

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole Counsel of GOD

Without Price Since 1910

'Loving His Appearing'

Volume 103

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Glory to
God

in the highest,
and on earth
peace,
good will
toward men.

The Real Christmas Tree

The Tree of Knowledge

**The
Holy
Bible con-
tains 3,536,489
letters, 773,693
words, 31,173 ver-
ses, 1,189 chapters
and 66 books. The
longest chapter is the
119 Psalm; the shortest
And middle chapter is the
117 Psalm. The word Lord
occurs 8000 times. The 37th
chapter of Isaiah and 19th
chapter of 2 Kings are alike. The
longest verse is the 9th of the
8th chapter of Esther. The shortest
verse is the 35th of the 11th chapter
of John. In the 21st verse of the 7th
chapter of Ezra is the complete alpha-
bet (except j). It contains 99 miracles,
63 in the Old Testament and 36 in
the New Testament , and it gives
the 38 parables of our Lord. The
finest piece of reading is Acts
26. When you have Sinned,
read Psalm 51. When
in need of comfort
read John 14.
When
friends
fail read 1st. Cor. 13.
When weary read Matt.
11:28-30. The Bible is God's Holy Book**

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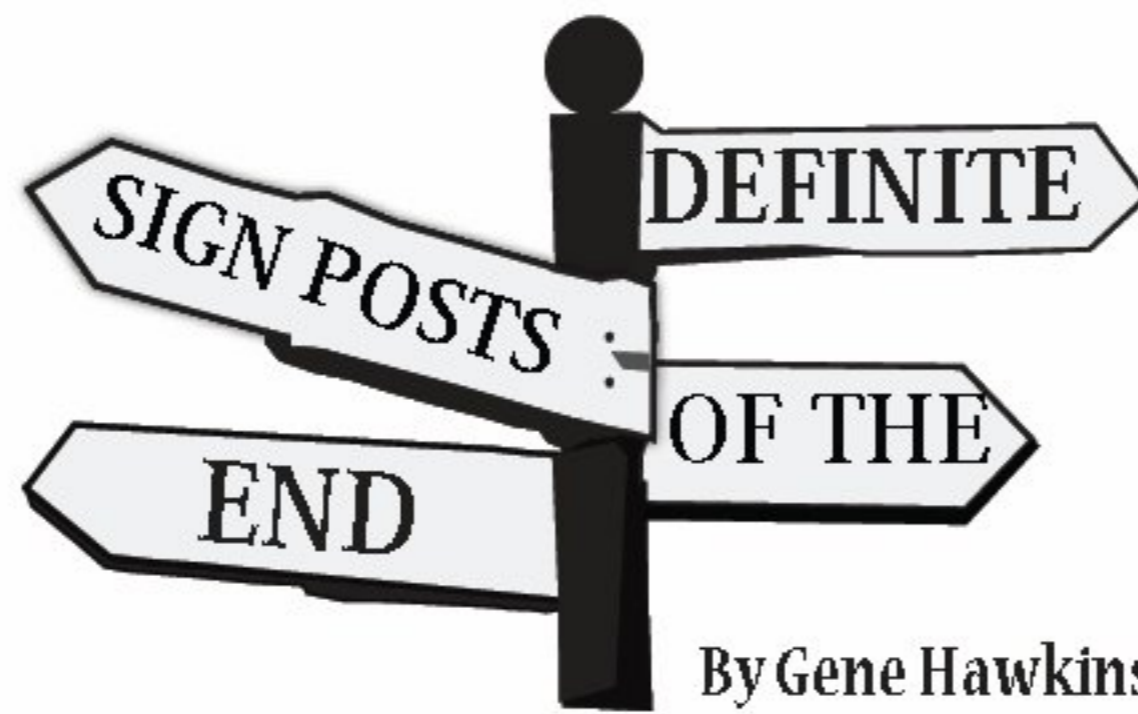
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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven;....

Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” Dan. 8:8-14

Jesus plainly declared that “Heaven and earth shall pass away,.... But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matt. 24:35-37 Paul likewise asserts: “But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.” I Thess. 5:1-2 We too can hilariously shout that JESUS IS COMING QUICKLY! He is coming as “a thief” and therefore we do not know the exact time. We are, however, very privileged to know the “times and the seasons.” We can most assuredly understand what Jesus meant when He said that these end time days would be marked by the same features as the “days of Noe.” Daniel likewise was very much aware of the fact that the promised deliverance of the Jews was at hand. He “...understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.” Dan.

9:2 He did not understand why the Jews had not been restored, and our text in Dan. 8 provides parts of the answer for which he sought. The prophet "...fainted, and was sick certain days;..." undoubtedly because he was told to "shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days." V. 26,27

The teaching here in Daniel 8 surrounds the taking away of the daily sacrifice. Though many have tried to say that this portion was completely fulfilled when Antiochus Epiphanes invaded Israel and defiled the sanctuary, we read plainly that this vision was to be "shut up for many days," meaning that, in reality it would not come to pass until the end time when the hidden Church Age is over. Though the temple was eventually restored, and religious activity resumed, as was the case in the time of Jesus, there is no record, in history or the scripture, that the sanctuary defiled by Antiochus was restored after the designated 2300 days.

God has always been very precise in His dealings with Israel. He deals with the Gentiles in symbolic numbers, but with Israel in exact numbers, often down to exact day, as expressed in Exodus 12:41 when Israel's 430 year tenure in Egypt came to an end "... even the selfsame day...." They wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, and were in captivity to Babylon 70 years. God likewise outlines exact time periods for them in the end time when Gentile times are converted to Jewish times.

The taking away of the daily sacrifice is the "trigger" point for all other happenings during the week of tribulation. From the time that this daily sacrifice is discontinued, to the very end of the tribulation period, will be exactly 2300 days as we read in Dan. 8:14, quoted above. Daniel also informs us that the antichrist will set up his image in the sanctuary exactly 1290 days after the daily sacrifice is taken away. Dan. 12:11 One week, or 7 years comprised of 84 months of 30 days each means that the entire tribulation week would last 2520 days. That means that the "abomination of desolation," the image of the antichrist, will be set up in the sanctuary "in the midst of the week," exactly 1260 days after the tribulation begins. This same abominable event also happens exactly 1290 days after the **daily sacrifice** is taken away, thus the very first day of the tribulation period will begin 30 days (1290 minus 1260) after the daily sacrifice is taken away.

I am persuaded that Jesus must appear for His Bride BEFORE the daily sacrifice is taken away, otherwise He could, in no wise, come as a thief, putting the world on notice that He would be here

within 30 days.

