

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole counsel of GOD

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Loving His Appearing

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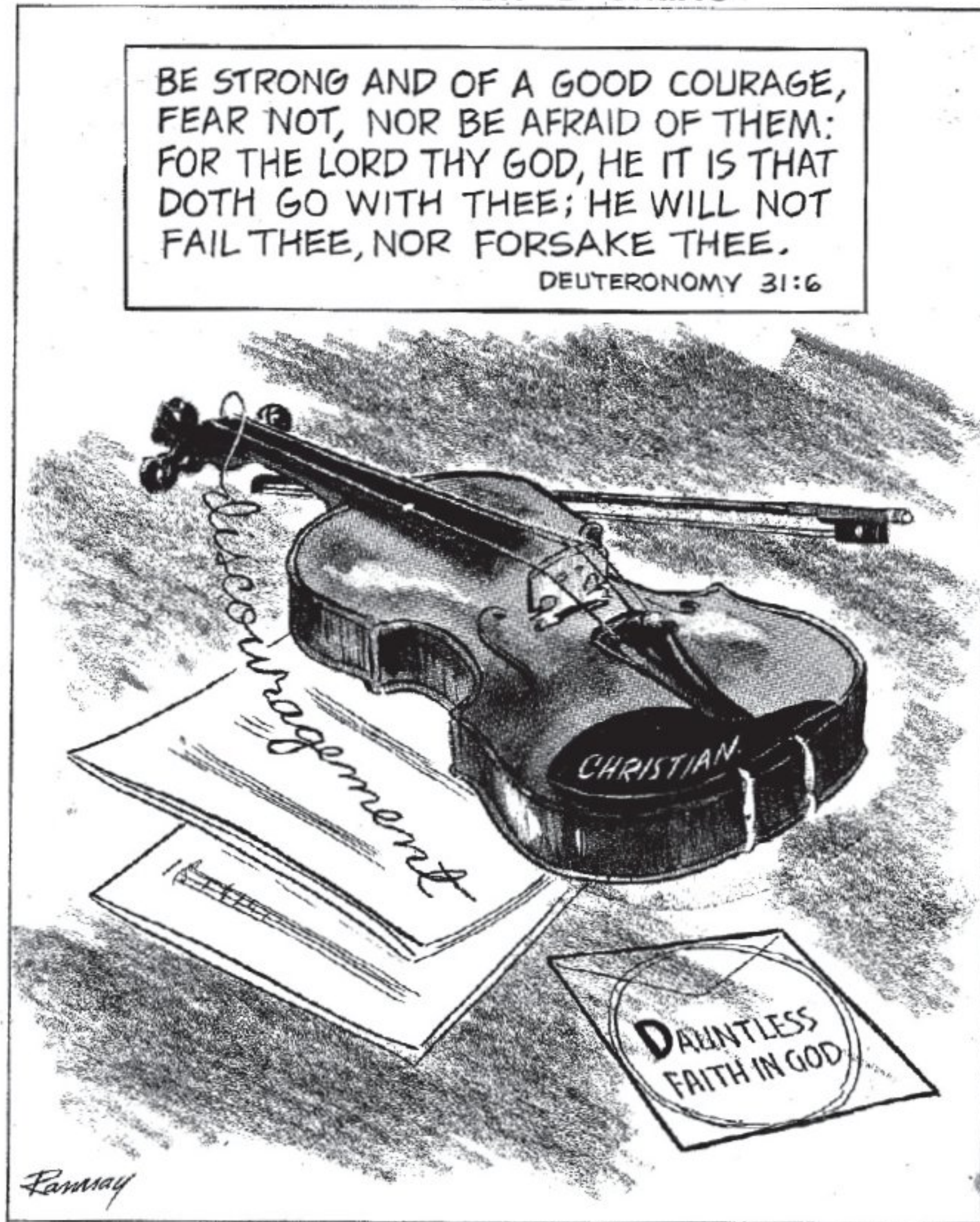


I will say of
the Lord, He is
my refuge and
my fortress: my
God; in him
will I trust.
PSALM 91:2.

