

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole counsel of GOD

Without Price Since 1910

'Loving his Appearing'

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The Lord hath
comforted his
people, and will
have mercy upon
his afflicted.

ISAIAH 49:13.

Table of Contents

| <u>Article</u> | <u>Author</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|
| Definite Sign Post of the End | Gene Hawkins | 3 |
| Christ Building His Church. | J.F. Ney | 9 |
| Comfort | Grace L. Ferris. | 15 |
| Eagle & Eagle Saints | Mary M. Bodie. | 23 |
| Begin Again | Bill Robinson | 29 |
| Spiritual Leprosy | Paul N. Smith | 32 |



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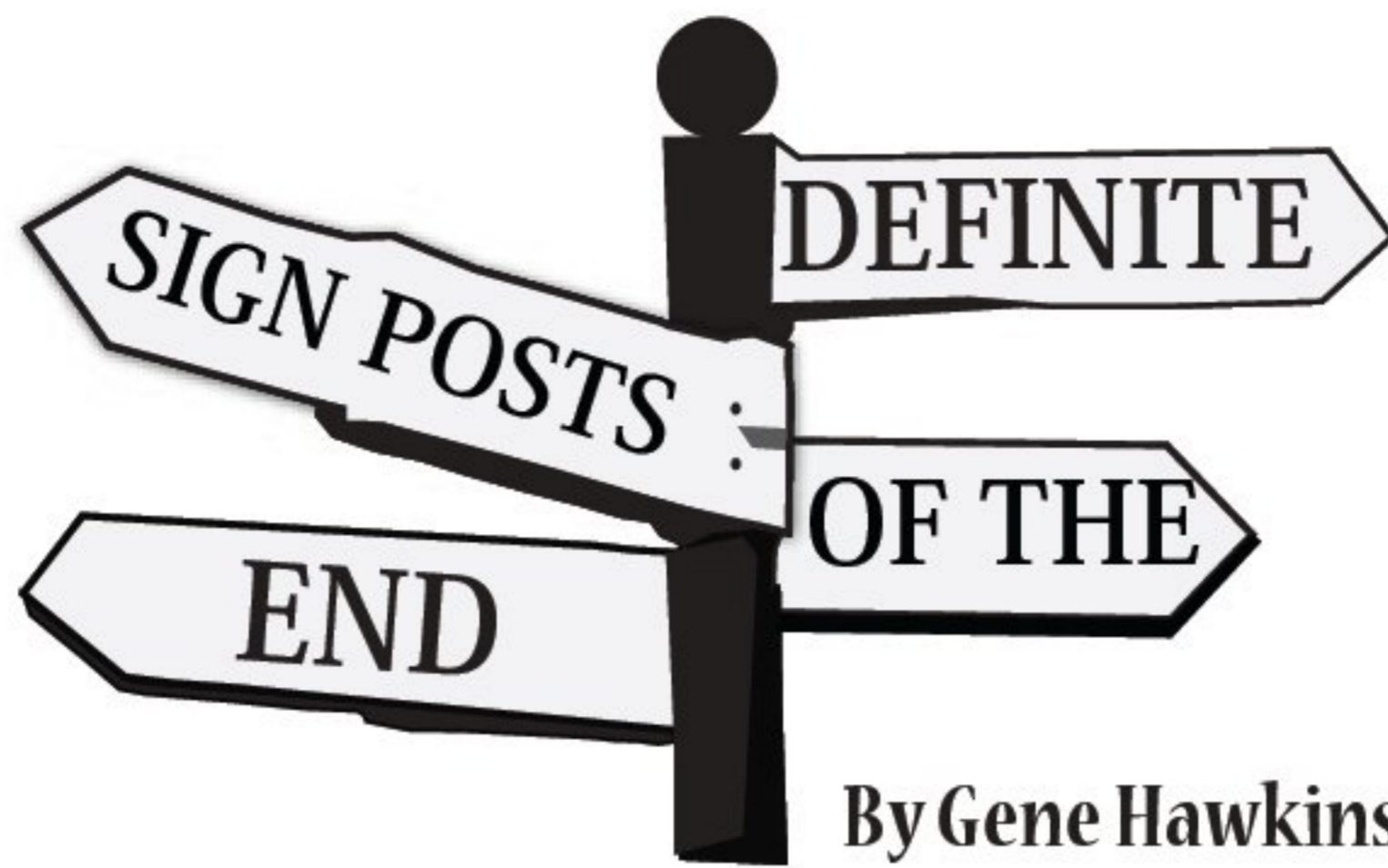
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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“Why do the heathen rage, (to be tumultuous) and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.” Psa. 2:1-6

3 Scripture very often draws a distinct line of separation between Israel and the nations, and Psalm 2 follows that same pattern. “The people,” are a clear reference to God’s Chosen Nation, while “the heathen” describe all other nations. The “vain thing,” imagined here is the elusive peace which Israel, as a nation, has pursued for centuries. Scripture is very clear that such peace will indeed come to them, but only after they have suffered some very intense tribulation. Jesus defined the start of that period, the times in which we presently live, as “the beginnings of sorrows.” Mk. 13:8 Such times depict an era when, even as Psalm two portrays, “nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles:....” The word “troubles: means “disturbance, i.e. (of water) roiling, or (of a mob) sedition:--trouble,” and is an apt description of the tumultuous raging which prevails among the nations, as seen both in Psalm 2 and in the world today.

The term “sorrows” refers to the birth pangs of a woman with child, ready to be delivered, and though it does involve the whole world, it has special application to Israel. Those pains increase both in frequency and intensity as the birth draws nigh, and this is surely the pattern being enacted in our world today. The resulting birth, in this case, is the nation of Israel. Isaiah describes it in Ch. 66:8 “Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in

one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Isaiah also mentions the travail of Israel in verse seven of this same chapter, but the two must be distinguished one from the other. “Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.” This latter citation is a reference to the “man child,” or the 144,000 seen in heaven around the middle of the seven year tribulation period. The five wise virgins of Matt. 25 likewise describe the same company, as they too are admitted to the marriage at midnight. They were “sealed,” or filled with the Holy Spirit and had “oil in their vessels,” in Revelation 7, but they only arrive in heaven as the third rank of the Church, in chapter 12, somewhere around 250 days before the middle of the week, just prior to the official 1260 day reign of the antichrist. The key here is, “**before her pain came, she was delivered,**” meaning that the 144,000 are found safely in glory **before** the time of Jacob’s trouble, spoken by Jeremiah, even arrives. That “time of Jacob’s trouble,” (Jer. 30:7) is a direct reference to the nation of Israel and depicts the most devastating time, or excruciating “travail” of the tribulation period. Jesus spoke of it saying that “.....

except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Matt. 24:22 This will mark the absolute end of the time which began with “sorrows,” and Israel will at last be brought to her knees in repentance, whereby she will finally accept her Messiah. Out of this devastating chaos will be brought forth “in one day,” the fledgling nation which will become the head of the nations, and will be used as the centerpiece for Christ’s Millennial Kingdom on earth.