So it is, that we know the times and the seasons, and a part of that knowledge is being able to look for signs, in this case, that the daily sacrifice would be removed. We actually have no inkling that it is even being offered, at this present time. The closest we have been able to ascertain along that line would be the blood sacrifice of the Passover Lamb which was permitted, under great restriction from animal rights groups, just a few years ago. We have also wondered if perhaps the elusive peace process in the Middle East would be implemented more by religious endeavor rather than by political finesse. Perhaps all the activity and ceremony desired by the religious factions of Israel will be induced to accept compromise for a divided Jerusalem in exchange for freedom to resume the daily sacrifice.

5 Ours is a day of deception, and the little horn in our opening text is a reference to the false prophet, not the antichrist. He will prepare the way for the man of sin. He is the one who will come “in the **latter time** of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: (it is Satanic power) and he shall destroy wonderfully, (marvelous, miracles) and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.” Dan. 8:23-24 This is the religionist who will deceive the Jews, and coerce them into giving up this last vestige of “their religion.” The taking away of the daily sacrifice by the false prophet, must not be confused with the antichrist, who causes all sacrifice and worship to cease, except for that of himself, in the midst of the week. Dan. 9:27 This deceitful man will be able to perform signs and wonders, and will be perceived as a “spiritual guru” able to understand “dark sentences,” or mysteries, which elude all the rest.

The very first “sign of thy coming,” that Jesus issued to the disciples was “Take heed that no man deceive you.” Matt. 24:3-4 He also declared that “...many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.” Matt. 24:11 We know, of a surety, that this time of deception has already begun, and people are being duped into believing many erroneous things simply because they refuse to believe the truth of God’s Word. Paul warned Timothy that “perilous times,” would indeed come and one of the

prominent characteristics of that time would be that "...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." II Tim. 3:13 He immediately proclaims that God has provided protection against such deception and issues this exhortation to Timothy. "But continue thou in the things which thou **hast learned** and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." V. 14,15

Our world, however, even among Christians, has turned its back on Paul's message. They have apparently forgotten "of whom thou hast learned them." Paul also describes the same characteristics of the false prophet, as recorded by Daniel, wherein, he will be revealed in the last days. "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, ("not by his own power" Dan. 8:24) And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." II Thess. 2:8-11

6

Paul here names the false prophet, "that Wicked," and though he is not manifest as yet, the same spirit of deception, of which Jesus spoke, and which has raged in the world since the beginning of the Church Age, is becoming even more rampant by the day in the end of the age. Paul also tells us in these verses that when men do not receive "the love of the truth," they leave themselves wide open for deception. They will "believe a lie." In other words, to the degree that people do not appropriate truth, they will be deceived by the lie.

The deception of the false prophet is by no means confined to taking away the daily sacrifice of the Jews. That momentous event simply marks the final, and ultimate, culmination of a trend which began long, long, ago of substituting or even eliminating, the very existence of God in the minds of men. Paul described it thus, and while he writes in the past tense, indicating that it has been repeated over and over again throughout history, it is quite evident that these words are being graphically fulfilled right before our eyes in the end of this age. "Because that, when they

knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image.... Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness...to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:.....Who changed the truth of God into a lie,For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another;... And even as **they did not like to retain God in their knowledge**, God gave them over to a reprobate mind,....” Rom. 1:21-28 The ungodly homosexual practices of our day are a direct result of men denying truth and changing it into a lie, and such denial is manifest even in our schools, impacting young children to erase God’s Very Existence among them.

7 Most would readily agree that the problem for America began in June of 1963, when the Supreme Court upheld the argument of atheist Madelyn Murray O'Hare, issuing an edict with ramifications so widespread it insured that God would be evicted from public society across the entire spectrum of the American governmental system. Not only has prayer in schools been outlawed, but God's very Name has been declared unconstitutional, and forbidden to be mentioned, in any federal, state, county, city or municipal context. Further decrees have revealed the depths of that 1963 decision, for prayer is not the only thing that has been eliminated. Display of the cross will not be tolerated, even as the daily sacrifice, typifying the exact same truth, will be abolished. The Ten Commandments are forbidden along with students using any reference from The Bible to prove a point. Displaying the Nativity, and the mere mention of the Names "God" or "Jesus" or anything even suggestive of those Names is also summarily forbidden.

Numerous news outlets have also recently reported the firing of a Minnesota Pastor, moonlighting as a school bus driver. The ‘Daily Mail Reporter’ ran this headline.’ **“School bus driver and Christian preacher fired for leading students in prayer in violation of Supreme Court ruling.”** That article goes on to explain that the Pastor was fired because that “In a 1962 case, the Supreme Court ruled that it's

unconstitutional for public schools to encourage or lead students in prayer, and a series of court decisions since then have broadened the ban on school prayer to include prayers led by any representative of a school. In 2000, the court found that even student-led prayers over the school loudspeakers would be unconstitutional.”

The Kansas City Star has also published a number of recent articles concerning prayer, the essence of which, is for the Supreme Court, to “consider religious prayers that convene government meetings....Can a town council, for example, open its meetings with prayers invoking Jesus Christ?” The subject of this argument is that the town of Greece, N.Y. is charged with promoting “...Christianity in violation of the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause which prohibits government sponsored religion.” One of these articles concludes that “This case presents the opportunity to the court to provide clarity.”

Yet another headline from ‘The Star’ reads: “**Military Mouthful.**” The story surrounds Republican lawmakers and conservative activists “rallying behind a measure to provide greater protection for religious action and speech in the armed forces.... ‘There is a growing list of cases and incidents that point to the fact that religious liberty in our nation’s military is under attack.’ FRC (Family Research Council) President Tony Perkins said. Incidents in the report include the removal of a painting that included a Bible verse from the dining hall of Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho, and an Air Force officer who was told to remove a Bible from his desk.”

We could undoubtedly fill these pages with such reports, but suffice it to say that men across the world are doing their best to rid themselves of God. The first chapter of Romans further indicts man’s willing denial of his Creator. “Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath **shewed** it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. V. 19-20 This is the reason for teaching evolution, in schools rather than creation. If men get rid of creation, whereby God “shewed” them the proof of His

Very Existence, then they get rid of God! It is a tragedy that our children are being deliberately deceived in this manner.

This country, and the entire world are well on their way to abolishing their own “evening sacrifice,”----- **the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ!** The results will be devastating.

