

# The Corona Chronicle

West Worthing Evangelical Church Rugby Road.

Sunday September 20th  
[www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk](http://www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk)

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward.  
4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,  
So are the children of one's youth.  
5 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them.  
They shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

## Children are a gift of God

If a person has any children, he is to look upon them as a gift of God. They are tokens of His grace. They are to be considered as a heritage from the Lord. The word 'heritage' is used concerning the Jews whose unearned heritage was Canaan, the promised land given to them by God. The parallel word is 'reward' 3b. Gifts from God are given under His sovereign will and purpose. Children might be an inconvenience, the wrong sex, having something wrong with them, a family might fear that the child may make them poorer, they are an inconvenience. Children may bring sorrow in later life, yet they are a gift of God.

We sing at Harvest time 'All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, so thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love.'

We are to thank the Lord for all His gifts including the gift of children and also more importantly that we are saved by God's amazing grace which again is a gift of God. What about people who can't have children, the elderly who no longer have people to care for them, maybe through neglect or distance and those who are single.

Both Celibacy and Marriage are considered in the New Testaments as Charismatic gifts from God. (Grace gifts.) Marriage is a gift from God; celibacy is a gift from God; and there is no shame in either calling. (1 Corinthians 7:17,20).



On a vintage TV channel during lockdown I found a series of old ITV films that I used to watch as a boy, they were about Robin Hood, Francis Drake, William Tell and Sir Lancelot.

Part of the joy of these thirty minutes programmes was the singing at the end of the show. As Sir Lancelot ended, the singer sings 'In days of Old when knights were bold....'

Where would Robin Hood be without a crossbow, Francis Drake without the 'Golden Hind', William Tell without a crossbow and Sir Lancelot without his sword? These men without their trusty weapons would have been in danger. Without an arrow the bow is almost useless.

The writer of Psalm 117, Solomon, was saying that a warrior needs his weapons as a man needs his inheritance because there will be a time when he cannot stand alone and needs support. In later life children are able to stand by their father.



A farmer is blessed as he gets weaker in old age to have sons to help and take over the farm.  
Happy is the man who has Sons and Daughters of his youth.

## People take advantage of the vulnerable,

After paying for a TV licence for most of my life when I turned 75 my licence was free. I received a letter saying I now have to pay; I could no longer get a free one. After paying I then received an email saying my licence has been stopped and I have to pay it again. It had all the logos, but it was a scam which we reported. People know that if they send out to the elderly many letters and Emails some will fall for it. The weak and vulnerable are targeted and taken advantage of.

In Jerusalem business was transacted where people congregated at the city gate, and cases were tried at a court. Whatever the situation that a person found himself in it was good to have sons and daughters to support him.

The man who has a full quiver of arrows is described as being very fortunate having the support of sons and daughters.

This Psalm speaks about children being a blessing from the Lord, so what about the single person, people who can't have children, the elderly who no longer have anyone to care for them through neglect or distance?

There are also blessings for those who are childless.

Jesus set an example for Christians to follow, not only in His teaching, but also in His own actions. As Jesus was Mary's oldest son, He had a responsibility to care for her in her old age. He didn't leave her to fend for herself. One of the last things He did before dying was to commit His mother into the care of John, (see John 19:26-27).

The early Christians followed Jesus' lead in this regard. They became known for caring not only for their own elderly and sick but also for the needy people in the communities around them.

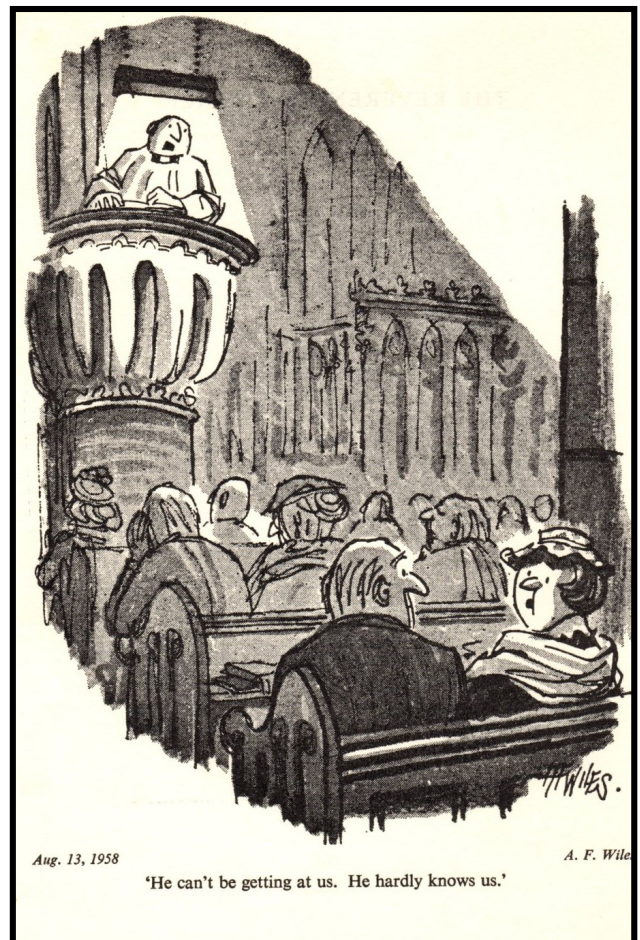
In his letter, James describes pure religion as "to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world" (James 1:27). Elderly care, caring for widows became one of the hallmarks of the early Christian Church (see Acts 6). This followed the example that religious leaders were commanded to do in the Old Testament.