4

In the meantime, the nations continue to rage, or tumultuously assemble. The “troubles,” or roiling, prophesied by Jesus, most assuredly abound in the nations today, and the raging mob like behavior is seen around the world. The most recent example is the atrocious conduct of Syrian President Bashar Assad against his own people. Following a report in the Wall Street Journal announcing that Assad was transferring chemical weapons, Newsmax published the following statement released by Senators John McCain, Joe Lieberman, and Lindsey Graham on Syria: “If Assad is transferring chemical weapons from secure sites to the battlefield, it significantly raises the risks that

they will be used or that control over these weapons could be compromised. These are unacceptable risks for the United States and the entire international community, and they would threaten our vital national security interests.

If accurate, this would mean that the Assad regime cannot be trusted to exercise responsible stewardship over its weapons of mass destruction, and that allowing them to remain in Assad's hands presents a clear threat, not only to civilians in Syria but to international peace and security. If that is the case, the Administration should convene an urgent session of the UN Security Council to consider a Chapter 7 resolution demanding that Assad relinquish his weapons of mass destruction to responsible international control – and authorizing the use of all necessary means to enforce this demand. If Russia and China stand in the way, the United States must rally our friends and allies to act.

5 Ultimately, this latest report adds new urgency to the need to end the rule of Assad and his top lieutenants. This report on chemical weapons, combined with another report on a mass slaughter in Tremseh, paints a picture of Syria continuing to spiral out of control.”

We do not know, at this point, whether or not the Syrian President will hold on to power or not. We would point out however, that even though these atrocities are being waged against the people of Syria, with a major threat to the international community, the real “rage” is that “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, **against the LORD, and against his anointed,...**” Daniel is very plain announcing that It is God Who “removeth kings, and setteth up kings:” (Dan. 2:21) but men do not always agree with His plan. Many have resisted the changes God would make, and King Solomon is a prime example of it. God emphatically told him after he had forsaken the Lord, that following his demise, his son Rehoboam would reign only over only two tribes known as the house of Judah. The ten remaining tribes would be given to Jeroboam. Solomon refused to abide by that decree and “Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam.” I Kings 11:40 Multitudes of men, down through the ages, have gone to great lengths to obtain, and hold on to, power over other people, few realizing the aforementioned decree by Daniel. Whether or not God has decreed that the Assad regime should end at this time we simply do not know, but much evidence and

political opinion of prominent world leaders, indicates that such may be the case. If that be true, he, like Solomon, will fight to no avail to retain his position. Syria may soon follow the exact same pattern as a number of other dictatorial governments such as Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Iraq, and give way to some semblance of democracy. Though these new democratic governments are, for the most part, rather fragile, tentative, and uncertain, they are stark of examples of end time prophecy being rapidly fulfilled. The feet and toes of Nebuchadnezzar's dream image recorded in Daniel 2 were composed of iron and clay, depicting the mixture of imperial governments with that of democracy, and as Daniel describes, "the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken." V. 42 They represent the very last vestiges of Gentile Times, and these dramatic changes are taking place right before our very eyes, despite great efforts to prevent them. The senators mentioned above seemed to be very much concerned with the efforts of China and Russia to "shore up" the Assad regime, but if God has ordained an end, nothing will prevent it. It is also rather interesting that most of these new democratic governments, as is so evident in Egypt, are predominantly Islamic, an ungodly religion that is very much "against the LORD, and against his anointed."

6

Iran also, is still very much in the news, contributing greatly to the unrest and consternation of Israel, as well as the world, and especially the U.S. 'Newsmax' reports that the latest oil sanctions have decreased national income by 25 percent and it is quite obvious that such a decrease will gravely affect the economy and people's lives. In a recent survey conducted in Iran by the Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, more than two-thirds of respondents opted for "the suspension of uranium enrichment in exchange for the gradual lifting of sanctions," in answer to the question: "Which way do you prefer to confront the unilateral sanctions of the West against Iran?" But nearly 20 percent favored closing the Strait of Hormuz in retaliation for the sanctions."

Evidently American officials believe Iran will follow the leading of the 20 percent who want to retaliate. 'Newsmax' further asserts: "In the past few days, the New York Times reported: 'The United States has quietly moved significant military reinforcements into the Persian Gulf to deter the Iranian military from any possible attempt to shut the Strait of Hormuz and to increase the number of fighter jets capable of striking deep

into Iran if the standoff over its nuclear program escalates.’ It is said that closing the Strait of Hormuz would choke one-fifth of the world’s oil supply and many are asking “is war with Iran imminent?”

Some experts also believe the Israeli military may strike Iran soon and that the "window" is closing for Israel to stop Iran's nuclear program. Others ask, “if Iran is struck, what would this do to the price of oil, the world economy and the stock market? And would Iran retaliate against Israel and the U.S.?”

7 All of these uncertainties surely do contribute to the condition described by the verses of our opening text, but that is not the end of the story told by Psalm 2, for “He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.” This glorious statement follows the abject rebellion displayed by the nations. They surely believe that they are in charge of their own destiny and can accomplish the full and ungodly demands of their Satanically inspired hearts. We know from scripture that one man, known as the antichrist, will eventually emerge from the great chaos and confusion of this present time and become the central head of a one world government. However, as noted here, God will have the last laugh. “Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.” This is none other than the wrath of the great tribulation. It will be so intense that, as Jesus noted above, “.....except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved:...” Here is where hope abounds, however, for despite all the efforts of the nations to war against the very “anointed” of God, Jesus will be crowned “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” Rev. 19:16 “Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.” That “holy hill” is a reference to Jerusalem. Right now, it too is in great turmoil, with many claiming the rights to control it, but Jerusalem belongs to God, and He will shortly erase all doubt in that regard. Jesus will reign on the throne in the city of David, as promised by the Davidic covenant, and all nations of the world will bow to that authority. Likewise, Israel will finally occupy the place given to them by Divine decree. “And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:” Deut. 28:13

Much national suffering will precede this glorious place for Israel, and the events presently facing them are only the beginning of such troublous times. The days of the Church Age are very quickly coming to an end, and then the entire Body of Christ, will be in heaven before the most intense days of tribulation even arrive. However, until the time of our departure arrives, Jesus exhorted us to “Occupy till I come.” Luke 19:13 Much of that occupation or “business” is simply standing steadfastly against the powers of darkness. II Thess. 2:7 says it thus: “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth (restrains) will let, (restrain) until he be taken out of the way.” Contrary to much popular opinion, the “he” here, is not the Holy Ghost, but rather the saints of God. It is not our imagination that the darkness of this world is growing more intense by the day. Much light has already been “taken out of the way,” because so many staunch worthies of faith have gone home to be with The Lord and have in no wise been replaced by the “younger generation.”

Jesus promised that one company of believers, known as 8 the Bride of Christ, will be “taken out of the way,” BEFORE the tribulation even begins, (Rev. 3:10) and that absence of light will allow greater darkness to ensue. Likewise, when the innumerable company of Rev. 7 is removed, there will be less hindrance to the powers of evil, and again darkness will become even more intense. That same pattern will also continue with the translation of the 144,000, which will lead to the very darkest hour of this seven year period.