We stated earlier that the false prophet has not yet appeared, and if we correctly interpret the order of Paul’s declaration concerning the “Wicked,” or false prophet of II Thess. 2:8, it is extremely doubtful that this ultimate deceiver will be manifest until **after** the bridal company is gone. The little word “then” announcing the revelation of “that Wicked,” is immediately preceded by this verse. “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth (hinders) will let, (hinder) until he be taken out of the way.” V.8 This has to mean that the false prophet will not actually come on the scene until after the one hindering is “taken out of the way.” Some have purported that this “he” is the Holy Spirit, but that certainly cannot be, because the Holy Ghost will never be “taken out,” and will remain here throughout the tribulation period, as seen in part, by the ministry of the two witnesses, and on into the Millennium, convicting men of sin and bringing forth the new birth even as He does now. There is a beautiful profile of the one who hinders the “mystery of iniquity” today, found in Eph.6. Paul instructs this one to “..... be strong in the Lord,.... Put on the whole armour of God,to **stand** against the **wiles** of the devil. For **we wrestle** not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, **against** powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, **against** spiritual wickedness in high places.....take unto you the whole armour of God, to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand**. **Stand** therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked..... take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and.... And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.” V. 10-19 This portion describes both the character and tools of the one who stands, or resists or “hinders,” and herein are all the elements

embodied by the bridal company. Not all the Church measures up to this criteria, but we can most assuredly claim all these weapons against the wickedness of our day and stand steadfastly against this mystery of iniquity. When this elite company is gone, then will “that Wicked,” along with a whole host of ungodliness, meet no restraint and will be able to bring all the prophesied tribulation turmoil into this world.

Thus we need not spend our time trying to figure out who the false prophet or antichrist might be. It is sufficient for us to know the “times and seasons,” (which are certainly “ripe,” for their arrival) and simply occupy resisting the wickedness of this world which already prevails, with ALL the weapons listed above. It is time to shout vigorously with Paul “.....that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation (deliverance from this world) nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.” Rom.13:11-12

10

Perhaps Today

Out in the world – the darkness gathering quickly;
Peace is far off; men’s hearts full of fear
Within the veil ---God’s children rest in safety
They know their Lord’s return is very near.

Out in the world – industrial strife and warfare;
Kingdoms declining, bloodshed, loss and pain.
Within the veil – Christ’s Church just watching, praying
Thrilled with His promise, “I will come again.”

Out in the world --- heart hunger, pleasure madness,
Cruelty, deception every form of sin.
Within the veil – soul rest and satisfaction
To those who through His cross have entered in.

Out in the world – distrust of one another;
And blindness to the warnings of their day.
Within the veil – the glorious hope unfolding.
“The Bridegroom cometh” – He is on the way.

Ivy M. Fordham

The Son Who Saved His Mother

“AND MARY SAID, BEHOLD THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD; BE IT UNTO ME ACCORDING TO THY WORD.” Luke 1:38.

Mary found favor with God, and was twice hailed as "blessed women." It is interesting to notice that she was not blessed **above** women, which would have given an excuse for saying that she was not like all others, but that she was blessed among women. It is strange how some people who have found favor in the sight of God get the idea that they are blessed above others, instead of remembering that they are just like all others in God's sight, yet have only been blessed **among** others. Nevertheless, Mary the mother of Jesus was very yielded to God. She must have been an unusual girl in the natural. She found favor with God. When the angel came to her and delivered unto her the will of God concerning her bearing His Son, she yielded herself body, soul and spirit, and replied, "Be it unto me according to thy word."

Can you picture Mary, after the angel had told her the will of God? Just a moment to decide. Not saying, "Well, I will pray about it," or "I feel like I can do something else to better advantage." Meantime, the devil was there trying to defeat God's plan in the life of Mary. It was the devil's business to be there ---- on the job—hammer and tongs. I believe Satan brought before Mary the fine reputation that she had and which would be in danger. The pains and pangs of childbirth, and what a trial she would have, yet she answered regardless of it all, "Be it unto me according to thy word." What courage! What yieldedness unto God's Will! Without question she was convinced that as she yielded herself unto God, that He was able to undertake all for her. She believed God. Her faith is wonderful to behold.

Mary is at the crossroad. Did she hear the whispered words of criticism and scorn that went the rounds when she began to be great with child? The devil made sure of this, for he was going to discourage her—worry her, sap her strength, her faith, cause her to take her life because of the reproachful looks and idle gossip, and the desertion of her "friends". But Mary's spirit rejoiced "in God

my Savior." Her faith was not dimmed.

You may have experienced a real Mary experience too, going through the mill. The devil has been on the job, and has made himself a real character to you, even as he did to Mary. Look up, "rejoice in God our Savior", the same, never changing God that saw Mary through her difficulties, will see you through. This same God speaks to you and says, "Fear not. for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by name; thou art mine."

Sometimes we cannot understand why we must go through the mill. But I wonder if not all the wheat (not the chaff) doesn't say the same thing as it goes through the mill. But this is necessary in order for it to become fine flour—a useful product—and what wonders are fashioned from the flour!

Mary's heart is filled with praise. She can hold back no longer, and comes forth "The Magnificat". No better song or poem was ever written. It is considered by the critics as the most beautiful portion of Scripture ever written. Books were scarce in her day, especially rarer than anything else among poor people, and undoubtedly the Old Testament Scriptures was all she could get to read. The Magnificat is beautiful because it came from a heart filled with the Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary covers in the Magnificat: Genesis, Exodus, I Samuel, Job, Psalms, Jeremiah, Habakkuk and Malachi. She remembered how Israel's God had put down Pharaoh and the Canaanites, Sennacherib and Haman, Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar. She remembered how He exalted Joseph, Moses, Samuel, David, Esther and Daniel. And she must have known the promises of God, for she ends her song with the fact that Jehovah "hath holpen His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for ever". A study of these portions of the Scriptures throws much light on God's methods of dealing with His people. For He is without variableness or shadow of turning. Israel's God is our God and He is the same yesterday, today and for ever—Heb. 13:8.

Mary was obedient, among other things, for in John 2:25 in addressing the servants she tells them what she had learned, "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it." God gives the Holy Spirit unto the obedient. When was Mary filled? In the upper room with the 120. What a lesson and an example Mary sets forth to us all. She was submissive, obedient, filled with the Word.

If Christians would only be like Mary. She was better in her practical life—like some saints today, some overcome and some do not. We have the same privilege of hiding the Word in our hearts—of being submissive. But we make mistakes sometimes, we fail God sometimes. Mary was not infallible. Let me take you into Luke two and show how Mary and Joseph, with the child Jesus, went with the caravan to Jerusalem to the feast of the Passover, and after fulfilling it they returned and Mary did not know that Jesus was not with them as they returned. In the hustle and bustle of returning she momentarily forgot the son she loved. Weak and forgetful, of course she was. If she was infallible, she would not have forgotten, even for a moment. We too, sometimes in the rush of life momentarily forget Jesus—leave our thought of Him behind. But then, like Mary, we find out our loss (lack of communion) and we, like her, fret and worry and run hither and yon, until again we have come to where He is and again make contact. Infallible—no, but just like us, she was frail and weak. I bring before your mind the fact that when the wise men came "they saw the young child with Mary His mother and fell down and worshipped HIM, not them.

