

Use It ... But Don't Abuse It

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**Living in the World and Using
It for Gain while Keeping
God's Rules about It**

Use It ... But Don't Abuse It

**How to Prosper on an Enemy Planet
Waiting for the Lord to Come
and Burn It Up**





Is the Bible true?

Was it right about Noah's Flood?

Does the Bible warn about earth burning?

Since no one else reminds us that Jesus is coming to burn up the universe ... not the

UN, Fox, WHO, CNBC, CDC, or ESPN

we need to remember His promise.

For this they willingly are ignorant of,
that by the word of God the heavens were of old,
and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

Whereby the world that then was,
being overflowed with water, perished:
But the heavens and the earth, which are now,
by the same word are kept in store,
reserved unto fire against the day of judgment
and perdition of ungodly men.

II Peter 3:5-7

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night;
in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise,
and the elements shall melt with fervent heat,
the earth also and the works that are therein
shall be burned up.

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved,
what manner of persons ought ye to be
in all holy conversation and godliness,
Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God,
wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved,
and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

II Peter 3:10-12

REMINDER

Squares with blue type are most important.

Ovals with black type are needed sense.

Jesus charged me, ***Preach the word!***

Paul by the Holy Ghost gave the rule

Use the world, but don't abuse it

to the Corinthians.

And they that use this world, as not abusing it:
for the fashion of this world passeth away.

I Corinthians 7:31

We are studying John's first epistle
and have arrived at three verses
with rules about this world.

Love not the world,
neither the things
that are in the world.

If any man love the world,
the love of the Father is not in him.

I John 2:15

For all that is in the world,
the lust of the flesh,
and the lust of the eyes,
and the pride of life,
is not of the Father,
but is of the world.

I John 2:16

And the world passeth away,
and the lust thereof:
but he that doeth the will of God
abideth for ever.

I John 2:17

Paul by the Holy Ghost gave the rule

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Catch the similarity of Paul's warning
to John's warning about the
world passing away.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof:
but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

I John 2:17

And they that use this world, as not abusing it:
for the fashion of this world passeth away.

I Corinthians 7:31

Now let's learn Paul's inspired rule

Use the world, but don't abuse it

that he wrote to Corinth.

1 Cor 7:29 But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;

- This chapter is about marriage, which Paul approved though single himself.
- He needed to warn them – to realize they had little time and to use it wisely.
- *It remaineth* ... with their time left, they must keep wives second to Christ.
- The key to this verse is ... **BE** ... it is Paul's imperative rule of life priorities.
- Living as if not married does not alter the Bible's highest standards of love.

1 Cor 7:30 And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not;

- Retain Paul's use of ... **BE** ... which is elliptically intended here three times.
- Those afflicted with sorrow should not allow it to cost them service to God.
- Those favored with blessings should not allow it to distract them from Christ.
- Those engaged in business and trading should not let ambition steal hearts.
- In each case the person involved was to rule his life to avoid cheating God.

1 Cor 7:31 And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

- Here is our text summing up the previous verses and giving us a general rule.
- Retain Paul's use of ... **BE** ... which is elliptically intended in this verse also.
- The verse is an imperative rule based on using ... **BE** ... a fifth time elliptically.
- This broad rule of using the world is okay, if we keep it in its proper place.
- As in I John 2:17, we should not get tied up here, for it will all be burned up.

1 Cor 7:32 But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:

- Now you can see the intent and meaning of Paul's five warnings. Christ first!
- It is okay if we use the world, but we want to minimize worldly distractions.
- Carefulness = anxiety, concern, fear, or worry = Christians should not have it.
- Even marriage can distract from the Lord, so we must keep it Christ-centric.
- Our situation is not equal to Corinth, for we are not under a present distress.

And they that use this world, as not abusing it:
for the fashion of this world passeth away.

I Corinthians 7:31

Now we should consider a few
other warnings about ruling
our use of this world.

