize that the Lord is near to a humble and contrary heart when the stubborn, resistant will is broken and there is a recognition of his Lordship, then it is that the Lord is prepared to answer our request.

Just like the request of the thief on the cross was answered so beautifully by the crucified Lord, "Today you'll be with me in the Paradise," so the Lord spares the life of this captain and his fifty men.

* Verse 14: "Behold fire came down from heaven, and consumed the first two captains of fifty with their fifties; but now let my life be precious in your sight."

Here the captain repeats his request, "Let my life be precious in your sight."

* Verse 15: "And the angel of the Lord said to Elijah, 'Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.' So he arose and went down with him to the king."

Heaven is moved when repentance & brokenness occurs!

* Because of the broken spirit and the repentant heart, the angel of the Lord intervenes and gives Elijah further instruction.

* Verse 16: "Then he said to him (that is, to Ahaziah), 'Thus says the Lord, "Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron -

is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of His word? -therefore you shall not come down from the bed where you have gone up, but shall surely die."

dangerous Act.

Here Elijah the prophet moves into the palace to the sick bed of Ahaziah and pronounces the very statement that he had originally given to the messengers asking the question about why he was going to Ekron as if there was no God in Israel, and then to pronounce the message of his impending death.

Joram

Verse 17: "So he died according to the word of the Lord which Elijah had spoken. And Jehoram became king in his place in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, because he had no son." (Ahaziah)

CONCLUSION

What are some of the lessons that we can gain from this passage? First, we can learn that you cannot get away from God. Ahaziah, through his human efforts, endeavored to avoid God in his life, but God ordered the circumstances through what happened in the land of Moab and what happened in the accident of his fall to bring about a favorable response, and because of his stubborn, resistant will, Ahaziah gave up his life.

A. Circumstances
B. Character
C. Cause

Drugs
eastern
Esp

2nd

Perhaps you are on the way to Ekron to some substitute God which is the figment of your imagination. Let me challenge you with the words to the messengers. "Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are finding it necessary to work out these things in your own way?" I am the way...

3rd

The certainty of God's judgment and the fact that it will fall is certainly underscored in this passage. The wrath of the lamb will be fulfilled.

In Luke 9:54 and 55, "And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' But he turned and rebuked them, and they went on to another village." In the words of Jesus, we realize that there is a loving provision by God for the problem of man's sin. In the death of Jesus Christ upon a cross, and James and John were calling for fire of retribution and this fire will only fall as a direct result of disregarding the sacrifice which Christ has made upon the cross.

4th

In this passage we learn that there is mercy for those who will seek it, just as there was mercy in the final moments for the thief upon the cross, and mercy for the captain and his fifty, so there will be mercy for you if you will but seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near. Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. Choose you this day whom you will serve.

Ahab
Ahaziah
both

5th

You are fighting a losing battle if you are fighting against the Lord.

6th

Elijah learned from past failure

7

Power of a mother's influence
"The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world"

Top, Arp Elementary School students play "Pass the Presidential

ast Texas

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NOT UFO OR SATELLITE DEBRIS

Fireball Over Texas Probably Meteor

DALLAS (AP) — The fireball that blazed across the Texas sky and sparked numerous weekend calls to authorities probably was a meteor and not falling space junk from last week's satellite collision, officials said Monday.

The Federal Aviation Administration said the fireball appeared to be a natural phenomenon, and a University of North Texas astronomer said more specifically that it probably was a pickup-sized meteor with the consistency of concrete.

The object was visible Sunday morning from Austin to Dallas and into East Texas. In Central Texas, the Williamson County sheriff's office received so many emergency calls that it sent a helicopter aloft to look for debris from a plane crash.

The FAA backed off its weekend

statement that the fireball possibly was caused by falling debris from colliding satellites plummeting into the atmosphere.

That assertion was rebuffed Sunday when a major with U.S. Strategic Command said there was no connection to the sightings and last week's collision of satellites from the U.S. and Russia.

The FAA had a weekend warning out to pilots to watch out for satellite debris, but rescinded the warning Sunday, FAA spokesman Roland Herwig said.

Herwig acknowledged Monday that "we are no longer saying it might have been satellite debris."

"We suspect a natural phenomenon, but we are not the experts on that," Herwig said.

Preston Starr, the observatory

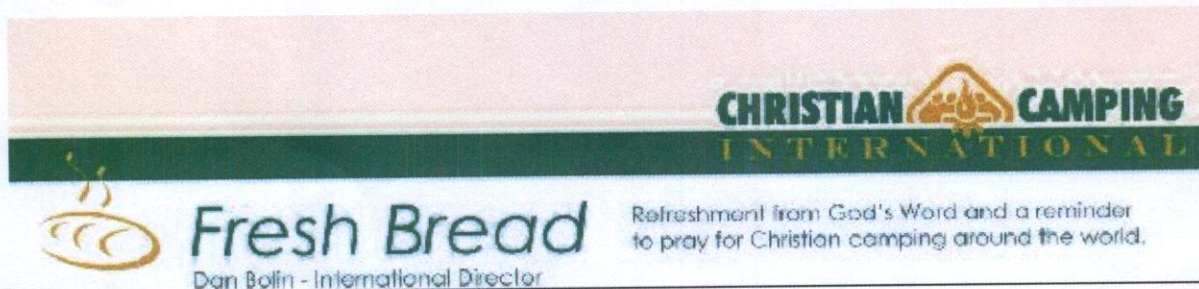
"We are no longer saying it might have been satellite debris."

