

Sunday, October 20, 2024

Scripture Reading: Job 38:1-7, (34-41)

Life is a matter of choices, and every choice you make makes you.
—John C. Maxwell

Bible scholars are not sure when Job lived, but many believe during the biblically blank, 400 year period between the death of Joseph and the birth of Moses. Moses was born around 1400 B.C. so Job probably was alive before then — anytime between roughly 1700 and 1400 B.C.

I mention this to give perspective to the recent discovery in southern Israel of a city gate believed to be more than 5,000 years old! If true, it was operational in the early Bronze Age, about the year 3500 B.C., making it the oldest gate ever discovered in Israel.

According to Emily Bischoff of the Israel Antiquities Authority, “This is the first time that such a large gate dating to the Early Bronze Age has been uncovered. ... This was not achieved by one or a few individuals. The fortification system is evidence of social organization that represents the beginning of urbanization.”

The Bible has much to say about gates. Gates were seats of authority (Ruth 4:11). Wisdom speaks at the gates (Proverbs 1:21). Councils of state were held at the gates (2 Chronicles 18:9).

We also read about the “gates of righteousness” (Psalm 118:19). The gates of the temple are mentioned in Psalm 24:9 and 100:4, among other places. And then there are prison gates (Acts 12:10, for example) and the “gates of hell” (Matthew 16:18 KJV, ESV).

Perhaps the most famous gate in the Bible is the “narrow gate.” “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

Here, Jesus says that often we face two gates, or two paths, two doors. One is a tight and narrow; the other is wide. The broad gate is wide, easy, well-traveled and is bad news. The narrow gate, however, is hard, less popular but leads to life.

This discussion reminds us that life is often about choices. Perhaps you will have a choice today. Which gate will you choose?

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Gracious God, I know that it is not always easy to do the right thing. May my decisions today be guided by the principles of your word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: 1 Corinthians 11-16

Monday: Ezra 1-4

Tuesday: Haggai 1-2; Zechariah 1-2

Wednesday: Zechariah 3-6

Thursday: Zechariah 7-10

Friday: Zechariah 11-14

Saturday: Psalm 119

Verse to Remember
Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path. —Psalm 119:105



WATER GLASS PROBLEM

Take three (3) empty water glasses and put them in a row. Turn the first and third glasses upside down, but leave the middle glass right side up. *Your task is to get all the glasses right side up, but you must follow these rules:*

1. You have only three moves.
2. For each move, you must turn over two glasses at a time — never one at a time.

SOLUTION TO CUP PROBLEM:
First move: Turn over the first and second glasses
Second move: Turn over the first and third glasses
Third move: Turn over the first and second glasses. At this point they should be all right side up.



- Answers to ROMAN NUMERALS:**
1. Tacoma
 2. Denver
 3. Dallas
 4. Miami
 5. Phoenix
 6. Atlanta
 7. Boise
 8. Cheyenne
 9. Helena
 10. Provo

ROMAN NUMERALS

Directions: Add a Roman numeral to the scrambled word, and then unscramble to come up with a city in the United States.

Example:

iphsem + 1,000 = *Memphis*

1. moata + 100 = _____
2. eendr + 5 = _____
3. Isaad + 50 = _____
4. amii + 1,000 = _____
5. onepih + 10 = _____
6. natata + 50 = _____
7. sobe + 1 = _____
8. yeehne + 100 = _____
9. eeahan + 50 = _____
10. ropo + 5 = _____