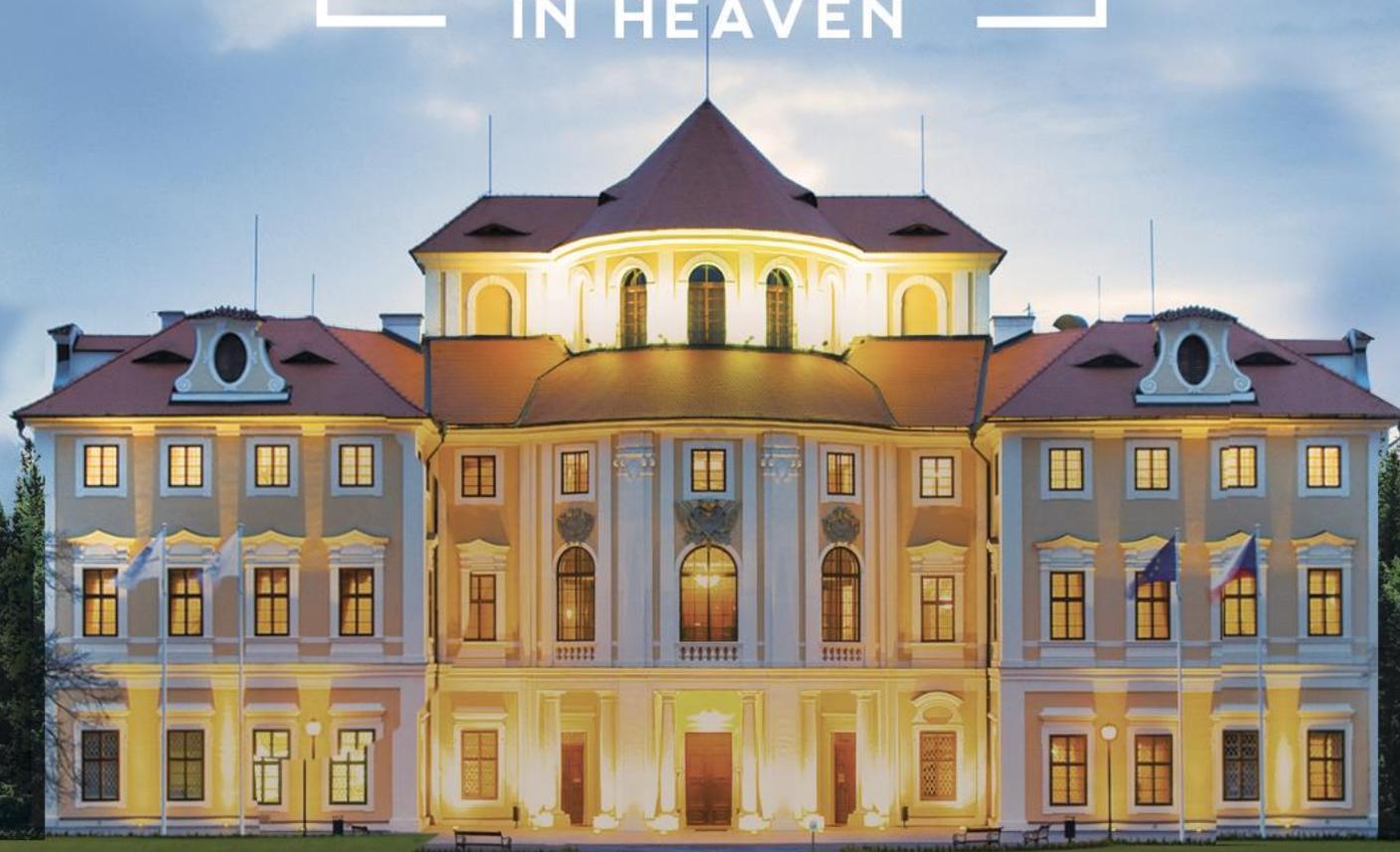
Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth,
where moth and rust doth corrupt,
and where thieves break through and steal:
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt,
and where thieves do not break through nor steal:
For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

How and where do you invest energy,
time, money, planning, emotion,
and other limited resources?