But what about those widows who already had children? Was the Church expected to care for everyone's parents? Paul deals with that exact issue in his first letter to Timothy.

Paul writes, "if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God... But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever". (1 Timothy 5:4, 8).

Paul encouraged all believers to care for their elderly parents and grandparents, it was not something he viewed as optional. For Paul, neglecting one's parents in their old age was as bad as denying the faith.

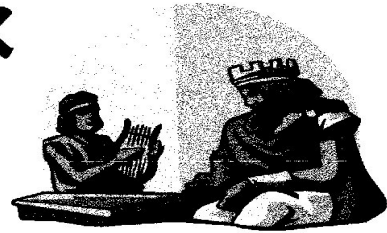
Although we live in a modern social society, it cannot even begin to cover every need, so as believers we should still seek to help those who are vulnerable, among them the single person, the widows and those who are childless. This is not to gain merit before God but as a result of our faith in Christ because 'faith without works is dead.'



# FILL IN THE BLANK

## Samuel, Saul, and David

Fill in the blank with the correct word from those listed below.



### ANSWERS

bear

David

goat

Goliath

harp

helmet

Israelites

Jonathan

lion

Philistines

Samuel

Saul

sheep

shepherd

sling with  
smooth stonessword and  
shield

1. Who was the first king of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who anointed the first two kings of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was David's first occupation? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What instrument did David play to calm Saul? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Saul was jealous of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. David was a good friend of \_\_\_\_\_.
7. King Saul and his soldiers were at war with the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. As a boy, David was attacked by a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Who was 'six cubits and a span'? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What weapon did David use? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What was Goliath's armor? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Who said, "The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine." \_\_\_\_\_

- ANSWERS
1. Who was the first king of Israel? Saul
  2. Who anointed the first two kings of Israel? Samuel
  3. What was David's first occupation? shepherd
  4. What instrument did David play to calm Saul? harp
  5. Saul was jealous of David.
  6. David was a good friend of Jonathan.
  7. King Saul and his soldiers were at war with the Philistines.
  8. As a boy, David was attacked by a lion and a bear.
  9. Who was 'six cubits and a span'? Goliath
  10. What weapon did David use? sling with smooth stones
  11. What was Goliath's armor? sword and shield
  12. Who said, "The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine." David



### FILL IN THE BLANK

Samuel, Saul, and David

Fill in the blank with the correct word from those listed below.

# Hymns, Prayers and Bible Readings.

Sunday 20th September.  
Children are a gift of God.

God of grace and glory,  
May we and all Your people know Your grace,  
That it may make us humble,  
And that it may make us holy.  
May we seek Your glory  
Here in this life,  
And in the life to come.  
In the power of Your Spirit and in the name of Jesus.  
Amen.

Psalm 127v3-5

Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD,  
The fruit of the womb *is* a reward.

<sup>4</sup> Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,  
So *are* the children of one's youth.

<sup>5</sup> Happy *is* the man who has his quiver full of them;  
They shall not be ashamed,  
But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

1 Gift of Christ from God our Father,  
Come, Spirit, come!  
Well of life and generous Giver,  
Come, Spirit, come!  
With Your light our minds enlighten,  
With Your grace our talents heighten,  
With Your joy our worship brighten:  
Come, Spirit, come!

2 Gift of Christ to guide and teach us,  
Come, Spirit, come!  
Counsellor so swift to reach us,  
Come, Spirit, come!  
Christ is Lord, so may we name Him:  
Never fearfully disclaim Him  
But to all the world proclaim Him.  
Come, Spirit, come!

3 Gift of Christ to help us praying,  
Come, Spirit, come!  
Advocate beside us staying,  
Come, Spirit, come!

In the work of intercession,  
In the healing of confession,  
In success and in depression,  
Come, Spirit, come!

4 Gift of Christ for our salvation,  
Come, Spirit, come!  
Bring to birth Your new creation,  
Come, Spirit, come!  
All the devil's work undoing,  
Christ's own ministry pursuing,  
Glory in the Church renewing!  
Come, Spirit, come!

David Mowbray (born 1938)  
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Lord God, revealer of the world's true wisdom,  
give knowledge to those who teach the growing  
generation.  
Give ability that they may communicate truth attractively.  
Give integrity to their characters, that their words and  
their lives may reveal true wisdom to all.  
In the name of Jesus. Amen.

God our Father,  
Gracious and compassionate,  
Slow to anger and rich in mercy:  
We thank You that You keep Your promises,  
And love all that You have made;  
You uphold those who fall,  
And lift up those who are bowed low;  
You open Your hand  
And satisfy the desires of Your people  
Who fear You,  
You hear our cry and save us.  
Therefore we proclaim Your goodness:  
Let every creature praise Your holy name,  
For ever and ever.  
Amen.

(from Psalm 145)