

ceived, erring, wrong-doing people He loved, and cried out: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how oft would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" (Mat. 23:37). Here was emotion expressed. But it was *intelligent* expression of feeling—not unthinking, unguided sensual impulse. It was filled with deep MEANING!

Of course Jesus had the divine power, He could have gathered the people of Jerusalem to Him BY FORCE! But, had He brought them to Him by FORCE, His whole purpose of character-building by free choice and free moral agency would have been defeated—so He *willed* that they, themselves, should make their own decisions. And He was grieved through His whole being that they rejected TRUTH and HAPPINESS, and SALVATION, and ETERNAL LIFE, and chose curses and suffering and death.

Should we ever feel deeply about things? About things which *should* be

felt deeply about, we certainly should. JESUS DID! Just before the Judas-led murdering mob came to lead Him to trial and death, Jesus went apart from His disciples and prayed. "And being in an agony, He prayed more earnestly: and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44).

If we do learn to live by "every Word of God"—by GOD'S INSTRUCTION BOOK—we will learn to guide emotions intelligently—but we shall not suppress them, neither let them run rampant and uncontrolled where they ought not.

Jesus Christ, at age 33½, was the most perfectly developed man, physically, mentally, spiritually, *and emotionally*, who ever lived. He was fully MATURE, these four blending harmoniously into the one PERFECT WHOLE MAN.

Let us study His life, follow His example, live as HE lived. And let us begin, *NOW*, to train our children, from their very first year of life on up—at whatever age they are—in the art of emotional growing up!

hero-hunter of Rome—"have been handed down from the Roman festival of the Lupercalia, celebrated in the month of February, when names of young women were put into a box and drawn out by men as chance directed," admits the *Encyclopedia Americana*, article, "St. Valentine's Day."

When Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, there was some talk in church circles of discarding this pagan free-for-all. But the Roman citizens wouldn't hear of it! So it was agreed that the holiday would continue as it was, except for the more grossly sensual observances.

But how did this pagan festival acquire the name of "St. Valentine's Day"? And why is the little, naked Cupid of the pagan Romans so often associated today with February 14? And why do little children and young people still cut out hearts and send them on a day in honor of Lupercus the hunter of wolves? Why have we supposed these pagan customs in honor of a false god are Christian?

But who was the original "St. Valentine"?

Valentine was a common Roman name. Roman parents often gave the name to their children in honor of the famous man who was first called Valentine in antiquity. That famous man was Lupercus, the hunter. But who was Lupercus?—and why should he have also borne the name Valentine among the heathen Romans?

The Greeks called Lupercus by the name of "Pan"—the Semites called Pan "Baal," according to the *Classical Dictionaries*. Baal—mentioned so often in the Bible—was merely another name for Nimrod, "the mighty hunter" (Genesis 10:9). So the hunter Nimrod was the Lupercus—or wolf hunter—of the Romans. And St. Valentine's Day was a day set aside by the pagans in his honor!

But why should Nimrod have been called "Valentine" by the Romans?

Valentine comes from the Latin word *Valentinus*, a proper name derived from the word *valens*, meaning "to be strong," declares *Webster's Unabridged Dictionary*. It means literally "strong, powerful, mighty." Could this refer to Nimrod,

THE BIBLE ANSWERS

Short Questions

FROM OUR READERS

HERE are the *Bible* answers to questions which can be answered briefly in a short space. *Send in your questions*. While we cannot promise that all questions will find space for answer in this department, we shall try to answer all that are vital and in the general interest of our readers.

Where did St. Valentine's Day come from? Should Christians allow their children to participate in Valentine's Day activities? What should I tell our children about these customs?

SCHOOLS are supposed to educate our children. Yet how many were ever taught in school where the custom of Valentine's Day originated!

Do you think Christ celebrated it? Or the apostles?

It is time we learned why children

have been encouraged to celebrate this day—when no such practice is ever so much as mentioned in the Bible!

Did you know that centuries before Christ, the pagan Romans celebrated February 15 and the evening of February 14 as an idolatrous festival in honor of Lupercus, the "hunter of wolves"? The Romans called the festival the "Lupercalia." The custom of exchanging valentines and all the other traditions in honor of Lupercus—the deified

the grandson of Ham? Indeed! We read in the Bible that Nimrod was the "MIGHTY hunter" (Gen. 10:9). It was a common proverb of ancient time that Nimrod was "the MIGHTY hunter before the Lord." *Nimrod was their hero—their strong man—their VALENTINE!*

One translation of Genesis 10:11 implies the same fact: "Out of that land he [Nimrod] went forth *being strong* and built Nineveh. . . ." The Hebrew word "Asshur," usually found in this verse, means "to be strong," to be—as the Romans would say—a Valentinus, a Valentine!