Table of Contents

<u>Article</u>	<u>Author</u>
Definite Sign Post of the End	Gene Hawkins
Prevailing Prayer	A.S. Copley
Four Freedoms	Paul N. Smith.....
The Envelop Story	Ulela Martin
Filling the Waterpots.....	H.G. Desha Jr.....
Isaiah (Book Section).....	Gene Hawkins

NEEDS A NEW 'D' STRING



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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him. The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word. The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.” Isa. 24:1-6

3

What an apt description of our world today! We know these words are addressed to Israel, but the repeated use of the word “earth” emphatically declares that they apply to the entire world, and as noted especially in V. 2, no segment of society escapes. The master abides as much grief as the servant and the lender endures as much loss and difficulty as the borrower. So it is in every area of life today as men begin to experience the dictates of God. We read here that “...the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down,” and many other scriptures relate exactly the same message. Joel loudly cries “Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness,...” Joel 2:1,2 Paul likewise asserts “Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.” Heb. 12:26,27 Chaotic, uncertain, volatile, unstable, tumultuous,

and extremely changeable, are all terms which easily describe the atmosphere of this present world and are, in themselves, prominent signs of these end times. Jesus illustrates such an atmosphere in Matt. 13:1 “The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.” This seaside site is symbolic for it illustrates the fact that a transition was in progress. God had already begun preparation to transfer His dealings from Israel, as a nation, to the Gentiles. Matthew 12 records the fact that Jesus had just been soundly rejected by His Own People and the 7 parables of Matt. 13 illustrate God’s purposes, from beginning to end, of this present Church Age. The sower cast His seed on every type of ground imaginable as the gospel has been preached to the Gentiles during this entire age. The parable of the “hid treasure,” speaks of Israel being “hidden,” preserved, during this Church Age, while the “pearl of great price,” tells the story of the bridal company being taken out of the Church. The parable of the “dragnet,” which is cast into the sea (nations) describes the consummation of God’s dealings with the nations, after this Church Age is over.

Just as there was great turmoil at the beginning of this age, the world likewise will endure even greater unrest in the end of it even as Isaiah describes in our opening text. The same prophet uses this simile in Isa. 57:20 “But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.” Those waters of wickedness are surely raging throughout the world at this present time, and scripture plainly declares that such waters will become progressively worse. John saw the seven headed beast “..rise up out of the sea,..” as he, in spirit, “stood upon the sand of the sea,” in Rev. 13:1 The symbolism is the same. The condition of the sand is very unstable due to the raging of the wicked sea of nations at that time, from whence will emerge the seven headed national coalition of end time prophecy. The verses at the beginning of this article reveal that the earth is emptied, laid waste, turned upside down. It also “.... mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth (droop, be sick, weak, feeble) and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; **because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.** Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate:...”

These verses not only divulge the devastating, chaotic,

and defiling atmosphere which envelops the earth, but also tell us exactly why. Men have transgressed the laws of God! and the results are manifest on every hand, in every segment of society and in every corner of the entire world.

The entire world is waiting with bated breath to see what course Iran will take under their new leader. Israeli International Relations Minister Yuval Steinitz voiced the following concerns in a speech at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. "If they get the bomb, they will get many nuclear bombs." Steinitz said Iran poses a much greater threat than North Korea: "North Korea has local ambitions, but Iranian ambitions are global. Iranian leaders are speaking about a changing balance of power between Islam and the Western world, of a new era of global Islamic hegemony." Steinitz said Iran's nuclear industry is already bigger than that of North Korea and Pakistan, "and if indeed the Iranians reached their objective of spinning some 54,000 centrifuges at the Natanz nuclear facility, that alone would allow them to create the fissile material needed for 20-30 bombs per year," the Jerusalem Post reported. Mr. Steinitz went on to assert that "Tehran's ultimate goal, is to build "hundreds of nuclear bombs in a decade or two," a development that would change the course of "global history." The minister also expressed concern over Russia's deal to sell S-300 air-defense systems to Syria, warning that they could wind up in the hands of Hezbollah and could be transferred to Iran."

