



“Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken.” Isa 33:20

“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.” Isa 40:1,2

3 “O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.” Isa 40:9-11

“Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.” Isa 52:1

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!” Matt. 23:37

All of these verses quoted from Isaiah speak of the ultimate and glorious restoration of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel. Zion “the city of our solemnities,” (feasts or appointed seasons) “a quiet habitation” which shall not be taken down, nor its “stakes” (of ownership) removed, will enjoy the comfort, joy, and victory of complete peace and blessing from the Hand of The LORD. The day will come when there will be no doubt as to the ownership of this sacred city for “there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.” King Jesus will reign,

not only over Jerusalem, but the entire world for, “the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work (of judgment) before him. However, Jesus’ agonizing cry in Matthew can well be applied to our day, for Israel as a nation is still completely immersed in unbelief, their Messiah standing on the outside looking in. They marched triumphantly into Jerusalem after their decisive victory in 1967 but it was really not as a people believing God. We quote from Bro. Paul Smith’s Sign Posts in July 1967: “We must admire Israel’s bravery, determination, and warring prowess, but they did not go in the strength of The Lord. Many of the Jews who rushed into the old city of Jerusalem were atheists. Some were teenagers, who know very little of God’s promises to Israel..... Another point of contrast is that these people went with the armor of man. They were equipped to a great extent by the United States. But, they did not go with their slingshot of faith and the stones of grace. They used “Saul’s armor,” and this dependence is going to bring them into greater trouble.” The land which they claimed in 1967 is at the very heart of the controversy today.

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Israel became a nation in 1948, as former U.S. President Harry Truman became the first head of state to recognize them. Since that time America has been their staunch ally, but that bond seems to be eroding rapidly. Israel has been forced into one compromise after another, and the pattern of trading land for peace, which began especially in the Clinton administration has escalated to a rather frightening pace in these past few years.

When Israeli P.M. Netanyahu visited Washington in May, he very adamantly, and rather eloquently, built a wall of resistance to Pres. Obama’s suggestion that Israel return to pre- 1967 borders, in order to jump start peace talks with the Palestinians. That stance was boldly defended for a number of weeks as Israel vehemently declared that they would not cede those borders to the Palestinians, and we can well understand why, since they could include half of Jerusalem, along with the Wailing Wall, The Temple Mount, Old Jerusalem, and the tomb of Jesus.

However, as time draws closer for the Palestinians to take their case for statehood to the U.N. General Assembly, reports, such as this one from the U.K. Telegraph, indicate that there may be a severe “crack” in Mr. Netanyahu’s wall of resolve. “In a development as dramatic as it was unexpected, Mr. Netanyahu

appeared to succumb to US pressure by accepting a proposal put forward by the Obama administration that could represent a significant step towards resuming long-stalled peace talks. Despite having engaged President Barack Obama in a very public argument on the very same point in May, Mr. Netanyahu conceded for the first time that he was prepared to accept a Palestinian state that roughly follows the 1967 ceasefire lines demarcating the West Bank and Gaza.” Several demands for such concessions were made by the P.M. and “Mr. Netanyahu's skeptics are likely to see the offer as a ruse, proposed because it is likely to prove unacceptable to the Palestinians. The offer was couched in terms that, for the moment, appear to cross many of their red lines.” That skepticism seems to be confirmed by a report from YNET, as late as August 16, 2011. “Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki stressed Monday that the Palestinians are determined to promote a unilateral bid for statehood.” We are sick of the Israeli government's lies and are better off waiting until we receive our rights as a people who have suffered enormously,” he said at a dinner breaking the Ramadan fast in Wadi Ara.”

Scripture plainly states that **Jerusalem belongs to God**, (I Kings 11:36) but due to the pressures coming from multiple sources today, it is almost a certainty that it will eventually be divided, and that it will serve as the capital for two separate states. Though Isaiah promises blessing and restoration for Israel, and this chosen city, as seen in the opening texts of this feature, he also speaks of the tremendous suffering they must first endure, and this pattern is seen repeatedly throughout his prophecy. Isaiah 4:3 declares plainly “that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, **shall be called holy**,” but the next verse also asserts that it will come only “When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.” Chapter 18:7 likewise conveys the same message. “In that time shall the present be brought unto the LORD of hosts of a **people scattered and peeled**, and from a **people terrible from their beginning hitherto**; a nation **meted out and trodden under foot**,to the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, the mount Zion.”

Israel has undergone horrendous suffering because of their unbelieving idolatrous ways and Jesus Himself prophesied of the

temple that “There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” Matt. 24:2 That prophecy had its initial fulfillment in 71 A.D. when Titus destroyed the temple and Jerusalem was demolished. Greater devastation is prophesied however as Jesus further declared that “....Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the **Gentiles**, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” Luke 21:24 Daniel says that both the “sanctuary and the host,” would be trodden down for 2300 days after the daily sacrifice is taken away. Dan. 8:13,14 This is the ultimate devastation from whence Jerusalem will be resurrected, but today, her path of being “trodden down of the Gentiles,” has already begun.

Bro. Smith’s assessment of Israel looking to her allies, rather than the Lord, is still true today, but recent developments in this country should certainly be cause for wonder and concern. America, the land of plenty, has by no means escaped the current world-wide economic crisis. Americans were told not long ago that the debt ceiling must be raised, to “lower the deficit,” and if it were not, she would default on her loan obligations and lose the coveted AAA credit rating. After a great deal of political wrangling whereby politicians bemoaned the fact that neither party “got what they wanted,” the debt ceiling was raised, and default averted, but still the AAA credit rating was lost. Some have tried to “downplay” these things, but we wonder when men are going to wake up and realize, **THIS COUNTRY AND THE WORLD ARE IN DEEP DEEP TROUBLE**. Politicians are absolutely sure they can fix it, and currently the major solution seems to be “tax the wealthy.” We are a bit amused at that because the same tactic was tried so long ago in Israel when King “....Menahem exacted the money of Israel, even of all the mighty men of wealth, of each man fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and stayed not there in the land.” II Kings 15:20 The sequel to that story is that Assyria may have been placated for a while, but they returned and took Israel (the 10 tribes) captive, just a few short years later. Ch. 17:6 Make no mistake. This same parallel exists today, for this entire world is soon to be plunged into the captivity of the great tribulation. Some in this country have asserted that if the government confiscated ALL the money from the millionaires and billionaires, it would not come close to wiping out the national

debt which has now reached trillions of dollars.

