

“Breaking The Cycle”

By Shelby Faith



Each generation has an influence on the next generation coming along. Our family traits have been passed down from parents to children for thousands of years. Some traits passed down are positive and helpful, others are negative and can destroy

families because of the destructive behavior passed along.

Each family passes along its’ strengths and weaknesses. Some skills and abilities are passed along through inheriting an ability or talent such as having a natural musical talent or physical abilities enabling us to do well in athletics. We may even inherit certain weaknesses in our body that predisposes us to some diseases. Some things that are passed along are the result of how we live, where we live, what we do and the choices we make for our lives. Values are another thing that can be passed along, good and bad.

We don’t often realize that we serve as role models to our children and they are quick to pick up our negative values and habits, as well as our good ones. In fact, it seems that children pick up our worst behaviors and sometimes don’t catch on to the good that we want them to learn.

Some of our backgrounds include coming from families that have been divorced, raised by single parents, having a lot of anger in the household, alcohol problems, addictions, being selfish, greedy, lazy, etc. When we grow up in a dysfunctional family sometimes we model our behavior along the lines of what we see and hear. These traits are passed along to our children and their children and so on.

Haven’t you seen families where there is an alcoholic par-

ent or parents and the children are on their way to becoming alcoholics too? They may have inherited through their genes to be predisposed to drinking so it’s almost natural for them to take up the habit. I know of a family where the father was an alcoholic and was hardly ever sober. His children really never knew him as a loving father but only saw an abusive drunk father who never had a kind word for them. The three sons in the family hated the way they had to live but when they grew up they also became just like their father, drunk most of the time and abusing their children like they were abused. They became an almost exact model of what they had seen and hated in their growing up years. Thankfully, the mother of this family had a love for God and set a better example to her children. Because she was able to pass along her love and positive traits to them, they finally realized how destructive their behavior was and were able to make beneficial changes in their lives. Most of their children were able to see the difference and broke the cycle so it didn’t continue onto another generation.



I know of another family who never really worked much in their life. Maybe it was laziness or poor health, but for some reason, they just never kept a job very long, had a bad

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Personal Note

Hello Everyone,

The Feast of Tabernacles is just around the corner. Even though it comes about the middle of October, it will be here before we know it. Seems like once we get into summer time just flies.

In our part of the country we have had a lot of rain and a lot of heavy flooding in some areas. The Midwest has been inundated with water this year and California and other areas have had destructive wild fires burning. It seems like we are certainly having a lot of disasters all around the world and our nation is suffering too. I think our nation is seeing some of the things that were predicted coming to pass. God said if we didn't obey and keep his laws our nations would come under curses and it seems to be evident that God may no longer be blessing us as a nation.

I hope that's not what's happening and God will continue to let us have peace and prosper and give us good leaders to guide our country. The election is not too far away and then we'll have a new president. Hopefully, we're all praying that God will let us continue to be able to preach the gospel and spread His Word as much as we can in the time we have.

We hope that all you parents and teachers of our youth are taking every opportunity to teach God's ways and laws and instilling in them the right way to live their lives. It's so sad to see the generation that is coming along now and see the attitudes that are being developed toward God, country and each other. We want to let you know that we appreciate all your love, efforts and time to train and teach the children.

The lead article in this issue is about breaking the cycle of taking the easy way out and teaching that attitude to the following generations. We have also included several pages of fall holy day activities for the children. Hope you enjoy this issue. Have a great Feast of Tabernacles.

Until next time,

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"Minding My Own Business"



By Shelby Faith

(Stories Moses Might Have Told)

I was minding my own business in the land of Midian. There I was tending my father-in-law's sheep. All of a sudden this bush caught on fire but it didn't burn up. (Exodus 3:2) I heard my name being called. God spoke to me and said He had seen Israel's affliction. He told me I had to return to Egypt. (Exodus 3:10)

Of course I was afraid to return to Egypt since I had run away to save my life. What would I say and how would Israel be freed from slavery? God promised that He would be with me, so I had to have faith that He would do what He said. Well I asked God what should I say when the people of Israel asked me who sent me. You know what He said? He said, "I AM THAT I AM." That was the name the Israelites would recognize.

God put it in plain, simple terms. He said for me to go there and gather the elders of Israel and tell them that God had said that He would deliver them from their affliction. He said they would listen to me and we would I go before Pharaoh and ask him to let Israel go three day's journey into the wilderness so we could offer a sacrifice to God.

