

Spring 2018

THE DEAF MESSENGER



“The Lamb is the one whose death was planned before the world was created” (Revelation 13:8).

The Resurrection Is Part of God's Plan of Salvation Since the Beginning	1
To Earth, With Love	6
Loyalty	10
The Christian and the Unbeliever	13
A Serious Mistake	14
The Dangers of Too Much Salt	16

The Deaf Messenger magazine is published by:**Three Angels Deaf Ministries**

P.O. Box 1946

Greenbelt, MD 20768-1946

VP/Voice: 301-850-0542

Fax: 866-986-2122

E-mail: 3adm@3adm.org**Editor:** David M. Trexler**Consulting Editor:** George Belser

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The purpose of this magazine is to inform the deaf reader about such topics as practical Christian living; basic Bible truths; and what the past, present, and future historical events mean to each of us. This magazine attempts to cover spiritual, mental, and physical aspects in its articles and columns.

For Change of Address:

Monday through Thursday

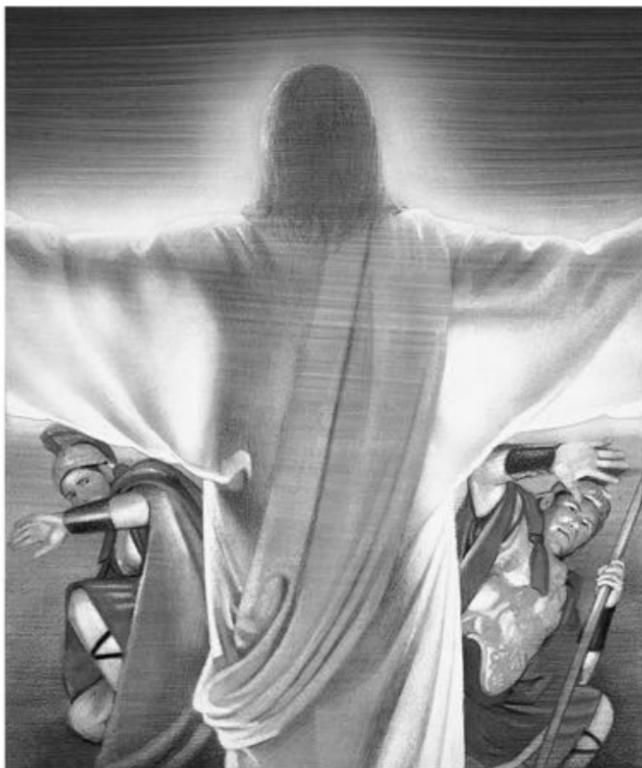
Voice/VP: 301-850-0542

Fax: 866-986-2122

Email: 3adm@3adm.orgWeb: www.3adm.org

The Resurrection, Is Part of God's Plan Since the Beginning

By David M. Trexler



GOODSALT CLIPART COLLECTION

Genesis 3:15 tells about God's important prophecy of the Messiah—"I will put hatred between you and the woman. Your children and her children will be enemies. Her son [Jesus] will crush your head. And you will crush his [Jesus'] heel." God gave His promise to our parents,

Adam and Eve, after the Fall. They sinned against the Lord who already had warned them not to eat the fruit of the forbidden tree. Was God's promise a last-minute plan right after the Fall? Did God decide to do something about it without any preparations? The

answer is no! God already had the plan of salvation since the beginning of the time before the earth was created. Read Revelation 13:8—“all whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb who was slain from the foundation of the world” (MEV).

Clearly, God had set up a plan to save the world long before sin happened on our earth. Sin was started in heaven by Lucifer, who rebelled against God. One third of God’s angels joined the rebellion and they were forced out of heaven (Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:12-29; Revelation 12:4, 7-9). God knew that something would happen in the future when God was planning to create the worlds in the universe. God created human beings who have the freedom of choice. So, God gave Adam and Eve the freedom to choose to obey Him or to disobey Him through the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. So, God the Father and God the Son agreed upon the plan that the Son would volunteer to become

human in order to save the created world from sin. It is like a life insurance policy prepared for an accident or a disaster.

