

The purpose of this publication is to spread the truth, to sow God's good seed, the Word of God, and to confront religious error for the good of men's souls. Editor: Allen Dvorak

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Below are the answers to the "Kings Challenge" from page 2...

Saul	
David	
Solomon	
Rehoboam	Jeroboam
Abijah	Nadab
Asa	Baasha
Jehoshaphat	Elah
Jehoram	Zimri
Ahaziah	Omri
Athaliah	Ahab
Joash	Ahaziah
Amaziah	Jehoram
Uzziah	Jehu
Jotham	Jehoahaz
Ahaz	Jehoash
Hezekiah	Jeroboam II
Manasseh	Zechariah
Amon	Shallum
Josiah	Menahem
Jehoahaz	Pekahiah
Jehoiakim	Pekah
Jehoiachin	Hoshea
Zedekiah	

Can you identify the kings who are generally considered to be "good kings"?

#### **Bible Challenge Question - Answer**

Rachel was the wife most loved by Jacob (at least at first), but it was Leah who bore him the most sons (Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun). The other three wives bore Jacob two sons each. The sons of Rachel were Joseph and Benjamin and she died on the occasion of Benjamin's birth. Zilpah, Leah's handmaid, gave birth to Gad and Asher. Bilhad, Rachel's handmaid, gave birth to Dan and Naphtali (cf. Genesis 35:22-26).

#### **Living By A Higher Standard**

A portion of the Cadet's Prayer at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point reads as follows: "Make us choose the harder right rather than the easier wrong and never to be contented with a half truth when the whole truth can be won. Endow us with courage that is born of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy, that scorns to compromise with vice and injustice and knows no fear when right and truth are in jeopardy."

If that is the code of a military cadet, how much more should it represent the character of one seeking to reflect the image of God? Remember, we are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that (we) may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called (us) out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

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### **"I Promise"**

By Don Truex

Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa and Mark McGuire were all eligible for induction into Baseball's Hall of Fame this year. Bonds is the all time home run leader. Sosa is the fastest player in baseball history to hit 500 home runs. And McGuire is the single season home run leader. All should have been first-ballot inductees. All remain on the outside looking in.

Why? Because they cheated and then lied about their cheating. Lying and cheating -- the two are so prevalent in American culture that they hardly raise an eyebrow. And so when Lance Armstrong finally admitted what we've suspected for years or Manti Te'o confesses that he knowingly lied about the death of an imaginary girlfriend, we shrug and blame it on a culture that is spiraling ethically downward.

Jesus was the antithesis of that mindset. Peter's first-hand conclusion was that "he committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth" (1 Peter 2:22). Think about that. Every word was accurate, every sentence was

true. Not once did He fudge the numbers in His business, not once did He exaggerate the truth in His teaching. Nothing shady, nothing questionable -- He was the epitome of integrity.

Clearly, we who wear His name and represent His interests in this world are to be of the same spirit. "As He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct..." (1 Peter 1:15, 16). Understanding that, it is no wonder that Solomon observed, "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight" (Proverbs 12:22).

And yet it's easy to fear the immediate consequence of telling the difficult truth more than the eternal consequence of taking the dishonest escape. I think about Jesus on trial before Pilate. "I have the power to free You," Pilate enticed. "Are You a king or not?" Jesus knew exactly what was on the horizon if He answered truthfully. He could have [Continued on page 3]

## Remembering the Kings

By Allen Dvorak

Can you fill in the blanks? Some of the kings have been supplied and dynasty changes indicated in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Note that no chronological relationship is implied between the kings of the two kingdoms by their positions on the page.

S _____	
David	
Solomon	
R _____	Jeroboam
Abijah	Nadab
Asa	B _____
J _____	Elah
Jehoram	Z _____
Ahaziah	Omri
A _____ (queen)	A _____
Joash	Ahaziah
Amaziah	J _____
U _____ (Azariah)	J _____
Jotham	Jehoahaz
Ahaz	Jehoash
H _____	J _____
M _____	Zechariah
Amon	Shallum
J _____	Menahem
Jehoahaz	Pekahiah
J _____	Pekah
Jehoiachin	H _____
Z _____	

The "Sermon Notes" feature will resume in next week's bulletin. Since Don Truex (preaching in a gospel meeting for us today) provides his own "sermon notes," the above challenge for Bible students is provided. Answers are on the back page.

**"We must expect to find error constantly assailing the truth; Christendom will always be a theological battlefield."**

-- J. I. Packer

dodged and deceived - "A king? Do I look like a king to you? I'm just a carpenter from the little village of Nazareth." Integrity would not allow Him to do so.

The application? If we are not willing to pay a price for integrity with our money, in our relationships, on our job or at our school, then what makes us think we would ever pay a price for our faith in a time of challenge or crisis?

There is, however, a huge price to be paid for a lack of integrity.

**It makes us think we've fooled God, when we haven't.** He is "the God who sees" and so "there is no creature hidden from His sight" (Genesis 16:13; Hebrews 4:13).

--Do we really believe that God doesn't see us sign our name on a credit card receipt, promising to pay the debt we are incurring?

--Do we really believe that God doesn't see us when we sign the agreement for a student loan, promising to pay the debt we are incurring?

--Do we really believe that God doesn't see us sign the mortgage papers, promising to pay the debt we are incurring?

--Do we really believe that God doesn't hear when we find a clever, subtle way to circumvent the truth in our conversation?

All are matters of integrity. All speak to whether we are taking seriously our resolution to be "conformed to the image of God's dear Son" (Romans 8:29).

**It makes us think we're different from others, when we're not.** Isn't it amazing what we will allow in ourselves but condemn in others? We would be less than pleased if we learned that someone we trusted had lied to or deceived us. We would be less than pleased if someone owed a financial debt to us but then just walked away as though the debt didn't exist. Didn't Jesus say, "Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12)?

**It makes us think we have succeeded, when we have failed.** "If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless" (James 1:26). Dishonesty and self-deception go hand in hand. However, as noted above, it's foolish to play hide-and-seek with omniscience. Simply put, God knows. [Concluded on page 4]

### Bible Challenge Question

**Can you group the sons of Jacob by their mothers?**

The answer to this question is on the back page.