Then God told me something I **didn't want to hear!** God said that the Pharaoh would not let Israel go. Then I really wondered what I was getting myself into. God then gave me three signs to show Israel if they didn't believe me. (For the sake of those who don't remember this part of the story they should look in **Exodus 4:1-9** to find out what these signs were.) I always like to have a little mystery in my stories so people will look up things for themselves.

God kind of lost His patience with me because I told Him I wasn't a good speaker. But He had mercy on me and said Aaron, my brother, would help me. He said Aaron would be glad to see me after all these years. Finally I went to my father-in-law and told him all

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("Breaking The Cycle" - Continued from Page 1)

attitude toward work or someone they worked with and just learned the system and one by one figured a way to get on welfare. Once on welfare, they never looked back, didn't care that they didn't always live like other families and forgot what it was like to support their family, have clean clothes, good food, go to school and have a career. Everyone of the children in this family wound up on welfare or disability and even as grown up parents never got a job or changed their way of living. Then they wondered why their children were lazy, selfish, disobedient and didn't want a better life. This situation still goes on today. They have never broken the cycle.



Some families have a low regard for education. After all, they didn't finish school, it didn't hurt them, they were able to get a good job and support their family. Therefore, finishing high school is not a big priority for them, they don't encourage their children to do well in school, and it's okay if the children want to quit school and get a job. This was a prevalent thought back in to 40's, 50' and 60's.

I was lucky that my family didn't think that way and I was one of the first to graduate from high school. Both my parents had quit school by the 9th grade but they realized the importance of education and how it would better my life. However, money was always an issue and I didn't continue my education until I was older in life.

In families where education is important and encouraged, going to college is expected. I know of families where the parents have attended college and all their children do also, whether they have to work their way through college or parents and grandparents chip in and make sure those children continue on through college. In other words, they make a way, no matter what.

In a article in "The Good News" (Nov-Dec 2007) published by the United Church of God, there was a report of some research done about one family that had 6 members in prison at the same time. The family was traced back over a long period of time and it was found that this family trait was started by a man born in 1720, who was a lazy, godless, troublemaker, and an alcoholic. Worse, he married a woman just like him and they had 6 sons and 2 daughters. Out of 1200 descendents who were alive 150 years later, 310 were homeless, 160 were prostitutes, 180 alcoholic or drug addicted, and 150 were criminals in prison, 7 for murder. The destructive behavior of the parents were passed down from generation to generation.

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(Moses' Story" Continued from Page 2)

these events. He understood and told me to go in peace. Sure enough, Aaron met me and we were brothers again.

We gathered all the elders together and told them everything God had said and we showed them the signs that God had told me to use. The people believed us and they then bowed their heads and worshipped God.

I told you I like a MYSTERY! You have to look up the scriptures in Exodus 4:1-9. (For the whole story of these events read **Exodus Chapters 3 and 4.**)



Moses' Mystery



What are the 3 signs Moses referred to in his story?
(For the answer read Exodus 4:9)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Thanksgiving



This day has been set aside for our country to give thanks to God for all our blessings. This was proclaimed many years ago in a proclamation signed by Abraham Lincoln. Celebrate this national holiday together with your family, friends and neighbors.

Fall Holy Days

(Ages 8-12)

Leviticus 23:23-43



The first holy day in the fall season is called the Feast of Trumpets and is a memorial of the blowing of trumpets.

"...In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of the blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation." Lev. 23:24

The second holy day in the fall is called the Day of Atonement. This is a day that we are to fast and afflict ourselves.

"Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls..." Lev. 23:27

The third holy day in the fall is called the Feast of Tabernacles and lasts seven days. Only the first day is a holy day.

"...The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the Lord. On the first day there shall be a holy convocation." Lev. 23:34

Families take a trip to a feast site to worship God, meet friends, have fun and eat good food.

Immediately after this feast is the last holy day of the fall season. *"...On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation...It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary work on it." Lev. 23:36*

It is called the Last Great Day or the Eighth Day. This day pictures the time when God will judge all mankind from the words written in the Bible.



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Sometimes a shofar is blown on the **Feast of Trumpets**. Do you know what a shofar is? It is a kind of trumpet made from the horn of an animal such as a ram. Draw a picture of what you think a shofar looks like.

Ram



Trumpet



Shofar

The Day of Atonement is a "fast" day. What does it mean to fast? Write your answer on the lines below.