TREASURES
IN HEAVEN





A collection of nautical-themed items including a compass, a piece of parchment, a rope, and various coins, with a quote about treasure. The items are arranged on a dark wooden surface. The compass is a vintage-style brass compass with a black face and white markings, showing cardinal directions (N, S, E, W) and degrees. The parchment is a piece of aged, yellowish-brown paper with a rough, torn edge. The rope is a thick, braided natural fiber rope. The coins are various denominations and colors, including copper, silver, and gold, scattered around the parchment. The text is written in a bold, black, serif font, centered on the parchment.

OUR TREASURE AS CHRISTIANS
ARE THE THINGS WE DO FOR
CHRIST WHILE WE ARE HERE FOR
SUCH A SHORT TIME.

No man can serve two masters:
for either he will hate the one, and love the other;
or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.
Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:24

Let us always serve our **Master** before any
master in this world, even if you do
work 50-70 hours for him.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:33

We should seek God's kingdom first because He is most worthy, but He also promises to give us all the stuff we need.

All things are lawful unto me,
but all things are not expedient:
all things are lawful for me,
but I will not be brought under the power of any.

I Corinthians 6:12

Paul carefully distinguished between things allowed and things controlling us ...

Use vs. Abuse!



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With warnings in place from Jesus and His apostles to keep Him and His kingdom first, let us see who owns what!

Therefore let no man glory in men.
For all things are yours;

I Corinthians 3:21

Whether Paul,
or Apollos,
or Cephas,
or the world,
or life,
or death,
or things present,
or things to come;
all are yours;

I Corinthians 3:22

And ye are Christ's;
and Christ is God's.

I Corinthians 3:23

The universe revolves around the children
of God by our God and Father's love of us!

He sent His Son for us.
He sent the apostles for us.
He will create a new world for us.
He gives us life and takes us at death.
He manages the present and future for us.

So He expects us to have a
romantic blast in marriage.

Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest
all the days of the life of thy vanity,
which he hath given thee under the sun,
all the days of thy vanity:
for that is thy portion in this life,
and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 9:9

So He expects us to outwork
most in the world while alive.

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do,
do it with thy might;
for there is no work,
nor device,
nor knowledge,
nor wisdom,
in the grave,
whither thou goest.

Ecclesiastes 9:10

So He allows us to work with atheists or
any other persons contrary to true religion.

I wrote unto you in an epistle
not to company with fornicators:
Yet not altogether
with the fornicators of this world,
or with the covetous,
or extortioners,
or with idolaters;
for then must ye needs go out of the world.

I Corinthians 5:9-10

We can work with them ... employ them ...
enter into contracts with them ... but
we cannot marry them.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:
for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?
... for ye are the temple of the living God;
as God hath said,
I will dwell in them, and walk in them;
and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

II Corinthians 6:14-16

Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman,
neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

