

Sunday, January 28, 2024

## Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

*Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish; Earth has no sorrow  
that Heaven cannot heal. —Thomas Moore*

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When traveling through the South, one might come across a confection known as Divinity. It's been around more than 100 years, and probably originated in the South because pecans were frequently used in the recipe. In the 1900s, corn syrup was a popular sugar substitute, and Divinity candy was one of the creative uses. The white candy treat, according to Wikipedia, "is a nougat-like confection made with whipped egg whites, corn syrup, and sugar. Optional ingredients such as flavors, chopped dried fruit and chopped nuts are frequently added."

One maker of "Old Fashioned Pecan Divinity" gushes that "these wonderful confections are like a taste of heaven." But no one knows for certain how the confection got its name. Probably, someone was meddling in the kitchen, stuck her finger in the goo and tasted it, and thereupon pronounced it "simply divine." The "simply" never took hold in the popular consciousness.

A candy that tastes like heaven!

Divinity has everything to please the palate and senses. You love the texture as it meets the tongue. You're crazy about the taste itself — it transports you to otherworldly scenes of delight. You like the color: pure white. You like its density: it is rather soft — not hard and brittle.

We humans love food, and we long for the foods we especially crave.

And we long for heaven, too. We are always talking about it.

We argue from the smaller to the greater. If Divinity candy can taste this good, then the pleasure of being in heaven with Jesus must be even greater and more intense.

The great hymnwriter, Fanny Crosby, was blind from birth, but she could see heaven! *Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!* These are the first lines of her hymn, "Blessed Assurance." She went on to describe heaven: *Perfect communion, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight.*

But, as long as she was in her old, unsighted body, she wasn't quite in heaven yet, Divinity candy notwithstanding. Nevertheless, she could still say that *she was watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.*

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: O Lord, I, too, am watching and waiting. Although I want to be of some earthly good, I pray I will never hesitate to express my cheerful anticipation of heaven. Amen.* Blessings,  
Lisa & Pastor Ben White

**Daily Bible Readings**

**Sunday:** Job 1-4

**Monday:** Job 5-7

**Tuesday:** Job 8-10

**Wednesday:** Job 11-13

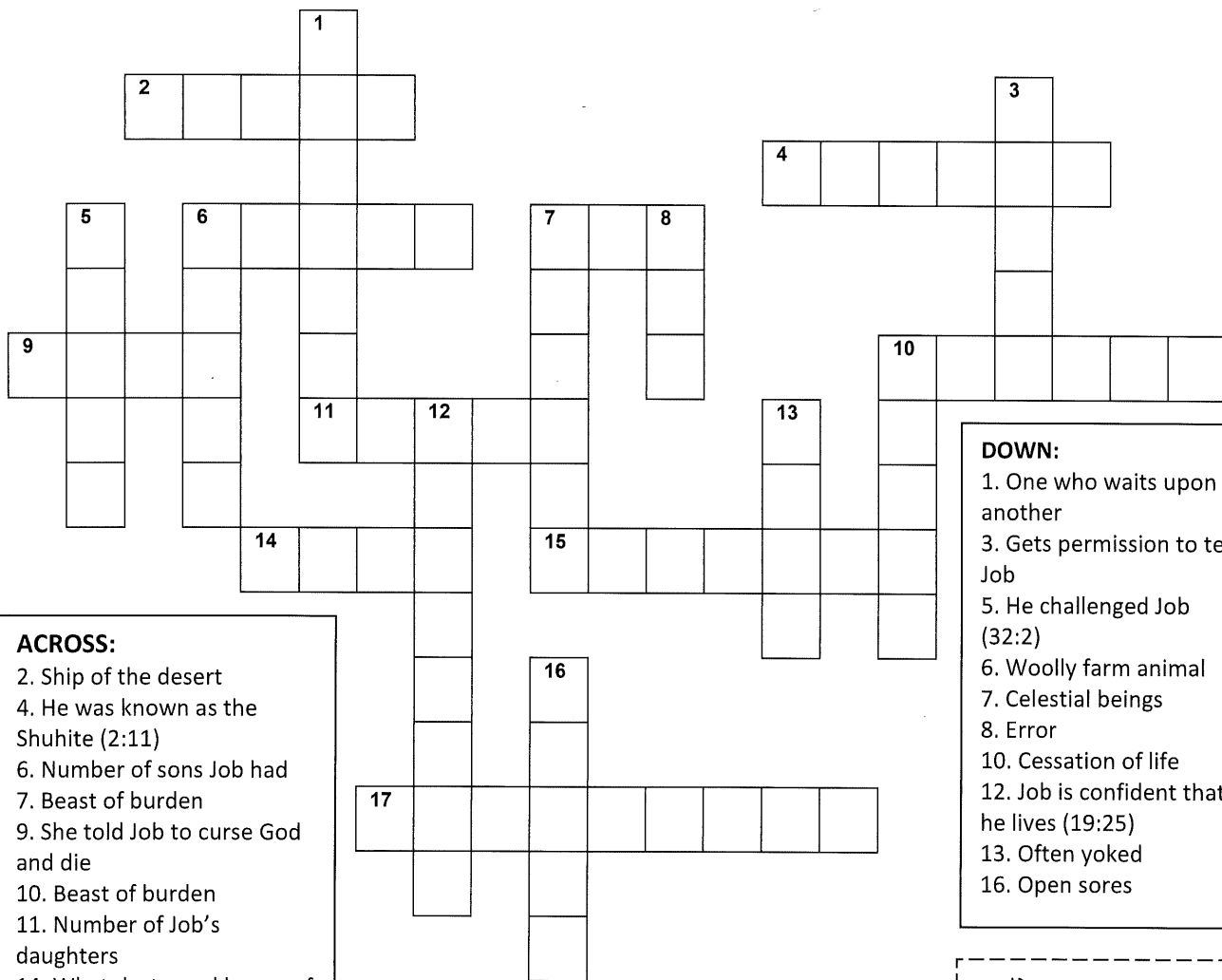
**Thursday:** Job 14-17

**Friday:** Job 18-20

**Saturday:** Psalms 7-9

## THE PATIENCE OF JOB

In our readings this week, we begin the story of Job. He was a man who had everything, and then lost everything. Although tempted to abandon his faith in God, he didn't. All the clues in this crossword puzzle come from the book of Job. Some references are provided.



**ACROSS:**

- 2. Ship of the desert
- 4. He was known as the Shuhite (2:11)
- 6. Number of sons Job had
- 7. Beast of burden
- 9. She told Job to curse God and die
- 10. Beast of burden
- 11. Number of Job's daughters
- 14. What destroyed house of Job's son
- 15. Snake
- 17. Large sea creature (41:1)

**DOWN:**

- 1. One who waits upon another
- 3. Gets permission to test Job
- 5. He challenged Job (32:2)
- 6. Woolly farm animal
- 7. Celestial beings
- 8. Error
- 10. Cessation of life
- 12. Job is confident that he lives (19:25)
- 13. Often yoked
- 16. Open sores

**ANSWERS — Across:**

- 2. camel; 4. Bildad; 6. seven;
  - 7. ass; 9. wife; 10. donkey;
  - 11. three; 14. wind;
  - 15. serpent; 17. Leviathan.
- Down:** 1. servant; 3. Satan;
- 5. Elihu; 6. sheep; 7. angels;
  - 8. sin; 10. death;
  - 12. Redeemer; 13. oxen;
  - 16. boils.

**JOB IS TESTED**

