

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Women Heroes of the Faith Lesson 4A - Ann Judson (Wife of Adoniram Judson, missionary to Burma)

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A marriage proposal – one of life’s most important, singular moments. Much planning goes into the special event as a young man thinks of when, where, and how to propose. Traditionally there has been a big hurdle to overcome before the actual proposal gets to take place - that is the talk with the prospective bride’s father. Every young man hopes to make a most favorable impression on the girl’s father, thus acquiring his permission for her hand. In the year 1810, one young man, Adoniram Judson, chose to be fully honest rather than worry about the impression he would make as he wrote to the father of Ann Hasseltine, the girl he loved. His letter read as follows:

“I have now to ask, whether you can consent to part with your daughter early next spring, to see her no more in this world; whether you can consent to her departure for a heathen land, and her subjection to the hardships and sufferings of a missionary life; whether you can consent to her exposure to the dangers of the ocean; to the fatal influence of the southern climate of India; to every kind of want and distress; to degradation, insult, persecution, and perhaps a violent death. Can you consent to all this, for the sake of Him who left his heavenly home, and died for her and for you; for the sake of perishing, immortal souls; for the sake of Zion, and the glory of God? Can you consent to all this, in hope of soon meeting your daughter in the world of glory, with a crown of righteousness, brightened by the acclamations of praise which shall redound to her Saviour from the heathens saved, through her means, from eternal woe and despair?”

His honesty certainly put Adoniram at risk of being rejected. Would John Hasseltine actually consent to putting his daughter in such a position as this?

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Ann Hasseltine was born on December 22, 1789, in Bradford, Massachusetts. She was the youngest of John and Rebecca Hasseltine’s five children. Theirs was a happy and active home, where the children enjoyed the benefits of parents who ensured they received plenty of love, necessary discipline, and a sound education. Ann was known for her lively, cheerful, and determined spirit. Though she was highly intelligent and had an eager thirst for knowledge, she was equally fond of parties and other social gatherings. She sailed through her early years as a happy-go-lucky

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girl, giving little thought to her eternal destiny. That all changed, however, around the age of seventeen, when she began to engage in more serious reading which included, among other books, *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan and *True Religion Delineated* by Joseph Bellamy. The latter caused Ann to begin to consider the character of God. She wrote in her journal:

*"A view of His purity and holiness filled my soul with wonder and admiration...O how different were my views of myself and of God, from what they were, when I first began to enquire what I should do to be saved! I felt myself to be a poor lost sinner, destitute of every thing to recommend myself to the divine favour; that I was, by nature, inclined to every evil way...This view of myself humbled me in the dust, melted me into sorrow and contrition for my sins, induced me to lay my soul at the feet of Christ, and plead his merits alone, as the ground of my acceptance."*

Following her conversion to Christ, Ann gained a new interest in serving others, which resulted in her becoming a teacher. She regarded this work with great seriousness as she considered the souls of her students and prayed regularly for them. She also prayed for the souls of men and women around the world who were living in darkness, unaware of the salvation offered by God. She had become more keenly aware of such people after having read about the life of David Brainerd (pioneer missionary to the North American Indians.) Ann was soon to meet someone else who had a burden for the lost around the world and who would change the course of her life.

June 28, 1810 was an extra busy day in the Hasseltine home. A group of ministers and young Bible students had come for lunch following a long morning meeting. The four young men had appeared before the General Association of Congregational Ministers to offer themselves as missionaries to heathen lands. America had never sent out a foreign missionary. These young men were strongly burdened for the lost and had done their best to present their case before the ministers, hoping to gain their support. As they met for lunch at the Hasseltine house, Ann and her sisters busily served them. Ann immediately captured the attention of one of the young men, Adoniram Judson. He was quite taken with her beauty and her cheerful disposition and soon also discovered her genuine love for God, her desire to serve Him with her life, and her burden for lost souls around the world. It was not long before Adoniram wrote to Ann's father the bleak letter before mentioned, asking for her hand in marriage. Mr. Hasseltine, amazingly, replied that he and his wife would leave the decision entirely up to Ann, though they were not in favor of it. Ann carefully considered the proposal, giving herself too much prayer; and, though she received little support from family and friends, she chose to accept Adoniram's proposal of marriage

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and of missionary life. On February 5, 1812, they were married. Thirteen days later they, along with another couple, Samuel and Harriet Newell, set sail for India.