A report from Lignet News, likewise confirms the fact that newly elected Iranian Pres. Hassan Rowhani, in no wise brings any kind of stability to the troubled political waters surrounding Iran. He had been touted as a "moderate," by the Western media, but on foreign policy and the issue of Iran's nuclear program, he is anything but. As the lead negotiator for Iran on talks to suspend uranium enrichment in 2003, he admitted to "duping" the Europeans, saying that Iran was installing equipment for uranium production even while the deal was being negotiated. The Western news media, and many in government, have judged incorrectly, and U.S. efforts to isolate Iran as it expands its nuclear capabilities may now be in jeopardy. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei may have preferred a more hard line candidate, but Rowhani was one of eight hand-picked loyalists selected for the presidential ballot by Khamenei's supporters to strengthen the rule of Iran's conservative mullahs and resist the

effects of the Arab Spring and Iran's Green opposition movement." This same article goes on to say that "Iran's allies were also quick to welcome Iran's new president. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah stated in a cable that "Hezbollah along with all the mujahedeen in this country of resistance congratulate you . . . for aptly earning the big trust of the great people." Embattled Syrian president Bashar al-Assad sent a letter to Rowhani offering his "heartfelt congratulations and best wishes" on behalf of the Syrian nation."

On the other hand, "Others in the United States and Israel were less supportive of Rowhani's election. Mark Wallace, a former UN ambassador and director of United Against a Nuclear Iran said: 'President-elect Rowhani campaigned proudly on his record as Iran's nuclear negotiator during the time that Iran secretly advanced its nuclear weapons capability and deceived the international community to avoid harsh sanctions. He has promised more of the same, but this time the international community is on notice of his past deceit.'

6

Israeli journalist Avi Issacharoff believes the Iranian regime wanted Rowhani to win. He wrote in a blog post yesterday: "The incoming president of Iran was never a reformist. It is doubtful that his achievement was even a victory for the moderate camp in Iran, which on the face of it wants to replace the regime and to stop the nuclear weapons race. Rowhani, as opposed to the image that has been fashioned, was until recently known as part of the conservative camp in Iran. He is not one of those challenging the Islamist regime, and certainly not challenging Khamenei's rule."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned: "the international community must not give in to wishful thinking or temptation and loosen the pressure on Iran for it to stop its nuclear program."

Thus, despite changes of leadership, the world continues in this state of chaos, and world leaders do everything in their own power to try and promote their own agendas. This is also evidenced by the G8 Summit which began June 17, 2013 in Ireland. This group of eight nations normally meets to discuss world economy, but other current, and apparently more pressing issues are expected to take center stage. This report, also from Lignet News, gives this assessment: "One of the most contentious G8 summits in many years opens today in Northern Ireland. The high-level meeting is intended to focus

on economic issues but is likely to be dominated by the NSA Surveillance scandal and by the huge differences between the West and Russia on Syria. While the summit is likely to result in no significant agreements, it may allow the UK and France to take advantage of the new U.S. position to provide arms to the Syrian rebels to convince the EU to adopt a similar position.

The official agenda, according to British Prime Minister David Cameron, the summit's host, is the "three Ts" – taxes, transparency and trade. Combating tax avoidance by corporations is expected to be a major focus given recent press reports about American companies like Google, Amazon, and Apple using offices in European countries to avoid paying taxes on billions of dollars of income." Syria has been in the news for quite some time and various arguments put forth as to why the U.S. and other nations have not come the aid of this people so oppressed and slaughtered by their own government. World politics is the answer as each nation tries desperately to ensure their own interests. The U.S. and Russia, are especially at odds and some who are sympathetic with the Syrian rebels are reluctant to supply arms for fear that they will fall into the hands of Islamic terrorist organizations like Hezbollah and al-Qaeda. "U.S. officials claim they can get weapons to the Syrian rebels without this happening. French and British officials have made similar claims." The general consensus in regard to this dilemma seems to be that all these nations will pursue the idea of supplying arms to these freedom fighters, even though the E.U. may not approve it. This same account goes on to reflect the extreme distrust among the nations at this present time. "It is bad timing for President Obama that he happens to be meeting with high-level EU officials just after press reports on the NSA surveillance scandal. Given the furor over this issue in Europe, several European officials will take advantage of Obama's participation in the G8 summit to harangue him over this issue and probably threaten to reduce crucial information-sharing that is necessary to combat terrorist activity. In the end, however, the EU heads of state will probably simply use their discussions with Obama to blow off steam and for photo ops so they can tell their citizens that they expressed their concerns to the U.S. president about this issue."