Only light reproves the darkness (Eph. 5:11-13) and thus our greatest occupation today is simply showing forth the Light of God’s Word with every fiber of our being. “Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” Eph 5:14-16

* *When our creature comforts fail us, then we go to the Creator Himself.*

* *Gainful are the losses which bring us near God.*

Christ Building His Church

J. F. Ney.

I praise and thank the Lord for the privilege of being a watering can to God's people, even to a choice class of people, not choice according to the natural, but according to the supernatural. There are very few, or no other gatherings like this one. I will read several Scripture citations.

"The thief cometh not, but for to kill and to destroy. I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" — John 10:10. Jesus did not say that He came to give life and another life, but more abundantly of the same life. "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God"—Matt. 16:13-16. When Jesus inquired, saying, 'Whom do others say that I am? there was a response at once. It is easy for some to say what others believe, but not what they themselves believe. The Lord wants to know what we believe. If we keep our eyes off of everybody else, we do not know so much about what others believe. Jesus said to Peter, "Blessed art thou. Simon Barjona; for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee; but my Father which is in heaven. And I say unto thee, that thou art Peter; and upon this rock, I will build MY church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Never in my spirit did I see such a big "I" and "My" as I have seen in the last six months in this verse. If I were setting type this morning, I would feel like going to a blacksmith shop and having extra size characters "I" and "MY" made to print them. I trust the Spirit will magnify them to every one of us. When anyone speaks over the telephone, he generally says, This is so and so. If he is the right so, the other gives attention. Here the Lord is speaking. I am sure that to most of us I and My stand out bold and large.

Is it not wonderful that in these days of confusion, the Spirit of the living God can give us encouragement? For by faith we see that the Lord is still building His Church and NOTHING can prevail against it, not even the GATES OF HELL. HALLELUJAH! Praise God! And the Lord has no backseat drivers, or directors. Oh, there may be many of them; but the Lord has hold of the steering wheel, and none of the back-seat drivers bother Him. He goes right on. I am glad. I have no desire to change matters. Christ is the One in whom we may have confidence. If you have no confidence in the driver, you better not ride with him. But Jesus is not influenced by men. He is moving right on according to plans laid before the foundation of the world. I am glad that He never listens to man's feathery brain views. Regardless of how great the heads may be, before long, they will find out that they all have feathery brains and that the Lord has control of the situation. He is building His Church, a great spiritual and supernatural structure.

10

Some have thought that Jesus built His Church on Peter. No, Peter is not the Rock. He is only one of the living stones in the building. He did not want his Lord to go by way of the cross; hence, he said to Him, "Be it far from thee." And Jesus recognized Satan's voice speaking through Peter. He is not building the Church on a natural foundation, but upon a spiritual and supernatural foundation, even Himself. Christ is the life and head and foundation of His Church. As Adam was the head of the old creation, or the human race, so Christ is the Head of the new creation. How blessed are those who learn to live by faith, who have quit reasoning and have been emptied out. They trust God to work in them day by day and hour by hour.

Perhaps 99 per cent of what is called speaking for God of building up the Church, is not of the Lord, but is like Satan speaking through Peter when he tried to keep Jesus from going to the cross. The old creation shuns the cross. In this same chapter, Jesus speaks of losing our life. "He that saveth his life shall lose it; but he that loseth his life for my sake and the Gospel, shall find it," and

keep it unto life eternal. We are to take up our cross and follow Jesus. He gives us life more abundant that we may follow Him with a whole heart.

In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke writes to Theophilus about the things which Jesus began to do and teach. Although the Lord was off the scene, yet He was still on the scene. He was off the scene as to His physical body; but by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, He was going on building. It was God's supernatural power working, through the apostles, all that Jesus had begun to do and teach. The Lord was not done working when He went to glory; and the Acts of the apostles has no formal ending. The Lord is still doing and teaching. He is still building His Church, though it is doubtless about completed. When the disciples went forth and preached the Word, "the Lord added to the church such as were being saved."

11

He did the adding; and "what God hath joined together, let no man put asunder." Christ's people are His Church. How can they join a human organization, which men call a Church? That is foolish, unreasonable and unscriptural. The Lord adds, and those added, become members of THE CHURCH. We read also of some who tried to join; but the Lord cut them off. Thank God! The moment we are born again, we become a part of His Church and we are the Lord's property from that time on; for "we are bought with a price," even the precious blood of Jesus. Nothing can be compared with that great price. Therefore, we are not to be the servants of man. God spoke the world into existence by His Word; but it cost Him the life of His Son to make atonement for man's sins.

"All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one heart to make David king." I Chron. 12. David had already reigned seven years over Judah and Benjamin; but now in this chapter we read that he became king over the other ten tribes. Some of those mighty men in Israel had wisdom and knew what Israel ought to do and what they ought not to do. They were not of a double heart, but of a perfect heart to make David king. So it is, with the saints in the

Church. Though there are different grades of believers, having different gifts; nevertheless, they may be of one heart in building up one another and edifying the whole Church of Christ. I trust the Spirit of God will enable me to speak so as not to make divisions; but we read in I John of "children, young men and fathers." These have the same life and the same Holy Spirit, being saved by grace through faith in the Word of God. No wonder that Paul commended the Ephesian saints to the Word of God's grace.

Sometimes there are apparent divisions among God's people, because they have not received a revelation of the operation of the Spirit of God among the different members of the body, the Church. "In one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body." Hence, "there is one body and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling: one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all and thru all and in you all" —Eph. 4. "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office; so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and everyone members one of another"—Rom. 12:4, 5. But we read also, that "there are diversities of gifts; but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations; but, the same Lord: and there are diversities of operations; but it is the same God which worketh all in all." I Cor. 12:4-6. No wonder. Paul speaks of the power of God that was given to him for the upbuilding of the saints. The Word of God is confusing to the natural man. It is only as we are emptied out of man's thoughts and live by faith, that we grow up into Christ in all things. I do not want to belittle the operations of the Spirit among other people, or think that we are so far ahead of others. It is natural to think that we are a little more useful than some; but God has set the members in the body as it pleased Him. Paul said, "I have planted, and Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."

Then we read of the nine gifts of the Spirit. They are all parts of the operations of the Church. Sometimes the enemy gets in and makes trouble through these gifts, nevertheless. The Lord said, "I will build my Church." He knows His people, and in spite of everything adverse, He

is moving on and will finish what He has begun. Those who are true, know the signs of the times and move right on with God. He gives them faith as they read and accept His Word. After we see conditions all around us and have been down in heart, how good we feel when God speaks faith into our hearts through the Scriptures. What a comfort to recall that Jesus said, "I will build my Church." And He whispers, Never mind what seems to be going on. Just lie in my hands. I am still building. It seems that the last eight months, I have felt like being on my knees continually, crying out to God in behalf of others. The Lord has redeemed His people. He deposited His truth within us. We have this treasure in earthen vessels; but many are indifferent and apparently have failed God. We need faith to pray for them. Seemingly, we have faith for people when they are going on with the Lord; but as soon as they fail a little, we lose faith for them. It is always good to be occupied with the Lord and His faithfulness. Read again I Chron. 12. "All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron to make David king.." This is freighted with spiritual lessons. It is wonderful---to be good warriors in Christ. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, not sword or gun; but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds by faith. Some would like us to take up carnal weapons and go against others; but we are one body and we are to fight the good fight of faith. Hallelujah! As we hold Christ to be our Head and move in the Spirit, we keep, rank and move harmoniously. We speak the things, but not necessarily the same words, nor the same part of the Word at the same time. All give life to the new man. All build up the whole body. All fight the foe, but not one another. The people who are of one heart, a perfect heart, keep rank. They have one heart to glorify Jesus. They are agreed to make Jesus Christ King. Praise the Lord! In the face of all that seems to be left undone, our hearts are crying out for the Lord to come; for His presence and dominion are the solution of all problems. We have "a little strength," which is the strength of the Lord, and it is sufficient for us to "occupy till He comes."

