

“SET AT NOUGHT”

John Edwards

The phrase “*set at nought*” occurs 5 times in my Bible. It suggests to make of no account, to despise utterly.

WISDOM SET AT

NOUGHT. Proverbs 1 sets forth wisdom as being set at nought.

“Wisdom crieth without: she uttereth her voice in the streets: She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words...”

(vv. 20-21). Wisdom speaks everywhere, from every place, if we will but listen. However, many ignore the cries of wisdom and do not hear what she says. *“But ye have **set at nought** all my counsel, and would none of my reproof”*

(v. 25). Though *“the scorners delight in their scorning”*

(v. 22), wisdom gets the last laugh: *“I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh”* (v. 26). May we properly value wisdom, divine wisdom that comes from the word of God, and never set her at nought!

JESUS SET AT NOUGHT.

When Jesus was asked, *“Why say the scribes that Elias must first come?”*, He answered, *“Elias verily cometh first, and restoreth all things; and how it is written of the Son of man, that he must suffer many things,*

*and be **set at nought**”*

(Mk. 9:11-12). Jesus is the stone that was set at nought. The Psalmist declared, *“The stone which the builders **refused** is become the head stone of the corner”* (Ps. 118:22). Jesus applied this to Himself in Matthew 21:42: *“Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders **rejected**, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?”* Peter applied the prophecy to Christ in Acts 4:11: *“This is the stone which was **set at nought** of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.”* To refuse and reject Christ is to set Him at nought! To set Jesus at nought is to be lost! *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”* (Acts 4:12).

BRETHREN SET AT

NOUGHT. In the fourteenth chapter of Romans, brethren were being set at nought over matters of indifference to God. Paul said, *“Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind”* (v. 5). *“Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God....”* (v. 22). Yet, brethren were being despised and set at nought over these issues. *“But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou **set at nought** thy brother? for we shall all stand before the*

judgment seat of Christ” (v. 10). Brethren were taught, *“Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God”* (Rom. 15:7). May we learn to receive brethren with whom we disagree over matters of individual determination, rather than set them at nought.

Let’s not be guilty of setting wisdom, the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ or our brethren at nought!

THE DAYS OF CREATION

John Edwards

“How long were the days of creation?” is a question unsettled in the minds of some. Were they 24-hour days as we are familiar with, or do they represent periods of time thousands or even millions of years in length?

EVENING AND MORNING.

The days of creation are divided into evenings and mornings as Genesis 1:5 says, *“And the evening and the morning were the first day.”* How could a long period of time have an evening and morning?

PLANTS WITHOUT

SUNLIGHT. Ever try to grow plants with no sunlight? This

would be the situation, if the days in Genesis 1 represent long periods of time. It was on the third day that plants were created (Gen. 1:9-13). The sun did not appear until the fourth day (Gen. 1:14-19). How could plants survive through a day millions of years in length without a ray of sunlight?

“AND GOD SAID.” The phrase, “*And God said*” occurs 10 times in Genesis one and indicates instantaneous work. Psalm 33:9 declares, “*For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.*” The age theory is an insult to God’s creative power as God doesn’t need long periods of time to do His work.

ADAM LIVED THROUGH THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH DAYS. Adam was created on the sixth day (Gen. 1:26-31) and lived through the seventh. At the birth of Seth, Adam was 130 years old (Gen. 5:3). How could Adam have only been 130 years of age, if these days were long periods of time? If the days of Genesis one were not 24-hour days, when did they begin to be, since they are now 24-hour periods?

THE JEWISH WEEK BASED UPON THE CREATION WEEK. Exodus 20:8-11 records, “*Six days shalt thou labour; and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work...For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day....*” As there were six days of the Lord’s creation work and He rested on the seventh day, the Jews were to work six days and do no work on the seventh day. How do you explain this passage, if the days of creation were anything other than 24-hour days?

had spiritual heart trouble as “*his heart was lifted up to his destruction*” (2 Chr. 26:16). This leper teaches us, “*Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall*” (Prov. 16:18).

DO ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. Uzziah had no business in the temple of the Lord burning incense upon the altar of incense. Only the priests were authorized to do this incense burning (Num. 16:36-40). A failure to respect divine authority resulted in Uzziah’s being “*smiten*” of the Lord (2 Chr. 26:20). We need to learn, “*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...*” (Col. 3:17).

LESSONS FROM A LEPER

John Edwards

I’d like to recommend that you take time to read 2 Chronicles 26:16-23. This short reading provides us with some important lessons from a leper that we need to learn and appreciate.

PRIDE GOETH BEFORE DESTRUCTION. King Uzziah

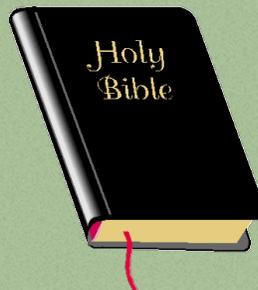
THE WAY OF TRANSGRESSORS IS HARD. The Bible teaches, “*...the way of transgressors is hard*” (Prov. 13:15). Uzziah “*transgressed against the Lord his God*” and “*leprosy even rose up in his forehead*” (2 Chr. 26:16, 19). Verse 21 says, “*And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, being a leper....*”

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