We are certain that such things as this are just "the tip of the iceberg," insofar as the explosive issues of our day are

concerned. The trembling shaky relations between the nations will in no wise improve as God continues to “shake things up.” Our text in Isaiah, along with accounts such as Psalm 2, tell us that those nations are actually orchestrating their efforts against God. “Why do the heathen rage, 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. V. 1-3 Their “rage” or tumult will continue, but to us who would believe God, it is refreshing to read that “He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.” He will continue His “shaking” process to determine, “...that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.” Heb. 12:27

We would also note that the “religious” world has, in no wise, escaped uncertainty. This headline appeared in the K.C. Star recently: “Calvinism drives a wedge between Baptists.” The reason? “More congregations embrace predestination, a doctrine contrary to the traditionalists’ beliefs.” It seems that men today delight in “labeling” people and showing up any 8 kind of controversy, especially among Christians. Some of us have been called “extreme Calvinists” because we believe and proclaim the glorious doctrine of eternal life and the depths of divine grace. Doctrinal differences have existed for years, in Christian circles. Bro. Copley’s writings contain much of his battle against “individual predestination.” The trouble here is that the controversy is purported to be within the ranks of one denomination. One response to the charge, from a Florida Pastor, was that “It points the way forward. The report acknowledges genuine disagreement, but it also affirms commonality in essentials, a commonality we didn’t have 35 to 40 years ago.”

This same “Faith” page in The Star also raises the issue of “the anti-christ,” pointing out that the concept is “ever-changing.” The author argues that “Every age needs an Antichrist.” Daniel Burke then goes on to explain that “early Protestant Reformers picked the Papacy as their embodiment of evil,” while others later chose King George III, and The Soviet Union. Currently he asserts that some have now declared that Islam will produce the man of sin. We would doubt that, because the antichrist claims no religion but that of himself. Men, for years, have tried to specifically name the antichrist, but Daniel only saw him as one of

seven horns, while John beheld him as one of a seven headed beast. Both prophets describe a seven nation coalition from whence will emerge this man of sin, but the whole Church will be in heaven before that occurs. Though, we are confident that, the anti-christ is most assuredly alive and well in this world today due to the very eminent return of Jesus, the scripture is very clear that this “son of perdition,” will not be officially revealed until 250 days before the middle of the tribulation week when his “deadly wound” is healed (Rev. 13:3) and he begins his 1260 day reign of terror and complete devastation, and no amount of knowledge, prayer, or other safeguard will deter him from keeping his date with destiny.

Religious uncertainty will continue to rule the day, and with the “smorgasbord” of religious teachings today, we often hear men asking “what is the truth? One religion is just as good as another.” Jude describes the religious “peddlers” who author such unrest and confusion as “clouds...without water, carried about of winds;....Raging waves of the sea,..... wandering stars.” Jude 12,13 Jude’s whole premise in writing this dissertation surrounds “the last time,” (V.18) wherein he exhorts “that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” V. 3 The only thing that can countermand these shifting sands of religion is “the faith,” or the truth of God’s Word, which some seem determined to eliminate with various translations and interpretations of men.

Pope Francis added to the confusion recently as some of his comments evoked the question: “Is Pope Francis preaching Universalism.” That is a doctrine whereby some have taught that all men will be saved regardless. The Pope stated that “The Lord has redeemed all of us, all of us, with the Blood of Christ: all of us, not just “Catholics. Everyone! ‘Father, the atheists?’ Even the atheists. Everyone! And this Blood makes us children of God of the first class!” The Vatican was quick in trying to refute the charge of preaching universalism and explain what the Pope really meant. Nonetheless, the questions and confusion continue.

