



Waterways in the Bible

Words to Find:

Mediterranean
DeadSea
Pison
Kanan

Euphrates
Jordan
Gihon
Jabbok
Nile

BlackSea
Hiddekel
RedSea
SeaOfGalilee
Arnon

Answers at: <http://www.openthoumineeyes.com/Puzzles.htm>

The Blind Songwriter

By David M. Levy¹

William W. Walford was a blind, English preacher of lowly birth. He did not possess a formal education, but people called him the “walking Bible” because of his ability to quote Scripture with great preciseness. Although he was unable to see the beauty of this world, the glories of heaven were opened to him through the privilege of prayer. Spending

many sweet hours in the throne room of intercessory prayer, he was moved to pen these words in 1842:

*“Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father’s throne
Make all my wants and wishes known:*

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The **Bible View**

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I’ve Dreamed Many Dreams

Author Unknown

I’ve dreamed many dreams that never came true.
I’ve seen them vanish at dawn;
But I’ve realized enough of my dreams, thank God,
To make me want to dream on.

I’ve prayed many prayers, when no answer came,
Tho’ I’ve waited patiently and long,
But the answers have come to enough of my prayers
To keep me praying on.

I’ve sown many seed that fell by the way
For the birds to feed upon;
But I’ve held enough golden sheaves in my hand
To keep me sowing on.

I’ve drained the cup of disappointment and pain
And gone many days without song,
But I’ve sipped enough nectar from the roses of life;
To make me want to live on.

Games People Play

By Bill Brinkworth

One of the best things about being a child is playing games. There is not much learned by doing them, or any great future benefit. They are just fun.

Unfortunately, people grow-up and still play similar games. These real-life games hurt real people, when they are “played”. Much of the time, they are performed to get something that is wanted; to protect one’s self from hurt and embarrassment, or a host of other reasons. Even when one is saved and becomes a Christian, the games sometimes continue to be played. Some of these adult-versions of childhood games include:



Charades. You remember the game. The person stands in front of others, and acts like another person, creature, or event. Their audience has to guess what they are conveying from their acting.

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Games People Play

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Too many play “charades” in real-life. They act as if they are someone else. Sometimes their whole life is spent acting like someone else, and you do not know who they really are. Some even act like Christians, when they are not. They “talk the talk” and “walk the walk”, at least on Sunday. The rest of the week, when they are not in front of the crowd they are performing for, they are a completely different person.

Freeze tag. That game was a lot of fun to play. When you were tagged, you had to “freeze” in the position you were in until you were touched by someone from your team.

The adult version is not much different. A person goes through their life, and maybe is saved and starts growing in the things of God. They start reading their Bible, go to church, and start obeying things the Holy Spirit shows them. Then someone does something that affects them, or they get their feelings hurt, and their growth stops until someone smooths their ruffled feathers or calms their wounded spirit. Sometimes they spend their whole life stalled at one spiritual level and never grow anymore.

Hide and Seek. The adult version of the child’s version of the game is not much different from “freeze tag” and the outcome is similar. The “player” gets hurt and is never seen again. They drop out of church, hinder their

spiritual growth, and remain spiritually the same for years. Sometimes they get “found” and get back in to a normal life, but sadly, many remain out of sight.

Simon Says. A leader would do some action and the players would do it only if the leader would say, “Simon says.” In the real world, this may be one of the popular responses to peer pressures. People dress, talk, walk, listen, believe, and live like everyone else, or the way they perceive they are expected to live. Music, clothing, and many other industries thrive on this way of life.

King of the Hill. This was one of the more violent games. One would stand at the top of a hill or mound of dirt. The others would attack him and push him off his roost and attempt to obtain his position. The game would continue until one was able to maintain his lofty position. Usually it was because others were too tired to wrestle anymore for the position.

Unfortunately, there is a real-life version of this game. Many times, it is propelled by jealousy or covetousness. Someone desired another’s job, position, or recognition. Instead of wrestling to bring the leader down, the position is sometimes obtained by ridiculing or gossiping against those they are trying to dethrone. Too many reputations have been shattered by unwarranted rumors. Too many pastors have become the subject of this

“game”.

More child-hood games could certainly be related to common, adult behavior. Dishonest, unkind, unchristian, and selfish actions are committed for many, unrecreational reasons.

Sometimes folks may not know why they take the actions they do. It is not always simple to discern why a “game” is played. Most of the time, one claims his actions are justified. “If I don’t go after his job, someone else will,” or “if I’m myself, people will laugh at me.” Some of the reactions for some situations are “natural” reactions, but to Christians, we are not to always do what is natural. “Everyone else is doing it,” is not good enough for us. We do not always have to have our way.

Studying Bible teachings and being in constant prayer can show us how we are to handle the difficulties in life. It will take patience to wait for God’s solution.

Biblically, and if one wants to please God, the end never justifies the means. It is never okay with God to do something wrong; even if the results are something that is right. God loves righteousness. His desire is that we live that way.

“If I tell the truth, I’ll get in trouble.” God is always able to take a seemingly impossible conclusion to a situation and make it possible. He is also quite capable of giving us grace and allowing us to go through a situation,

even when we think we cannot.

God made us the way He planned. He gave us the ability and personality we would need to accomplish the tasks He has for us to accomplish. He has never made a mistake and forgotten to give us what we would need for our lives. We do have what we need.

Sometimes getting through a situation and doing it God’s way gives us other tools we will need for other obstacles we will face. These tools include character and trust. We need to draw close to Him, live life the way he requires and He will see us through. We do not need to “play games” to get through life’s difficulties.

The Blind Songwriter

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*In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter’s
snare,
By thy return, sweet hour of
prayer.”*

Why not take the next hour and taste the sweetness that an hour of prayer will bring to your life? If you do, you, and those around you will savor a fresh fragrance of God’s peace and power flowing from your life.

¹ An excerpt from: Levy, David M. *The Tabernacle: Shadows of the Messiah*. The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc. 1993 Pgs. 67-68

Honesty pays, but not enough to suit some people. — K. Hubbard