7 The point, in all this crisis, is that America, as well as other nations who may indeed be sympathetic to Israel, will soon find themselves totally unable to help. We have heard some politicians already advancing the idea that “Israel must be left alone,” to fight her own battle. Other supporters also have their own problems. The riots in London reportedly started because England realized they did not have the money to continue with their entitlement programs, and had to decree a radical change in policy. Thus the recipients of those “hand outs,” reverted to violence. The proverbial “noose” is being tightened around Israel as her avowed enemies continue their threats of her annihilation, but the nations also are being pushed into the same corner of abject need. Countless disasters, often called “acts of God” which are completely beyond the control of men, have already taken a severe toll on many national coffers, and scripture plainly teaches that those disasters will become more frequent and intense. Nations are also forced to spend large sums of money on various wars and skirmishes around the world, in order to “protect their own interests.” Regime change in the U.S. may bring a reduction in the spending which has plunged America into this current abyss, but no political party will be able to completely undo the damage we have already incurred. Perhaps the best we can hope for is that there may be a short respite in these economic straits for the benefit of God’s people. The overall climate is such, that all nations will one day reach a point where they will be unable to help themselves, let alone extend any kind of aid to this little nation which is at the very center of all God’s dealings with men.

Many have asked the question over the years, “Where is the U.S. found in end time prophecy?” We personally believe the answer to be in Dan. 7:7-8 “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible,it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots...” The little horn is none other than the anti-christ. The ten horns, of which he is one, is the ten nation coalition of the end time. This coalition will be reduced to seven nations and thus corresponds to the seven headed beast which John saw in Revelation 13:1. Those seven nations must of necessity be “goat nations,” for they are the very epitome of

wickedness and evil, and will be completely eliminated when Jesus separates them from the sheep nations. Since America has long been an ally of Israel, even to this present very difficult time, we are hopeful that God indeed deems her a sheep nation. Three horns of that 10 horned beast MUST be removed, all undoubtedly sheep nations, sympathetic to Israel.

Who are the ten horns? Since the world economy began to collapse a few years ago, we have wondered if the G7 nations might hold that key, for money is surely seen to be the key to power in this present day. Following is a brief history of this coalition, quoted from “Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.”

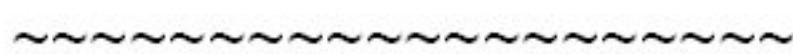
“The Group of Eight (G8, and formerly the G6) is a forum, created by France in 1975, for the governments of six **major economies**: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In 1976, Canada joined the group (thus creating the G7). In 1997, the group added Russia, thus becoming the G8. Each calendar year, the responsibility of hosting the G8 rotates through the member states in the following order: France, United States, United Kingdom, Russia, Germany, Japan, Italy, and Canada. The holder of the presidency sets the agenda, hosts the summit for that year, and determines which ministerial meetings will take place. Lately, both France and the United Kingdom have expressed a desire to expand the group to include five developing countries, referred to as the Outreach Five (O5) or the Plus Five: Brazil, People's Republic of China, India, Mexico, and South Africa.” 8

Only two more nations would be needed to complete the ten and China would be a most likely candidate due to her predominate wealth. We do not know which of these other countries might fill the remaining spot, but have wondered if the “little horn” which “plucked up three of the first horns” might be a reference to being “little” in terms of time (the newcomer) rather than stature. Prophecy is being fulfilled before our very eyes, and if these ten horns represent economic power rather than simply military might, we can well see how the U.S. and two other sheep nations, might very soon be eliminated. One more nation must, of scriptural necessity, be chosen to fill the empty slot for the prophesied ten, and then perhaps the elimination will begin.

It grieves our hearts to see Israel being trodden down as

she is, even though we know that she will be totally restored as affirmed by the opening verses of this article. We are also greatly disturbed that our own beloved nation is being systematically reduced to nothingness. However, if we truly are abiding by Jesus' assertion that we "are not of the world," fixing our eyes on heavenly things cannot be reduced to a mere cliché. We simply do not know whether or not these things will come to pass before we are taken to glory or not. We know not how much suffering must be endured even before the tribulation begins. But if we will commit our lives to The Lord as the Philadelphia Church did, we know assuredly that He "...will keep thee from (out of) the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." Rev. 3:10 We must not become "bogged" down or obsessed, with the numerous difficulties of this world, be it political, economic, social, academic, or even religious, wherein many endeavors totally ignore the urgency of Jesus' appearing. It is imperative that we hold all these things "extremely loosely" and that promises such as Romans 13:11 become our constant companion. Keep in mind that this glorious admonition is given to the **sleeping** Church, not the world which is **dead** in trespasses and sins and will never wake up. "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: **for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.**"

9



JOHN FIVE, TWENTY-FOUR

Rejoice with me, ye saints of God,
And praise Him evermore,
For this blest portion of His Word
John five and twenty-four.

"Eternal Life"-oh precious Gift.
I love it and adore.
These words my Savior uttered,
In John five and twenty-four.

No condemnation. Praise the Lord!
Who all my judgment bore,
And left for me, His written Word
John five and twenty-four.

On a bookmark

Seven Astonishments

Amy A. Copley

“And they feared exceedingly and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”-Mark 4:41.

Tonight I would speak from the book of astonishment. I read the book through, and halfway through again today, and to my utter amazement, I found it full of marvels. The words, "amazed, astonished and marveled," occur many times; and the facts that amaze one stand out in other places, though not expressed by these words.

Jesus was on a ship with His disciples. Perhaps He had spent the previous night, or nights in prayer and now was weary; for He fell asleep on the boat. A storm arose and the water began to fill the ship. Jesus being asleep, the disciples became worried; for it seemed that He was not concerned about them. So they awoke Him and cried, "**Master, carest thou not that we perish?**" Of course Jesus cared; but they did not know the extent of His care. "And He arose and rebuked the wind and said unto the sea, Peace; be still." Those words are very wonderful to me. First; He said, Peace; then commanded the storm to cease. He really is the Peace: therefore, when He spoke there was a great calm. And when He speaks peace to our troubled hearts, there is a great calm within our breasts.

“And He said unto them, Why are ye fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?” Though the disciples had been called and chosen by the Lord, and had followed Him for a while, yet they knew very little about Him. The fact that a man could make the wind and sea obey him, astonished them beyond measure. It was more than they could understand. Now, who was that man? Well, of course we know that it was Jesus. In this book of Mark, we see Christ as a servant. This is the truth which so deeply impresses me tonight; that He, a servant, should so display His power and authority that people would stand in utter astonishment at Him. Today a servant does not have much authority in his master's home. He has very little privilege of manifesting any power, though he may have some gifts and qualifications. But though Jesus Christ was a Servant, God saw to it, that He, the Son of God, should show His power and authority. People were compelled to sit back and marvel. Seven times in this

book, the word "astonished" occurs.