Our objective during these very fluid times in which we live is simply to “.....take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” Eph. 6:13 Paul also exhorts “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning

craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:" Eph. 4:14,15 Ours is a day wherein men have chosen to disregard the Word of God, but according to the foregoing texts, that is the only thing that will establish us on solid ground in the midst of the gross unrest and upheaval so prevalent in these last days. Only truth will grow children into men who will stand and withstand. Rather than being concerned about identifying the antichrist, or trying to unify the religious or political worlds, our predominant focus must be "...to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come. I Thess. 1:10

A Prayer Hymn

Lord of all pots and pans and things;
since I've no time to be,
A saint by doing lovely things,
or watching late with Thee,
Or dreaming in the dawnlight,
or storming heaven's gates,
Make me a saint by getting meals
and washing up the plates.
Although I must have Martha's hands,
I have a, Mary mind;
And when I black the boots and shoes,
Thy sandals, Lord, I find.
I think of how they trod the earth,
what time I scrub the floor;
Accept this meditation, Lord,
I haven't time for more.
Warm all the kitchen with Thy love,
and light it with Thy peace;
Forgive me all my worrying,
and make all grumbling cease.
Thou Who didst love to give men food,
in room or by the sea,
Accept this service that I do—
I do it unto Thee.

10

(This hymn is said to have been written by a nineteen-year-old servant girl.)

PREVAILING PRAYER

A.S. COPLEY

“And He spoke a parable unto them, that men ought always to pray and not to faint.” (Luke 18:1) “But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word.” (Acts 6:4)

There is much neglect and indifference concerning this ministry. Very few people pray too much. Most people would rather visit with one another than wait on the Lord. A praying life means a victorious life. Prayer leads to usefulness. It affords open doors for effective service. It forestalls troubles, because it tends to make us God-like. If saints would read the daily papers less, and listen to radio less, (and watch TV less, Ed.), and pray more, they would have more joy and deeper peace, better health and prosperity.

“They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength.” Praying without ceasing does not mean that we must be on our knees day and night, but we should not give up, not “faint,” if the answer does not come at once. Pray again, again, and again, if need be. “Vain repetition” means uttering empty words and not praying from the heart. Shall not God “avenge His own elect, who cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them?” He may not always answer exactly as we hope, but the answer will be better and wiser.

11

It is a common experience that beginners get quicker replies than older saints in order to encourage them to go on. Why? We need to be tested, but new-born ones cannot endure severe trials. We learn to endure and suffer, which is the price of the greatest reward. “The Lord trieth the righteous.” Paul besought the Lord three times to remove a jagged thorn, but the Lord answered, “My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.” this is a riddle indeed, to man’s reason. The abundant revelations of Divine Truth would have puffed up the apostle if God had taken away the thorn.

He does not always show why the answer is delayed, or withheld. My daughter endured unspeakable physical pain for months, screaming aloud again and again. It was unbearable for me, besides the fear of the neighbors arresting us for permitting her to suffer. Hundreds of prayers were ascending in her behalf. Time and again, the enemy’s power was rebuked and the victory obtained, but only temporarily. When I was overwhelmed with disappointment

and discouragement, the Spirit would whisper: "Men ought always to pray." Job 23 brought some comfort (which read and meditate). Finally, it pleased the Lord to take her according to Psalm 102:13: "Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favor her, yea, the set time is come." The healthiest and most praise-worthy faith is that which rests in the Lord in the dark, and does not whine, saying, "Why?" We do not arrive at this place overnight, nor in a year.

