



by Dawn Reed
Eastern Ky. Columnist

We busted out of quarantine on Monday.

After two weeks of home incarceration due to COVID, my beloved and I were thrilled to breathe the cold air of freedom. (It was below freezing.)

The church had been praying. Actually, it was more than just our flock. News had gone out on social media. (My beloved calls it "the interweb".) So oodles were praying!

After some sick time that was quite scary, I'm so thankful for what the Lord has done, I could write a Psalm right here, right now.

The thrill of answered prayers reminds me of an intriguing and humorous story in Acts 12.

King Herrod had arrested

Answered Prayer

some who belonged to the church. Trying to please the Jews, he also seized Simon Peter, who was handed over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each.

While Peter was in prison, the church was praying. The NIV states that they were praying "earnestly" (KJV: "without ceasing").

The night before Peter was to be brought out for public trial, he was sleeping between two guards. Acts 12:6 tells us he was bound with not one, but two chains, between two soldiers while sentries stood guard at the door. Delivery did not seem to be coming. His friends had been persecuted and some had died. Yet in spite of all this, he slept. He. Trusted. His. Savior. Clearly, he held firmly to words written by David: "I will lie down and sleep in peace, for You alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety," (Psalm 4:8). So sleep he did.

Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He was sleeping so soundly, the angel had to punch Peter to wake him up-gospel truth. "Quick! Get up!" the angel declared and the chains fell off. Peter took time to get his coat and shoes before leaving-per the angel's instructions.

Leading Peter past the first and second guards, the angel took

him straight to the city gate, which opened by itself. The angel disappeared and Peter realized he hadn't been dreaming after all. He went to the home of Mary, the mom of John Mark, where people had gone to pray.

When Peter knocked on the door, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so excited that she ran to tell the others without opening the door! "Peter is here!" she yelled to everyone.

"You're out of your mind," they all told her (NIV). The KJV says, "And they said unto her, 'Thou art mad...'" That gets me tickled every time! Meanwhile, Peter is still knocking at the door.

They were shocked that God had answered so quickly!

Peter shushed the stunned prayer warriors, told them to share the story with the other believers and then headed out.

Lessons I can learn from this fun story...

- Like Peter, when troubles of this world wrap around me like chains, I need to rest and trust in God, my Rock.
- Like the people in the church, I need to pray without ceasing.
- Like Rhoda, I need to get excited when God answers prayer.

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 40:4-5A

Blessed is the **one** who **trusts** in the **LORD**, who **does not look** to the **proud**, to **those** who **turn aside** to **false gods**. **Many**, LORD my **God**, are the **wonders** you **have done**, the **things** you **planned** for us. **None** can **compare** with **you**.

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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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Bible Word Search Answer on Page 12



by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Samaria in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In 1 Peter 2, all believers are called to be part of a royal ...? Family, Priesthood, Flock, Wedding
3. From Judges 11, what judge of Israel was a prostitute's son? Hosea, Jephthah, Sam-

- son, Lot
4. In Revelation 12:3, how is Satan depicted? Silver goat, Black horse, Red dragon, 7-winged bat
 5. From 2 Kings 23, where was King Josiah killed? Megiddo, Anathoth, Philadelphia, Jericho
 6. In Esther 1, what king did she marry? Jehu, Omri, Ahasuerus, Zedekiah

Answers on bottom of Page 12
"Test Your Bible knowledge," with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.

Wake Up America!

by BOB CASEY, preacher
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In **1 Corinthians 15:34**, it is written, "Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame."

Then also in **Ephesians 5:14-17**, it is written, "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. ¹⁵See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, ¹⁶Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

Friends, if there is ever a time in our history that America needs a jolt of spiritual awakening, it is now! The devil, who can only manifest himself through the actions of men who serve him, is at this very present time working his might in an attempt to destroy men whom God loves; because it says so in **Revelation 12:12**, "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

This admonition, my Friend, is for all of us! We need not to be complacent as many seem to be, but take notice of the things that are on-going, not only here at home but in the rest of the world also.

I began to rethink concerning what I have know in times past regarding world histories. Then, my mind led me to the rise and fall of great empires of the past. I do not know how many of you are aware of the history of the Roman Empire, but in my past years, I have read some of its past and then I began to realize that I can now see some of its failures are manifesting themselves in America.

So then, I began to research the reasons for the decline of such a world power, and these are some of the things that I found. First, the private lives of wickedness among its leaders. Homosexuality was rampant. The luxurious style of living. The leadership did not really care for its poor. A vast increase in other religious cults. A vast decline within the political arena where justice and honour was not sought after; instead, the seeking of personal power increased. Then a lack of complete control of its armed forces. The threats from Europe was met by compromise, allowing whole tribes of people into the Empire and then putting them into their armies. Rome began to be a divided culture because of the many different languages they had allowed to come in. And, they grew further apart because of it. Rome also began its fall because of its economical decline,

a failure to develop its own economy and to improve its technology.

Then, they seek every item of luxury in spite of its decline in money to pay for it. So, they went so far away as China to seek for its luxuries, and China demanded only cash, no credit to pay for it. So, the cost of its high standards of living was not met by balancing its own developments; so, a heavy taxation was levied upon its own people at an alarming rate.

But, Rome finally received its death blow by rejecting the one true religion of Christ and substituting it with the state religion of catholicism ran by the force in power. So, even today, we continue to be ruled by one who calls himself the vicar or the replacement of Christ, even calling himself the holy father. Then, eventually, Rome fell forever as a worldwide power, and the religions from other countries began to bring their systems of religion into it, such as the muslims and other cultures as well.

In closing, can we learn anything from history? British statesman Winston Churchill wrote, "Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." He is probably right on with this statement. Can we see this in America today? We would have to have been asleep for the past few years not to see it. I ask, 'Can ignoring these mistakes make them go away?'

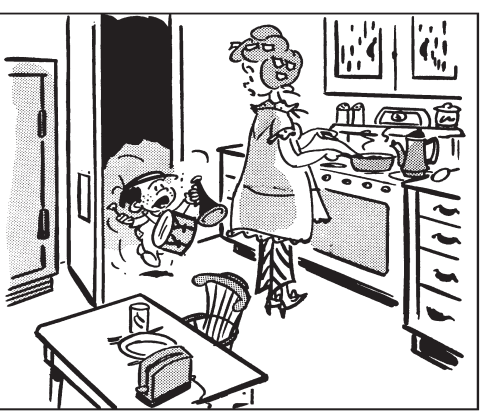
I personally believe that only a turning back to God and Christ will help America's problems. Yes, the Lord's Church did remain and survive through this decline and all through the Dark Ages, but it did not grow with the same capacity as it did in the beginning. Rome's religious theology continues today, hindering the true religion of Christ, but its end will come someday.

I ask, 'Will America ever fully repent and turn back to God?' **2 Timothy 3:13** says, "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." **2 Timothy 4:3-4** adds, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." In **2 Chronicles 7:14**, God said to Solomon, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

It is my prayer that our Lord will allow this to happen. But, until it does, we need to prepare to meet the Lord and stay prepared, for none of us know what a day may bring forth.

Call anytime, 1-859-369-4165

Sincerely, Bob Casey



"Daddy woke up _____ again."

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

- Bitter
GRANY
- Cover
ALOCK
- Close
BRANEY
- Stupid
NANIE

TODAY'S WORD

Stickeler's Puzzle



by Terry Stickels

How many anagrams can you find for the word "retains"?

All words must be found in a dictionary or in other reliable reference materials.

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 12