First, Authority in doctrine, chapter 1:22 – “**And they were astonished at His doctrine;** for He taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.” It was just after Jesus was filled with the Spirit and had spent 40 days in the wilderness, tempted of the devil, and had chosen His disciples. He began to teach in the Jewish synagogues. How wonderful! Though the Son of God came into the world and took upon Him the form of a Servant, the most lowly, condescending place that anyone could fill, yet the people had to marvel at His words at the very outset of His ministry. He spoke with authority, and not as the scribes, who had no authority. They spoke their own thoughts only. Jesus spoke the thoughts of God. Thus His ministry began with His doctrine, a new doctrine indeed, which gripped the hearts of the hearers with wonder.

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Second, Authority over death, Chapter 5:42-“**And straightway the damsel arose and walked;** for she was of the age of twelve years: **and they were astonished with a great astonishment.**” A girl fell sick and her father sent for Jesus to come and heal her; but before He reached the place, the girl died. Then this word was sent to the father, "Thy daughter is dead; why troublest thou the Master any further?" But the father had living faith in Jesus, and asked that He come. He went to the home and put out all the unbelieving ones, then took the maid by the hand and said, "**Damsel, I say unto thee, Arise,** and straightway the damsel arose and walked." Of course, the people were amazed with great astonishment. Thus the Son of God displayed His authority over death as a servant and as the Son of Man. No one could die in His presence; and no one could remain dead in His presence. When He speaks the living word of faith, the dead are made to live. Never before had there been such a man in their midst who performed, such miracles as He did; hence, those scribes, Pharisees and publicans were held responsible for knowing that Jesus was the Son of God and the Son of Man, because He proved it before their eyes that day by raising the dead.

The word "astonishment" means to be struck greatly. It means also to be put out of one's self. And it means a standing out from. Do you not see that the people were carried away beyond

the natural? They were struck speechless as it were. They were taken out of themselves and made to stand away out from everything they had ever seen, or heard before. We heard tonight in the testimonies about the supernatural workings of God. Well, the supernatural was demonstrated in their midst. But did they all believe? Only a few believed. And so it is today. Many witness the miraculous, the supernatural power of Jesus Christ; but only a few really believe.

Third, Authority over wisdom. "And when the sabbath day was come, He began to teach in the synagogue; **and many hearing Him, were astonished,** saying, From whence hath this man these things? And what wisdom is this which is given unto Him, that even such: mighty works are wrought by His hand?" - Chap. 6:2. Paul wrote afterward that Christ is the "**wisdom of God.**" The many things said of wisdom, personified in Prov. 8, refer to the Son of Man. Wisdom was speaking words of wisdom and doing mighty works of wisdom before the people. They were so astonished, that they said, "**Is not this the carpenter; the son of Mary,** the brother of James. and Joses and Jude and Simon? And - are not His sisters here with us?" Ah, yes, how can a mere carpenter, or a carpenter's son have such wisdom? was their puzzling question. If Joseph, His father knew nothing, but to saw boards and drive nails, how could He be so wise and great and have such mighty power? "And they were offended at Him." They had not had a revelation that Jesus is the Son of God; therefore, they would not believe Him. It is so. today. If Satan can persuade men that Jesus was not the Son of God, but simply the Son of Mary, they will not accept Him as their Redeemer and Savior. They deny that He died for their sins, because they look upon Him as, at best, a great prophet.

At that time Jesus said, "A prophet is not without honor, but in his own country and among his own kin and in his own house." Though the hearers acknowledged his great wisdom, and power, yet they rejected His authority. Therefore, it is written, "And He could there do no mighty work, save that He laid His hands upon a few sick folk and healed." What a solemn truth, that man's unbelief hinders the Lord from working. Then it was Christ's time to be astonished--And He marvelled because of their unbelief." He had a right to marvel. He proved to them that He was more than a prophet, and that He was truly the Son of God;

but they refused to believe.

Fourth, Authority over demons. "*And they were beyond measure astonished*, saying, He hath done all things well. He maketh both the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak" -Chap. 7:37. One that could neither hear, nor speak was brought to Jesus. Surely it is a calamity to be in such a state. When I meet such a person, my heart is filled with praise unto Jesus that my tongue is loosed. I love music and a pleasing voice, and was always grateful for a loosened tongue and an open ear. In the spiritual, it is much more wonderful. At that time, Jesus stepped on the scene and said to those deaf ears, "Be opened;" and those ears obeyed. The string of that tongue was too short and held it down; but Jesus lengthened it and set the tongue free. Sometimes it is said, "the tongue is loose at both ends," when folks speak in the flesh; but that tongue was loosed to praise the Lord. Jesus there showed His mighty power and divine authority over deafness and dumbness. And He can cure also the other senses--sight, smell and feeling. He has authority over all evil. And oh, what a demonstration also, of Christ's spiritual power throughout these events. It shows that He was truly the Son of God. He had power and authority over death, because He "*is the resurrection and the life.*" Coming from God, He was wisdom personified and imparts that wisdom to His followers. And as He showed His authority over the natural deafness and dumbness of the old creation, so He has power to heal of spiritual deafness and dumbness, and give spiritual sight and good taste to those who believe. His life quickens the entire being, spirit, soul and body.

Fifth, Authority over impossibles, Ch. 10:10:17-27.

"And the disciples were astonished at His Words" (The sixth citation also is included in this narrative.) A rich young man came to Jesus saying, "Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" Jesus loved him and showed him that no one can inherit eternal life, but that eternal life is a gift. Only those who are children of God by faith in Jesus Christ, and hence, have eternal life, can ever inherit anything from God. The Lord told the young man to sell all he had and give to the poor and follow Him, and he would have treasure in heaven. But he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved; for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said, "*How hardly shall they that have riches enter*

into the kingdom of God!" That astonished the disciples. Again Jesus said, "Children, how hard it is for them that **trust in riches** to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go thru the eye of the needle, than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom, *"And they were astonished out of measure,* saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?" Their question implies that they too were trusting in riches though they were poor.

A Jewish lady, who lived in Palestine, was in our home some years ago. I asked her to explain the eye of the needle. She said that there was a main gate by which travelers enter Jerusalem with their camels loaded with packs. At six o'clock in the evening, that gate was closed. But there was a little gate by the side of the main gate, where pedestrians might enter after six o'clock. That gate was called "the needle's eye." No camel could pass thru that little gate. Hence, Jesus showed that it is as hard for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God as for a loaded camel to enter that small gate. No one can be saved by his own strength, or wisdom, or good works. Man's wealth, of whatever kind, hinders him from the kingdom of God. Therefore, Jesus said, "*With men, it is impossible, but not with God; for with God, all things are possible.*" By the Spirit, He convicts men of their sins until they feel poor and needy; then He can save them and make them heirs in His kingdom. He gives them eternal life when they believe on His Son. He takes them thru the eye of the needle.