How plain that the original Valentine was Nimrod, the mighty hunter of wolves. Yet another of Nimrod's names was "Santa," meaning "Saint"—which we mentioned in the December *Plain Truth*. No wonder that the Roman Lupercalia is called "St. Valentine's Day"!

But why do we associate HEARTS with a day in honor of Nimrod—the Baal of the Phoenicians and Semites?

The surprising answer is that the pagan Romans acquired the symbol of the heart from the Babylonians. In the Babylonian tongue the word for heart was "bal" (see *Young's or Strong's Concordance*). The heart—*bal*—was merely a symbol of Nimrod—the Baal or Bel of the Babylonians!

Nimrod—the original St. Valentine—*fled to Rome*, according to ancient tradition, and was killed there for his crimes. Later the half-pagan Church in Constantine's day made Nimrod—the St. Valentine of the heathen—a Saint of the Church and continued to honor him by calling him *falsely* a Christian martyr.

But why should the Romans have chosen February 15 and the evening of February 14 to honor Lupercus—the Nimrod of the Bible? (Remember that days in ancient times began at sunset the evening before.)

Nimrod—the Baal or sun-god of the ancient pagans—was said to have been born at the winter solstice. In ancient times the solstice occurred on January 6 and his birthday therefore was celebrated on January 6. Later, as the solstice changed, it was celebrated on December 25 and is now called Christmas.

It was the custom of antiquity for the mother of a male child to present herself for purification on the fortieth day after the day of birth. The fortieth day after January 6—Nimrod's original birthday—takes us to February 15, the celebration of which began on the evening of February 14—the Lupercalia or St. Valentine's Day.

On this day in February Semiramis, the mother of Nimrod, was said to have been purified and to have appeared for the first time in public with her son as the original "mother and child."

The Roman month February, in fact, derives its name from the *februa* which the Roman priests used in the rites celebrated on St. Valentine's Day. The *februa* were thongs from the skins of sacrificial animals used in rites of purification on the evening of February 14.

Then how did "Cupid" come to be associated with this day?

Another name for the child Nimrod was "Cupid"—meaning "desire" (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, art., "Cupid"). It is said that when Nimrod's mother saw him, she *lusted* after him—she *desired* him. Nimrod became her Cupid—her desired one—and later her Valentine! So evil was Nimrod's mother that *it is said she married her own son!*

Inscribed on Egyptian monuments of antiquity are pictures of Nimrod (the Egyptians called him Osiris), who was said to have been "the husband of his mother."

As Nimrod grew up, he became the child-hero of many women who *desired* him. He was their Cupid! In the Book of Daniel he is called the "desire of women" (Dan. 11:37). He provoked so many women to *jealousy* that an idol of him was often called the "image of jealousy" (Ezekiel 8:5). Nimrod, the hunter, was also their Valentine—their strong or mighty hero! No wonder the pagans commemorated their hero-hunter Nimrod, or Baal, by sending heart-shaped love tokens to one another on the evening of February 14 as a symbol of him.

It is about time we examined these foolish customs of the pagans now falsely labeled Christian. It is time we quit this Roman and Babylonian foolishness—this *idolatry*—and get back to the faith of Christ delivered once for

all time. Let's quit teaching our children these pagan customs in memory of Baal the sun-god—the original St. Valentine—and teach them instead what the Bible really says!

"How could life have existed on the earth before Adam if the sun were created on the fourth day? (Gen. 1:14-18.)"

Many have misunderstood Genesis 1. And for that reason, their preconceived ideas contradict what the Bible plainly says.

The sun, moon, and stars had been created at the beginning (Gen. 1:1)—long before the fourth day of re-creation.

The concurrent article "Geology Reveals: Two Creations—Two Worldwide Floods" will show, in detail, how the earth *became* "without form and void" (Gen. 1:2). The rebellion of the cherub named Lucifer threw the earth into vast chaos (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-17; Jude 6; II Pet. 2:4, and other scriptures).

"Darkness was upon the face of the deep" (the surface of the earth which was completely covered by water because of the rebellion of Lucifer—Gen. 1:9-10).

Why? Because of smoke and gases that encircled the earth! The light of the already existing sun and moon (Gen. 1:1) was unable to shine through this blanket until God began to clear away the atmosphere (Gen. 1:3-5). Enough of the atmosphere was cleared away on the first day that sufficient sunlight was filtered through to distinguish day from night.

Genesis 1:14-18 says nothing to indicate that God was at that time creating these heavenly bodies. Rather, God was clearing away the remainder of the clouds and gases, thus allowing the sun, moon, and stars to *shine through* in their full brilliance upon the earth!

In Genesis 1:16 the word translated "made" would be better rendered "appoint." God appointed "two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light TO RULE the night: he made (or appointed) the stars also." On that fourth day the heavenly bodies were arranged in their present orbits and positions in the heavens. They had been *created* long before.