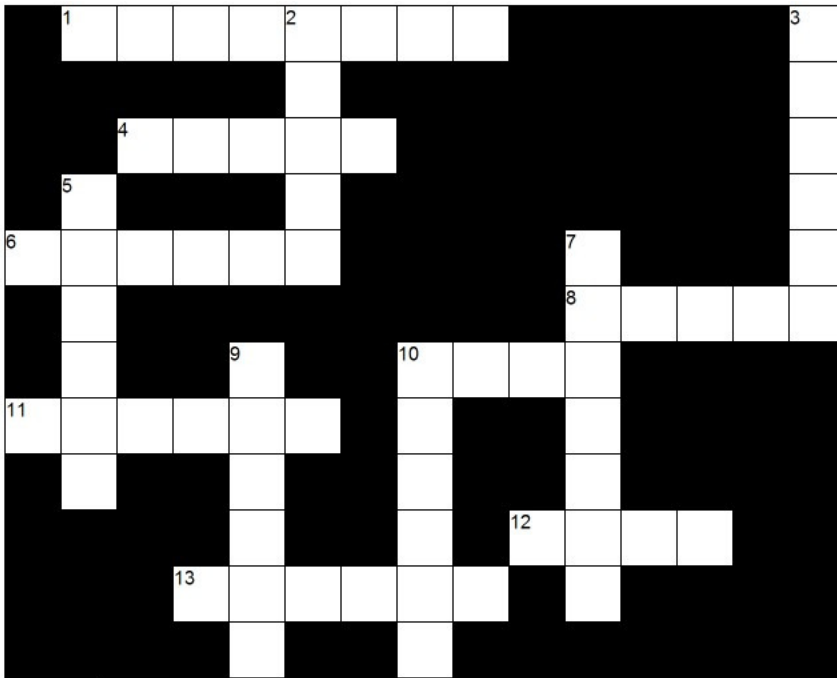


A Bible Crossword on Genesis, Part 9

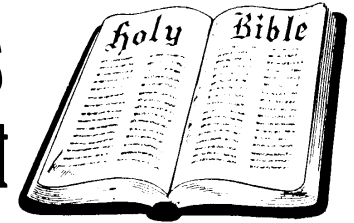


Across: 1. Rachel said to Jacob, give me these or else I die! 4. Jacob used one for a pillow. 6. Leah's handmaid; she bore Gad and Asher. 8. The number of years Jacob promised to serve for Rachel. 10. Her eyes were delicate, but her sister was beautiful. 11. Rachel was loved but suffered this condition. 12. Jacob rolled a stone from the mouth of one for Rachel when they first met. 13. Leah's first child; she saw him as God's answer to her affliction.

Down: 2. Jacob's daughter. 3. Isaac charged Jacob not to take a wife from his daughters. 5. Rachel's handmaid; she bore Dan and Naphtali. 7. Esau married his daughter, likely in an effort to please his father. 9. Jacob called Luz by this name, meaning house of God. 10. Jacob dreamed of one of these reaching into heaven.

-All answers found in Genesis 28-30, NKJV

Chapman Acres Church of Christ



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What Was She Thinking?

During a conversation with several of Carina's cousins at a wedding this week, we recounted some of the wild things our children had done. Our "favorite" memory is an occasion when we heard strange noises coming from 3 year-old Lindsay's bedroom. When we investigated, we found her standing on top of her dresser pouring baby powder on her head. It looked like a snow storm had struck her room.

We've often wondered what she was thinking. Because we lack the ability to read hearts, we can't answer definitively, but that does not mean we cannot draw some inferences based on her behavior.

When Jesus warned of false prophets, He said, "Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:15-16a). He said of the Pharisees, "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit" (Matthew 12:33). The fruit identifies the tree.

It's a safe bet that a 3 year-old pouring baby powder on her head is up to mischief. We cannot know the hearts of men, but we can see the fruit they bear. When that fruit is rotten, we must heed the warning.

—RAB

IF THE BALANCE TIPS

Club Libby Lu, a salon for "tween" girls, sponsored a contest last month to win a Hannah Montana prize package. Her records and concerts are the latest craze among tweens. The grand prize was four tickets to Hannah Montana's sold-out concert in New York this month, plus airfare and accommodations.

A six-year-old girl from Garland, Texas won with an essay that beat out more than 1,000 other contestants. The opening line of her essay began with these words: "My daddy died this year in Iraq." Her mother told Club Libby Lu that her husband was killed in Iraq by a roadside bomb on 17 April 2007. Who would not feel an extra-special Christmas gift was deserving for a little girl whose father had died in a war far away from home?

There is one minor detail missing. It was a lie! Her dad is a carpet cleaner, not a soldier, and he is very much alive!

Journalists discovered that only one U.S. soldier died on April 17, 2007, and it wasn't the little girl's father. KDFW-TV of Dallas interviewed the girl's mother, who said: "We did whatever we could do to win." The mother's sister said: "It was supposed to be told like a good Christmas story, but she didn't know it had to be true." Club Libby Lu immediately withdrew the prize from the girl and awarded it to another contestant. The company said: "We greatly value honesty and integrity." The family's neighbors said they couldn't imagine anyone making something like this up. "It's shocking. it's really wrong."

What becomes of a people if six-year-olds are reared believing this behavior is okay? The problem, at its root, is spiri-

tual. If there is no absolute standard of right and wrong, then, anything can pass as acceptable conduct. And if lies are accorded as much honor as truth, our days are numbered.

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34). It is a sad day when "doing-whatever-it-takes-to-win" reigns over truth and justice. Athletes Barry Bonds and Marion Jones are prime examples. If gold and silver trinkets are cherished more than truth and honor, then there is but little hope left in this world. I'm glad the company and neighbors at least recognize a standard to which all are accountable.

It means there are still people who can be changed by the Gospel. But if the balance tips, when no distinction is made between lies and truth, then all that awaits us is God's eternal wrath. When people "abhor him who speaks the truth" (Amos 5:10), it will be impossible to turn them to God.

—Chuck Durham, *Biblical Insights*, August 2008.

Prayer List

Keith Copeland	Herman McKenzie	Faye Seiler
Dennis Depew	Louise Moore	Sarah Howard
David Depew	Sara Nance	James Howard

Gospel Meetings

6/8-11 College View Lectures various speakers
 6/14-17 at Brookhill with Johnny Felker for a singing school
 6/21-26 at Midway in Florence with Bill Hall
 7/12-17 at Jones Road with Lowell Sallee