13

Your trials are very severe. Hard beyond explanation. God will see you through. He saw Mary through. Come, dear Christians with me: see, look over there—see, it is the mother of Jesus, she is standing by the cross. The Son she loved and worshipped is being crucified—killed like a criminal—can you come closer, here stand beside her, and hear her sobs, as the crowd jeers Him and mocks Him, and says all manner of evil against Him falsely. Look as you stand beside her. Her tear-stained face is desperate, she cried unto Him, she sees Him raise His head—He is speaking. Oh, can it be—yes it is so—He recognizes her despite His suffering. She hears Him commit her to His beloved disciple. Her sobs, her moans of heart rending pain; seemingly her body writhes with agony and pain as the soldier takes the spear and pierces the side of her Son—truly a sword pierced her own soul. What suffering, what pain, what anguish ! Why, oh why, should she be made to go through this. Could she not have died first and have been spared this? Her Son was dead, Crucified; body marred almost beyond recognition. Those arms which once encircled her neck so fondly as a child were now stretched out upon a cross like a criminal. That head which once she cuddled upon her bosom; now thorn crowned.

Mary was in a hard place. She knew what it meant to suffer. Like you have suffered, she suffered, but despite it all, God brought her through. The same He can and will do for you. Trust Him, throw yourself upon Him. He is not on the cross now, out of your reach., He is beside you. It was all Mary could do, trust God. Her Son was dead. They buried Him. One day went by, another, and no doubt the devil taunted her about God's promises to raise His Son, but when God's day came, Jesus arose from the dead! Our lives are pregnant with great possibilities for God. And it is at times such as these that the world, the flesh and the devil endeavor to break down our faith in God's promises. If God did not have a purpose in the kingdom for us, a part for us to fill, we would have been goners long ago, and hell bound besides. So let us don the uniform of grace and faith and reach forth toward the Sword, unsheathe it, and if we cannot wield it, dig it into the ground and lean on it and listen a moment. God will send reinforcements.

14

Fear Not

What was the first angelic word
That the startled shepherds heard?
“FEAR NOT” beloved, it comes to you
As a Christmas message most sweet and true
As true for you as it was for them
In the lonely fields of Bethlehem;
And as sweet today as it was that night
When the glory dazed their mortal sight.

F.R. Havergal

Jesus' Two Appearings

Orville A. Freestone, Sr.

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; (age) Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour; Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Tit. 2:11-14

Here in our text we note **two appearings** of Our Lord because of God's unmerited favor bestowed upon lost, sinful humanity. The one appearing is past; the other is yet future. If we will consider conditions that obtained at Jesus' first appearing we will get a picture also of what may be expected at His later appearing for the former typifies the latter in many aspects. The glory of God as seen in Christ at His first coming was veiled and hidden from unregenerate men but when He comes again, "without sin unto salvation" (Heb. 9:29), all must bow to Him and confess His right to reign.. His glory will be unveiled and terrible to behold.

The first appearing was announced to shepherds in the fields by an angelic messenger. "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:13 While a few were looking, for Him, God worked so suddenly that even they were in some instances, a 'bit startled. But they were Witnesses.

"And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was **Simeon**; and the same man was just and **devout, waiting** for the consolation of Israel; and **the Holy Ghost was upon him.**" Luke 2:25 Simeon means hearing and as we wait on the Lord He will cause the ears of our understanding to be opened to the Truth for "Faith cometh by hearing, and **hearing** by the Word of God." Rom. 19:17 While he waited "the Holy Ghost **was** upon him?" Saints who are looking for the Lord to-appear and wait on Him will be instructed through the Word to receive the Holy Spirit as on the day of Pentecost. Having received Him they are thereby endued with power to "walk in the Spirit" and continuing therein they are in a position to receive as did Simeon, a revelation concerning Jesus' coming.

"And it was revealed unto him that **he should not see death** before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the

Spirit into the temple"—vs. 26 :27. Simeon walked in the Spirit and was guided by the Holy Ghost and was thus enabled to keep an appointment that God made for him. There are saints today that were figured by Simeon who are being guided by the Holy Spirit so as to keep an appointment with Jesus in the air and **these saints will never die.** Unlike Simeon, they are changed ere that meeting and translated that they should not see death as was Enoch. Heb. 11:5

It was revealed to Simeon that Christ would be rejected and must needs come again as witness his words in verse 34. "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign that shall, be spoken against." **The fall** speaks of Jesus' betrayal and rejection **and the rising again of many** speaks of Christ's coming in power to judge the nations and deliver His oppressed people, Israel, from the Great Tribulation spoken of as "Jacob's trouble." Nevertheless even Mary (Jesus' Mother) must endure sorrow, said Simeon, because Jesus' death was inevitable if the thoughts of many hearts were to be bared—v. 35.

Now we note another character chosen of The Lord to be a witness that Jesus, as a Babe, was the SON of GOD: "And there was One Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Aser; she was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and **she was a widow** of about fourscore years, which **departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks** likewise unto the Lord, and **spoke of Him to all them that looked for redemption** in Jerusalem." Luke 2:36- 38 16

Anna means **gracious**; **Phanuel** signifies **fear of God**; **Aser** means **happy**. Anna figures saints today who fear the Lord and looking unto Him are being transformed into His likeness. They partake of His gracious Spirit and of course are happy. Anna's husband was dead and **she was a long time a widow**. This speaks to us of the saints of God who were cut off from their former Head, Adam, because by faith we were separated from the old creation and the world at Calvary—Gal. 6:14. Her widowhood figures the saints of this age espoused to Christ and joined by faith but waiting for that faith to become a reality when we shall join Him in the air.

She **departed not from the temple**, the place of worship. It is precious to see saints always rejoicing in Christ, full of worship and love for Him. Those of this character know no defeat but are determined to know and do the will of God through prayer and the

Word. Such folk are not so plentiful but can be found today. They are given to self-denial and bearing burdens of prayer and intercession continually that others may be benefited thereby. Anna also walked in the Spirit and was guided at the exact time of God's appointment to behold the Babe, Jesus. Her heart was filled with thanksgiving as she recognized the Christ by revelation. Only the Spirit could make her to know that this cuddly infant was any different from other Jewish babies. When Jesus comes the second time the faithful saints will be walking in the Spirit and their joy will know no bounds as they look, upon His beauty and glory. Hallelujah! Again we note—all those at Jerusalem heard concerning Israel's redemption. Shall not we wait the revelation of our Saviour? Indeed!