John the Baptist pointed the people to Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29, MEV). Now, this verse is connected with Revelation 13:8—“All whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb who was slain from the foundation of the world.” Did Jesus really die on the cross when Adam and Eve sinned? But, the Bible showed that Jesus did “die” at the beginning of the world. So, what did prophet John in Revelation mean? The truth is that Jesus DID “die” or symbolically died when our first parents sinned. Of course, Jesus did not physically die, but He “died” through the sacrificial system of lamb offering as a process of receiving forgiveness of sins. That lamb in the Old

Testament was the symbol of Jesus Christ who would die for the world. It is like a will that the father of a family prepared for the release of his property to his children at the time of his death. When the father wrote down the will he knew that he would die one day for some reason so he wanted to be prepared for his death that he couldn't avoid. When he died his will would become active, allowing distribution of his property among his children.

Adam and Eve didn't die quickly after they ate the fruit of the forbidden tree as God warned. Did God lie to them? When God warned them He meant it when He said it. But, what happened? Why didn't they die immediately? Of course, they did die many years later because of old age, but what about the punishment as God warned? They did not die because of the plan of salvation that was already set up before the creation of the world. "The Lamb who was slain from the foundation of the world." That is when Jesus symbolically died through GRACE based on the sacrificial offering of

the lambs. True forgiveness came when Jesus died on the cross 4,000 years later. God's promise (Genesis 3:15) was fulfilled when Jesus hung on the cross died. "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God have come. The authority of Christ has come. Satan, who brings charges against our brothers and sisters, has been thrown down [at the Cross]. He brings charges against them before our God day and night. They overcame him because the Lamb gave his life's blood for them" (Revelation 12:10, 11).

Do you use a check for buying something or giving it to someone? Is the check real money? No. The check is called a promise note. The check is the symbol of real money that becomes real money when a person deposits it in the bank. The bank then sends your check to your bank to transfer your money to that person's bank. So now you have the real money because of the promise note that it would be fulfilled as promised. So, in Genesis 3:15 God promised

Adam and Eve as well as all of their descendants that Someone will come to save them from sin and bring them back to God through the Messiah, Jesus Christ, who was the Lamb that was sacrificed for us. "For even Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us" (1 Corinthians 5:7, MEV).

So, was the resurrection planned at the beginning of the time? Yes! After His victory on the cross He had the right to be resurrected from the grave. He is the example for those who are faithful to Him and will be resurrected at the time of Jesus' second coming. The resurrection is God's promise for Adam and Eve when they heard His promise of the Messiah.

The whole salvation story clearly shows that God took the risk in creating us to be human beings with the power of choice. There is risk in having the freedom of choice. Now, was it a risk for God the Son to come down to earth and be born as a human being in order to live, suffer, die, and resurrect? Yes, Jesus Christ has the

same human nature as ours. He was tempted like us. He could have failed, but He didn't fail at all. Why? Jesus claimed that He loved the world very much, so much that He was willing to give His life as a substitute for us. We don't have to suffer the punishment of death at all because of what Jesus had paid for us. His resurrection is real because of His victory over sins where we failed. "I have brought you glory on earth. I have finished the work you gave me to do. So now, Father, give glory to me in heaven where your throne is. Give me the glory I had with you before the world began" (John 17:4, 5). "After Jesus drank he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and died" (John 19:30). He finished what? He had finished the work of the plan of salvation for the world. He was victorious so He said, "It is finished!" He died victoriously for all of us.

Now, the resurrection is for real because of His accomplishment through His life and death. "But Christ really has been raised from the dead. He is the first of

all those who will rise. Death came because of what a man did. Rising from the dead also comes because of what a man [Christ] did. Because of Adam, all people die. So because of Christ, all will be made alive”
(1 Corinthians 15:20-22).

