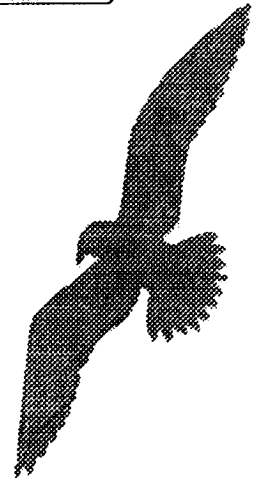


*"They shall
mount up...*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

*... with wings
as eagles."*

Isaiah 40:31



AERY NUGGETS

WHICH WAY ARE YOU LEADING?

*'Twas a sheep, not a lamb that strayed away
In the parable Jesus told;
A grown-up sheep, that had gone astray,
From the ninety and nine in the fold.*

*Out on the hillside, out in the cold,
'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd sought;
And back to the flock, safe into the fold,
'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd brought.*

*And why for the sheep should we earnestly long,
And earnestly hope and pray?
Because there is danger. If they go wrong,
They will lead the lambs astray.*

*For the lambs will follow the sheep, you know,
Wherever the sheep may stray;
When the sheep go wrong, it will not be long
Till the lambs are as wrong as they.*



"Make straight paths
for your feet, lest that
which is lame be
turned out of the way."

Heb. 12:13

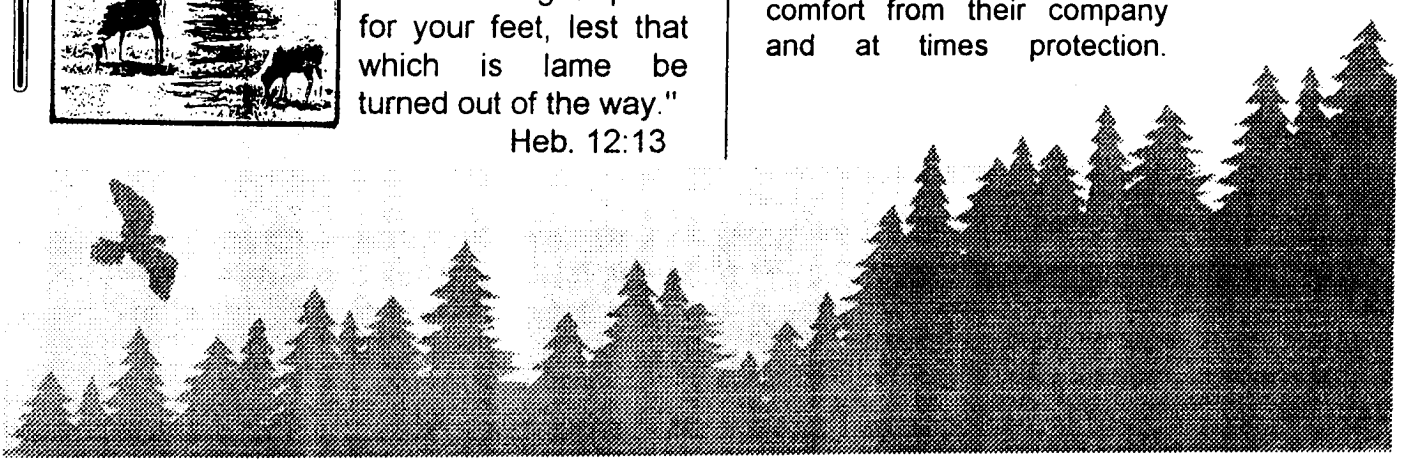
Dear Friends & Pet Lovers,

Boggie is gone! The black Spaniel who had been a faithful family ally for thirteen years reached a physical stage at which it seemed a kindness to have him put out of his misery. While the decision was hard to make, the scriptures say, "A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast." (Proverbs



12:10).

On the sixth day we read, "God made the beast of the earth after his kind," and though throughout scripture dogs are given a lowly place, the verse continues, "and God saw that it was good." (Gen 1:25). Both before and after the flood, God gave dominion over the beasts of the earth into the hands of man. See Gen. 1:26 & 9:2, and the dog especially has responded to this dominion to such a degree that many people derive much enjoyment and comfort from their company and at times protection.



Sometimes out of misplaced affection, people may be ready to give their pet, especially a dog, a place equal to a human, saying their expired dog has gone to dogs' heaven, but scripture says, "Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?" (Eccl. 3:21). No resurrection is promised to animals, as it is to man.

In His teaching missions, the Lord Jesus often used parables to illustrate the truths He was seeking to get across, but one time He employed the "dog". As His immediate mission was to the children of Israel, when a Gentile woman came seeking help for her demon possessed daughter, He put her off saying, "Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it unto the dogs (little dogs)." (Mk. 7:27).

Undaunted by His comparison, the seeker willingly agreed to this likeness and humbly made this reply, "Yes, Lord: yet the dogs (little dogs) under the table eat of the children's crumbs." (Mk. 7:28). The lowly attitude of this stranger to the covenants of God with Israel, drew forth mercy from the Lord and her daughter was healed.



At another time in seeking to illustrate the truth that our social, financial or physical condition is not indicative of how we will fare in our after life, the Saviour gave the following account about two men who were at the opposite extremes of all three conditions -- but lets hear His words from the scriptures.

"There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: and there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores." (Luke 16:19 - 21). There was no Good Samaritan to bind up the sores, pouring in oil and wine, and receiving the ministrations of dogs was no doubt the bottom rung of the ladder for this child of Abraham to whom dogs were unclean animals.



In scene II both men have died, Lazarus being transported by angels to Abraham's bosom while the unnamed rich man in Hades lifted up his eyes and saw Lazarus comforted while he was in torments.

Switching to another beast of the earth, the ass, we have in Numbers 22 the only recorded event since sin came into the world of God empowering an animal to speak audible intelligible words.

While carrying her master, Balaam, on an errand which was not in accordance with God's will,



this ass found her way blocked by a sword carrying angel. Three times this faithful, obedient animal stopped her progress and was beaten each time until, "The Lord opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times?" (Num. 22:28). As a result of their conversation, the eyes of Balaam were opened and he also saw the messenger from God who was blocking their way.

Tethered by the intersection of two roads, we have a young untrained ass, who was loosed and brought to the Lord for His entry into Jerusalem that a 500 year old prophesy might be fulfilled which said, "Behold thy King cometh unto thee: he is just and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass." (Zech. 9:9) Never did this beast carry a more precious Rider nor perform more submissively than when bearing its Creator.

Having seen the way that some of the so called "dumb" beasts of the earth have been used in the teaching of this lowly minded Teacher, or in reference to God's dealing with his people, such as Balaam, how much we can learn of the nature and love of God, especially after having sent his Son into the world to suffer death for us, John the Baptist pointed Jesus out with the words, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29)

Let us then respond to the Lord's request, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Matt. 11:29).

We have before us now the appearing of the Lord when, "they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." (Matt. 24:30). In anticipation of this great event, John could write, "I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True." (Rev. 19:11). What a solemn time that will be, when He is no longer in the role of Teacher but now Judge.

Sincerely in Him,

Leslie L. Winters

For address correction or free new name addition
please write to:
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