As we go on with the Lord, we learn that "the trial of our faith is more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried as by fire" - I Peter 1:6-7. We need the trial. We learn invaluable lessons in testings. The flesh is cut back. We are pruned for greater fruit-bearing. The trial of our faith is more precious to God than answers to prayer. We become refined, polished and beautified, and God is glorified. No one can stand uninterrupted success and prosperity, even in spiritual things. Much modern success in religious activities is carnal. It glorifies the workers and deceives the populace. The Holy Spirit is grieved. It is not born out of Spirit-indicted prayer. It does not result from the preaching of the pure Word of God, under the Divine Unction, which comes only from waiting on the Lord, and for the Lord.

12

Some folks ask, "What is prevailing prayer? Or praying through?" The writer has had some such experiences. Once in a city in Ohio, I opened fire in a Mission Church. The second day, I locked myself in the meeting house and prayed. About two o'clock, I felt assured that God answered my cry. That night seven people knelt at the altar for salvation. The next day, I gave myself to special prayer again, but not with any assurance, or visible results. Another time, three of us prayed all night for a break in a revival campaign. Early in the morning I received the answer. The pastor and my daughter received answers later. The following night, the devil ranted. Boys threw paper wads and grains of corn, while I preached and the pastor shouted the victory. The next night the tide turned and sinners sought the Lord. Forty were saved in that campaign. Another time, I prayed through, as I supposed, and the next day the church house was locked against me, leaving me to get away the best I could.

In Toledo, Ohio, about 1902, I had no place to preach and was out of employment, with a family of three to provide for. I gave myself to prayer hour after hour. I had read the experiences of very successful evangelists, and longed to have similar success. I cried day after day, with bitter tears and deep groans for the

salvation of souls. My last recollection of that prayer siege was that I flung myself in desperation across the bed and cried aloud for the Lord to give me an unnumbered host of souls--all He wanted to give me. Of course, I wanted to see sinners converted. I cannot recall the immediate future, but I was soon in the Gospel harness again. When I received the anointing with the Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, about five years later, I fully expected to become an able and successful evangelist in response to my prolonged cry for souls. God had heard my petitions, but responded in a far different manner. This leads me to the next point, a fact which is either unknown to most believers, or overlooked, or ignored.

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IS SEEN IN PRAYER.

Whenever successful revival campaigns are reported, invariably the success is attributed to one of two things: Either much prayer was offered and resulted in the revival, or (which is especially said of present-day revivals) the success was due to the wisdom and ability of the "world famed Rev. Dr. So and So," who is lauded to the skies in terms that leave God, and Christ, and the Holy Spirit out of the picture. Now, if people prayed fervently and persistently; if they prayed with unusual earnestness and unction; if they prayed and kept on praying until they prayed through, as I did and many others have done, it was because Jehovah was moving them to special supplication. God sovereignly possessed them with a spirit of definite prayer and intercession. This may come about in a simple manner by the prayer warriors giving themselves to prayer as a habit, not formally, but with the heart, or it may come suddenly and by a special Divine urge. If we understand God's sovereignty in men's lives, we will give less glory to men and more glory to the God of grace and His wondrous plans.

How did George Mueller come to found and carry on a faith orphanage? God sovereignly led him that way. He was possessed with a gift of faith for that work; hence, he prayed much along that line. Why was a certain doctor in Boston, in 1897, known as the "man who believed God"? He had the gift of healing sick bodies. It was sovereign. What was the source of the Welsh Revival in 1902? It was attributed to Evan Robert's zeal and faith, but he was only an instrument in its accomplishments. The revival was a sovereign visitation from the Lord. Who precipitated the "Latter Rain Pentecost" about 1906? It was

not the one-eyed Negro preacher in the Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles. People were thirsting for the fulness of the Spirit. I had longed for half a dozen years to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I yearned for the living waters to flow from my innermost being, for which my friends reproved me and laughed at me.