My friends, will you come to Jesus and give Him your life? Jesus loves you and all the people of the world, but you must realize that you are sinners who need a Savior who is Jesus Christ. He died for you so you have the chance to believe in Him and walk with Him daily. You have the promise of the resurrection through His love and power.

“By being baptized, we have been joined with him in his death. We will certainly also be joined with him in his resurrection. We know that what we used to be was nailed to the cross with him. That happened so our sinful bodies would lose their power. We are no longer slaves of sin. Those who have died have been set free from sin. We died with Christ. So we believe that we will also live with him. We know

that Christ was raised from the dead and will never die again. Death doesn’t control him anymore. When he died, he died once and for all time as far as sin is concerned. Now that he lives, he lives as far as God is concerned”
(Romans 6:5-10).

Thank God for the wonderful plan of salvation that began long before the earth was created. Only Jesus, the Son of God, had fulfilled the plan of salvation. It will be completed when Jesus comes back again to take us to heaven. There will be some God’s people still alive when Jesus comes back again. But, according to 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, the dead in Christ will rise first and then those who are living will be together to meet the Lord of Life.



*David M. Trexler is Speaker/
Director of Three Angels Deaf
Ministries who lives in Lanham,
MD.*

To Earth, With Love

By George Belser



GOODSALT CLIPART COLLECTION

In Oregon one winter many years ago a young man, his wife and small baby went joyriding along a mountain road near Mt. Larch. Later in the day the family was caught in a heavy snowstorm. Trapped, the family decided to stay under

a tree. The snowstorm was very bad. The rescuers could not reach the trapped family until a few days later. The father and baby were still alive, but the mother was dead. The father said the mother ate snow knowing that she would have

hypothermia as a result. He said the mother ate snow to give milk from her breasts to the baby. The mother loved her baby so much she was willing to die so her baby could live.

The mother's loving sacrifice reminds us of the ultimate (total) sacrifice that happened on the cross at Calvary almost two thousand years ago. Human beings first sinned at the Garden of Eden and became separated from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). When they first sinned, there would have been no hope for them in the future. But God loved them so much He decided Himself to provide a way for them to be saved. God paid a great price to save human beings! (John 3:16).

John shows us that Jesus came down from heaven to live among us (John 1:1-3, 14). Paul says in Colossians 2:9 and Philippians 2:8-10 that the Son of God was Himself fully God who became a man to die a cruel death on the cross for our sins. Jesus died for us willingly because of His love that had no limit and of His

desire to free us from sin. Jesus invites us to accept His gift of eternal life. "Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that He loved us and sent his Son to give His life to pay for our sins. . . . Here is what God says about the Son. God has given us eternal life. And this life is found in his Son. Whoever belongs to the Son has life. Whoever doesn't belong to the Son of God doesn't have life" (1 John 4:10; 5:11, 12).

Dear friends, God's gift of eternal life is free. All we have to do is accept Christ's love. We have so much to gain and nothing to lose by accepting Jesus as our Savior and letting Him (Jesus) renew our relationship with God.

Abraham had an experience he would never forget. Abraham's experience helped him better understand God's fatherly love for man and his close connection with God. God ordered Abraham to offer his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice at Mt. Moriah. What father would be willing to sacrifice his son? The test broke Abraham's heart. He

loved his son very much. But Abraham was determined to obey God. He was an old man. He built an altar and put Isaac on the altar. Just then God ordered Abraham to stop because he had passed the test of love. At this moment Abraham fully understood the true meaning of love that would cause God the Father to sacrifice His Son on the cross two thousand years later.

Many, many years ago a Scottish Highland mother was forced to leave her home because she did not pay her recent rent. The mother had to take her only child, a little boy, in a heavy snowstorm across the mountain pass. The mother was expected to arrive at the home of her relatives on the other side of the mountain the next day. When the mother did not arrive, rescuers were sent to search for her. On the high pass the rescuers found her dead, almost naked in the snow. Next to her frozen body, under a rock nearby, the rescuers found the baby safe and well, wrapped in his mother's clothes.