Another "who **waited** for the kingdom of God" was Joseph of Arimathaea. He was a counselor (member of the Sanhedrin) or ruler of the Jews. This Joseph was wealthy, "and he was a good man, and just"---Luke 23:50. John tells us that he was a believer "but secretly for fear of the Jews." Some folks are convinced in their hearts but will not openly express their convictions because of the persecutions which they know will follow. Evidently Joseph was a man of this sort. But there comes a time when it is necessary for us to declare ourselves. Mark wrote (15:43) that Joseph **came boldly** to Pilate begging for the body of our Lord. Though he may have been backward and shy in testimony previously, Joseph had suddenly become bold in the crisis time. As a result he had a privilege and honor given to no other, that of providing the place of burial for Jesus.

Joseph signifies **adding to**. He figures saints who not only wait on the Lord to come and set up His Kingdom but seize the opportunities at hand to add honor and distinction to, themselves now. They devour the Word and "**grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord.**" No man takes their crown or reward for they follow the admonition in II Pet. 1:5-7. "Giving all diligence, **add** to your faith virtue (power-endued by the Holy Spirit), and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity." Verse 8 tells us that these possessions make us fruitful or make us to increase in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. One cannot subtract and add at the same time so keep adding and no man can take away your crown—Rev. 3:11. And Jesus said, "Behold I come quickly; (suddenly) and My reward is with Me to give every man according as His work shall be." Rev. 22:12.

REFLECTIONS

REFLECTIONS

. . . *From the Editor*

“Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.” Matt. 2:16

Jesus, in answer to that which is typified by Moses, was born under the sentence of death. Like Moses, He also was rejected by His Own, but came back to deliver them. It is rather ironic that Jesus' second advent will also be marked by the slaughter of innocent children, this time through abortion. We can only imagine the heavy heart of Jochebed as she placed Moses in the river. The eleventh chapter of Hebrews indicates that she was a woman of faith for “By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, ...and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.” V. 23 This godly woman had to have looked beyond the immediate danger before her and commit this “proper” son into the Hands of The Lord.

18

The parents of Jesus likewise took steps to protect Him. They too were led by God in such dark and dangerous days as “...the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt....” Matt. 2:13

Ours also is a day of great consternation, violence, and ungodly behaviour among men but, just as it was in Moses' time and Jesus' time, even though we cannot ignore the perilous times in which we live, we surely can listen for the glorious promises available to us. God spoke to both Joseph and Mary “thou shalt call his name Jesus,” the reason being that He shall save His people from their sins. Matthew further invokes the O.T. declaring “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” Matt. 1:23 These Names also set before us the

glorious promises of God, even in dark days of sorrow. Jesus was born when one of the most ruthless Kings in Israel's history was in power, yet the shepherds still heard "...a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Lk. 2:13-14 During this Christmas Season, even amidst all the trouble and chaos of this world can we not also be like those lowly shepherd boys who "...came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger." The Babe has given way to Jesus, Emmanuel, the God of salvation Who is still with us, and will still make those Names a reality in our lives, if we too, but hasten unto Him! Though the world may know nothing of it, deep and lasting Peace is still the glorious proclamation, even today.

GH

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND CONVENTION
Living Waters Tabernacle, Denver, CO
February 14-16, 2014

Come fellowship with like-minded saints during this annual gathering. Sermons, studies, and plenty of food will be provided throughout the weekend. You'll be encouraged and refreshed in the Lord as His love abounds!

LIVING WATERS TABERNACLE
2014 CAMP DATES
Sunday, July 27th
through
Thursday, July 31st

We will be attending a new camp next year!

The Highlands Camp & Retreat Center
Allenspark, Colorado

Love Beckons

Ken Trujillo

“Come unto me me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

Come unto me .. A divine plea of exclamation from the Creator of the universe! Another translation says “Come hither! Come now -- don’t delay!” This loving and urgent calling from the lips of Jesus himself invites us to draw near. He paid that sacrificial price while suffering the excruciating agonies at Calvary so as to prepare that inner chamber just for us to enter into. A place of intimacy, while yet we sojourn here on earth, it foreshadows that nuptial bliss of a forever union with our Heavenly Isaac! Oh, praise be unto the Lamb of God, sacrificed upon the brazen altar on Golgotha’s hill as we so dearly sing of that “Old Rugged Cross.” From that bloody image of dishonor and humiliation to the glorious seat upon His Throne of Grace, our Savior extends His loving arms for the joy that was set before Him as He endured the cross, despising the shame for you and for me. Love Beckons Us! Heb 12:2

20

As He cried: “It is finished!” and bowed His head and died, He completely fulfilled the demand for God’s wrath to be poured out upon the guilty sinner. He had won the right to espouse and call out, during this very time we live in, a people for His Name! Acts 15:14 The moment God the Father raised Him from the grave, heaven’s joy-bells anthem’d throughout the abysses of the universes and the eternal bridal gates were opened to him who “hath an ear.” Victory bells became wedding bells! Jesus, as a pledging sacrament, crucified in weakness but raised in glory, made a way for His Queen To-Be, forever at His side to rule and to reign with Him perpetually!

“Come unto me,” in the Greek, has the same meaning as the invitation which the angel proclaimed to the apostle John in Rev 21:9 as he exclaimed: “Come up hither!” He then continued to

say, "... and I will show thee the Bride, the Lamb's wife. Don't you think our Precious Lord has something so incredible! So magnificent! So unimaginable! So beyond description that only with the eyes of faith being enlightened, can we embrace what He is offering to us. This beckoning is so personal; for He alone is truly calling us unto Himself. Only the TESTING AND TRIALS OF OUR FAITH which is "much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire," (I Peter 1:7) can make us ready for that eternal day which is about ready to dawn! As it is written: "...and His wife hath made herself ready." Rev 19:7

The songwriter wrote: "Come to this fountain so rich and sweet, cast thy poor soul at the Savior's feet, plunge in today and be made complete Glory To His Name!"

I am reminded of a story of a young policewoman named Officer Whitman. While out on patrol; she was dispatched to check out a traffic hazard issue. It was almost midnight and as she approached the location, she noticed a dead animal in the middle of a two-way street. It was a large golden retriever and her job was to move it to the side of the road so animal control could come pick it up. She flashed her emergency lights, got out of the patrol car and began to start pulling the animal away from the center lane as traffic slowly passed by and curious drivers and passengers caught a glimpse of the dead carcass. Then a small passenger car suddenly came to a stop right next to the animal as the officer was still pulling it aside. When she tried to motion the vehicle to move on, she noticed the driver, an older woman, leaning out of her car window to look closer, crying out Oh No! Oh No! As she flung her head back into her seat covering her face with her hands, she began sobbing uncontrollably. Officer Whitman asked if the dog belonged to her and while sobbing with a grievous moan, she nodded yes! The officer asked her if she was able to pull to the side while she finished moving the animal to the same area. Officer Whitman then gave her some Kleenex tissues as the woman got out of her car to positively identify the dog with a heartbroken utterance, "Duke poor old Duke!"