What caused the deep sense of need and burning thirst? What caused a few folks to cry out to God for the Spirit in an Azusa Street mule barn? What caused several hundred native girls in Ramabai's Orphanage in India to wait on the Lord until the fire fell there? God sovereignty moved in different parts of the world at the same time, without any of them knowing what was happening to the others. There had been no particular public call to prayer for a world wide revival. No human program was made, and printed in large, catchy letters in newspapers, and yet, the greatest flame arose and spread throughout the world, un-eclipsed by any spiritual awakening before it, except in Jerusalem about A.D. 33. Why did the Spirit not fall in some well known churches? God launched a program in which the Holy Spirit could operate un-fettered by natural brains and learning. We read that once, "Jesus rejoiced (exulted exceedingly, leaped for joy) in Spirit and said, I thank Thee, O Father, LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, that Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Thy sight" - Luke 10:21.

God dealt with me sovereignly. He hedged me in so that I would pray and cry out to Him. He did not let me have much visible success; hence, I gave myself diligently to the study of the Scriptures, the Spirit moving me thus. Soon after my anointing with the Spirit, which was unspeakably wonderful and glorious, I forgot about precipitating big revivals; but unconsciously delved into the Word of God. Providence occasioned this fact. Erroneous doctrines began to spring up among the Pentecostal folk. Therefore, my pen began to write to offset heresies. The Lord showed me that a mighty spiritual wave would soon girdle the globe, I dreamed one night that I asked the question, "What is the limit to the power of God in a fully surrendered life?" I awoke and meditated, receiving this answer: "The will of God." I saw that all God wanted of me was my will wholly yielded to Him, and victory and success would be certain.

Because of conformities of the flesh, we may sometimes,

move from the “good will” of God very slowly into the acceptable will,” and finally into the perfect will of God” - Romans 12:2. After floundering about for part of a year, the Lord settled me in Kansas city. While kneeling one evening in the rear of a meeting where I was not wanted, the God of purposes and plans whispered into my heart, “Watch Me work!” Later, He said to me in power, “Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain” - Psalm 127:1.

I refer to these significant moments in my own life to show you the absolute importance of waiting on the Lord, and that He acts sovereignly. Most people act so quickly and run so fast, that God cannot show to them His best. If I am any blessing to humanity today, it is because GOD HAS WROUGHT in me and by me.

Let me say to every perplexed believer: “Yield entirely to the Lord. Worship Him with all your heart. Wait upon Him without fear, or prejudice.” And here, too, the Holy Spirit must help you, and He will if you earnestly desire His enabling. Let no one bring you under bondage to certain humanly-devised rules of prayer, but do pray; do seek the Lord. Neglect all else rather than prayer and the Word of God. Give yourself to prayer, and the Lord will give you His very best answer, for “No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”

15

This may explain the universal begging campaigns that have infested Christendom. Men think that they must do something for God. They consider themselves bright and wise and capable, and without getting any clean-cut orders from heaven, without having their tongues touched with holy fire, without understanding God’s plan and program, they try to launch a movement. Not having a clear commission from God, they do not have the “faith of God,” therefore, they must resort to high-powered psychological pressure to get funds to put their schemes over. And the dear people, so un-scripturally taught, are easily fooled into pouring their silver and greenbacks into the collection plate. They talk and act as if God were either poor, or not interested in the salvation of men. Well, He is not interested in “building wood, hay and stubble.” What will the harvest be? “They that sow to the flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption.”

It is a great stabilizer to recognize the sovereignty of God, and pray, and preach, and teach in harmony therewith. The Holy Spirit will always lead in that direction. He cannot

operate freely and fully through workers who mix their own reasoning and schemes with God's purpose. The vast host of Israel moved and pitched by the pillar of cloud and fire. "At the commandment of the Lord, they rested in their tents; and at the commandment of the Lord they journeyed. They kept the charge of the Lord at the command of the Lord by the hand of Moses." let us do likewise. Then we will prosper and have good success.
(Reprint - 1937, 1962)



Praying, Preaching and Proving

Paul N. Smith

Praying, preaching and proving—
The three, P's of today.
Praying for preaching and proving
And proving what you say..

Do we practice our preaching?
And prove what we declare ?
Praying for preaching and proving
At, home and, everywhere?

Proving that we are praying
By practicing our words;
And preaching what we know is right
'Til victory, is,-assured.

Praying, preaching and proving
What do you lack today?
Forgetting to pray about preaching—
Not practicing what you say?