Seventh, Authority in the temple, Chapter 11:15-18-"And they come to Jerusalem, and Jesus went into the temple and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of them that sold doves. And *all the people were astonished at His doctrine.*" I always enjoy reading this. Jesus displayed His authority in the temple. He foreshadowed the right He will have when He returns to reign. That was His Father's house; for He was God's Son. Those doves were brought to the temple to be offered as sacrifices, and not for making money. Therefore, He drove them out, saying, "*Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.*" His conduct that day was typical of the cleansing of the temple foretold by Dan. 8:14. What a

picture of Christendom today were their pollutions of the temple. The Churches are made houses of merchandise rather than houses of worship. Everywhere, they have great gatherings to raise money for the preachers and to payoff heavy debts on costly Church buildings. It is pitiful and sad. If He should use His authority today, there certainly would be a stormy exit from the so-called houses of God. When Jesus comes, He will not only cleanse the sanctuary in Jerusalem, but he will drive out the false shepherds and set up holy shepherds-- Ezek. 34.

Two Amazements

Now in closing, I want to speak of two amazements in this book. The first is in chap. 14:33-34-"And He taketh with Him Peter and James and John, *and began to be sore amazed and be very heavy*, and saith unto them, *My soul is exceedingly sorrowful unto death*; tarry ye here and watch." The sins of the whole world were looming up before Him. As they entered the garden, He faced them and He knew that He must bear them in His own body. He had to be made sin for us and be counted a transgressor. He could not have borne the load if His Father had not comforted and strengthened Him, and enabled Him to say yes to His perfect will. Any wonder that He was *"sore amazed and very heavy?"*

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The second amazement is found in chap. 16:8-- "And they went out quickly and fled from the sepulchre; *for they trembled and were amazed* " Mary Magdalene and two other women came with sweet spices to Jesus' grave to anoint His body. But they found the stone rolled away and the grave empty. They saw also a young man sitting by, clothed with a long white garment, who said to them, *"He is risen. He is not here.* Behold the place where they laid Him; but go your way, tell His disciples and Peter that He goeth before you into Galilee. There shall ye see Him, as He said unto you." Of course, they were utterly amazed. They had not believed that Jesus would be raised from the dead. They did not understand the Scriptures.

But God could not let the body of His Son stay in the tomb. He proved Him to be His Son by raising Him from the dead. And today, people do not want to believe that Jesus was resurrected; but He was. Our justification from sin depends upon that fact. Because of it, He is able to save sinners today and work miracles, and thus amaze the people. He is still opening blind

eyes and unstopping deaf ears and healing the sick. He is still demonstrating that He has authority over death and some day, will raise from the graves those who have fallen asleep in Him. And He has given us authority and power over demons and sickness, so that we may do mighty works in His name and for His glory.

(Reprint March 1930)



Golden Keys

A bunch of golden keys is mine.
They make my days with gladness shine.
The little key of "prayer" each hour
Brings me sweet rest and wordless power.

Next to that key, I love to use
The one called "praise," a mighty fuse,
That never fails to warm my heart,
And hinder Satan with his dart.

The "Hallelujah" is a key
That fills me full of ecstasy.
One cannot feel downcast, or blue
When saints are praising God for you.

The "glory-to-God" key of mine
Rings true a melody divine
And points to *my* "salvation" key,
Which always hangs right close to me,

Reminder of my destiny
When I shall my Redeemer see,
And in His glorious image shine,
Forever more my Lord divine.

-Katherine Frost.

THREE EXCUSES

“And they all with one consent began to make excuse.”

Luke 14:18

As they did in Jesus' day, so they do now. Sinners give flimsy excuses for not accepting Christ as Savior; but no saved person receives them. Likewise, many saved persons file excuses for not receiving the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4

One excuse is that the Holy Spirit was given only by the laying on of apostolic hands, and there are no apostles today. Read your Book again, brother. Who laid hands on the 120? Ananias was not an apostle, nor prophet; yet Saul received the Spirit when he laid his hands on him. Acts 9:17,18 And who laid hands on Phillip and Stephen to receive the Spirit, before they were thrust forth as evangelists? Poor excuse indeed. In the last twenty years, thousands have received the anointing with the Spirit, without anyone laying on hands, unless it was by some other lowly Spirit-filled saint.

Another excuse is that the Holy Spirit may be received without speaking in tongues. Strange that anyone should try to slip through in this manner, since every case recorded in the New Testament spoke in tongues. And if there were no distinct, differentiating sign of the Gift of the Spirit, each one might produce any evidence suitable to himself, even as some assume to do today. Thank God, speaking in tongues is that unanswerable, distinct differentiating, scriptural phenomenal sign, which satisfies the Lord and the saints.

Another excuse is that Pentecostal people are ignorant and fanatical and do very unwise things. That is partly true. Some of us are not educated; neither were the apostles, and neither are we all uneducated; but we know the Lord and His mighty power. Pentecostal people are not all fanatics. Some individuals and some assemblies are as sane and sensible as any folks under the sun. Preachers and bishops might learn much of the Scripture from hearing their testimonies. My friend, are not some of the Church people ignorant? Are not some of your preachers very unwise? Kettle better not call pot black.

Anon

REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

“He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.” Psa. 103:10-14

This is the season wherein the hearts and minds of men often turn to knowledge, as many pursue various educations. We often hear the old adage that “knowledge is power,” and indeed we surely do advocate, encourage, and pursue the knowledge of God’s Word, a true source of power with God. However, our greatest comfort and advantage may be found in God’s knowledge of us. There are a number of things in the above text which are a direct result of that knowledge. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, but has extended to us the great mercy, found in sending His Son to Calvary, thus removing our sins from us. He has become a Father “who pitieth” (filled with mercy, love, and compassion) His children and those that fear Him, simply because **He knows** our frame and remembers that we are but dust. God has, in no wise, “excused” the sins of men, for He has laid them all upon Christ, and has chosen to deal with our frailty purely on the basis of His mercy and grace.

There are many other verses that attest to God’s knowledge of us, far beyond just freeing us from the guilt of sin. Deut. 2:7 testifies that “...he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness...,” a marvelous reference to our spiritual experience of learning the way of victory over the flesh as Paul describes that wilderness experience in Romans 7. He knows how to reduce us to nothingness that we too might learn, by experience, the victorious life of Christ.

