

## REJECTED GIFTS

One of the reasons some people find the Bible to be just a teeny bit dry & boring is because they have not read it! Or, having read bits & pieces of it, they began in Genesis only to get bogged down by the time they got to Exodus (having left Egypt & got thru the Red Sea on dry land they surely got swamped & flooded out by the time they got to Leviticus). Trust me, those parts of the Bible that go on & on about 'so & so begat whosits" & "whatcha-macallit begatting such & such", the endless list of peoples, rules, regulations, places & so forth, can be some of the most interesting reading there is - if you know what you are looking at!

**All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 2 Tim. 3:16**

But putting it simply - most of us do not put flesh & blood on what we read. It may be that our teachers in our formative years presented the Bible (if it was presented at all) in such dry, holier than thou, unimaginative, monotone, boring way that it just left us totally unimpressed. Or maybe they were not versed enough in the use of the scriptures to make them come alive for us. Well, be that as it may. It's water under the bridge. Let's put some life into these verses. Let's put some flesh & blood on them.

**Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim. 2:15**

Let's start where most of us have at least made an effort to begin. At one time or another most of us have resolved or attempted or tried or started or something! to read the Bible cover to cover. We all (pretty much) got thru the book of Genesis. Most of you are familiar with the story that we are going to look at right now.

Why does Cain get mad at God when God refuses to accept his gift? Gen. 4:3-4 I mean, sincerity is a biggie, isn't it? Cain was sincere. He gave the best of what he was good at - gardening. Besides, didn't God place man in the Garden to "till the ground", Gen. 2:5 ? Why then was the gift rejected? But first.

Have you ever wondered how long Adam & Eve were in the Garden of Eden before they blew it & God kicked them out? Most people just want to know where Cain got his wife or who were all those people in the Land of Nod? Not us. We know where Cain got his wife. He married his sister. Hold on. Don't have a fit! (On one level the Bible is extremely uncomplicated & down to earth) We'll take care of that in another lesson. But just how long did Adam & Eve live in the Garden? I'll tell you. We don't know.

But there is one thing that I am absolutely certain of & that is this: After they were kicked out of the Garden Adam & Eve would sit around the campfire in the evenings & tell stories to their 2 little boys the subject would invariably end up with stories of their life in the Garden of Eden. Imagine it. Being the first & only 2 souls on the entire planet! Walking & talking (literally) with the Lord of the universe on a daily basis. Adam was given the privilege of naming every creature on earth. Imagine, living in an environment that was made by the direct hand of God for you specifically! Being clothed, not in some crummy fig leaves or skins (they would come later) but being bathed & covered in pure light.

**And (Jesus) was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as**