— Roland Herwig
Federal Aviation
Association spokesman

manager at the University of North Texas, said he believes the object was a carbonaceous meteor "about the size of a pickup truck. It was a slow mover, and probably has the consistency of concrete."

See METEOR, Page 4B

Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 12:02 AM
To: don@bibleteachingresources.org
Subject: Fresh Bread from CCI Worldwide



February 11, 2009

In This Issue

A Slice of Fresh Bread
Prayer Requests

Quick Links

[CCI Hiking Boots](#)

A Blog to follow Dan's
World Travels

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

Dear Don,

There are two ways to be your own Savior and Lord. One is by breaking all the moral laws and setting your own course, and one is by keeping all the moral laws and being very, very good.

Tim Keller, *Prodigal God*

A Slice of Fresh Bread

The church bulletin board held several announcements; the largest and brightest called people to attend a Christian concert. It looked wonderful; great music, fellowship and worship. The venue was nearby and the price was acceptable, but looking at the details I realized the event had been held the previous night.

Learning of the concert too late did me no good - in fact it created a sense of frustration. I wished I had heard earlier. The time to promote an event is well before it occurs.

Jesus recognized the need for timeliness in the proclamation of His message. *"As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work."* (John 9:4) There is a deadline for our message - we just don't know when it is. We are called faithfully proclaim the gospel, *"As long as it is day..."*

Camp is a magnificent place to proclaim the truth of the gospel and to call people to respond. Use the time wisely and enjoy the privilege of camp ministry.

① ISA. 60:1
② Titus 2:11-12
③ Eph. 5:13-14

February 17
Tuesday

PERHAPS TODAY

READ:

Matthew 24:36-46

You also be ready,
for the Son of Man
is coming at an hour
you do not expect.
—Matthew 24:44

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:

■ Leviticus 21-22

■ Matthew 28

hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only" (v.36). Then He urged them to be prepared so that they would not be taken by surprise. "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (v.44).

We don't know when Jesus will return; He may come at any time. Dr. M. R. De Haan, founder of RBC Ministries, kept a two-word motto in his office: "Perhaps Today."

When we make our daily plans, are we aware that Christ may return? Are we prepared to meet Him? —David McCasland

The darkness deepens! Yes, but dawn is nearer!

The Lord from heaven may soon be on His way;

The "blessed hope" in these dark days grows dearer,

Our Savior Christ will come—perhaps today! —Smith

If Christ comes today, will you be ready to meet Him?

A year ago, I read an article saying that millions of TV sets in the United States would stop working today unless they were able to receive digital signals. Notices appeared in electronics stores, and the government even offered a free \$40 coupon toward the purchase of a converter box.

I suspect that most people took the necessary steps to make sure their TV set would work when they turned it on today. We usually respond well to warnings tied to specific dates, but often fail to prepare for an event that will come "some day."

When the disciples asked Jesus about the date of His return (Matt. 24:3), He told them that only God the Father knows: "But of that day and

146.

UNTIL THEN

By STUART HAMBLEM

Slowly with feeling

Chords: G7 D-7 G6 C F C G6 G7 G9 C

1. My heart can sing when I pause to re - mem - ber, — A heart-ache
 2. The things of earth will dim and lose their val - ue — If we re -
 3. This wea - ry world with all its toil and strug - gle — May take its

Chords: G7 C G7 D-7 G6

here is but a step - ping stone — A - long a
 call they're bor - rowed for a while — And things of
 toll of mis - er - y and strife — The soul of

Chords: C C9 C6 F F#0

trail that's wind - ing al - ways up - wards, — This trou - bled
 earth that cause the heart to trem - ble, — Re - mem - bered
 man is like a wait - ing fal - con, — When it's re -

Chords: C G6 G9 G7 C F C Cm7 C6

world is not my fi - nal home, —
 there will on - ly bring a smile, —
 leased it's des - tined for the skies, — } But UN - TIL

146. CHORUS

G7 G6 G7 C Cm7 C6

THEN my heart will go on sing - ing, — UN - TIL

G7 C G6 G6

THEN with joy I'll car - ry on, — Un - til the

C G7 C Cm7 G-7 C7 F6 F F#0 C

day my eyes be - hold the cit - y, — Un - til the day God

G6 G7 1-2 C D-7 C G7 D-7 G7 3 C D-7 C

calls me home (calls me home) 2. The things of home. (calls me home)
3. This wea - ry

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