Psalm 44:21 reveals that for He “...knoweth the secrets of the heart,” while II Peter 2:9 asserts that “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust

unto the day of judgment to be punished.” We learn from Job that “...he knoweth the way that I take:...” Of course He knows this way because He chose it for us even as He did for Job and when we, like Job, choose to walk in it, we too can victoriously shout “when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.” Job 23:10

Psalm 139 follows this same glorious pattern as David cries out O LORD, thou hast searched me, known me, knowest my down sitting, mine uprising, understandest my thought afar off,

art acquainted with all my ways, there is not a word in my tongue, but, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether, knowledge too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. V. 1-6 We too are overwhelmed, for He truly does know our frame and that we are dust, but this very knowledge paves the way for displaying the fullness of His grace in our lives.

Nahum declares that “The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.” Ch. 1:7 These words follow a long list of judgment meted out to the wicked, but, as Peter tells us, He knows how to deliver the righteous while at the same time reserving the wicked for judgment. He knows that heart of faith, like unto Job’s, which will trust His knowledge for their lives and allow Him to make decisions for them accordingly. His knowledge of us must be the determining factor in choosing our own path of knowledge today. GH



ATTENTION!

ALL THOSE WHO RECEIVE MORE THAN ONE COPY OF GRACE & GLORY IN A SINGLE PACKAGE.

We are trying an experiment with the “bundles” portion of our mailing. By sending them out in shrink wrap, we are able to save a considerable amount of postage expense. We received word that some packages were damaged last month and are thus double wrapping them for this issue. We need to hear from those who receive these multi copy packages as to the condition of the magazines when they arrived. If they are being damaged, we will again send them out in the card board boxes.

The Final Letter

Rob Hawkins

“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” II Timothy 2:1

II Timothy is the Apostle Paul's last known words, and more than just an encouraging letter to a struggling minister. This final letter is a tender plea, full of wisdom and prophecy, from a battle tested Apostle who could feel the finish line approaching. What began on the road to Damascus, was still motivated by Divine love, for we find Paul contemplates not only his eternal reward (4:8), but that of 'all them also that love his appearing'. He wanted Timothy in that group, and when you find yourself also included, as one of those who love his appearing, then this last letter becomes a very personal one.

20

If you know what heir-apparent means, you have an apt description of Timothy. It was obvious, to Paul and others, because his 'calling' had actually been prophesied. (I Tim. 1:18). 'That boy's gonna' be a preacher someday!' would be our equivalent. They became father and son. Teacher and pupil. Likeminded. Co-laborers. Paul and Timothy were all of these, and together they spent 15 years sowing, developing and nurturing Paul's gospel of grace into the Churches as well as into Timothy's heart.

They had been separated several times during that period. Paul had sent his young son to various Churches, including Thessalonica and Philippi, always so that he would, 'know your state' (Phil. 2:19). During a lengthy stay in Ephesus, Paul decided to leave Timothy there, that 'they teach no other doctrine' (I Timothy 1:3) and Paul journeyed into Macedonia. It is during this period that he writes to his young protégé in I Timothy. They re-unite, and Timothy joins Paul and others on a fateful journey to Jerusalem, where Paul would be imprisoned and eventually deported to Rome. Separated again, Timothy returns to pastor the Church at Ephesus. It is possible they never saw each other again.

It must have started to look that way for Timothy too, because he pours all his fears and anxiety into a letter and sends it to Rome. If Timothy is Paul's response. Paul feels his dearly beloved son's anguish because he writes back in v. 4, 'being mindful of thy tears'. But what is so striking about this last letter is the rest of Paul's response. The tone and rhetoric seem to say, Yes, I know it's getting hard out there, Timothy. That's why I left you at Ephesus. You're going to need to "Stir up the gift of God" -1: 6, and just so you know, 'all they which are in Asia be turned away from me'- 1:15.

Ah, yes, the Asian Churches. Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. They needed letters, but it wasn't going to be the Apostle Paul who wrote them. The corruption of the Truth had taken root and was spreading fast, putting Timothy at ground zero; and if he didn't know it already, he surely did when he finished Paul's letter. Paul did not possess any new doctrine or teaching. He had just one letter left and he spent it to 'put thee in remembrance'-1: 5, 6.

I imagine Paul had to be heartbroken when he heard the state of some of those Asian Churches. I assume he was told, but perhaps it came to him in a revelation from the Lord, exactly how a doctrine that would help shape these Churches had entered in. It was given a name in Revelation 2: Nicolaitanism. A Greek word, it means victorious over the people, aka, clergy over the laity. As grievous as that news was, it would have been unbearable if his spiritual son Timothy had turned away also. He wanted Timothy to continue his example, to teach others- 2:2, to partake in the fruits and the afflictions- 1:8, 2:6, but if for no one else, then himself. We are no different. It is 'Christ in you the hope of glory'- Col. 1:27, and it was always meant to be a personal race- 1 Cor. 9:24.

So he reminds him of his faith- v5, and of his gift- v6. But maybe verse 7 did the same for Timothy as it does for me. "**For God hath not given us the spirit of fear...**" Yes, fear is a spirit and it does not come from God. Timothy reached a place that many had come to already, and countless; indeed an innumerable company, are at

today. Paul's gospel was no more accepted in Timothy's first century, A.S. Copley's turn of the 20th, than it is right now, in 2011.

AWAKE, YE CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT . . .

And let's be frank, it's understandable: ". . . all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution"- 3:12. So be careful who you label as being 'godly in Christ Jesus'. Those requirements were handed to Paul by none other than the Lord Jesus Christ himself, (Gal. 1:12) along with the order of the Church. His Church and His Body. What does it say to us that Satan has fought it so hard; promoting so much error, injecting enough fear, that he personally saw to it that the bulk of the Church is in a sleepy Laodicean nap?

Everyone will eventually wake up, however. The rest of verse seven is a 'more excellent way': 22

“ but of power. . . ” It's true! This is the Pentecostal Power and it is just the same today. He raised Christ Jesus from the dead and the Holy Spirit can reveal what, 'eye hath not seen, nor ear heard'- I Cor. 1:9, so you will have a desire to 'live godly in Christ Jesus'. Paul called his sufferings a 'light affliction', because he had the down payment, a taste of the prize, a little bit of eternal hope from the Spirit who, 'searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God.' He discovered "that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession" - Eph 1: 13,14.

“ , and of love. . . ” It too is 'shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost'- Rom 5:5, and with it the Lord and His Truth always come first. Do you know anybody who is doing that? Do you know what it looks like? God still has living breathing examples that have stood for the truth and have this Divine love on display with one sole motivation: That Christ might be glorified, and His work of redemption magnified. Find your examples and don't ever let them go.

“ . . . , and of a sound mind.” The Greek word

for sound is *sophronismos* and it means wise discretion. The root word, 'sophon' means to moderate, to control, to chasten and correct. Correct outgoing actions and words? No, at that point the heart has been recruited- Luke 6:45. No, this 'sound mind' controls what's coming in. God created us to make choices, and hearing the truth is only one of them. Hearing it again is another. Jesus said, 'if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'- John 8: 31, 32.

