

6

AND FROM
GOD'S
FAMILY TREE





*I will be their God
and they will be my
people.* 2 Corinthians 7:16



God's Family Tree

I know the Lord loves all of us
who travel here below,
It matters not if you're a kid,
or in your teens, you know;
The middle aged are in His sight
and so are blind and lame,
The rich, the poor, the common folks,
e'en those who've come to fame.

I know He loves us all a lot,
but wonder, could it be
That old folks have a special place
in God's big Family Tree?
The oldsters aren't as pushed and rushed
and dashing to and fro
As younger ones with lots to do
and always on the go.



The older ones have time to think,
to read God's Word and pray,
They've found out what's important
and they try to live that way.
They hold beliefs they've had for years;
they know quite how to cope,
For God has put within their heart
His love, and joy, and hope.

They kinda' let the world rush by
when steps are slowed a bit,
Enjoying birds and flowers and trees
as on their porch they sit.
They've known the Lord a long, long time
and trust Him as their friend,
And know within their heart of hearts
He'll keep them to the end.

*You are a chosen people. . .
a people belonging to God
1 Peter 2:9*



Peter

I've thought of Peter stuck in jail
with guards within his cell,
And even though his chains were on,
he slept there very well.
The guards were also fast asleep,
the angel saw to that,
But wakened Peter with his touch,
or just a gentle pat,

Now that woke Peter really fast,
he sat up with a start;
The angel whispered, "Grab your coat.
You're going to depart."
His chains fell off. The door swung wide.
The gate creaked open, too.
The angel left, and Peter ran.
He knew just what to do.

He went directly to a house where
prayers were being said,
And told them he was out of jail
and that he wasn't dead.
I've often thought of Peter--
how he slept within that jail,
He must have known within
his heart
his God would never fail.

Another thing is clear to me:
the awesome power of prayer.
So, folks, just when we need Him most,
our God is always there.



The Shepherd's Psalm

No other Psalm that David wrote
is like the twenty-third;
It simply covers lots of things
like none we've ever heard.

To have our pastures green and fresh,
our waters still and clean,
Our soul restored when we have failed,
and life is tough and mean;
E'en death will hold no fear for us,
for with His staff and rod
He'll guide us through death's shadow
and lead us home to God.

A table He prepares for us
when folks would do us wrong;
He makes our cup to overflow
and gives our heart a song.
To think His goodness follows us
each day we tread this sod,
And then to know we'll get to spend
eternity with God.



The shepherd, David, knew his sheep,
he knew them like a book;
Why don't you read that Psalm again
and take another look?



*Thanks
For Passing
My Way*

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for passing my way,
You make such a difference in my life each day.

So whether I'm down, or whether I'm up,
Your love still surrounds me and fills up my cup.

With You in my heart I have nothing to fear
For if trouble comes I know You are near.

With songs in my heart and a smile on my face
I find life is good whatever my case.

So I will look up for it's then that I know
That You, Lord are with me wherever I go.

*And surely I am with you always,
to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:20*

Storms

One day the disciples were out in a boat
and Jesus was there with them, too,
But He was so tired that he soon fell asleep
and a storm was beginning to brew.
The sea got so rough with the wind and the waves
these fishermen feared for their lives,
They knew they might die if the ship broke apart;
they thought of their children and wives.

Their faith was so weak and their fear was so great,
they never had been so distressed,
They finally decided to wake Jesus up
and see what He'd have to suggest.
But Jesus spoke peace to that violent sea
while fishermen stood there aghast;
They realized then that with Jesus on board
that turbulent storm would not last.

Could this be a lesson for us here today?
We need to keep Jesus on board,
No matter what happens our ship will not sink
if we will make Jesus our Lord.

Luke 8:22-25



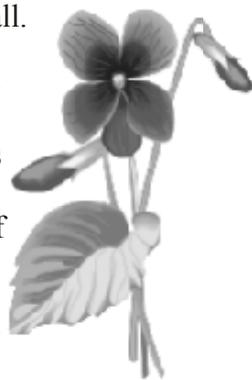
Stocks And Bonds

I wonder if you realize
that in God's Holy Book
Both stocks and bonds are mentioned there
if you'll just take a look.

It tells that Paul and Silas sat
within a prison cell
And both were put in stocks and bonds
which held them very well,
Until, of course, an earthquake came
and shook that city jail
And scared the jailer half to death
and made him sickly pale.

He saw the doors were open wide
and thought the prisoners fled,
He knew that if his boss found out
he'd probably be dead.
When he was reaching for his sword
so he could on it fall
He heard a prisoner holler out
"We're here, each one and all.

And as you know, the jailer asked
how he could know the Lord,
And so two men in stocks and bonds
and held in prison ward
Could even make their plight pay off
though things looked pretty grim
Because their faith in God
was strong
and fully trusted Him.



Acts 16:22-34

The Thankful Heart

One day when Jesus was on earth
He saw a group of ten
Who from a distance shouted out
that they were leprosy men.
They asked the Lord for mercy
and to heal their leprosy,
So Jesus told them what to do,
so they'd be clean and free.