We have life more abundant to worship and serve Him while He tarries. We are of one heart to help our brother as well as to make Jesus King. We "become all things to all men." If we feel like we are ahead of others and we have no desire to help the needy and get sinners saved, we are selfish and not entertaining the Spirit of Christ. But the more we are concerned about the whole body of Christ and love the operations of the Holy Spirit, the more we grow up in Christ and are prepared to meet Him at His coming.

In closing, I want to read Rom. 16:17. "Now I beseech you brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them." I do not want to be guilty of making divisions in the body of Christ; nevertheless, I believe the Lord will have a bride. He will be joined to a company of saints who will be of a perfect heart. All of God's people have the life of Christ, and all may have it more abundantly if they desire it, but many are satisfied with initial salvation only. They are not concerned about growing out of childhood into full growth in Christ. How can they be in the bride company? Therefore, all we can do sometimes is to be separated, and people deliberately separate themselves from us. Let us remember, that Jesus said, "I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shalt not prevail against it." Let us be of one perfect heart to make Jesus King and look for Him as our Bridegroom.

14



HIS CLAIM OF LOVE

Let heathen rage and stand in unbelief --
My heart, my thoughts are fixed, O God, on thee!
Though self or friends or world shall bring me grief,
The love of Christ alone hath claim on me!

Let voices call--not one shall turn my face
From Him who gave Himself to set me free--
My ears are deaf to everything but Grace
That binds my life to God eternally.

-- Eltha N. Furman

Comfort

Grace L. Ferris

“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.”- Isa. 40:1 “Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed,” — Heb. 12:12-13.

People as a whole are suffering today — people who don't know the Lord and people who do belong to Him. Hearts, even though they sometimes put on a happy face, are crying out for love, comfort and peace. Unsaved hearts are in turmoil — feeling a void. That void, that empty place, is made only for God to occupy. No matter where they turn for help, they'll never be satisfied until they open their heart's door to Jesus. — Then they will find comfort.

Our ministry as sons and daughters of God who have experienced that divine comfort, is to reach out and touch those lost and hurting lives in the power of the Holy Spirit, touch them with His love flowing out to them through our words of cheer and comfort in His name. We are eager to share the joy in our hearts so that they, too, may be able to know Him abiding in their hearts. We are instruments of His peace and comfort, not only to the lost and hurting but also to the hurting children of God. Psalms 34:17-19- "... Many are the afflictions of the righteous..." The reason for that is found in Eph. 6:10-18 where we are exhorted to take unto ourselves the whole armor of God, as we battle against principalities and powers. Note that in the midst of that battle we are exhorted: “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;...” V. 18 We are to watch in love so that we may comfort one another, with the fact that He “Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;...” II Cor. 1:10. Our spiritual father, Abraham, suffered when he offered up Isaac, his only son, in obedience to God, but he was rewarded and comforted by our God of consolation. We, too, obey Him, even knowing sometimes that it will cause us pain. We cast ourselves wholly on His mercy, trusting completely, knowing that He knows what He is doing in our lives. He brings us out in victory and because He is the God of all comfort, as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. He will not leave us at loose ends, nor will He lead us into a situation and then

desert us, though at times the enemy would try to make us think so. Christ is with us every step of the way, whether we feel like it or not. He reaches out to us in love and comfort through every moment of the trial.

And this is exactly what he wants us to do. He takes us through distresses and then comforts us, so that we are able to empathize with our brothers and sisters and yes, even with those who don't know his love, and let His comfort flow through us to them, in the power of the Spirit.

He takes us through sufferings, not only to form Christ into maturity within us, not only that we may become acquainted with Him, but also that we can be of comfort to others who are suffering. It is for the sake of others that he leads us this way. It's a selfless, sacrificing way, where we forget about our own needs and wants in our concern for others. We simply cast ourselves wholly upon Christ — knowing He will care for us completely as we let Him minister through our vessel, — through our hands, our feet, our lips anointed by the Holy Spirit.

