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-- Overlook On Life --
 By WARREN S. REEVE
 Note: The idea of "Overlook" is taken from the Overlooks provided for viewing panoramas along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

In last week's Overlook we thought together about the meaning of imagination in our lives. I was incited to take up this subject because recently in my Bible reading, I was impressed again with the bold imagination of the Bible writers.

For example, the Psalmist wrote that "the mountains skipped like rams" (Psalm 14:4), and the prophet Isaiah wrote that God's servant would "thresh the mountains" (Isaiah 41:15) and pulverize the hills into chaff and that people could then take a fan and fan them and make them blow away! Isaiah also pictured God as coming with a big scales in His hand and weighing the mountains in them! (Isaiah 40:12). Similarly, he says, God will put whole nations in the scales and weigh them, and in comparison with His might, they won't amount to more than the dust that has accumulated on the scales! (40:15).

Another prophet (Nahum 1:3) likened the clouds to the dust that was shaken from God's feet!

People of other countries and cultures think in images very different from our own. The pictures that spring to their minds are sometimes quite unintelligible to us; often they appear grotesque or fantastic.

The early followers of Buddhism formulated the teachings of their master in three groups. Each group they called a "basket". Who in our day would describe a set of teachings as a basket? To a Buddhist, the "three baskets" represents the whole of the master's teaching.

Centuries went by and, just as in Christian history, a "protestant" movement drew apart from the main Catholic stream of Church History, so in Buddhism there was a reformation.

When they came to assign a name to the protestant teachings, they called it the "Greater Vehicle", in contrast with the "Lesser Vehicle" which signified the original traditional teachings. I cite this

case from Buddhist history to illustrate the way in which their minds framed mental pictures that would strike us as very odd. It is as if we were to use the word "wagon" to describe the platform of a political party or the teachings of some school of philosophy.

The Egyptians and the Babylonians had also their favorite kinds of imagery and symbolism. What, for example, is the meaning of the Sphinx?

Other Orientals were fond of numbers and pictured truth in terms of numbers. Bible readers have puzzled all through the centuries over the meaning of some of the numbers that occur in certain books of the Bible. Revelation 13:18 assigns a mystic number, 666, to the "Beast" (the Devil). Is there a deep and hidden meaning in that number?

Perhaps no imagery of the Bible is harder for us to understand and be interested in than the pictures of God and of Heaven that are given in this book of Revelation. Really however they go back to the thoughts and visions that some of the prophets had.

Ezekiel found that it took more than one picture to describe how he felt the Divine Being looked. First of all, God's appearance impressed him like a mighty column of fire, terribly bright. (Ezekiel 1:4) But of course that alone was far from being a sufficient description of God. So, secondly, in order to stress how much alive God is, he said he saw "four beasts." Now "beasts" is a bad translation of the Hebrew word that was used. The word meant "living creature". Ezekiel was trying to make plain the "livingness" of God, and if he had just said one living creature, it wouldn't have been emphatic enough. So he said there were four living creatures. The "livingness" of God was LIFE, to the fourth degree.

Thirdly, in the faith that man is created in the image of God, he

Obituaries

CECIL R. BODFORD
 Cecil R. Bodford, 47, of Burnsville, died Sunday night in a Burnsville hospital after a long illness.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 2 p. m. in the Windom Baptist Church, The Rev. H. M. Alley and the Rev. Astor Buchanan officiated and burial was in the Pete Young Cemetery.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Odette Edwards Bodford; two daughters, Miss Ina Ruth and Miss Virginia Bodford; a son, Eddie, all of the home; the mother, Mrs. Bessie Bodford of Johnson City, Tenn. and a sister, Mrs. Alma Miller of Baltimore, Md.

THEODORE ROBINSON
 Funeral services for Theodore Robinson, 58, of Burnsville RFD 3, who died Tuesday night, Feb. 5, in

wanted us to feel that God was not too different from ourselves. And so each creature had a face! — no, not just one face, but four faces! — which again emphasized the fact of face. There was a further advantage in giving each creature four faces. It meant that there was no direction where God was not facing. Nothing was hid behind the head.

To each of these four creatures was attached a wheel. Now, who in our day, would think of a wheel as a way to describe God? And if we have not read this part of the Bible very much, this language will strike us as being queer, I have no doubt. We will certainly find it hard to understand.

I interpret the wheels to signify that God is mobile and that He is not tied down to any one spot. He can go anywhere. At what rate could He travel, let us ask? As fast as the lightning, said Ezekiel (1:14); and in the same instant He could return to His starting point.

What a marvellous way of teaching us that God is here, there, and everywhere, so that we may never dare to think that we are out of His reach or out of the range of His gaze. — "of His gaze", I said. Or, rather Ezekiel was saying it.

In what language did he express it? He pressed the truth that God is seeing everything everywhere and at every minute with piercing scrutiny by saying that these wheels are "full of eyes". Full of eyes! They take in everything!

I could go on and on this subject of imagination. To me it is fascinating to study Bible imagery and to school my imagination so that it may go along, even just a little bit, with the inspired imaginations of the prophets and apostles.

IN MEMORY

In loving memory of our dear sister, Mamie Evans, who passed away May 23, 1956.

Eight lonely months it's been since you have gone and left us here so sad and lone. We miss your sweet smiling face. No one will ever take your place.

That brand new star tells us where you are. We know you are free from all pain, although our lives down here will never be the same. Memories keep you always near us. In our hearts you're always there too. God keep you safely up above, and may you rest in peace, dear one we loved.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ray

a Marion hospital following a long illness, were held Thursday in the Indian Creek Baptist Church.

The Rev. W. E. Ray officiated, and burial was in the Robinson Cemetery.

Surviving are his wife, a daughter, Mrs. Carnel Johnson of Detroit, Mich.; four sons, Mack of Burnsville RFD 3, Ed of Detroit, Mich., Clyde in the Air Force at Columbus, Ind., and Ralph of Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk; a sister, Mrs. Grady Robinson of Burnsville RFD 3; two brothers, Fred and George of Burnsville RFD 3; and seven grandchildren.

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