"This Know Also, that in the last days....."

With the training Timothy had, if he never read past verse 7 of this last letter, he still possessed all that was needed to stand for the Truth. But we know he did go beyond that verse, for in chapter 2 Paul goes to great lengths, just as he did in I Timothy, to stress the importance of passing this message on, describing it as 'warfare'- 2:3, 4. Chapter 3 presents a description of the religious systems of his day and ours. I believe I am going to hit the pause button here. I don't want to rush to the end, but would rather you, the reader, 'think on these things'. So what became of Timothy? There are some obvious conclusions to be made, and maybe some not so obvious.

September 19th marks the beginning of another semester and the 74th year of 'declaring unto you the whole counsel of God' at the Grace and Glory Bible College. You can honor that tradition by taking some time out this month and meditating on II Timothy. Like I said at the beginning, this was going to be Paul's last letter, so it had to encourage. It had to be prophetic. It needed to make an impression.

I will be back to finish my story next month and perhaps many of us will have written the same ending.

- * Peace-makers show traits of God.
Peacebreakers those of the devil.
- * As well try to climb to the stars on a treadmill,
as to try to go to heaven by your works.
- * Pray against sin, but don't sin against prayers.

The Sin Offering

C. E. Foster.

"If the priest that is anointed do sin according to the sin of the people; then let him bring for his sin, which he hath sinned, a young bullock without blemish unto the LORD for a sin offering." Lev. 4:3

This message is in regard to the sin offering. Verses 1 to 12 refer to the priest. Verses 13 to 21 give instructions concerning the sin of the congregation. The latter part of the chapter refers to the sin of the ruler and of the common people.

The sin of the priest and the sin of the congregation demanded the same sacrifice--the bullock. The ceremonies connected with each were practically the same. In the case of the priest, or of the congregation, three things were involved. First, God's dwelling place in the midst of the assembly; second, the worship of the assembly, and third, the individual conscience. In view of these three items, three things were done with the blood. It was not only shed; but it was carried into the sanctuary and sprinkled several times before the Lord before the veil. Some of the blood was put on the horns of the altar of incense in the holy place. All the rest of it was poured at the bottom of the brazen altar. Everything depended upon the blood. How wonderful! Thank God for the blood of the Lamb! We are learning of the value of the precious blood of Jesus.

Someone has said, that every step of the way from God's throne down to this world of sin (which was under judgment) is paved with the love of God; ***"for God so loved the world, that: He gave His only begotten Son"*** to redeem men. And every step of the way back from the cross to God's throne is sprinkled with the precious blood of Jesus. We are traveling a blood-sprinkled way this afternoon. We are treading where the saints have trod. We are on holy ground. God's presence dwelt in the midst of Israel because of the blood. Praise His holy name!

A Perfect Redemption

The blood was sprinkled seven times before the Lord before the veil; therefore, because of the sprinkled blood, God could continue to dwell in the midst of Israel, even though a priest or the whole congregation of Israel sinned. That was a perfect sprinkling. Seven is the number of completeness and fullness and

speaks of a perfect redemption in Christ Jesus. Then the blood was sprinkled, or put on the horns of the golden altar of incense; therefore, the worship of assembly was not hindered, even though a priest sinned. And, even though, generally speaking, the whole congregation sinned, there was always a faithful remnant who kept up the worship of the assembly. They could do so because the blood was put on the altar of incense, the place of worship. All the rest of the blood was poured at the bottom of the brazen altar, where all the claims of individual conscience were personally met. At the brazen altar, sin was perfectly atoned for. Of course, we have it here in type; for all this speaks to us of Calvary where Jesus settled the sin question eternally. Not merely according to the estimation, or knowledge of man, but according to the estimation and knowledge of God. Oh, how marvelous this that even all the sins of ignorance were covered as well as all known sin. Atonement has been made according to the knowledge and the demands of God; so that not only the claims of man's conscience are met, but all the claims and demands of God are met as well. Yes, when we see God's side of it, it surely appears wonderful.

25

Worshippers and Witnesses

We see, in the next place, that the body of the sin offering was carried without the camp and burned; while the blood of the sin offering was carried into the sanctuary and sprinkled before the Lord. The blood and body of the sin offering speak to us of two important branches of truth. The blood carried within the sanctuary speaks to us of worship; that is, it prepares the way for us to be brought into the presence of God as worshippers. The body of the sin offering, carried without the camp, speaks to us of Christ's rejection by God and man, and of our discipleship and separation and faithful testimony. Paul refers to this in the 13th chapter of Hebrews: **"We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.** For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. **Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach."** Heb 13:10-13.

Here we see two important positions of believers. As worshippers, we are in the holy place by the holy altar of incense, where we have communion and fellowship with God and His beloved Son. As His disciples, we are outside the camp with Jesus, bearing His reproach. Dearly beloved, one position is just as needful as the other. We are within the veil as worshippers, but outside as witnesses. The place of faithful testimony and true discipleship is outside the camp with Jesus. We glorify God for the privilege of worshipping Him in the beauty of holiness before the altar of incense. We also praise Him for the privilege of suffering with Jesus outside the camp by bearing His reproach. In the case of the ruler, a male offering was demanded; but in the case of the common people, a female. The male speaks of the stronger, and the female of the weaker. When it refers to sacrifice, it speaks of priestly energy and activity. Hence, it required a more powerful application of the value of the blood of Jesus in the case of a ruler than in the case of the common people; therefore, a male was required. How wonderful that every need is met, whether it is of the ruler, or a priest, or one of the common people, or the whole congregation. Every need is met in the blood of Christ.

26

In the case of the ruler and the common people, instead of the blood being put in three different places, as was the case with the priest and the whole congregation; we find that only one thing was done with the blood. It was put on the horns of the altar and the rest was poured at the bottom of the altar. It was not carried into the sanctuary. Here the question is the individual conscience alone. It is a marvel to me, that all sin had to be atoned for at the brazen altar. That is, the sin question was perfectly settled at the Cross. The influence of sin, no matter whether it is of a ruler, or common person, could never reach the altar of incense, or the veil within the sanctuary. Thank God, its influence cannot enter into the presence of God. It was all settled at the Cross. That is why the believer is at peace with God and has perfect rest. He knows that God has nothing against him and can never have anything against him.

Poverty of Knowledge Covered

If he was not able to bring a male, or a female; if he was not able to bring a lamb for a sacrifice, he could bring two turtle doves, or two young pigeons. And if he was so poor that

he could not bring the doves, or pigeons, he should bring a little flour. Then the priest sprinkled a handful of it on the altar. In either case, whether it was a ruler, or one of the common people, of the poorest class, his sin was forgiven. When people have a poor understanding of the meaning of Christ's death, God accepts the faith they exercise in His Son as a holy Man; for God sees the blood which His Son shed. He atoned for our sins, and all that is against us was put away forever. Therefore, we rejoice in the perfect redemption wrought out by Christ Jesus.