I Corinthians 11:11

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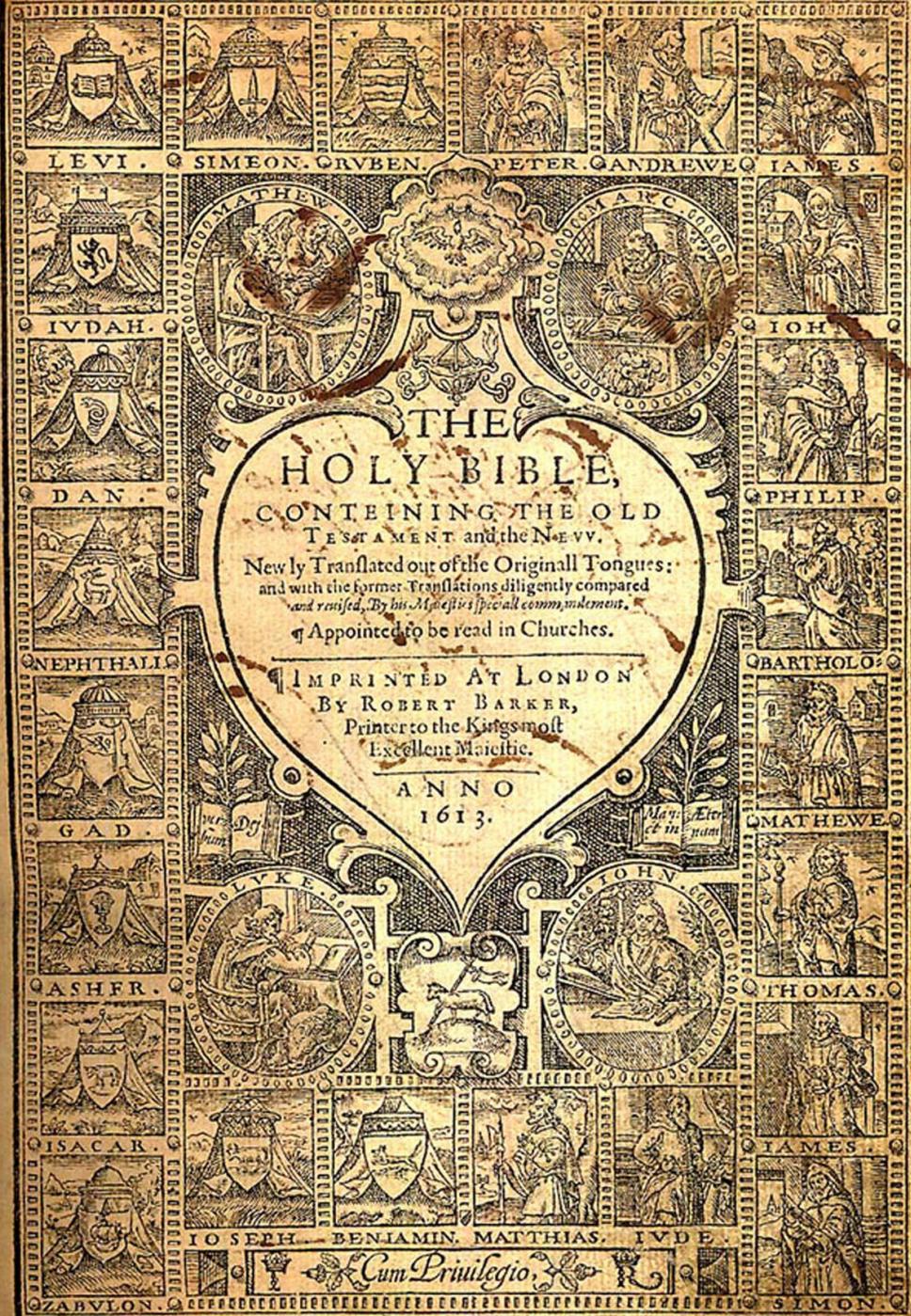
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With warnings in place from Jesus and His apostles to keep Him and His kingdom first, there are great Bible examples!





TO THE MOST
HIGH AND MIGHTIE
PRINCE, IAMES BY THE GRACE
OF GOD KING OF GREAT BRITAINE,
France and Ireland, Defender of
the Faith, &c.

THE TRANSLATORS OF THE
BIBLE, with Grace, Mercie, and Peace, through
IESVS CHRIST OUR LORD.