The Feast of Tabernacles is a time when families leave their homes and go to a festival location. Name some words that describe the feast and begin with the following letters.

F _____ (example: family)

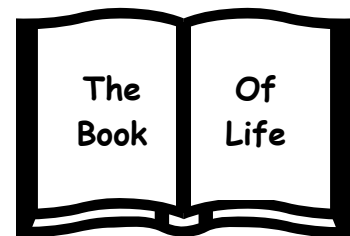
E _____ (example: excitement)

A _____ (example: arrival)

S _____ (example: services)

T _____ (example: trip)

The Eighth Day (also called **The Last Great Day**) pictures a time of judgment. All people who died in the past and were never given an opportunity for salvation will be raised back to life and given their chance. The Book of Life will be opened and everyone whose name is written in this book will live with God forever. Make sure your name is written in the Book of Life by loving and obeying God all your life. Name some things you should be doing so that God will write your name down in the Book of Life.



(Continued on Page 6)

FALL HOLY DAYS

Find the words in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

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L A S T G R E A T D A Y J
L D D M Y H W K T S H Q H
A T O N E M E N T L J G M
H N J L Z B K E N P M N F
X F K B N R P T T E K I K
H G A M G M H K S L V R R
O Z M L U C T C A B Y E P
L R K R L K H X E J Y F S
Y F T K B R G N F A N F V
D Z P Y I V I R R R B O L
A L V S N M E P G Y T R L
Y G T B P B T M C F A S T
S E L C A N R E B A T H C

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Atonement

LastGreatDay

Christ

Offering

Eighth

Prayer

Fall

Seven

Fast

Tabernacles

Feast

Trumpets

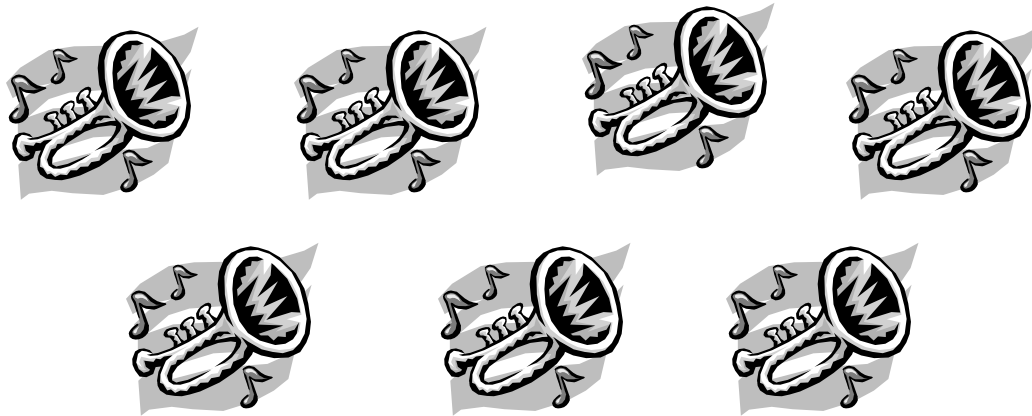
HolyDays

Fall Holy Days (Ages 4-8)