And as they hurried to the priest
as Jesus told them to,
One man discovered he was healed
and knew just what to do.
He turned around and went on back
and knelt at Jesus feet,
And thanked the Lord that he was healed
right on that busy street.
But Jesus said, "Where are the nine?
I healed all ten of you
And you are now the only one
with thankful heart and true."



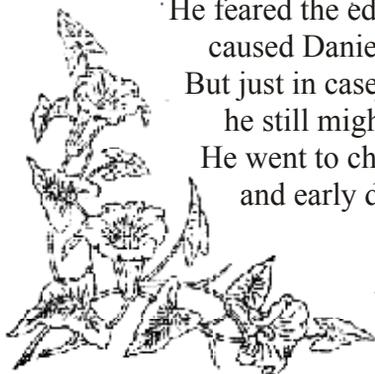
I guess today it's much the same;
not many pause to say
They're thankful for the blessings
they enjoy from day to day.
It seems they're much too busy
to give God a second thought
Until they're in a jam again
then ask Him for a lot.

Luke 17:11-19

Daniel, Saved By An Angel

I know you've heard of Daniel,
 how he prayed three times each day
Before his open window,
 for he had a lot to say.
Back then, as now, there were some folks
 who seemed afraid of prayer,
And they reported to the king
 what he was doing there.
This Daniel was an honest man
 and trusted by a king
Who made an idol for himself
 and that spoiled everything.

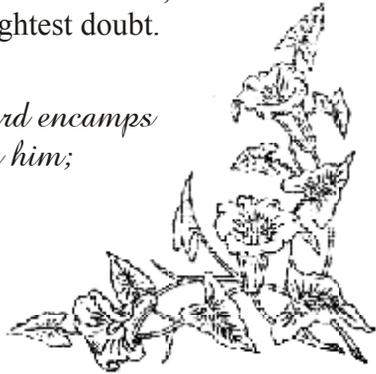
I know you know how Daniel
 was thrown in the lions den,
His enemies seemed oh, so glad,
 he'd ne'er be seen again.
The king went home, but could not sleep;
 all night he tossed in bed,
He feared the edict that he made
 caused Daniel to be dead.
But just in case there was a chance
 he still might be alive,
He went to check the lions den,
 and early did arrive.



He took the cover off the den
and called with shaking voice,
"Oh, Daniel, did that God of yours,
the One you serve by choice,
Deliver from the lion's paw
and keep you safe last night?"
And Daniel answered from below,
"Oh, king, I'm quite all right,
For God has sent His angel
so these beasts could not attack."
The king rejoiced his friend was safe,
and Daniel soon was back.

Some folks today feel they're alone
when problems come along,
And troubles have filled up the heart
where once there was a song.
Too many things have crowded in,
and then it's hard to see
The angel that God sends along
to help to set us free.
Yes, I believe in angels, friends,
I'm sure they're round about.
And often they protect us here,
I've not the slightest doubt.

*The angel of the Lord encamps
around those that fear him;
and he delivers them.
Psalm 34:7*



The Widow's Mite

We know that Jesus went to church
and taught the people there;
One day He watched the treasury
to see how people share.
Some folks who had a lot of cash
put in a large amount,
Of course, this made their coffers full
and took a while to count.

But Jesus saw a widow there
who put in just a tad,
She took two mites from her worn purse
though it was all she had.
But Jesus watched her put it in
and said to those around,
"This widow gave the most of all
of anyone I've found."

So if you're rich and give a lot
to help folks here below,
God also wants the widow's mite
from poorer folks, you know.
For those who give with love are blest
and have a song to sing,
And if you have a happy heart
it's worth most everything.

Mark 12:41-44



The Cross

I often think about the Cross
and of the words Christ spoke;
And asked God to forgive and love
that group of sinful folk.

He could have come down off that Cross
where He was hung that day,
But He would not forsake His Cause
and rather chose to stay.

It's at the Cross where people kneel
and find great peace within
For Jesus knows just how to deal
with heartaches and with sin.

I like to think the cross-piece
has a special meaning, too,
The one side points to yesterdays,
the other, future view.

And then that upright piece of wood
points upward toward the sky
Where Heaven is awaiting us
and we will no more die.

And as we kneel before that Cross
King Jesus meets us there
And gives us the assurance
that He hears our faintest prayer.



Moses

I'm quite amazed that Moses,
who at eighty years of age,
Was called to lead God's children out
and be on center stage.
Old Pharaoh down in Egypt land
did not want them to go
Because he liked the work they did
in making bricks, you know.

But after plagues of frogs and lice,
and locusts who could chew,
Plus hail, and thunder, fire, and flies,
and bloody rivers, too,
When even darkness filled the land
along with other stuff,
Old Pharaoh finally let them go
for he had quite enough.

So Moses had a job to do
that took him forty years;
Those folks were a complaining bunch
that shed a lot of tears.