GREAT and manifold were the blessings (most dread So-
ueraigne) which Almighty GOD, the Father of all
Mercies, bestowed upon vs the people of ENGLAND,
when first he sent your Maiesties Royall person to rule and
raigne over vs. For whercas it was the expectation of ma-
ny, who wished not well vnto our SION, that vpon the set-
ting of that bright Occidentall Starre Queene ELIZA-
BETH of most happie memorie, some thicke and palpable cloudes of darkenesse
would so haue overshadowed this Land, that men should haue bene in doubt
which way they were to walke, and that it should hardly be knowne, who was to
direct the vnsledd State: the appearance of your MAIESTY, as of the Sunne in
his strength, instantly dispelle a those supposed and surmised mists, and gaue vnto
all that were well affected, exceeding cause of comfort, especially when we beheld
the gouernement established in your HIGHNESSE, and your hopefull Seed, by
an vndoubted Title, and this also accompanied with Peace and tranquillitie, at
home and abroad.

But amongst all our Ioyes, there was no one that more filled our hearts, then the
blessed continuance of the Preaching of GODS sacred Word amongst vs, which
is that inestimable treasure, which excelleth all the riches of the earth, because
the fruite thereof extendeth it selfe, not onely to the time spent in this transitory
world, but directeth and disposeth men vnto that Eternall happinesse which is a-
boue in Heauen.

And kings shall be thy nursing fathers,
and their queens thy nursing mothers:
they shall bow down to thee
with their face toward the earth,
and lick up the dust of thy feet;
and thou shalt know that I am the LORD:
for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

Isaiah 49:23



For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time,
then shall there enlargement and deliverance
arise to the Jews from another place;
but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed:
and who knoweth whether thou art come
to the kingdom for such a time as this?

Esther 4:14



And he entreated Abram well for her sake:
and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses,
and menservants, and maidservants,
and she asses, and camels.

Genesis 12:16



Abraham Rescues Lot from the Four Mesopotamian Kings

Abraham's Rescue

Mesopotamian Kings Attack

Damascus

Dan

Karnaim-Ashtaroth

Salem

Hebron

Sodom?

Zoar

Tamar

Kadash-barnea

El-paran

And there came one that had escaped,
and told Abram the Hebrew;
for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite,
brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner:
and these were confederate with Abram.

Genesis 14:13



And he said,
For these seven ewe lambs shalt thou take of my hand,
that they may be a witness unto me,
that I have digged this well.

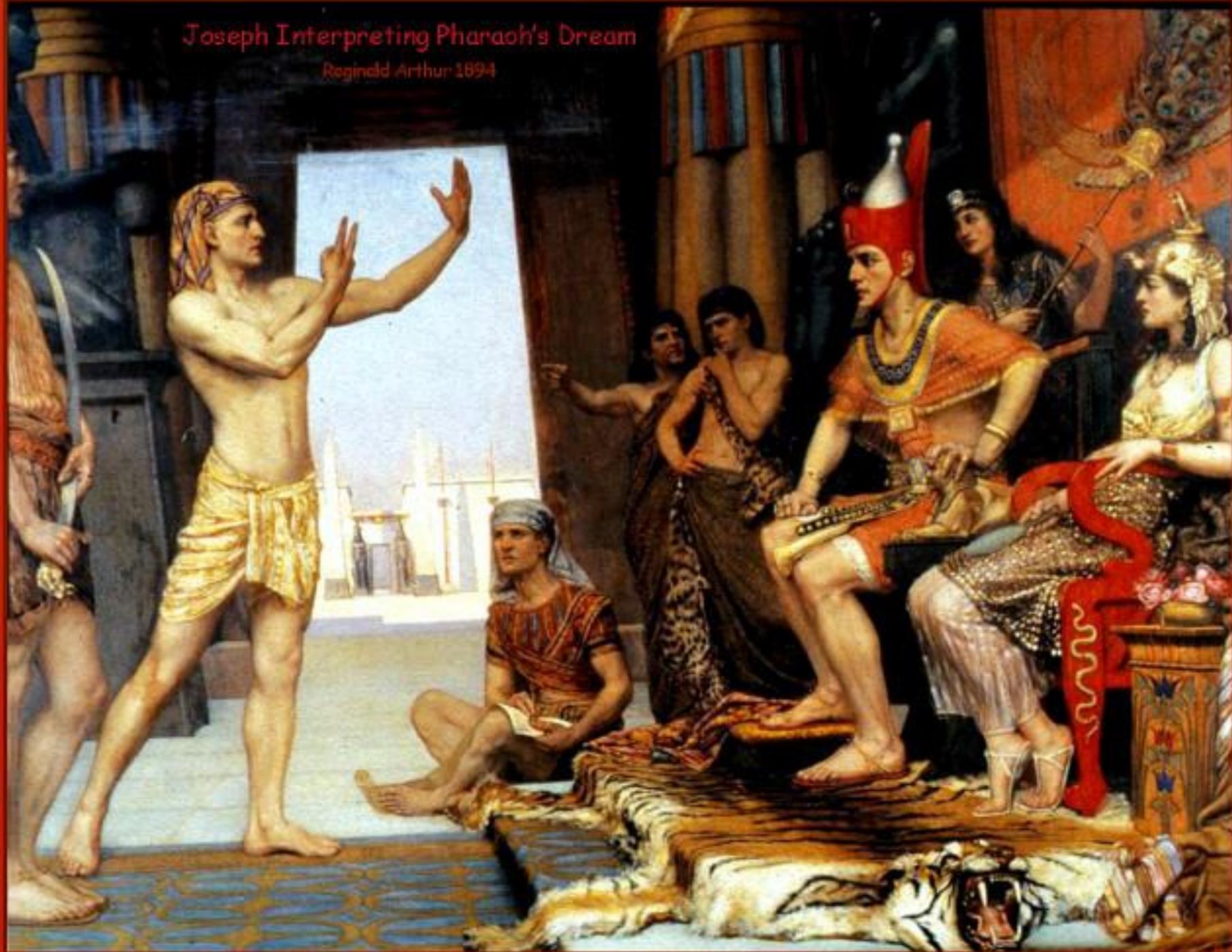
Wherefore he called that place Beersheba;
because there they sware both of them.