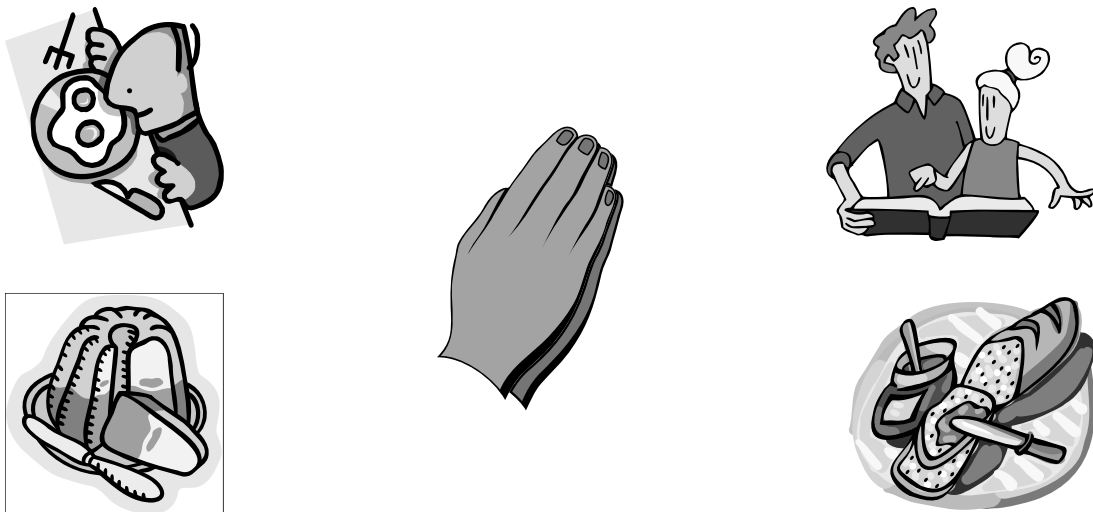
Leviticus 23:23-43

The first holy day in the fall season is called the **Feast of Trumpets** and pictures the blowing of trumpets. How many trumpets are there below?

_____.



The second holy day in the fall is called the **Day of Atonement**. This is a fast day which means we should not eat or drink for the whole day. Place an "X" on the pictures below of things we are not to do on the fast day.

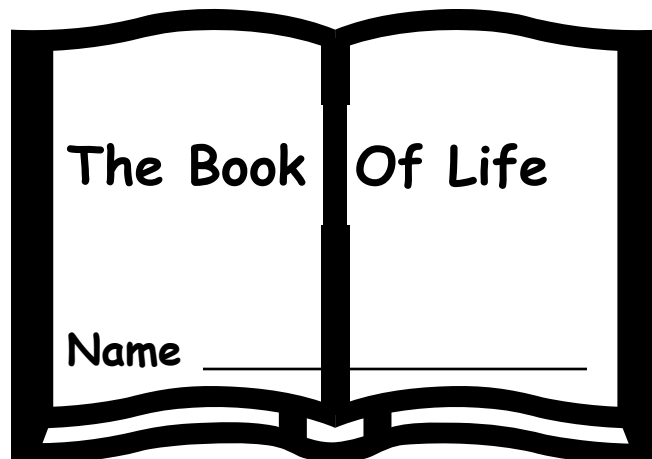


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The third holy day in the fall is called the **Feast of Tabernacles** and lasts 7 days. Only the first day is a holy day. Families take a trip to a feast site to worship God, meet friends, have fun and eat good food. Some people camp out in tents. Draw and color pictures of you and your family on the either side of the tent.