27 During the few days of the glorious conference on the Kansas side, we have been within the glory-cloud and in the sanctuary. We have been in God's tabernacle. We have not only come to the Cross; but we have passed on into the holy place and into the holy of holies. The glory has broken over us again and again, as we have glorified Christ. We are glad that the sin question has been settled forever, and the blood has been carried into the sanctuary; and where the blood goes, sin can never go. Sin can never enter heaven; for Christ entered there with His own blood. Where His precious blood is applied, sin is barred out forever. The heart that believes on Jesus' blood is washed whiter than snow. Thank God for the eternal victory of the Cross.

Another wonderful fact, connected with the sin offering, is found in the law of the sin offering. ***"And the Lord spoke unto Moses, saying, Speak unto Aaron and to his sons, saying, this is the law of the sin offering:*** In the place where the burnt offering is killed, shall the sin offering be killed before the Lord; it is most holy. The priest that offereth it for sin shall eat it. In the holy place shall it be eaten, in the court of the tabernacle of the congregation." Lev. 6 :24-27.

Eating the Sin Offering

How carefully God regards the offering of His Son. Even the trespass offering, and the sin offering, types of Jesus Christ as the sin-bearer who once became sin, as the Word of God declares over and over again, is most holy. The meaning of eating the sin offering is a very precious and wonderful truth. We are just beginning to enter into the reality of it. The blood was poured out at the bottom of the brazen altar, and those offerings were to be eaten by the priests, not only Aaron, but

his sons also. It was strictly commanded to be eaten in the holy place. Note Numbers 18:8-11. **And the LORD spake unto Aaron,** Behold, I also have given thee the charge of mine heave offerings of all the hallowed things of the children of Israel; unto thee have I given them by reason of the anointing, and to thy sons, by an ordinance for ever. This shall be thine of the most holy things, reserved from the fire: every oblation of theirs, every meat offering of theirs, and every sin offering of theirs, and every trespass offering of theirs, which they shall render unto me, shall be most holy for thee and for thy sons. **In the most holy place shalt thou eat it; every male shall eat it: it shall be holy unto thee.**” In the most holy place, the males were privileged to eat of the sin offering; but the females were not privileged to eat of it. The daughters of Aaron partook of the peace offering; but they were not privileged to eat of the sin offering. The male speaks of a fuller measure of priestly energy than the daughters. It teaches that some are able to appropriate Christ more than others. But I am glad that this does not cut out the daughters now; in spiritual things; we may all be sons, and grow up in Christ. We may all reach that measure of priestly ministry, where we may enter in as worshipers and eat the sin offering. What does that mean? It seems to me that this is one of the deepest and most sacred things that we can experience. To eat the sin offering means that we are to take the sin of others as our own.

In these days, many have failed in our midst. Once they were going on with God; but they have fallen by the way-side and they are not with us today. Instead of criticizing these dear ones and condemning them, how much better it is to enter into the holy place and eat the sin offering in their behalf. And it is said in this connection, that the priest that offers it for sin shall eat it. Beloved, we can only offer what we ourselves have appropriated. If we can appropriate the sin offering in behalf of those who are unable to appropriate it themselves; thru our prayers and intercessions and thru eating the sin offering for them, we make the atonement of Christ effectual in their behalf. We bring those who are weak and fettered by the enemy to God and deliver them. We hold them in the holy place, and intercede for them, as if they were our own soul. Oh, what great need there is today of eating the sin offering.

Since we have been studying these offerings the last weeks in our Assembly at home, I have entered into a new light along

these lines. I have seen and felt the need as never before of eating the sin offering. Pray for God's dear people. Many are bound today. Many are blinded by the devil. The way that God has led us on-in liberty and in grace, we need to eat the sin offering in behalf of others; and there is only one place to eat it, and that is in the holy place. It is in our sacred devotion in the presence of God, as we are melted down before Him that we can eat the sin offering in behalf of the others. Later we will see them coming back.

May His blessing rest upon His people. I thank God for the pleasure and privilege of being here again and enjoying the fellowship of the saints. I do not believe there is another place like it on earth. I have found the company with whom I want to stay forever. I expect to go on with you, beloveds, and be ready to meet Jesus when He comes and share in that highest glory which is going to be bestowed upon the overcomers. As we partake of these wonderful emblems this afternoon, may we have a deeper insight into the sufferings of Christ. May we see the oneness of Christ's people and may we be fully ready for His coming. God bless you. Amen!

(Reprint from February 1930)

None But Thine

*Christ has no tongue today, as once of old,
To tell the story of His love divine
Tho' there is still the need for preacher bold,
He has no tongue to tell it out, but thine.*

*Christ has no feet His lost sheep to pursue,
To go where they in sin and sorrow pine,
His love is still as strong and kind and true;
But now He has no feet to go, but thine.*

*Christ has no hands today, as once He had,
To feed His people with the bread and wine;
For tho' He still has pow'r to make them glad,
He has no hand to minister, but thine.*

*Then wilt thou not give voice and hands and feet?
Wilt Thou not call and say, "O Lord, take mine?
I'll go and do and speak thy Word so sweet."
He has no tongue, no hands, no feet, but thine.*

Mary M. Bodie

PAUL'S GOSPEL

IN THE SONG OF SOLOMON

Alice S. Mooneyhan

Chapter 8 Concluded

8:4. "I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, until He please." This sounds like an imitation of the words of the Shulamite in 2:7 and 3:5. "I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love till He please." Verse 4 of our chapter lacks the depth which the verse just quoted conveys.

8:5. "Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her Beloved?" I believe we can find the answer to this question in Revelation 7:9-14. "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." This is the second rank of the Church. They will be taken to heaven some time during the first half of the seven years of judgment.

"I raised thee up under the apple tree; there thy mother brought thee forth; there she brought thee forth that bare thee." This seems to be the Spirit speaking. The apple tree represents Christ, according to chapter 2:3 -- "As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my Beloved among the sons. I sat down under His shadow with great delight, and His fruit was sweet to my taste." The Bride had availed herself of the opportunity of eating of the fruit of the tree. This woman of chapter eight failed to make use of the same privilege given her, resulting in her eternal loss of spiritual inheritance.