The old woman gained some composure, and told the policewoman that Duke belonged to her one and only son Michael, a Marine officer in Afghanistan, who was killed in action just over a month ago leaving behind his 15 year old daughter and his beloved dog. She said to Officer Whitman, I made a promise to my son, prior to his deployment, that I would take special care of his daughter and his dog. Anna and Duke were the only ones left, reminding her daily of those special memories. Oh how her son loved his daughter Anna and their dog! Duke had always been such a comfort and a faithful loving companion to the old lady while she grieved the loss of her son Michael. Earlier that day, after the burial service, as everyone gathered back at her home, Duke somehow got out of the back yard. She would now have to tell her granddaughter Anna that Duke was dead. With a soft whimper she said to the officer, "this will devastate her, especially just having been through her dad's military funeral."

22

Tears ran down Officer Whitman's cheek, and yet she knew she had to be strong and comfort this poor distraught mother and grandmother. She gave her a tender hug and told her how sorry she was for her losses. Officer Whitman then went over to Duke's dead body, took off his collar and tags and honorably handed them to the old woman, somewhat like the folded American flag was handed to her by the Honor Guard, at her son's military funeral. Officer Whitman once again expressed her condolences, and then followed the old woman back to her home making sure she got there safely.

Just then, this compassionate public servant, got a call dispatching her to go and pickup a teenage runaway spotted at an all-night coffee shop. Officer Whitman would always try to, create and engage in positive dialogue, while driving violators to the police station. While transporting the young girl, she began to tell her about the ordeal of the Marine and his dog and how that his mother had his only daughter Anna, left back home, to love and cherish. While escorting the teenager to the main entrance of the police station, the young girl broke down and cried. Then she said to Officer Whitman, I want to go back

home and tell my mom how sorry I am for running away and worrying her! Can you please take me back home? She must have known deep down in her heart how much her mother also loved and cherished her. She told Officer Whitman how she lost her Dad a year ago to cancer and had been on an emotional rollercoaster since then, but now after having heard the story of the old woman, Michael, Anna and Duke, it made her realize that her own Mom was all she had left at home and how her Mom would be waiting for her return to hold her once again with loving tender arms of love and compassion. Officer Whitman called the teenager's mother and said she had found her daughter and would be bringing her back home! She could hear the teenager's mother crying out joyous sighs of relief on the other end of the phone. When they pulled up to the house, the mother was standing on the porch, with arms wide open, as her daughter ran to her, to hug her and hold her, crying tears of joy and remorse! Officer Whitman's eyes, tearing up once again, smiled at both of them, waved goodbye, and contemplated as she drove away.

23

The arms of our Blessed Redeemer are also open wide as He so lovingly beckons us, "Come unto me!" These are three of the most incredible words of the Triune Godhead calling unto us with an incredible Divine Plan! A Divine Plan you might ask? Oh yes! Sometimes we may question God, and yes, while still in these mortal bodies we may hurt and experience heartbreak like the above story, but a Divine Plan has been perfectly, individually, and precisely designed, for each step of our lives that we might come to know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings. Phil 3:10 The Captain of our salvation, our "Precious Lord, was made a curse for us as they nailed Him on that cross and willingly, He offered Himself completely for us! Hebrews 10:14 states it thus: "For by one offering HE HATH PERFECTED FOREVER them that are sanctified." PERFECTED FOREVER? Wow! What an exceeding great and precious promise is ours for the taking! What will you do with it? Only He can comfort, strengthen, and encourage

us, as we run this race pressing on toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God, which is in His Son Jesus, our Blessed Savior! Phil 3:14 Is that special El Bethel (God of the House of God) altar of prayer and worship set-aside just for Him? How can we not deem it such a privilege to fall on our knees and give Him glory and honor while we are still encapsulated in this short breath-vapor of life we have left on this earth. James 4:14 How much time do we have to continue putting off His invitation before the first trumpet sounds? His coming draws nigh let us seize the opportunity NOW!

(The first of a 4 part series of Matthew 11:28 if Jesus tarries!)

Blessed Homeland

***Gliding o'er life's fitful waters,
Heavy surges sometimes roll;
And we sigh for yonder haven,
For the homeland of the soul***

***Blessed homeland, ever fair!
Sin can never enter there;
But the soul, to life awaking,
Everlasting bloom shall wear.***

***Oft we catch a faint reflection,
Of its bright and vernal hills;
And, though distant, how we hail it!
How each heart with rapture thrills!***

***To our Father, and our Savior,
To the Spirit, Three in One,
We shall sing glad songs of triumph
When our harvest work is done.***

***'Tis the weary pilgrim's homeland,
Where each throbbing care shall cease,
And our longings and our yearnings,
Like a wave, be hushed to everlasting peace!***

Fanny Crosby

HIS NAME IS JESUS

Mary M. Bodie

"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son, and shalt call His Name Jesus...The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that HOLY THING which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God" - Luke 1:31,35

25 **T**here are many precious and interesting types in the Old Testament of Jesus, the Holy Son of God, who became a Man and was born of the virgin Mary. These types afford many deep spiritual lessons, teaching us of Him who "became flesh, and dwelt among us" - John 1:14 R.V. Because of the varied nature of these pictures, they suggest the vast and immeasurable magnitude of His Character and Person. And being Deity itself, whose goings forth were from eternity, we do not marvel; but, even as Mary, we ponder and laud His Name.

In Exodus the book of redemption, where we are shown the sanctuary in the wilderness and all that pertained to it, there are a number of these types; but there is one particularly, to which we would invite your attention at this time. It is found in the concluding paragraph of chapter thirty, verses 34-38, concerning the "sweet spices...tempered together, pure and holy." As we read: "And the Lord said unto Moses, Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum; these sweet spices with pure (or clear) frankincense: of each shall there be a like weight: And thou shalt make it a perfume, a confection after the art of the apothecary, tempered together, pure and holy.

Of the above prescription was made an exquisite perfume. It was accounted sacred unto the Lord, and was forbidden to be used by man. Anyone making it to be enjoyed by himself, was cut off from fellowship with the congregation. There is very little known of the three prescribed ingredients stacte, onycha, and galbanum to which frankincense was added to make the perfume.

STACTE means "to drop." It was the sap which oozed from a tree of Gilead (meaning "true witness"), without any piercing or effort of man. ONYCHA, though called a spice, is supposed to be procured from the shell of a

mollusk. It was very fragrant when ground. GALBANUM, meaning "fatness", was a gum resin. It occurs in translucent masses of agglutinated tears; and while not fragrant, as the two other ingredients, yet it had the quality of holding them together. These three constituents were blended together into one mixture by the addition of the clear frankincense, a small quantity of which was burned every morning upon the altar of incense in the tabernacle.