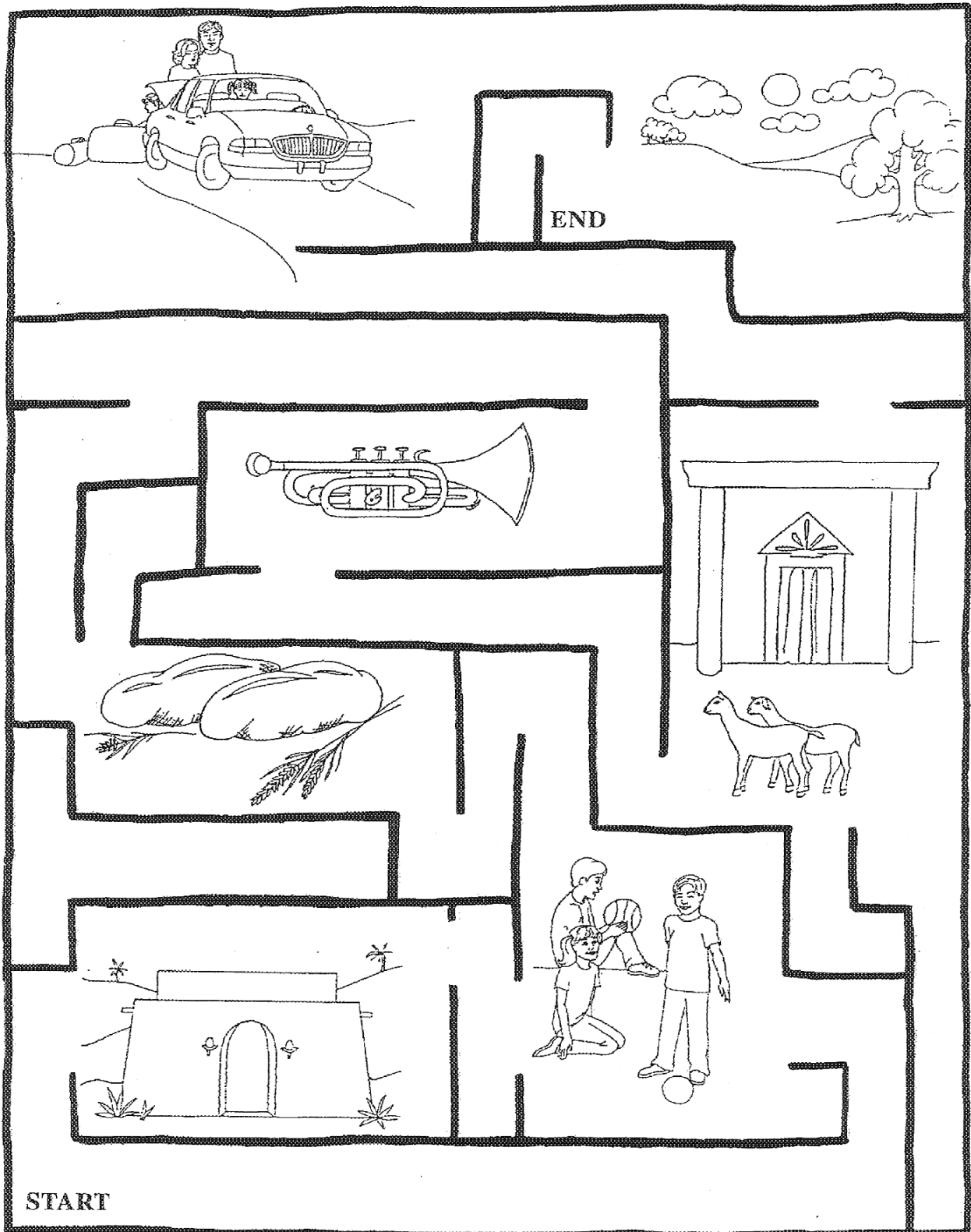


Immediately after this feast is the last holy day of the fall season. It is called the **Eighth Day or Last Great Day**. The Book of Life will be opened and everyone whose name is written in this book will live with God forever. Make sure your name is written in the Book of Life by loving and obeying God all your life. Write your name in the book below. Color the book.



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Starting at the bottom find your way through the maze and end up at the top. Don't cross over any solid line to get to the end.



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In contrast to the former story, there is another one that involves another couple that lived about the same time period. They both were deeply religious and shared good moral values. They had 11 children. About 150 years later, their descendants were approximately 1400. In those descendants there were 13 college presidents, 65 college professors, 100 attorneys, 32 state judges, 85 authors, 66 doctors, 80 elected government officials including 3 governors, and 1 vice president of the United States. Impressive results, don't you think?

The destructive cycle is repeated over and over again through generations until someone realizes that they have to break the cycle. In doing so, they have to make major changes in their lives and make sure they don't slip back into the old habits, values, traits, etc.

It's not easy but it can be done. We all have a responsibility to pass on the good values and traits but root out the bad ones. Someone has to choose to break the family destructive cycle that has been passed on.

Our choices and decisions affect not only our lives, but those of our children for generations to come. Make the right choices for your family. Bad traits, sins, values, etc. that are allowed to continue and be passed on to our children are a terrible plague on our families. And it is a terrible destructive way to live!



There is help. First of all we need to set our life straight by changing. We need to ask for help and support from others. There are family and health-care professionals that deal with these situations and can treat health problems and habitual problems. There are family counselors that can teach us how to make changes and incorporate them into our lives. We also need to ask God for His help, support and mercy to make the right changes. After all, He wants us to have good happy, healthful lives and He wants to bless us and our future generations.

In Deuteronomy 30:19 God pleaded with His people, Israel, to make the right choices by obeying Him. He wanted them and their descendants to be happy and blessed.

"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live."

Choose life for you and your future generations. Allow God to help you change if you need to. Break the family destructive cycles and have a great life as God intended for you and the generations to come.

"Word Bird Says"



What does the word "faith" mean? According to The American College Dictionary, it is defined as "confidence or trust in a person or thing, belief which is not based on proof."

SCRAMBLED PROPHETS

Here are quotes of two prophets. Unscramble the names to discover the authors.

1. "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder...Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end..."

HISIAA 9:6-7 _____

2. "I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds heaven!...to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed."

LIANDE 7:13-14 _____

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Shelby Faith and YOU!

"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers" Proverbs 17:6