Many years later the son of the minister who had conducted the dead woman's funeral went to Glasgow, Scotland, to give a sermon. The weather was very cold and snowy and the audience was small. The young minister decided not to preach his prepared sermon but, instead, told the story of the mother's loving sacrifice that he had heard so often from his father.

Two days later the young minister was called to the bedside of a dying old man. The old man told the minister that he knew him and his father. The old man said, "I have not gone to church for many years. But the other night I happened to go by the door of your church and heard the singing. I decided to enter the church and sit in the back." In a choking voice the old man said, "I am that son! I never forgot my mother's love, but I never understood God's love in giving Himself for me until now. I am sure that it was God who made you tell that story. My mother's prayers are answered. I have accepted Jesus as My

Savior. My mother did not die in vain.”

Peter also tells the real reason for Christ’s loving sacrifice and for the delay for His expected return when he says, “The Lord is not slow to do what He has promised, as some think. Instead, He is

patient with you, because He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants all to turn away from their sins” (2 Peter 3:9, 10, TEV). Christ is still patiently waiting for each of us because He loves us so much. But He cannot wait forever. Time is getting short,

and it will not be long before the sky is filled with the great glory of the Lord coming with His angels to gather His people. Christ is anxious to take the people to heaven who have accepted Him as their Savior and obeyed His will all the way.

Christ loves us very much and is waiting with His loving arms outstretched, ready to receive each of us as soon as we accept Him as our Savior. How will you respond to His love?



Loyalty

By Francisca Trexler



PEOPLEIMAGES—ISTOCK

Webster's Dictionary says that loyalty means a strong feeling of support or allegiance (commitment). There are more meanings of loyalty such as faithfulness, trustworthiness, commitment and trueheartedness.

Let me share a good story about a young lady from Europe. Let us name her as Ann. Before she moved to America, she had a boy friend who dearly loved her. Ann was waiting

for him to return home from the battlefield. She had not heard from him for a long time. After the war was over Ann didn't hear from him, and she was very sad. She thought he was killed in the war. Then later all of her big family with grandparents, parents and relatives moved and settled down in their new home in America. Once in her new home Ann met an American man who, after a long time of good

relationship, proposed to marry her. Of course, she gladly married him and had lovely children. Ann and her husband had a happy marriage for many years.

One day her grandparents wanted to visit her hometown in Germany because they missed Germany and friends and relatives who stayed there. All of them agreed to make plans to visit there. Ann asked her loving husband to allow her to visit her hometown. Her husband allowed her to go. Ann and her grandparents flew there and visited the area where they used to live. At one place, they went to a restaurant to meet other families and friends there. Ann was shocked and surprised to see her former boy friend who found her and took her hand to talk together outside. But when the boy friend saw her left hand with a wedding ring, he asked her, "Did you marry someone else?" She happily answered, "Yes!" She explained to him that she had been waiting for him for a long time, but there had

been no word from him. He realized that he missed the chance to marry her. But he told her that he still loved her very much and wanted to marry her. He encouraged her to get married and forget about America. Ann still loved him, but she stood firmly and said, "I can't do that. I love my husband and wanted to be loyal to him." Her former boy friend was deeply disappointed, but he greatly admired her commitment (faithfulness). He showed respect for her and left. She felt bad about it, but she was happy that she was faithful her husband whom she loved since they met. What amazing loyalty she had for her husband!

We also need to show the same true loyalty toward Jesus Christ all the time no matter what may happen to us. The things of the world is trying to tempt us to disobey our God who have done so much to save us from sins and death. "At just the right time Christ died for ungodly people. He died for us when we had no power of our own. It is unusual for anyone to die for a godly person.

Maybe someone would be willing to die for a good person. But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:6-8). Jesus is always loyal to us while we are not loyal to Him. Jesus gave all of His life and power to save us even when we don’t know Him at all. Today the world is full of unfaithfulness and hate. Let us not be unfaithful to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

How do we show true loyalty to God? The answer

is how we as true Christians show loyalty to God is by praying faithfully, studying the Bible daily, and sharing God’s loving Word with people who do not know Jesus. Without this simple answer, we would have weak loyalty. We need to ask God to help us to be loyal to Him until Jesus comes back again. Let us be ready and be loyal.

