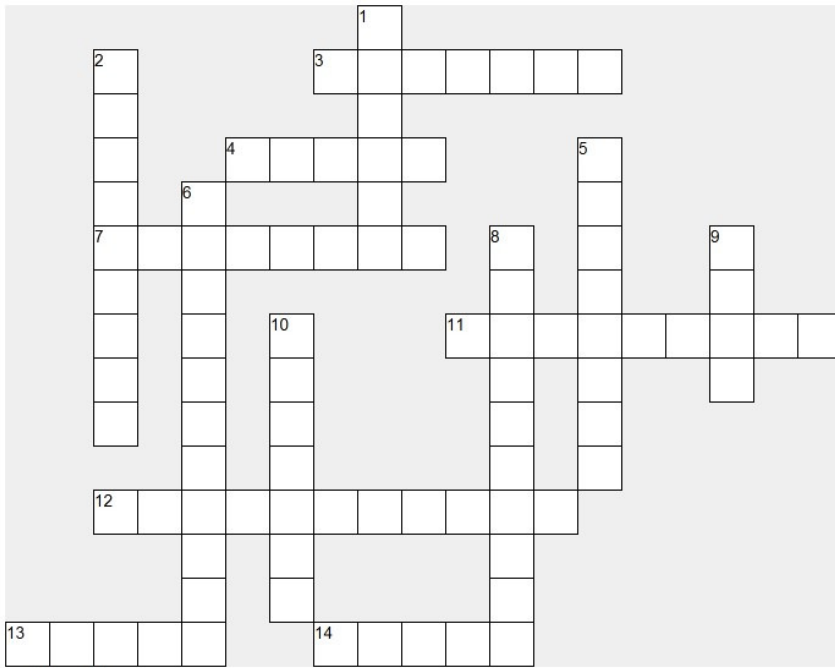


A Bible Crossword: Exodus, pt. 3

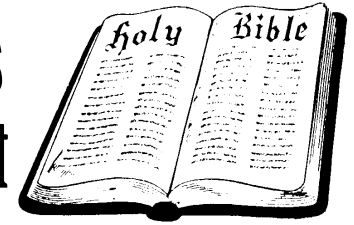


Across: 3. God sent a plague of these so thick no one could see the earth. 4. This kind of multitude went out of Egypt with the Israelites. 7. The time of day when the Passover lamb was to be slain. 11. The Israelites did this to the Egyptians before leaving. 12. God did not lead Israel into the territory of this people because He didn't want them to see war so soon. 13. This was placed on the doorposts and lintel of the Israelite houses at Passover. 14. A pillar of this led Israel by day.

Down: 1. Moses took his bones with them from Egypt. 2. God slew all of these in Egypt, of both man and beast. 5. God brought this on Egypt, so thick it could be felt. 6. What a stranger among the Israelites had to be in order to partake of the Passover. 8. The kind of bread eaten at Passover. 9. A pillar of this led Israel by night. 10. A lamb without this was to be chosen for the Passover.

—All answers found in Exodus 10-13, NKJV

Chapman Acres Church of Christ



2137 Penhall Drive NE / Huntsville, AL 35811
256-536-5296 / www.chapmanacreschurch.com

Dealing With Homesickness

Our older girls attended camp this week. On Tuesday, Carina decided it was time to check in and gave Lindsay's counselor a call. The counselor put her off, clearly trying to prevent Carina from talking with our daughter. She did not bring Lindsay to the phone, and we found out when we picked the girls up on Saturday that the counselor didn't even tell Lindsay about the call. This dismissal did nothing to calm my Carina's nerves, but the counselor wasn't thinking about Carina. Another parent received the same treatment and told us that the counselor said they did not have any problems with homesickness, and they didn't want any. The counselors intentionally restricted our contact with the kids because they didn't want the kids to get homesick and trouble follow.

For the Christian, homesickness is something that the Scriptures address from both worldly and heavenly perspectives.

Homesick for Heaven

As children of God, we should feel pangs of homesickness for heaven. The Apostle Paul faced the risk of death as he awaited trial in Rome. Unlike most, he considered death something to be desired. Given the possibility of life or death, he wrote, "For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better" (Philippians 1:23).

Eternity is something we face with hope and uncertainty. John

understood this when he said, “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:2). We don’t really know what eternity will be like, but we have an undeniable yearning to be with God, to be like God.

Paul compared the human body to a tent, saying, “For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life” (2 Cor. 5:4). We face death with uncertainty, even fear, but a part of us remains homesick, expectant of the glory of immortality.

Homesick for the World

Conversely, the child of God is sternly warned about the dangers of being homesick for the world.

Abraham is praised in Hebrews for leaving his homeland and travelling to the place God took him. Abraham lived as a sojourner. The writer of Hebrews says of Abraham and the patriarchs, “For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them” (Hebrews 11:14-16).

We who are children of God have escaped the corruption of the world, but we are still tempted to be homesick for the world. Of false teachers, Peter writes, “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning” (2 Peter 2:20).

Nothing could be more self-defeating than persisting in a love of

the world. John tells us, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:17).

If we love the world, we are homesick for a place that is reserved by God for fire (2 Peter 3:7).

We may find ourselves torn at times, conflicted between love of the world and desire for heaven. Of the two choices, we should be homesick for heaven. The glory of immortality with God will not disappoint.

—RAB

Prayer List

Pearline Albright	Louise Moore	Herman McKenzie
Dennis Depew	David Depew	Sara Nance

Gospel Meetings

7/26-31 at Woolly Springs

7/26-29 at Sugar Creek with Jim Deason

7/26-28 at South Fayetteville with Colin Williamson

8/16-21 at Oakland with Greg Gwin

8/21-22 at Jordan Park—Ladies Lectureship