Yes, we have the sentence of death in ourselves (our old Adamic nature died in Christ on the cross) — we cannot trust in ourselves, we cannot trust in the old man who provisionally is dead. But, we trust in God who raised us from the dead, in Christ when he arose as the new Adam, the Head of the new creation race. We are seated with Him in the heavenlies, far above all principalities and power. Nothing, or no one, can defeat us in Christ — what a comforting truth! Just to know that no man can pluck us out of His hand is a comfort! Just to know that He abideth faithful within us, even when we may not feel like He's there, is comforting! We live by faith not by our feelings. No power in the universe can defeat the life of Christ implanted within us! What a comfort that truth brings! Satan and all His hoards will not be able to keep us from going up to meet Jesus when He calls us to be with Him, whether awake or asleep in Christ. - I Thess. 4:13-18. 16

~~~~~

THINK.....

*Of passing from storm and tempest to a calm harbor,  
Of stepping on shore, and finding it Heaven,  
Of taking hold of a hand, and finding it God's hand,  
Of breathing a new atmosphere, and finding it celestial air,  
Of feeling invigorated, and finding it immortality,  
Of awakening, and finding it Home!*



## Why Us?

In ages past, before the foundation of the world,  
God thought of us, He loved us.  
Even before He formed us from the clay,  
He delighted in us, He wanted us.

Out of His great heart, He laid redemption's plan  
To rescue us, to save us.  
From Satan's wily snares and wicked way.  
He longed for us. He bought us.

Christ's precious blood was shed at Calvary,  
He wept for us, prayed for us.  
And reserved for each in heaven a throne and crown.  
He reached for us, He touched us.

How could one spurn such love from His dear heart?  
He planned on us, waits for us.  
To stand a queen in gold of Ophir, at His side.  
He blesses us, desires us.

O mould us Lord, shape and re-form each broken life.  
We think on You, long for You.  
In raiment of His needlework, The Holy Spirit adorns us  
To be like You, honor You.

Let us not be ashamed when we stand before You, Lord  
You gave Your all, all for us.  
To make us living glorious, creatures, as You'd planned  
To be your bride; yes – us!

Grace L. Ferris

# REFLECTIONS

*“So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? .....He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? .....He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.” John 21:15-16*

**“Feed My Sheep!”** Two major icons of this Church Age issued this charge just prior to their departure from this earth, thus loudly proclaiming and emphasizing the paramount importance of this momentous edict. Jesus, the Head of The Church thrice asked Peter “lovest thou me?” Each time, the question is followed by this command to feed His flock, as a proof of such love. Likewise Paul, the chief apostle to the Church, implored the Epheisan elders to “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, ....to **feed the church of God**, which he hath purchased with his own blood. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.” Acts 20:28,32

18

Sadly, the Church as a whole, has neglected this indispensable ministry, though the apostle warned, “....that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.” Acts 20:29,30 Paul also charged his successor, Timothy, to “Preach the word; ....exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; ... And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” II Tim. 4:2-4 It seems that many “fables,” or myths have arisen in our day, which can in no wise bring about the results produced only by God’s Word. We have proclaimed numerous times that music has replaced the preaching of God’s Word in the Church. Rather than unifying the Church as one body, we now have a distinct division, even in the same building with the “contemporary” service and the “traditional” service. Many justify this preoccupation with music under the guise of

worship. Some have cited I Sam. 16:23 to prove that music has been used to advantage in ministering to the needs of people. It is a record of the fact that David "...played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him." Despite the fact that both David and his song were undoubtedly spiritual, such singing never did produce a spiritual Saul. Only God's Word can do that.

A certain pastor, trying to justify contemporary rock music in the Church, informed me a few months back, that the "new song," sung by the four living ones and 24 elders in Rev. 5:9 is the modern day contemporary Christian Rock music. This would be laughable were it not so tragic, for those who proclaim such things rob themselves and others of the tremendous benefit gained **only** by the preaching, and feeding virtues, of God's Word. We are told in this same verse that the song they sing is the song of Christ and His redemption. "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." The fact is that we should be learning new verses of that song, every day of our lives, as we experience His redemption in spirit, soul, and body. What we learn of Christ and "the word of his grace," while we are on this earth, will determine the depth and majesty of the song we sing in glory.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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*Due to the fact that the book of Matthew by Sis. Mary M. Bodie, is now printed and ready for distribution, we have discontinued its appearance in Grace and Glory as of this issue. You may order from P.O. Box 831, Grandview, Mo. 64012 or e-mail us at [gjhawk1@msn.com](mailto:gjhawk1@msn.com) We hope to start another book in September.*

**FINAL CALL** for the Labor Day meetings at Gospel Fellowship in Grandview, Sept. 1-3. Food and lodging will be provided. Contact us at the above e-mail address or at 816-618-3306 for more information on how to reserve your room.

# The Eagle & Eagle Saints

*Mary M. Bodie*

**“They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength.**

They shall mount up with wings as EAGLES. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.” Isa. 40:31.

The eagle has a diverse place in Scripture, being mentioned a number of times and in many characters. The first citation relative to him we find in Ex. 19:4. Here he symbolizes Jehovah God, delivering Israel out of Egypt. **“Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians and how I bare you on eagles' wings and brought you unto Myself.”** Here the grace of God is the emphatic point to which attention is called. The Lord is seen as the aggressor in the work of Israel's redemption, taking His people out of Egypt, carrying them through the Red Sea (type of Calvary) on to life and liberty on the other side (type of Christ's resurrection). The objective side of salvation, God's side, is herein taught. If He had not taken up Israel's cause, made Himself surety for them, they would never have escaped the iron furnace of Egyptian bondage. They were defenseless and undone, as far as they were concerned. But Jehovah as the great EAGLE, The Mighty One, came to their help. He swooped down, gathered them up, as it were, and carried them out of the land of their bondage. In the figure, He bore them upon His wings, even as the eagles do their offspring. He is thus shown as their Deliverer and their Redeemer.

20

As was intimated this is most fragrant of Calvary where The Lord Himself has redeemed us by His death upon the cross. He has carried us down to death and judgment and then up into life and resurrection in Himself.

The second reference to the eagle has also its application to the Lord. “As the EAGLE stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings, so the Lord alone did lead him.” Deut. 32:11. Here the view is that of the mother eagle in the training of her young. She is seen as teaching them to fly. They are thrown out of their nest, where they have been so comfortable, and are forced to use their wings, or they will be dashed to pieces on the hard ground. Realizing their danger, they make the effort. But the lesson is not learned in a day. It is repeated again and again until they have

mastered the art of flying and soar far up in the sky, carried abreast upon the wind, even as their parents.

And this is all typical and wonderful. It applies to the Lord and His training manners with His children. He stirs up their nest, forcing them out, of the baby-stage of ease, and comfort, by allowing trouble to come their way. He disciplines them in the school of affliction, teaching them in various ways, to use their wings of faith, rise and soar high above the danger zone. They are thus made strong. They grow in courage, zeal, and knowledge, even as do the eaglets, and thus they prove their kinship to The Lord Himself, The Great EAGLE; for the offspring of the eagle act like the parents.