But what surprises me a lot
is that the clothes they wore
Did not wear out those forty years--
they had no need for more.
They did not have big Nike shoes
to tread that desert land,
But what they wore for forty years
could take that desert sand.

Their ankles and their dusty feet
were never prone to swell;
When God produces miracles
He really does it well.
So Moses, that great friend of God,
was loved by Him so much
That when he died God buried him
and gave His special touch.

God keeps His Word; He cannot lie;
He's working still today;
So if you're treading desert sand
His Hand can lead the way.

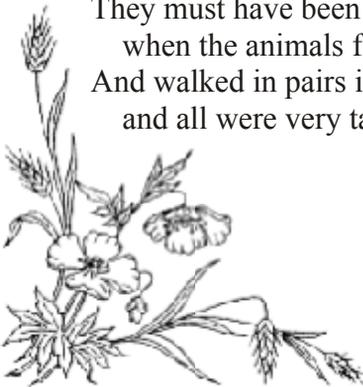


Noah's Ark

It happened many years ago
that Noah built a boat,
And God told him just what to do
so it would safely float.
It took one hundred twenty years
for Noah and his sons
To build that great big floating ship
that weighed a lot of tons.

The world was wicked at that time,
as vile as it could be;
Though Noah kept on warning folks
a flood they'd surely see,
His neighbors laughed and taunted him
and thought he flipped his lid
When they watched him year after year
and saw the things he did.

They must have been quite awestruck
when the animals first came
And walked in pairs into that boat
and all were very tame.

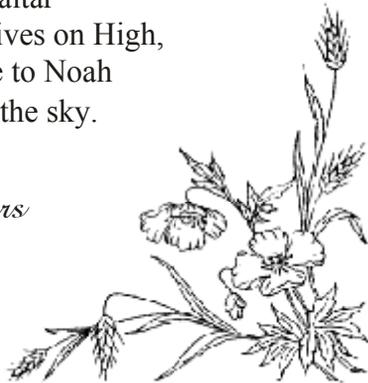


It must be God told Noah how
to store a lot of stuff
For He'd make sure both man and beast
would really have enough.

Of course we know it rained and rained
for forty nights and days
But Noah's ark was built to last
though angry were the waves.
When all the earth was flooded,
things would float a ways away,
And artifacts might still be found
by searchers yet today.

When Noah and his family
did finally disembark
They must have felt a great relief
to leave that big old ark.
Then Noah built an altar
to His God who lives on High,
And God's response to Noah
was a rainbow in the sky.

*Genesis: chapters
6,7 and 8*



The Prodigal

I know that you've heard of the prodigal son
Who said to his father, "Dad, I want to run.
I'm not much on farming and staying at home,
And if it's okay, I would now like to roam.

I've heard it's more fun if I travel abroad,
I'd like to up-grade; be a little more mod.
If you'll pay me off what you planned to give me
I'll spend money wisely, you just wait and see."

And so his old father, with tears in his eyes,
Gave cash to his son as they said their goodbyes.
And then the young man traveled far, far away;
He thought his good times were just going to stay.

So, recklessly spending the cash that he had
In time it was gone and things went pretty bad.
He landed a job feeding bunches of hogs,
He shared in their food along with the dogs.



He finally came to himself and he said,
"I'm going back home where I'll have a clean bed.
I'll tell Dad I'll work as a servant all day
If he'll give me food, I won't need any pay."

And so he trudged home looking haggard and thin
And knowing full well the result of his sin.
His heart beat much faster as he neared the gate;
His father now saw him, he just couldn't wait
To welcome his son to his home once again.
With wanderings now over he'd live like a man.

The story is told so we'll know that if we
Have wandered from God and have tried hard to flee,
He still is there watching for us every day
To come back to Him and repent and obey.
The thing your heart wants as through life you roam,
You'll find it, my friend, when you've returned home.

Luke 15:11-24



The Extended Family

We have extended families
and how we love them all--
With uncles, aunts, and cousins, too,
e'en some we can't recall;
Plus grandkids and our children
make it quite a lively bunch,
And many are the happy hours
when they come home for lunch.
God knew we needed folks to love
and came up with a way
So we could always keep in touch,
though some live far away.

I wonder if you realize
God has a family, too,
It's very much extended, folks,
including me and you.
But there are lots of other folks:
some black, some red, some brown,
Who may live far across the sea
or in a distant town.
He loves the folks with almond eyes,
and those with long black hair,
E'en those who live in simple huts--
He doesn't seem to care.

God's heart is big enough for all
who have this planet trod;
Join this extended family, friend,
and be a child of God.



Angels

I've wondered about angels,
do they ever take a nap?
When they're sent on an errand,
do they take along a map?

With all the billions on this earth
that travel to and fro,
How do they get directions straight
so they know where to go?

We've read of angels in God's Book,
it really doesn't tell
Too much about the lives they live
and things they do so well.

But then I guess we need not know
too much about them here;
We understand they work for God
and that is their career.



We're certain angels do exist
and comforting to know
That when we're in big trouble,
folks,
they know just where to go.