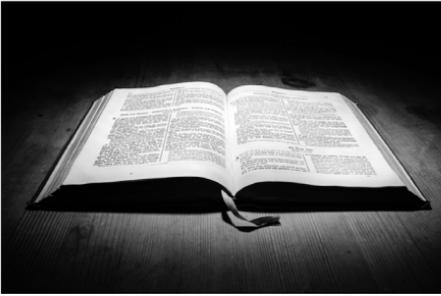
Francisca Trexler is the Assistant Director of Three Angels Deaf Ministries, who lives in Lanham, MD.



THOMAS SOELINER—ISTOCK

The Christian and the Unbeliever

By Ashley G. Emmer



THOMAS SOEHLNER—

Multiplication Table			
2 x 2 = 4	3 x 2 = 6	4 x 2 = 8	5 x 2 = 10
2 x 3 = 6	3 x 3 = 9	4 x 3 = 12	5 x 3 = 15
2 x 4 = 8	3 x 4 = 12	4 x 4 = 16	5 x 4 = 20
2 x 5 = 10	3 x 5 = 15	4 x 5 = 20	5 x 5 = 25
2 x 6 = 12	3 x 6 = 18	4 x 6 = 24	5 x 6 = 30
2 x 7 = 14	3 x 7 = 21	4 x 7 = 28	5 x 7 = 35
2 x 8 = 16	3 x 8 = 24	4 x 8 = 32	5 x 8 = 40
2 x 9 = 18	3 x 9 = 27	4 x 9 = 36	5 x 9 = 45
2 x 10 = 20	3 x 10 = 30	4 x 10 = 40	5 x 10 = 50
6 x 2 = 12	7 x 2 = 14	8 x 2 = 16	9 x 2 = 18
6 x 3 = 18	7 x 3 = 21	8 x 3 = 24	9 x 3 = 27
6 x 4 = 24	7 x 4 = 28	8 x 4 = 32	9 x 4 = 36
6 x 5 = 30	7 x 5 = 35	8 x 5 = 40	9 x 5 = 45
6 x 6 = 36	7 x 6 = 42	8 x 6 = 48	9 x 6 = 54
6 x 7 = 42	7 x 7 = 49	8 x 7 = 56	9 x 7 = 63
6 x 8 = 48	7 x 8 = 56	8 x 8 = 64	9 x 8 = 72
6 x 9 = 54	7 x 9 = 63	8 x 9 = 72	9 x 9 = 81
6 x 10 = 60	7 x 10 = 70	8 x 10 = 80	9 x 10 = 90

UNCLEPOPPER—ISTOCK

A skeptic [unbeliever] was making fun of a Christian doctor one day for being so foolish to believe that the Bible is the Word of God. “Why, we are not sure who wrote some of the books in the Bible!” the skeptic said.

The physician listened with a smile, then said, “Tell me, friend, who wrote the multiplication table?”

“I don’t know,” the skeptic admitted, “but why do you ask that?”

“You believe in the multiplication table, don’t you?” the physician asked.

“I do,” the skeptic answered.

“Do you know who wrote it?” the doctor asked.

The skeptic admitted that he didn’t know who wrote the multiplication table.

“You use the multiplication table even though you don’t know who wrote it or when?” the physician said.

The skeptic saw that he was in a difficult situation and tried to find some way of escape from this question.

“But you see, doctor,” he said, “the multiplication table works.”

“That is the point,” the doctor said. “So does the Bible!”

Signs of the Times, December 13, 1949

A Serious Mistake

By Charles Paddock



The limited train had stopped at a station, and when all of the passengers for that place had gotten off, the conductor called, "All aboard," and the people who were going on the train started to get on. There was an elderly man who was very lame. There seemed to be something wrong with one of his legs, and it was hard for him to get on the train. The way he wore the clothes he looked

like a workingman. He got hold of the handrails on the car and he was having trouble getting up the steps of the coach.