Again we have mention of the eagle in David's beautiful eulogistic song or celebration to the king of Israel and his son at their death. "Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives and in their death were not divided. "They were swifter than EAGLES. They were stronger than lions." II Sam. 1:23 Saul and Jonathan were mighty men. They were kingly in mien and action, powerful generals, swift in attacks against their enemies. David loved them: especially was Jonathan dear unto him; but it is the spiritual lessons that interest us. They are compared to the eagle, the king of birds. The principles, or traits, of natural skill and manly beauty manifested in them are those of the overcomer spiritually. He is strong, courageous, daring, swift, etc. of which the eagle is the emblem. The next citation, "Doth the EAGLE mount up at thy command and make her nest on high?" (Job 39:27), simply teaches that God has put the instinct in the eagle to fly high and make her nest far up above the haunts of men. In other words, it is natural for the eagle to do so. Likewise with the overcoming saint. He partakes of a life which is dauntless and deathless, a soaring, heavenly life; which makes its nest in the Rock. It does not do this at the command of men, nor because of any law, but the law of the overcoming life of Christ which is the heritage of all saints. They are of heavenly origin; their real home is above. The earth is simply a place. They are here but for a season even as the eagle comes down from her lofty place sometimes; but the air is her element; the heaven lies is her sphere. Another reference to the eagle, we find Prov. 23:5 "Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven." Here the teaching is, that the eagle

flies swift, and far, even so do natural riches. It is a warning that Christians should not set their hearts on transitory things; for they shall be disappointed. God is jealous of His people's devotion. He desires that their hope and confidence be set upon Him, and not in their bank accounts. Men are finding these days, that riches are vain things, and as the proverb says, "take themselves wings and fly away." It seems that over night they sometimes are gone. Nothing of this world can be depended upon. The Lord alone is *The Rock* and cannot fail those who put their trust in Him. we see this manifested more and more in the past few months and years.

In Jeremiah 49, we have two references to the EAGLE. In the first one, v. 16, his nest is again the subject. Its height is compared to the pride of man's heart, setting himself up high in his own estimation; feeling secure, as though no evil could befall him. This pride is characteristic of Satan, of which poison, fallen man has been made a partaker. It is an abomination to the Lord and He will bring down all such proud folk, whether 22 angels or men, regardless of their exalted position. When Christ arises to shake terribly the earth, only those will abide who are stayed upon Him, safely hiding under the wings of The Great EAGLE Himself. In verse 22 of this chapter, we find the second reference to the eagle. It speaks of Christ as the Judge, in the very act of judging all men. "Behold, he shall come up and fly as the eagle, and spread his wings over Bozrah: and at that day shall the heart of the mighty men of Edom be as the heart of a woman in her pangs." The swift flying of the eagle after his prey is the emphatic point in this reference, which typically represents Christ as the Judge flying down upon his enemies. We read a story of an eagle recently which aptly illustrates this fact. An eagle way up in the air spies a snake upon a ledge, sunning himself. He swoops down upon him, clutches him in his beak and rises with him in the air where the battle is fought. The reptile put up a game fight; but he lost. The eagle held him so that he could not move his head, but he lashed with his tail, winding himself about the bird, seeking to squeeze him to death; but it was no use. The eagle kept picking him upon the head until he was dead, then easily swallowed him.

We clearly saw how beautifully this pictured Christ as the "Seed of the woman," bruising the serpent's head as was prophesied of Him (Gen. 3:15) and getting the victory over all

Satan's seed who dare to dispute His right to the kingdoms of this world. Like the eagle, He will even swallow up death in victory. Every enemy will be under His feet.

Ezekiel 1 :10 gives us another mention of this majestic bird in his reference to the Cherubim. They are portrayed as having four faces, one like that of the EAGLE. We know that these symbolic figures represent the overcomers, those who are walking in all the light and doing the will of God upon the earth. They are joined on to the throne above and are seen as going straight forward. "Whither the Spirit was to go, they went. and they turned not as they went." They were rolling along in the perfection of obedience to the throne. "Holy Rollers" indeed!

Revelation 4:7 is a further reference to the eagle and also to these cherubic figures. They are seen in heaven, with the same four faces they had on earth, the one being designated a "flying eagle." The Living Creatures are still in close association to the throne, "in and round about." They have a prominent part in its counsels and its judgment. "They have arrived," as the world would say, having attained their ambition. World sovereignty is their heritage. They have (like Paul said of himself) finished their course, kept the faith and won the crown. O what a happy ending to the story! They are in the throne room of the Most High, a very real part of the government of God, and they shall never be severed from Him, nor His Kingdom. They are crowned with the crowning of Christ the King; for it is "His Day" which is symbolized by these visions of John on the island of Patmos. The overcomers will play a great part on the stage in that period.

Now we will come to Isaiah 40:31, the Scripture with which we commenced. The EAGLE is mentioned here in connection with the believer who waits upon the Lord. He is said "to renew his strength," or "change his strength" as says another translation. Their mounting up, soaring in their high places, shall be as the eagle, the Prophet affirms. They have wings of faith and with these they are lifted up into the heavenlies, into the very presence of God. These high places are the environment of these overcomers. They are heavenly beings. Obstacles cannot hinder such saints. They are dynamited from on high and every difficulty in their pathway must give way before the Spirit of the Lord. They can do all things thru Christ who has dynamited them with supernatural enduement. It is marvelous to contemplate the correspondence

between the eagle and the overcomer. Christ is the true EAGLE both as Jehovah and as Man. He is the Mighty Overcomer; but His people who lay hold of His life and His strength become like unto Him. They are renewed by His resurrection life, of which they are partakers, and go on from strength to strength.

*Natural Traits of Eagles* Let us observe some of the prominent features which characterize these birds and their correspondence to the overcoming saints. These are interesting as well as instructive.

*First: The eagle is king of birds.* This fact is conceded by all, In every way he excels -- larger, stronger, more vigorous, farseeing, courageous. He is able to fly higher and longer than any other bird. He is tireless in flight, built for long journeys, we might say. Likewise the Christian; for even the very least of the children of God may mount up and soar in their aspirations after the ideal -- the image of God-which is their heritage in Christ. They are born to this attainment. The greatest preacher, teacher, or student is not perchance the one who knows the most of this soaring, heavenly life. Oh no! The very least of the children of God may excel on these lines. Jesus said, "Whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all." Mark 10:44. We may all soar in service, go the furthest and do the most and never tire; because we are prepared for this service through Christ. "He went to the uttermost in service. Going about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil," was His daily and hourly avocation. .

24

*Second. The eagle is trained to fly.* As soon as the eaglets are able, they are thrust out of the nest. They are treated roughly, as we might say, no coddling, or petting for them. They are forced to learn to fly, by flying. Their wings are made strong by exercise, Practice in every line of service in the natural is necessary for the one who excels. The schoolboy studies, not to enjoy vacation but to learn in the battle of life. The wrestler practices wrestling until he is proficient; the fighter tries out his skill by every means in his power. The racer runs. He practices continually that he may be fit. He tries out his racing qualities on the course, makes himself run even when he does not enjoy the sport. Men all discipline their bodies, that they may win in natural things. .. Likewise, should the saints seek to excel by practice. They should learn to strengthen their spiritual



muscles in very particular by using them. We thus afterwards may help others, even as the parents help the eaglets to fly. They train them, by example and exhortation, pushing, coaxing, urging etc. until they are proficient and able to fly off and become mothers and fathers themselves.

By way of illustration, is the story of the sick eagle. He had dropped down to earth and was apparently ready to die. His vitality had waned. He appeared to have lost all hope of restoration, when another eagle saw its woeful plight. He was up on high, but he swept down, coming nearer and nearer, until he was close, then it lifted up his great wings and fanned that sickly bird. Again and again he repeated the fanning. From every side he brought down the air upon the sick bird. It gradually was moved by the power of its real environment and began to preen itself, and, feeling the call from above, lifted its great wings and soared away.

25