In the 1800's the only way to travel was by sea, a journey which would take months as they were entirely at the mercy of the wind. On June 18, 1812, the Judsons and Newells finally set foot on India's shore and were welcomed into the home of William Carey, a missionary from England. They were so joyful to have made it to the mission field. However, after several troubling circumstances with regard to their acceptance in India by the East India Company, they soon found themselves ordered to leave the country. This was incredibly discouraging to the young missionary couples. Where would they go? And how? They were left entirely dependent upon God for His direction. He proved to be a faithful Shepherd as He guided them through one harrowing event after another (including the death of Harriet Newell and the stillborn death of the Judsons first child) eventually leading Samuel Newell to Ceylon and Adoniram and Ann to the country of Burma (present-day Myanmar.) Ann described their arrival in a letter to her parents dated July 30, 1813:

*"We felt very gloomy and dejected the first night we arrived in view of our prospects; but we were enabled to lean on God, and to feel that he was able to support us under the most discouraging circumstances. The next morning I prepared to go on shore, but hardly knew how I should get to Mr. Carey's [William Carey's son who had been a former missionary in Burma] house, as there was no method of conveyance, except a horse, which I was unable to ride. [Ann was extremely ill at the time.] It was, however, concluded that I should be carried in an armed chair...When they had carried me a little way into the town, they set me down under a shade, when great numbers of the natives gathered around, as they had seldom seen an English female. Being sick and weak, I held my head down, which induced many of the native females to come very near, and look under my bonnet. At this I looked up and smiled, at which they set up a loud laugh. They again took me up to carry, and the multitude of natives gave a shout, which much diverted us. They next carried me to a place they call the custom-house. It was a small open shed, in which were seated on mats several natives, who were the custom-house officers. After searching Mr. Judson very closely, they asked liberty for a native female to search me, to which I readily consented. I was then brought to the mission-house, where I have entirely recovered my health."*

A week after their arrival in Rangoon, Burma, Ann wrote in her journal the following:

*"July 22. It is now a week since we arrived here...I think I do enjoy the promises of God, in a higher degree than ever before, and have attained more true peace of mind and trust in the Saviour. When I look back to my late situation, in that wretched old vessel, without any accommodations – scarcely the necessaries of life – no physician – no female attendants – so*

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*weak, that I could not move, I hope that I am deeply sensible of the kind care of my heavenly Father, in carrying me safely through the peculiar dangers of the voyage, and giving me once more a resting place on land. Still, were it not for the support we derive from the Gospel of Jesus, we should be ready to sink down in despondency, in view of the dark and gloomy scenes around us."*

Burma was indeed a dark land, not having had the light of the gospel to shine upon it. Buddhism was the reigning religion with its elaborate idolatry and foreboding pagodas scattered in great numbers throughout the land. The people of Burma faithfully, but with hearts full of fear and superstition, brought sacrifices, laying them in front of statues made by the hands of men. The Burmese government allowed foreigners to engage in whatever religion they chose, but the natives, by law, could not convert to any other religion. Adoniram and Ann had their work cut out for them, but they forged ahead trusting God.

*\*\*All quotations are taken from the book, Ann Judson, A Missionary Life for Burma by Sharon James.*

## Notes

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| KJV |
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### Women Heroes of the Faith

Ann Judson

Lesson 4A

Name \_\_\_\_\_

( \* ) if asterisk is shown in the question, scripture is required along with an answer in your own words.

1. Which books began to change the heart of Ann Hasseltine?
  
2. What did Ann do when faced with the important decision of becoming a missionary to a foreign land?
  
3. Where was Ann born?
  
4. What happen to Ann once she was saved?\*
  
5. What was the reigning religion of Burma?
  
6. Explain how Ann and Adoniram trusted God.
  
7. What missionary did Ann and Adoniran meet when they arrived in India?

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8. Why was Adoniram so upfront in his request for Ann's hand in marriage?
9. What happened when Ann and Adoniran they arrived in India?
10. What did John Hasseltine say to Adoniran's proposal?
11. Whose acclamations of Praise were Ann and Adoniran seeking?
12. Why did Ann and Adoniran become discouraged?

True/false

- Ann was an extremely ill person most of the time.
- The natives were allowed to choose whatever religion they wanted.
- Ann liked to party before she got saved.



Scripture memorization, write out these verses on the back on this page:  
2 Corinthians 5:17; Psalm 18:2; Mark 16:15  
(Must be in KJV)

Any questions?