

"God And Gold." Deut. 8:13-14;17.

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1-Gold in California:

- 1-The war with Mexico had just closed in 1848 when gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in the Sacramento Valley of California and a rush to California was on.
- 2-President Polk, in his annual message to Congress of December 1848, confirmed the news that had long since travelled far and wide--there was gold--much gold--in California.

2-Immediately:

- 1-Thousands of men, and women, with their children, from every part of the ~~New~~ United States left for California at the earliest possible moment.

2-William H. Seward wrote:

"The world seems divided into two classes, those going to California in search of gold, and those going to Washington in quest of office.

3-Gold seekers:

- 1-Who could not afford to do otherwise undertook the long journey overland.
- 2-Others took ship around Cape Horn.
- 3-Still others went expensively and with great danger to their health by way of the Isthmus of Panama.
 - 1-Agitation at once set in for the building of a Panama Canal, and to promote this venture the United States and Great Britain accepted joint responsibility. (Clayton*Bulwer Treaty of 1850)
- 4-Meantime, not the United States alone, but the whole world caught the gold-fever.
 - 1-A huge polyglot population descended upon California.
- 5-San Francisco became:
 - 1-A city of tents and shacks, grew prodigiously, burned down and grew again.
 - 2-Men went armed as matter of course, fatal shootings were common and rarely investigated.

GOLD...GOLD...GOLD...ABOVE ALL GIVE US GOLD.

Deut. 8:13;

Beware when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; 14;

Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; 19;

And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

1-Regarding the rich Jesus said,

Matt. 19:24;

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

2-It may seem that Jesus was particularly hard on those who are rich-----Or that those who had much possessions were not altogether treated fairly in the consideration of religious matters.

3-But if we look more closely at all that is involved:

1-We may come to find that it is not so much the possession of riches, but the way in which they are really used that matters.

4-One who makes gold his god, is the one to be censured.

1-In course of study it may be observed that one need not actually possess the gold in order to be guilty.

1-The guilty are those who continually seek after; who make the possession of gold their primary aim in life.

5-Those who want riches above all other things:

1-Find that peace and happiness is always just beyond their reach.

2-They are continually pursuing the goddess of gold, but she, like the Will-O-the-wisp is ever just beyond their reach.

- 6-Some Bible examples will illustrate the lesson in mind so at this time I introduce the first of three Bible scenes from the life of the rich:
- 1-A rich young man: Matt.19:16-22; Mk.10:17-22; Luke 18:18-23.

1-One of whom men would say that he had a very bright future.

2-This young man:

1-Seemed to be very religious.

2-He was desirous of doing good; for he came to Jesus asking what good thing he might do in order to have eternal life.

3-Jesus told him:

1-To keep the Commandments-He had kept them.

2-To sell his possessions and give to the poor and take up his cross and follow him.

4-The young man:

1-Was not willing to turn from his riches so he turned away from Christ. Evidently he loved his riches more than eternal life.

2-So we hear no more of him and as far as we know he never came back.

Gold WAS HIS GOD.

2-Scene two-a rich fool. Luke 12:13-21:

1-His efforts had resulted in great returns, in so much that he had a problem to know what to do with them.

2-This man made at least three mistakes:

1-He forgot to take God into consideration:

A-It did not seem to enter his mind that he could use a portion of his good in the service of God, and for the benefit of others.

B-He forgot to thank God for the blessings that he had received.

2-He forgot that riches do not satisfy.

A-How often do we read in the papers of those who are rich running to and fro in search of happiness and not finding it.

3-He forgot that he did not have a lease on life.

A-He had conducted himself as though he was sure of living for a long while.

3-The third example: Luke 16:19-31.

1-A rich man in torment. Luke records this story of the rich man, now finished with life and in torment.

2-What this rich man learned:

1-He learned that he was beyond the time and place of repentance.

2-He learned that his riches could not save him.

3-Like the others, this man had not lived in a way to insure his future happiness:

1-Too late he turned missionary, and wanted to preach to his brothers who were still living.

2-Too late he appealed to God for help.

3-Too late he learned that no help can come after death.

7-Friend who is your God?

1-Are you seeking gold---pursuing riches-- seeking happiness, But never able to find it.

2-Learn the example of these men who lived for gold and not for God.

3-Seek God and his righteousness first; then shall all things needful to your material well-being here in this world be provided for you.