**Third. The eagle is a solitary bird.** Eagles never fly in droves like sparrows, blackbirds, blue jays, or buzzards. They are unsociable, as it were, making very few friends among other feathered creatures. They have only the one mate to whom they are loyal through a long life, a most suggestive picture of Christ and His bride. The latter is a separated company, not only separated from the wicked world, but from carnal Christians. Paul exhorted believers, "Come out from among them and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean, and I will receive you." Overcoming saints have a very special place and special promises from the Lord. "I will be a Father unto you and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." II Cor. 6:14-18

**Fourth. The eagle eats only clean food.** He is very careful as to his diet. His bill of fare is of the best. "Lamb roast" is his special choice morsel; but any fresh food that is available he will eat. He turns away in disgust from that which other birds feed upon. Imagine this majestic, attractive bird feeding on the carrion, which the buzzards eat, or even the stuff that sparrows are often seen picking up. How marvelous the analogy here as typical of the overcomer. He feeds upon the sacred Scriptures, literally eating the finest of the wheat and the meat of the Word. These saints are most careful and prayerful about their diet. They feed upon the richest viands -- the milk and the honey -- and all the other elements which make up the food of the spiritual man. They

are filled up with the Truth; hence, they are clean in spirit, strong in body and pure in soul. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus," is the Apostle's exhortation.

***Fifth. Eagles are noted for their longevity.*** They reach a great age. It is in their very nature. Their strength is renewed. Even so is the Christian, who is dependent upon the Lord. Like the eagle, he is built for tireless flights and never appears to grow weary. The Lord is the strength of his life and his portion forever. He has eternal life and shall never perish. His life is hid with Christ in God.

There is a legend extant as to the eagle, whether true or not, We cannot say; but it is most pertinent to the truth of the overcoming Christian. Every seven years the eagle's beak grows dull and gradually useless. The eagle cannot eat. He mopes around awhile and finally the old beak drops off and another is there in its place. His health and strength are then restored. His youth returns once more, symbol of the renewal of the saints who are trusting in the Lord and waiting on Him continually. He is the Source of their abounding vitality. They have found the fountain of youth, for which Ponce de Leon, searched long and diligently; and are drinking of its even-living stream. They know nothing of old age and its decrepitude, dullness and inactivity. They are continually resuscitated and they live long, walking in the will of God. They are immortal until their work is done.

***Sixth. The eagle is farseeing.*** His vision is marvelous. He sees his food far away upon the earth and swoops down like a flash after it and then quickly is up again. Likewise, the overcoming saint is farseeing. He has the eye of the seer, beholding the things that are invisible to the natural man. He can reveal secrets that are hidden from other folks. He lives in the heavenlies, but must come down to earth at times to get his natural food, or attend to the will of the Lord; but he does not stay down. Like the eagle, he rises to the heights again as soon as possible.

***Seventh. The eagle soars high.*** There is no other bird which can equal the height, nor swiftness, of its flight. He flies to a great altitude, and this is his way of escaping the storm. He sets his wings in such a position; when the wind strikes him, that instead of being dashed to pieces by the fury of the blast, he rises above it. He does not try to bear the force of the hurricane, nor does he endeavor to dodge its velocity. He uses the strong wind to

go higher. It is the set of the wings that gives us the secret. Even so is the spiritual victory obtained. The present day may be said to be the day of greatest achievements. Speed and height are the desired objects of most of the air minded folk. They are filled with ambition to go higher and faster and stay longer above the clouds than others. "In the air," is the ambition of the flying squad. They have learned like the eagle to soar above the clouds, the fog and the storm; hence why not the spiritual flyer? He has the secret to rise above all the storms of life. He may set his wings of faith and soar above the trouble upon the earth. He does not run away to escape it; neither does he try to make himself believe there is no storm. He simply flies high into the realm of the Spirit and rests upon the bosom of the Infinite. While the storm rages, he is kept in perfect peace, though all around is turmoil. He is above it, by the power of faith; yet, at the same time, he is shackled to the earth with a body of humiliation.

27 But it will not be always thus. The spiritual eagle has a glorious, glad hope set before his eyes. One of these days, he will soar away, not only by faith, but actually and really, he will rise in new plumage to come down to this earthly plane no more. He will be changed in a moment into the glorified body of which he has a promise and a claim in Jesus Christ. He is born to this inheritance of eternal life and built for it a new creation. He feels the pull and power of it, even now. I will close with a story which wonderfully illustrates the truth of the above victory.

An eagle had been caught and held captive, by a man. She was chained in his large yard. Though she could walk about and fly upon the fence and out-buildings, she could not rise into her element. She was disconsolate at times and stood for hours, with her head hanging down. But one day, a happy day for that captured bird, she heard a familiar sound far up in the air. She had heard that voice before. It was her mate. He had come to her help. He was calling her away; but much as she desired to go, she could not rise to meet him in her rightful sphere. She was a captive, chained to earth. And though she tugged and tugged, while closer his voice sounded as he came nearer and nearer; yet she could not break the bands which held her.

Finally, he was just above her and oh, how strenuously she strove to be loosed and join him, yet the chain held her fast. Then he saw her plight. He knew she could not do it alone; so

he came right down beside her and, in some fashion, he pulled with her and that which she could not accomplish alone, she did united with him. The chains gave way; her bands snapped and away the captive eagle and her mate flew. Triumphant and happy, they sailed swiftly, soaring far up in the azure dome, above all the power of her captor.

Ah, how beautifully suggestive! How wonderfully fragrant of the overcoming saint, who is yet bound to the earth because of bodily limitations, though in spirit free, able to soar to highest heights. The Lord is calling to His oftentimes distressed mate. He is urging her to rise up and come away. Though she longs to do so, she cannot break her chains. She tugs and tugs longing and yearning to be free; but her bands still hold. She is a captive in a strange land. Her Lover comes closer with every passing hour. He woos her upward; but He sees she cannot make it. She must be made free by His power. One of these days, He will break the chains. One of these happy days, she will rise with her Mate into the air and away they will fly together, far up to the throne and the kingdom where she will reign with her Lord forever.

28

### **Like the Wine**

Who can thrill the heart like Jesus,  
Speaking forth His Word divine,  
All so faithful, pure and precious,  
Intoxicating as new wine.

All my sins tho' red as crimson,  
He has washed as white as snow..  
I will follow where He leadeth;  
Nowhere is too far to go.

Oh! This wonderful redemption.  
It does fill my soul today.  
Just a taste will keep us going,  
Happy on this pilgrim way.

Soon we'll stand by crystal river,  
With the ransomed hosts of grace,  
And we'll sing redemption's story  
Far above in empty place.

*Mary M. Bodie*

# Begin Again

*Bill Robinson*

**W**hat a wonderful thing it is to be able to 'BEGIN AGAIN'. What if, after making a bad start on a subject in school, or with a project at work, we were doomed to receive a failing grade, or to be dismissed from our job? How much more tragic life would be if we could never recover from bad starts that we make in physical, moral, or spiritual things? A poem written by Robert Frost titled, "BIRCHES," says: "I'd like to get away from earth for awhile and then come back and begin over." The first part of his wish can never be realized, but we can all stay right here, where we are and "BEGIN AGAIN."

This is one of the benefits that SALVATION brings. We can forget our old sins and failures, because GOD has forgotten them. God declared through the prophet Jeremiah: "I will forgive their iniquity and I will remember their sin no more." Jer. 31:34 Both Daniel and John declare that the wicked will be judged according to the "books" that have been written about their deeds, but when we accept CHRIST'S offer of forgiveness, our embarrassing and condemning record is blotted out. In a past generation they would have said "THE SLATE WAS WIPED CLEAN".

More than this, we are given a completely new nature ... the nature of GOD ... So that we need not be dominated by our weakness as we were before. The apostle Paul wrote in II Corinthians 5:17 that when one becomes a CHRISTIAN, they are a BRAND NEW PERSON INSIDE ... "...old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." A new life has begun.

