



Midtown Messenger

Volume 4

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Issue 12

A Spotted Speckled And Ring-streaked Faith

By: Ronnie Scherffius

Animal husbandry is noted early in the Bible (Gen. 4:20). The most well-known Old Testament characters were keepers of livestock. Abraham (Gen. 13:5), Jacob (Gen. 37:12), Moses (Ex. 3:1), and David (1 Sam. 16:11, 19; 17:15, 20) were all involved in animal husbandry. One of the most peculiar accounts in the history of the Patriarchs involves the animal husbandry of Jacob (Gen. 30). From this event in Jacob's life, we learn the importance of a spotted, speckled, and ring-streaked faith.

After many years in the service of his father-in-law Laban, and now with a family of his own, Jacob determined to return to his own country (Gen. 30:25, 26). Through Jacob's industry and the Lord's blessing, Laban had greatly increased (Gen. 30:27-30). Laban invited his son-in-law to name the price for his years of service. Jacob's response highlighted the bountiful blessings that come from a deep faith in God.

Separating the spotted, speckled, and ring-streaked (odd-colored and less preferred) animals from the flock, Jacob would tend to and breed the solid-colored (preferred) animals of his father-in-law for a time. Jacob's wages would be the odd-colored animals born from the solid color flock. Unable to breed the odd with the solid, Jacob depended upon God for his increase. In the end, Jacob's flock was superior in number and strength. The record concludes: "And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maid-servants, and menservants, and camels, and asses" (Gen. 30:43).

From this account of animal husbandry among the Patriarchs, we learn many important lessons from Jacob's faith in God. Let's note three characteristics of a spotted, speckled, and ring-streaked faith?

A spotted, speckled, ring-streaked faith trusts in God. Knowing from past experiences he could not trust Laban (cf. Gen. 29:15-25), Jacob put his trust in God for his wages. "Thou shalt not give me any thing" was Jacob's reply to Laban's offer (Gen. 30:31). God had promised Jacob, "I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest" (Gen. 28:15). God had blessed Jacob with a great family (Gen. 29:32-30:24). The blessing of God upon the work of Jacob was evident even to Laban (Gen. 30:27). It was God in whom Jacob would trust for the reward of his labor.

A spotted, speckled, ring-streaked faith walks uprightly before God and man. "So shall my righteousness answer for me in time to come, when it shall come for my hire before thy face: every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the sheep, that shall be counted stolen with me" (Gen. 30:33). Jacob had always conducted himself righteously (uprightly or honestly) with Laban. When Laban deceived Jacob in the matter of his daughters (Gen. 29:21-25), Jacob maintained his integrity and fulfilled his word. When Laban deceived Jacob and changed his "wages ten times" (Gen. 31:7) for personal gain, Jacob walked uprightly maintaining a good and honest work ethic (Gen. 31:6). Walking uprightly, Jacob maintained his integrity in

the eyes of man and fellowship with God (Ps 15:1, 2).

A spotted, speckled, ring-streaked faith is blessed by God. “And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses” (Gen. 30:43). Jacob’s faith in God was rewarded with great abundance. Laban readily acknowledged that blessings of God were showered upon Jacob (Gen. 30:27). Rachel and Leah counted the increase of Jacob’s riches was taken from their father by God and given to Jacob (Gen. 31:16). But Jacob’s blessings from God were more than earthly possessions and riches; protection from enemies (Gen. 31:7) and faithfulness to his promise of restoration (Gen. 31:13) were also blessings of Jacob’s faith.

Jacob had a faith that both trusted in God and worked diligently (Gen. 30:37-43). Jacob used his knowledge and skill of animal husbandry to the best of his abilities and trusted God for the rest. Such faith is always rewarded by God.

The Fall Before the Fall

The Bible indicates a battle between Satan and his rebellious followers in several key passages. The reason for this spiritual spat is not given to us in great detail but we are told that it began after they abandoned their rightful habitation (Jude 1:6). While many have speculated as to what and how this happened, we simply aren’t told. Some have also made the argument that this event took place after the Creation of the world, but this is also not certain. Genesis 2:1 says, “the heavens and the earth were completed and all their hosts.” While that may seem to clearly indicate that angels must have been created alongside everything else, Job 38:7 states that angels gave “shouts of joy” after the creation of stars.

The spiritual conflict ended with Satan and his apostate followers cast from the heavenly realm (2 Peter 2:4, Rev. 12:14, Jude) just before, it seems, the creation of earth with the Archangel Michael taking a significant role in his defeat and expulsion.

Satan seems to have been at one time a high ranking Angel who thought he somehow stood a chance against his very Creator. That is a ridiculous thought! The application of this historical (pre-historical?) event is evident. Nobody, whether Angel or man, can win against God’s will. It’s mind boggling to imagine taking on God Almighty in some kind of battle, yet Paul tells us in Romans five that we were enemies of God at one point while living in sin, and are currently waging a war with God if we are living in sin. We should let that long ago battle in the heavenly realm be a reminder to us that God always wins the war. He’s already won! Now is the time to make sure that you’re on the side of the truth and triumph and not the devil and the defeated.

-Selected-



Week of March 21, 2021

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Kevin Sheeran
Scripture Reading: Fred Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering:

Communion:	James Cammock
Offering:	Bryant Siegel

Prayer:

A.M. Opening:	Ron White
A.M. Closing:	Kevin Sheeran
P. M. Opening:	Bryant Siegel
P. M. Closing:	Steve Randle

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.:	Kevin Sheeran
Sun. P.M.:	Isaac Jobes
Wed. P.M.:	Doug Jobes

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Lupe Escojido

Open/Close Building:

Sermons are available on our website
www.midtowncoc.org

**MidTown's Bible Classes and Worship services
can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search
MidTown church of Christ Victoria.**

The Scherffius family would like to cordially invite the Midtown family to a wedding reception for Anthony and his bride Hailey on Saturday, April 24, 2021 at 12 noon here at the building. We will be celebrating this fine, young couple and their new life together. A meal will be provided, and a money/gift card tree will be presented to the couple. If anyone would like to contribute to this, please see Athena Scherffius or Emily Cammock.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

The family of Millie Jamison. Millie passed away last week from cancer.

Happy Birthday: Tom Pitchford (22); Imelda Sheeran (26)

Upcoming Events:

April 25-28: Spring Gospel meeting with speaker Justin Guess hosted by Midtown.

Study Resources on Midtown's Website

Have you had a chance to look at Midtown's new website? Check out our Study Resources tab or click on this link:

<https://midtowncoc.org/ministries/study->

****FRIENDLY REMINDER TO CONTINUE
PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING****

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Ken and Sandra Marie
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT~INS:

Dee Gilpatrick
Faye Henderson
Charlie Mabe
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the “Keep in Prayer” List, please see Nina Siegel.

MidTown Church of Christ

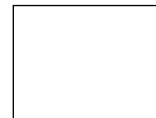
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MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders:

Mark FitzSimmons

Ronnie Scherffius

Ron White

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius

Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Class:	7:00 PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of March 14, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....	43
A.M. Worship.....	47
Sunday Evening Worship.....	47
Wednesday Bible Class.....	40
Offering :	\$2,624

Reading for this week:

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”

Matthew 7:7

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

GO PAPERLESS!

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