"Come on, old man, hurry up! We cannot keep this train waiting here all day," the conductor said rudely.

The poor old man's face was red with embarrassment. The conductor had hurt his feelings. He was lame, but he was moving just as fast as he could. He did not say a word, but he hobbled into the coach and took a seat.

When the conductor went through the train later to collect the tickets, one of the men on the train said, "Do you know who that old man is that you shouted to when he was getting on?"

"No, I don't know who he is, and I don't care," the conductor said.

"Maybe you will care though; he is the president of

this railroad, and you may lose your job.”

The conductor who had been so unkind went to the old man and told him he was sorry that he had talked as he did. “I thought you were just one of our customers.”

“It doesn’t matter who I am,” said the president of the railroad. “If you had been rude to someone who paid a fare to ride on this train, I would ask that you be taken from your job. You saw I was lame and needed help. You should have tried to help me instead of being abusive. I will not have unkind, discourteous men working for this railroad. If that is the way you treat people, you would better get another job.”

That man learned a lesson—a hard lesson, too.

One time when William McKinley was President of the United States, he was riding on a streetcar. A poor woman who washed clothes for a living got on the streetcar with a heavy bundle of clothing. The seats were full, and she walked right up to the front of the car, carrying her bundle of washing. No one offered her a seat. The President got up, and took her load, and helped her to his seat.

On this same car was a

man whom the President had thought of sending to a foreign country to work for the United States government. He was never sent and many people did not know why. It was because he didn’t have enough kindness in his heart to get up and give an old lady a seat.

One day Abraham Lincoln was walking to his work when he met a little girl crying as if her heart were broken. He stooped down, put his arms around her, and asked her what was the trouble.

“I was going on a trip” She said, “and a man told me he would come and get my trunk and take it to the train. He hasn’t come, and I am going to miss my train.”

“Where is your trunk?” asked the big, tall, kindhearted President.

She led him into the house. He put the trunk on his shoulder and carried it down to the train depot for her. She caught the train and went on her way happy and joyful. Is it any wonder that people loved Lincoln?

Paddock, Charles. Going Up. Mountain View: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1953. (Adapted)

The Dangers of Too Much Salt

By Sue Radd

Forget AIDS, cancer, and famine for a while, because now increased blood pressure is the most common cause of death in the world! Even if you don't have it by middle age, the Framingham study tells us you have a 90 percent risk of getting hypertension (high blood pressure) before you die.

Sodium (salt) is the troublemaker.

There are several reasons why we develop high blood pressure. But sodium (one component of salt) is considered the main troublemaker. People from primitive "no salt" societies around the world have almost zero risk of dying from high blood pressure. Chimpanzees eating only fruits and vegetables develop high blood pressure when salt is added, and only when this happens.

While blood pressure rises faster in some people and slower in others, it still rises, especially as you consume more sodium. The good news is that you can prevent this rise and even control hypertension without medication by controlling your use of salt.

But I don't use salt!

Many people who don't add salt to their cooking or use a salt shaker believe they are following a low-salt diet, but research

shows that up to 80 percent of the sodium you eat comes hidden in processed foods, including common foods such as bread, cheese, and cereals.

Cutting down on salt is healthy for the whole family. Reducing the amount of salt children eat by half results in an almost immediate fall in their blood pressure and lessens the rise in their blood pressure with age.

Reducing sodium is especially important if you are overweight, an older person, or already have high blood pressure.

Hints for a low-sodium diet:

1. Eat mostly fresh foods, and eat them without any added salt.
2. Buy only those processed foods that have less than 120 mg sodium per 100g of product. Check food labels.
3. Look for "Low Sodium," "Low Salt," or "No Added Salt." "Reduced Salt" products are required to have only 25 percent less sodium, so the final level

Sue Radd is a nutritionist who is the award-winning author of "The Breakfast Book" and coauthor of "Eat to Live." www.sueradd.com

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