Now this is most precious and instructive when we behold in this exquisite perfume the figure of the fragrant virtues of the holy Man - Jesus. The three ingredients, stacte, onycha, and galbanum -blended together into one perfume, frankincense - tell us of the moral beauties of Jesus, the only perfect human, mankind has ever produced. His spirit, soul, and body exhaled a fragrance upon earth that never had been known before and never has been known since in its full measure. There never has been but One Jesus, and will never be but the One.

26

STACTE would describe Him in spirit. His holiness "dropped" as the dew. ONYCHA, the shell of the organism, bespeaks the fragrance of the holy Man in His body, even as His spirit. GALBANUM, the third ingredient, would describe the "fatness" of His virtues, cementing body and spirit and soul together making one Man the holy Man, Christ Jesus a "continual" incense unto God.

And the fact that there was no special quantity of each prescribed ingredient, is most significant. It tells us of the unmeasured and immeasurable virtues which exhaled from His triune Being as perfume, and which only Deity could scan. These traits or characteristics were unknown and unknowable to mankind. God alone understood the moral worth of His adorable Son, in whom all Deity was and is concentrated. We will be all eternity looking into those divine perfections as they are unfolding themselves to our view. Ever and anon as some fresh beams of light shall burst forth from the central sun of our sky, around which we shall revolve forever, we will be constrained to shout aloud the praises of Him who, as the holy Man, tabernacled among men.

But not only was there no prescribed quantity of these ingredients, but we read, "Of each shall there be a like

weight." In Jesus, every feature of moral excellence and each beautiful grace found due place and proper proportion. There was no unevenness of character in Him, no excess quality in any measure, making Him distinct in that phase. He was all-round, perfect, and lovely in His humanity; even as the "fine flour," used in the making of the meal offering, figures - Leviticus 2:1. No feature of His moral beauty ever displaced or was made more prominent at the expense of others.

27 It was all "tempered together, pure and holy," into one fragrant perfection that was unsurpassed and unsurpassable. As we noted, only God could appreciate that exquisite perfume, that heavenly aroma which was put forth in the graces which enveloped that holy Man as He walked with God among men, and which still envelopes Him as He walks with God among the heavenly hosts. He is no different, as to character or moral beauty, than He was when here upon the earth. He has changed His sphere of action, but the excellencies of His perfect Personality are not changed. There can be no perfecting of that which is perfect, neither can there be anything holier than that which is holy. That "HOLY THING," which was conceived in the womb of the virgin, is no more unsullied today in heaven than He was then. His holiness is the essence of His Being. That was the answer to the graces which pervaded His whole life here below, of which the unusual incense was the type. In the sanctuary, or out of it, the odor was the same.

"AND THOU SHALT BEAT SOME OF IT VERY SMALL, and put of it before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee: it shall be unto you most holy" - Exodus 30:36.

There are depths of mystery in the expression "VERY SMALL." It teaches in part that every throb of Jesus' heart, the very least scintillation or energy, the most minute circumstance of His life every act, word, feature, or expression of that holy Man emitted and still emits an odor that was and is profoundly sweet; produced by an equal proportion - "A LIKE WEIGHT" - of all the spiritual graces that went to make up His character. The more the composition was beaten, the sweeter the fragrance. Likewise, with the Substance of this odorous Shadow. The heavier the blows, the fiercer the persecution, the more fiery the trial, the more rare and exquisite the perfume He yielded to His God.

"AND AS FOR THE PERFUME WHICH THOU SHALT MAKE, ye shall not make to yourselves according to the composition thereof: it shall be unto thee holy for the Lord" - 30:37. This delightful fragrant unguent was designed especially for the Lord, as though no one else could appreciate it. Its place was before the testimony. The thought is similar to that which we had before. There is that mysterious fragrance in Jesus, the holy Man, which only God can appreciate or enjoy. It is true that every believing heart can draw near to His matchless Person, and the deepest longings of his heart be satisfied; but that is a far different thing from realizing the worth and the graces of Jesus. There is that in Him, as a Man, which only God can fathom and enjoy. No human soul can pierce the exquisitely minute features of that blended holy perfume, beaten "VERY SMALL." It took but a very little, to fill the earthly tabernacle with fragrance. But what shall we say of that heavenly sanctuary where He, in all His fullness, shall be displayed? God shall truly not only be satisfied but delighted for all eternity, with His Son --- The Holy Man Jesus.

28

"Whosoever shall make like unto that, to smell thereto, shall even be cut off from his people." Ex. 30:38.

The perfume could not be imitated and used in a common manner. Jesus was and is like no other man. There can be no counterfeit of His exquisite holiness. His graces and virtues may be reproduced by the children of God, but they cannot be imitated. The fragrance of Jesus was unique and distinct. He was the rare, exotic flower of old Judea; and His exquisite fragrant virtues, have never been excelled or even equaled. Their perfume lingers still, around all those heavenly folk who have been born of God.

(Reprint 1964)

"When science and knowledge falls exhausted, then FAITH spreads its wings and enjoys the mysteries of God."

Did you ever notice this fact: that no one can sit comfortably in an easy chair, having on the whole armour of God?

ISAIAH

Chap.14

Gene Hawkins

“For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob.” V. 1

29 **T**his 14th chapter of Isaiah corresponds with II Chronicles, as chapter 28 of that book presents a record of the Jewish King Ahaz, who “sells out,” to the King of Assyria, very much typical of how the false prophet will work “hand in glove” with the antichrist, and lead Israel to give up the last vestiges of spirituality in an effort to “buy” the arm of the flesh. II Kings 16 and II Chron. 28, basically relate the same story in regard to this treachery. Ahaz was an extremely wicked king, and God allowed Jerusalem to suffer tremendous oppression because of it. Both of these chapters record his idolatrous acts as “... he burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burnt his children in the fire, after the abominations of the heathen He sacrificed also and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.” II Chron. 28:3,4 Because of these things, the “...LORD his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria; and they smote him, and carried away a great multitude of them captives, and brought them to Damascus. And he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who smote him with a great slaughter.” II Chron. 28:5 Apparently, Ahaz appealed to the king of Assyria twice, the first of which brought deliverance from Rezin, King of Syria, as seen in II Kings 16:9 The second time, according to II Chron. 28:20 “....Tilgathpilneser king of Assyria came unto him, and distressed him, but strengthened him not.” The pattern for both incidents seems to be the same. Ahaz tried to buy the King’s favor by literally “selling” the treasures found in the house of God. “So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, saying, I am thy servant and thy son: come up, and save me out of the hand of the king of Syria, and out of the hand of the king of Israel, which rise up against me. And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house, and sent it for a present to the king of Assyria.” II Kings 16:7,8 This