8:6. "Set me as a seal upon Thine heart, as a seal upon Thine arm; for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave; the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame." At last she realizes the value of the love of Christ, but she did not give Him the love He deserved. Now she sees her loss. Although another has won the place which she desired, yet she wants to be remembered. This is implied in the statement, "Set me as a seal upon Thine heart, as a seal upon Thine arm." This disappointment will be realized when the first trumpet sounds and the overcomers will respond to the

summons. It may be as it was when God spoke from Heaven, and Jesus understood the words which were spoken. "Some said that it thundered; others said, an angel spoke to Him" - John 12:29. No doubt all believers will hear the sound of the trumpet, but not all will understand the sound nor respond to the call at that time.

8:7. "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it; if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned." The second rank in the Church is the group represented by the servant class. Martha considered service as preeminent. At the supper which they made for Jesus, Martha served - John 12:1-3. This is a picture of the saints in glory in their respective places. Mary represents the Bride who will worship her Lord, and the whole "house will be filled with the odor of her ointment." Martha represents the saints who are satisfied with serving the Lord, and know no closer relationship. Lazarus represents the guests or friends who will be invited to the wedding. This woman (second rank) has found out at last that she cannot buy His love with anything -- not even with service. He gives His love freely to those who will accept it. Praise the Lord!

THE THIRD RANK IN THE CHURCH

(8: 8-10)

8:8. "We have a little sister, and she hath no breasts: what shall we do for our sister in the day when she shall be spoken for?" This immature woman represents the third rank of the Church, the 144,000 out of the 12 tribes of Israel - Revelation 7:4. Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles, yet because all believers in this age are in the Body of Christ, he was only exercising his God-given authority when writing the epistle to the Hebrews, he expresses the same characteristic as the typical picture in chapter 5:2: "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."

When Paul went to Jerusalem on his last journey there, James and the elders said, "Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of the Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law" - Acts 21:20. Later, Paul wrote to this group to wean them away from the ceremonial law. They were still observing shadows, offering animal sacrifices in Jerusalem,

though Christ had been offered once for all. In Hebrews, Paul sets forth Christ as the Substance and the fulfillment of all the Old Testament shadows, which could not take away sins. The Hebrew believers were unable to instruct others in the way of truth, as long as they were still observing the shadows. They could not nourish others until they themselves were mature. They had “no breasts.”

8:9. “If she be a wall, we will build upon her a palace of silver; and if she be a door, we will enclose her with boards of cedar.” This description tallies with Revelation 21, where it speaks of the wall of the city. The foundations have the names of the twelve apostles of Lamb, and the gates have the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. So this group, which is the third rank, constitutes the wall of the holy city. They are farther away in fellowship than any of the others in the heavenly group. They will be friends, guests, at the wedding.

8:10. “I am a wall, and my breasts like towers: then was I in his eyes as one that found favor.” This verse evidently implies that this group will have reached the state of maturity before translation. Another reference to the third rank is given in Revelation 12:5, where the birth and catching up of the man child signify the translation of this rank. These will be the transition saints who will be interested in the affairs of the Kingdom of Christ on earth, and will have authority under Christ to “rule all nations with a rod of iron.” This does not mean that they will have a harsh dictatorship, but theirs will be a rule of righteousness, with no tolerance of evil.

ISRAEL, THE RESTORED WIFE OF JEHOVAH

(8:11-14)

8:11. “Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon; he let out the vineyard unto keepers; every one for the fruit thereof was to bring a thousand pieces of silver.” Israel is well known in Scripture as the vineyard of the Lord. In Matthew 21, Jesus gave a parable concerning a vineyard which was let out to keepers, but they failed to render any fruit to their master. After beating the servants which were sent to collect from them and killing the son, the parable shows that the master would destroy those miserable husbandmen and let out his vineyard to others who would render to him his due.

This, of course, is a picture of the nation of Israel who

rejected God's Son, Jesus as their Messiah, and were in turn rejected and scattered. When Christ returns and is revealed from heaven, there will be a remnant of Israel who will receive Him. They will constitute a newborn nation, for they will be a new creation. This eleventh verse gives a vision of the Kingdom Age in which Israel will be restored unto the Lord and will render to Him "a thousand pieces of silver." This means that He will receive from them the full fruits of redemption. Silver, in the Scriptures, always symbolizes redemption. What a glorious day that will be when Israel will be called "the redeemed of the Lord" - Isaiah 62:12. "And it shall be at that day, saith the Lord, that thou shalt call me Ishi (Husband), and shalt call me no more Baali (Lord)." Hosea 2:16.

8:12. "My vineyard, which is Mine, is before Me: thou, O Solomon, must have a thousand, and those that keep the fruit thereof two hundred." This verse indicates that Israel will come into her own in the Millennial Age. When she renders to Christ that which belongs to Him, she herself will be enriched. The law required restitution to be made, equal to a fifth part more than was taken away. But, under grace, both God and man received five times more than the loss sustained - Romans 5. Here we see that Israel will render this full measure to Christ in the thousand pieces of silver; that is, Christ will receive five times more than the loss sustained through the failure of Israel under the law. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot" - I Peter 1:18-19. Christ will receive abundance of honor and praise and glory from Israel when they recognize and acknowledge Him as their promised Messiah.

8:13. "Thou that dwellest in the gardens, the companions hearken to Thy voice; cause me to hear it." This verse seems to be an expression of the longing of Israel, for the close fellowship with the Lord will be manifested by the companions who evidently represent the 144,000 out of Israel. As we said before, the third rank in the Church will be the transition company -- a connecting link between the church in Heaven and the restored nation of Israel on earth.

8:14. "Make haste, my Beloved, and be Thou like to a

roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices.” In the Millennial Age, Israel will be restored to her former place as the wife of Jehovah. “And I will betroth thee unto Me forever; yea, I will betroth thee unto Me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving-kindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto Me in faithfulness; and thou shalt know the Lord” - Hosea 2:19-20. Christ will be to them the mighty God, as in the days when they came out of Egypt.

At the present time, “As concerning the Gospel, they are enemies for your sakes, but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers’ sakes” - Romans 11:28. As the time draws near for God to turn back to Israel, the Holy Spirit will work in their hearts to cause them to read the promises of God concerning their restoration; and their hearts will yearn for the fulfillment of those prophecies. The tribulation that will come upon them will press them out of measure, so that they will cry unto God in their distress. When He is revealed to them from Heaven, they will exclaim, “Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him” - Isaiah 25:9.

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THE END

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### HIS WORD STILL STANDS

**If you should wake some dreadful day  
Before His throne and hear Him say:  
“I Am the Truth you did not heed,  
You were so sure you had no need;  
I Am the Light you did not see --  
Now darkness for eternity!”  
You cannot say, “I did not know”;  
He plainly wrote and told you so.  
And if you would not read His Word?  
That Word still stands,  
“Thus saith the Lord!”**

--Martha Snell Nicholson