Of course we are all still human, and will continue to make occasional "bad starts" throughout life, even after CHRIST dwells within us. We may be tempted to err and spoil our record, but we can 'BEGIN AGAIN'. I John 1:7-9 indicates that, if we are living in the light of GOD'S presence, just as CHRIST does, then we have wonderful fellowship and joy with each other and the blood of JESUS, HIS SON, cleanses us from EVERY sin, and if we confess our sins to HIM, HE can be depended on to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from every wrong. John addresses these words to CHRISTIANS, TO THOSE WHO ARE LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD'S PRESENCE.

Sometimes we hear that after a certain age, people cannot

change. It is true that our patterns of behavior are pretty well established when we are young, but it is also true that a man can be changed or change at any age with the help of GOD. At anytime in life we can win victory over an attitude or a habit, and we can "BEGIN AGAIN". The apostle Paul may have been thinking of his own past failures when he said, near the end of his life, in Philippians 3:13-14 "...forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,..."

Some folk talk about turning over a new leaf on New Year's Day. Others seem to be cynical about New Year's resolutions because they are usually forgotten by January 5<sup>th</sup>. When this happens it is either because we did not really mean to keep them, or because we tried to do so in our own human strength. Only GOD can give us the power to change or be changed.

Each morning is a good time to "BEGIN AGAIN." In our period of personal worship we can ask GOD for strength and GRACE to live that day in Victory, accomplishing all that we would like to do and to be in HIS WILL. If, by noon, we find that we have failed, even then we can "BEGIN AGAIN."

30

If you are a BORN AGAIN CHILD OF GOD ... you are somebody. Ephesians 2:10 says "FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS UNTO GOOD WORKS WHICH GOD HATH BEFORE ORDAINED THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM" Also read II Corinthians 5: 17. Being a Christian does not mean we will always have smooth sailing, we will have trials, but also we will have JESUS walking with us through those trials. GOD'S GRACE will take us through, and we will have grown. If we could look at the future through GOD'S eyes we would not question why things are allowed to come into our lives, but rather rejoice that we learn by experience: GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR ANY THING THAT MAY COME.

### **THE TIME FOR BEGINNING AGAIN**

There is no such thing as coincidence or circumstance in the life of a Christian. The following scriptures, if you will learn them, and apply them to your everyday life, will bring you through anything you will come up against. Got a problem? GOD has the solution. Are you facing a situation bigger than the one JESUS faced when they were putting HIM on the cross? I think not, but even then GOD was in control.

LEARN THESE SCRIPTURES AND LOOK TO THEM WHEN YOU ARE CONFRONTED WITH SOMETHING.

1. Psalm 118:24 “Today is the day the LORD hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

2. Psalm 37:23-24 “The steps of a good man are ordered of the LORD and HE delighteth in HIS way.... though he fall, he shall not be cast down, for the LORD upholdeth him in HIS hand.

3. Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love GOD, to them who are called according to HIS purpose.”

4. Phil. 4:6-7 “Be careful (anxious) for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to GOD, and the peace of GOD which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through CHRIST JESUS.”

5. Phil. 4:13 “I can do all things through CHRIST JESUS who strengthens me.”

6. Phil. 4:19 “But my GOD shall supply all your need according to HIS riches in GLORY by CHRIST JESUS.”

7. Psalm 121:1-2 .. “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.” There are no blind corners or dead ends in the BIBLE. There is an answer in GOD’S WORD for anything and everything that confronts you. Don't try to understand it all, just believe what He says, and GOD will make it real to your heart.

We would sum it up this way: **If the Lord gives us a new day, He orders our steps, and tells us it is working for our good. He tells us not to be anxious about it, and that through Him, we can do all things. His promise is to supply all our needs, so take your place as the Christian God would have you be, and quit letting the devil beat you up.**



*\* God loves us, not for what we are, but for what He can make us.*

*\* God never yet forsook in need The soul that trusted Him indeed.*

*\* Faith never goes to market without taking a basket.*

*\* Prosperity makes friends; adversity tries them.*

# ***Spiritual Leprosy***

*Paul N. Smith*

***“Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah... and he reigned 52 years in Jerusalem.....and he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah did...But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction; for he went into the temple of the Lord to burn incense upon the altar of incense.” II Chronicles 26***

**T**he story of Uzziah is a familiar one in the Bible, as well as in real life in our time. He was just a teenager when he was given responsibility to rule the nation of Judah, and evidently he carried on as his father would have done. He fought against the Philistines, was held in esteem by the Ammonites and his name became famous throughout the world. He built up his armed forces, built towers and fortifications and had a high approval rating.

However, there was a wicked king reigning the ten tribes, Jeroboam II, who began to influence Uzziah in a wrong way. Amos, a herdsman, heard the call of God to preach to Israel in Bethel, predicting the ten tribes' invasion by Assyria and their destruction. This didn't set well with Israel and when he preached to Judah, recounting their sins, he was not popular there either.

Here's my point: When Uzziah became strong, he became proud. He ceased to listen to the Word of the Lord and disregarded His principles. He took his strength to mean that he could do anything he desired which included his intruding into the priests' office and offering incense upon the altar in the holy place. No one but the anointed priests of Aaron's line could minister therein, but Uzziah put himself above all laws, even God's laws. Azariah the priest went in after him with 80 other priests of the Lord and when they withstood the king, he became very angry and proceeded to offer the incense. However, this is when God stepped in and settled the disturbance. Leprosy, a type of sin, appeared in the king's forehead, and "Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death." As a result of becoming a leper, Uzziah was banned from his home, his throne and lived out the rest of his days in a house separated from everyone he knew and loved.

God is able to abase anyone of us who has been infected



with leprosy of the head. When we get to thinking we are so powerful that we are above all laws, God can abase us in a hurry. Nebuchadnezzar, another ruler who had “head leprosy” was abased. James tells us: “God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble” (4:6). World leaders need to heed the Word of God and humble themselves under His almighty hand. He can easily remove any ruler who has become a hindrance to His purposes. We Christians need to examine ourselves, to see if we “think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think” (Romans 12:3). When things go well, it is very easy to think that it is due to our own abilities and spirituality. It’s not easy on the flesh to be humbled, but that is the only way we will ever enjoy grace and more grace.

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THIRTY-THREE YEARS

How young He was, how short His time on earth!
A pulse-beat through the centuries, a breath
Between the starlit hour of His birth
And that strange darkened hour of His death!

Yet had those years not gone their swift sure way,
Had their significance been lost to men,
There would be darkness in the land today;
No faith would lift, no heart could hope again.

Thank God, thank God, for those years’ precious store!
Thank God for sparing Him to you, to me,
Out of the glory that was Theirs before
The world was....and the glory yet to be.

The darkened years for him that brought us light;
The weary years for Him that gave us rest;
The clamorous years, that we might know the white
High silences of peace within the breast.

For thirty-three brief years that His feet trod
The earthly roads for us, we thank Thee, God!

-- Grace Nell Crowell

A Bible School

! Question !



Grace and Glory Bible College has a long tradition of teaching the Truth of God's Word with challenging questions that continue to provoke Bible students to thought and study.

34

As we begin to celebrate our 75th Anniversary, we honor that tradition with this semi-regular feature: A hand-picked question submitted from one of our many past or current students.

LAST MONTHS QUESTION: "Worship means to show respect to a superior for his power, honor, and place. Where, and on what occasion, is the word 'worship' first mentioned in scripture?"

ANSWER:

Gen. 22:5 "And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you." This occurred after God had asked Abraham to offer his son Isaac for a burnt offering.

This month's question:

From Doctrine

What does regeneration mean, and how many times is the word found in scripture?

-Submitted by Cara Schnakenberg



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