Thus they made a covenant at Beersheba:
then Abimelech rose up, and Phichol
the chief captain of his host,
and they returned into the land of the Philistines.

Genesis 21:30-32

Joseph Interpreting Pharaoh's Dream

Reginald Arthur 1894



And Pharaoh said unto Joseph,
I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man
lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.
And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah;
and he gave him to wife Asenath
the daughter of Potipherah priest of On.
And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.

Genesis 41:44-45

And the children of Israel did
according to the word of Moses;
and they borrowed of the Egyptians
jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment:
And the LORD gave the people favour
in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they
lent unto them such things as they required.
And they spoiled the Egyptians.

Genesis 12:35-36

Listen to God's explanation of this and the
nightmare of death and destruction
He brought on Egypt!

For I am the LORD thy God,
the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:
I gave Egypt for thy ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba for thee.

Since thou wast precious in my sight,
thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee:
therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

Isaiah 43:3-4



David & Goliath

DAVID Used the World!

When running from Saul, David went to Achish, King of Gath, the hometown of Goliath, and from this pagan enemy of Israel obtained the city of Ziklag for his home.

DAVID Used the World!

He made friends with Hiram, the pagan king of Tyre, who loved David and built him a house.

SOLOMON Used the World!

He used Hiram's love of David to obtain the stones, timbers, and workers needed to build God a glorious temple.

EXILED JEWS Used the World!

They built houses, planted gardens, married their children and prayed for the peace of Babylon, not the destruction of it.

DANIEL Used the World!

He attended the fast track government school tuition-free and enjoyed all kinds of gifts and promotions.

EZRA Used the World!

He took an open-ended financial subsidy
and certified tax-exemption from
Artaxerxes, king of Persia.

NEHEMIAH Used the World!

He accepted a grant from the king of Persia
and took a very long leave of absence
to help rebuild Jerusalem.