chapter in II Kings further declares the extent of Ahaz' idolatry when he ".....went to Damascus to meet Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and saw an altar (heathen altar) that was at Damascus: and king Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the fashion of the altar, and the pattern of it, according to all the workmanship thereof. And Urijah the priest built an altar according to all that king Ahaz had sent from Damascus:.... And when the king was come from Damascus, the king saw the altar: and the king approached to the altar, and offered thereon. And he burnt his burnt offering... And he brought also the brasen altar, which was before the LORD, from the forefront of the house, from between the altar and the house of the LORD, and put it on the north side of the altar. And king Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, Upon the great altar burn the morning burnt offering,and the brasen altar shall be for me to enquire by." II Kings 16:10-15 Ahaz, again typical of the false prophet, introduced a heathen altar, setting it "side by side" with the "brasen altar of the Lord." Urijah the priest was instructed to burn all Israel's offerings on the heathen altar, while the Lord's brazen altar would be for himself "to enquire by," thus the people are forbidden to come near it. This scenario is exactly what will transpire when the false prophet will persuade the Jews to give up the daily sacrifice, which will represent their final departure from the truth of Calvary in the end time. Dan. 8:9-11 They will then make the infamous covenant of death with the antichrist.

Though the first three verses of our present text are glorious promises to a restored nation, the bulk of Isaiah 14 reveals the severe judgment coming to the false prophet and the man of sin, when they are judged and cast into the lake of fire. According to this first verse, The Lord "will have mercy on Jacob," and He will show clearly that they are His Own chosen people when He sets "them in their own land." Strangers shall also be joined unto them, and those same strange Gentiles, will "cleave unto the house of Jacob." This will be a tremendous contrast to what we see unfolding before our eyes today. A great number of nations literally despise Israel, and would do about anything to distance themselves from the "trouble" they constantly cause, but in that day, all nations will cleave to Israel "And the people (Israel) shall take them, (Gentiles) and bring them to their place:..." That is, Israel will determine where the place of the heathen shall be,

“.... and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the LORD for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors.” V. 2 Furthermore, “...it shall come to pass in the day that the LORD shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve, That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!” V. 3-4 This tiny, chosen, nation, will indeed have complete rest from all the sorrow and bondage of the tribulation, and will rest from their oppressors. Not only so, but they will witness the demise of the antichrist, pictured here by the king of the golden city, Babylon. Judgment continues to be poured out as “The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers. He, (the antichrist, the leader of that end time coalition) who smote the people (Israel) in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth.” This man of sin will find out, first hand, that all his anger and fury will be rewarded with intense persecution inflicted by Jesus Himself, and none will stop Him.

“The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing. Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us. Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us? Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.” V. 7-14 Though he is called the king of Babylon, (V.4) the one directly, and repeatedly, addressed in these verses, is none other than Lucifer. God created him as “the son of the morning,” but pomp and pride have reduced him to the one known today as Satan.

(an opponent, adversary, arch enemy.) Ezekiel chimes in with an even more graphic description of the splendor and perfection, of God's most magnificent creature. He refers to him as the king of Tyrus, enlarging on his wisdom, extreme beauty, and musical prowess. "Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond,carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee,Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities,therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more." Ezek. 28:12-19

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Both Ezekiel and Isaiah describe the tremendous beauty and advantage with which Lucifer was created, and both also prophesy his demise due to pride. Here in Isaiah, he is seen as the power behind the false prophet, the antichrist, and all the rest who have opposed God, especially in His purposes for Israel, having been consumed with their destruction. The day will come, however, when "The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet, they break forth into singing." V.7 This new atmosphere is announced because this arch enemy has finally been defeated. Israel has been oppressed throughout the ages, but this wicked duo of the end time will be the last to do so, and thus the song of victory for this chosen nation will begin, as "...the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us." V. 8 The oppression of Israel is over.

“Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead **for thee.....**” V. 9 These words tell us that all the inhabitants of hell will be ready to welcome their leader home. We would also emphasize that all the traits and judgments defining Lucifer, are also true of his minions, the false prophet and antichrist. The judgments pronounced against him will also prevail against these who carried out his purposes. These occupants of hell, who arrive there before Satan “even all the chief ones of the earth;” have a few questions for their leader. “Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us? How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!” These words clearly indicate that his pride, and arrogance, along with his totally unconcealed desire to be “like the most High,” seems to be no mystery at all, to these who have been waiting for him. V. 9-14

Further, and sure, judgment, despite all his power and independence, continues as; “Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?” V. 15-18 All these things surely describe the indictments against Satan and what is in store for him, but these remarks especially apply directly to the antichrist, for his ungodly actions as he indeed carried out Satan’s bidding.

The following verses seem to present the fate of the nations, as contrasted with what happens to Babylon. “All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house.” The kings who ruled these literal nations round about this first world empire are permitted to go to their graves in glory and in “their own house. But thou (the line of Nebuchadnezzar) art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet. Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned. Prepare slaughter for his children for the iniquity of their fathers; that they do not rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities. For I will rise up

against them, saith the LORD of hosts, and cut off from Babylon the name, and remnant, and son, and nephew, saith the LORD.” V. 18-22 Nebuchadnezzar’s line was literally cut off in such a manner, but this portion also teaches that the antichrist will have no successor either. His reign will end in the lake of fire.

“I will also make it a possession for the bittern, and pools of water: and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the LORD of hosts.” V. 23 The destruction of literal Babylon continues as God declares that it shall never be rebuilt and inhabited again. It is a possession for the bittern, a species of birds, and is reduced to pools of water, making it inhabitable. Isaiah’s poetic description of the “besom,” or broom to remove dust or dirt, indicates that God will make a clean sweep, or complete house cleaning, in destroying this once glorious and golden city. That judgment is sure, as “The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand: That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders.” V. 24-25 The Assyrian here is once again a reference to the end time regime which has been so bent on destroying Israel. God, however, will break those who try to destroy “my land and...my mountains.” Many today are claiming rights to this land and especially the “mountain” of Jerusalem, but once again God goes on record claiming this portion of real estate for Himself. He will break the power of the Assyrian, but at the same time He will destroy the yoke of bondage and burden of oppression from the “shoulders” of His own people.

“This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?” V. 26,27 One day all the nations will learn by bitter experience that the purpose of God for this entire world is centered around Israel. One day they will understand that those purposes will be fulfilled without fail, and no one will disannul or hinder the Hand of God in performing all His Will concerning them.

(To Be Continued)



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*Behold a Babe in manger bare
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Of God's redeeming love to man.*

*Behold! He came as prophesied,
Was born and lived and loved and died.
He'll come again. It is no dream,
It's part of God's eternal scheme.*

*Behold that Child that cooed and smiled;
But never was by sin defiled.
What did He think as there He lay,
Babe of Destiny in the hay?*

*Behold that Child of humble mein,
He is God's King. It is no dream.
All men shall bow before his throne
And own Him Lord from zone to zone.*