Giving Thanks for Nero (1)

- **Caesar's power got Paul free passage from Philippi (Ac 16:35-40).**
- **Caesar's power got Paul saved from Jewish rabble (Ac 18:12-17).**
- **Nero saved Paul's life from the Jews in Jerusalem (Ac 21:27-40).**
- **Nero saved Paul's back from a zealous chief captain (Ac 22:22-30).**
- **Nero saved Paul's life from the Jewish rabble again (Ac 23:10-11).**
- **Nero saved Paul's life from a Jewish conspiracy (Ac 23:12-35).**

Giving Thanks for Nero (2)

- **Nero allowed Paul a fair trial before Governor Felix (Ac 24:1-22).**
- **Nero allowed Paul liberty, visitors, and teaching Felix (Ac 24:23-26).**
- **Nero saved Paul's life again from a Jewish conspiracy (Ac 25:1-8).**
- **Nero saved Paul from a trial in Jerusalem by Festus (Ac 25:9-12).**
- **Nero allowed Paul an audience with King Agrippa (Ac 25:13 – 26:32).**
- **Nero provided free transportation to Rome for trial (Ac 27:1-2).**

Giving Thanks for Nero (3)

- **Nero allowed Paul liberty at Sidon to visit his friends (Ac 27:3).**
- **Nero saved Paul's life from zealous, ruthless soldiers (Ac 27:39-44).**
- **Nero allowed Paul to evangelize the island of Melita (Ac 28:1-10).**
- **Nero allowed Paul to see friends on his way to Rome (Ac 28:11-15).**
- **Nero allowed Paul to dwell by himself outside prison (Ac 28:16).**
- **Nero allowed Paul his own place for teaching (Ac 28:17-31; Phil 4:22).**

Giving Thanks for Nero (4)

- **The thanksgivings so far were specific Roman blessings for Paul.**
- **There were also general benefits of Roman roads for him to travel.**
- **There were also general benefits of international peace for travel.**
- **There were also general benefits of a universal language (Greek).**
- **There were also general benefits of law and order by the Empire.**
- **The Jews were publicly disliked in the Empire for his help (Ac 18:2).**

God knows exactly how and when He saved us
and expects us to use any lawful means
for our godly advantage.

Art thou called being a servant? care not for it:
but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather.
For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant,
is the Lord's freeman:
likewise also he that is called, being free,
is Christ's servant.

I Corinthians 7:21-22

If success comes, it is from God our Father, and we should be ready and willing to share.

Charge them that are rich in this world,
that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches,
but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;
That they do good, that they be rich in good works,
ready to distribute, willing to communicate;
Laying up in store for themselves
a good foundation against the time to come,
that they may lay hold on eternal life.

I Timothy 6:17-19

We pray for our rulers from top to bottom, and we give thanks for them like Paul did for Nero.

I exhort therefore, that, first of all,
supplications, prayers, intercessions,
and giving of thanks, be made for all men;
For kings, and for all that are in authority;
that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life
in all godliness and honesty.
For this is good and acceptable
in the sight of God our Saviour;

I Timothy 2:1-3

We do not worry about the stuff going on around us, for Jesus Christ rules the world and America.

These things I have spoken unto you,
that in me ye might have peace.
In the world ye shall have tribulation:
but be of good cheer;
I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

Using the World and Not Abusing It

Stimulus Checks and PPP
Tax Deductibility of Giving
Dual Credit at Lower Rates
Internet Tools to Whole World
Change Jobs to Leverage Salary
Use Mortgage Deductibility Well
Strong Oxen of All Types for Corn
Etc., Etc., Etc.

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For Much More About Using the World

<https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2005/god-bless-the-irs/>
<https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2014/getting-ahead-on-the-job/>
<https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2012/living-under-obama-1/>
<https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2012/living-under-obama-2/>
<https://letgodbetrue.com/bible-topics/index/practical/the-christian-and-taxes/>
The Christian and Politics (2) ... Not available in electronic format at this time.

Sing ... # 14 - Black

Sing ... #406 - Burgundy

Sing ... #191 - Burgundy