“STAND FAST”

“**HAVE NOT I COMMANDED THEE?** Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God **is with** thee whithersoever thou goest.”—**Joshua 1:9**

Twice before this, the Lord said to Joshua, “Be strong and of a good courage.” God had chosen him to be Moses’ successor. He anointed him for the responsible task. Immediately, upon God’s command, he began to act. He *gave* instruction to his officers, who pledged themselves to obey him, and added, “Only be strong and of a good courage.” God at once began to magnify Joshua in the eyes of the people, because he was courageous. Ch. 3:7 and 4:14. So fearless was Joshua, that when one day the heavenly “Captain of the Lord’s host” confronted him in the form of “a man”, he stepped out and exclaimed, “Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?”—Ch. 5:13. Hence, Ch. 6:27 tells his whole life story in a few words—“So the Lord was with Joshua; and his fame was noised thruout all the country.”

We ministers need to profit by Joshua’s fortitude. God expects us to maintain a bold front for the whole truth. Then He will be with us also and magnify us before the people. Is “eternal life” Scriptural? Did Jesus and Paul emphasize it? Is salvation absolutely by grace thru faith, apart from man’s works? Is it complete and everlasting? Is healing of the sick Scriptural? Is it provided in Christ’s atonement? Is the anointing with the Holy Spirit as the early church experienced it, for us today? Is Paul’s Gospel the message for the present hour? Brother, what do you answer to these queries? If these are the truth, we should declare them bravely, and fear no man’s face. If we do not declare them, at the judgment-seat of Christ, the Judge will ask, Why did you withhold part of the truth? Brother, show your colors. Let us stand together for the whole truth. “Who is on the Lord’s side?”



REFLECTIONS

. . . *From the Editor*

“But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.” Gal. 4:26

Freedom! What a magnificent word! It is an even more glorious experience, but history has shown that, more often than not, it comes at great price. America celebrates her freedom from England every 4th of July, but that long ago day in 1776 was the result of great conflict and tremendous loss of life. Other wars, down through the ages, have likewise brought freedom from oppression for some, but it was at the expense of those willing to give the ultimate sacrifice of their own lives.

America has boasted of being the "freest" nation on earth, but some are very concerned that those freedoms are being very quickly eroded. 911 brought great changes in this country, and many of them are reflected by the massive government restrictions that were implemented, and continue to expand, thus limiting the tremendous freedoms we enjoyed since this nation was founded. Many other regulations, which supposedly protect the environment, have literally changed our way of life and inflicted a great financial burden on various businesses and consumers.

The freedom to which Paul alludes in the above text, likewise came at great price, even the Precious Blood Of Jesus. The difference is that this freedom does not, in any wise deteriorate. The tragedy is that many, even among Christians, never learn to enjoy it. Paul wrote this letter to the Galatians because they had been duped by certain Judaizers, and had elected to put themselves under the bondage of the law. They had not only deprived themselves of the freedom purchased by blood, but they had also willingly surrendered themselves to a continued state of infancy. They remained babes in Christ! Thus Paul shouted "Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?" Gal. 4:21 He then proceeds to explain that they had been born free as the children of the freewoman, Sarah, the personification of Mother Grace.

Contrary to the state of this world, this complete freedom

from sin, the law, the flesh, the world, and even Satan cannot be taken from us if we but take our place as the children of the freewoman --- Mother Grace. Jesus said "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36 "Free indeed," meaning "really:--certainly, clean, indeed, of a truth, verily." Our freedom is a surety, and it is guaranteed by Jesus Himself. Here we read that He "shall make you free." Verse 32 of this same chapter tells us how. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Many quote this verse as saying the truth "shall set you free," as though it were some magical incantation. He rather "makes" us free as we learn the glorious truth of His work of redemption at Calvary. He paid the complete price for our freedom and to those who will simply believe His Word, we are "made" free by experience every time our faith reaches out to claim it.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The book of Philippians has been reprinted and is now ready for distribution. You may order them by mail at P.O. Box 831, Grandview, Missouri 64030 or by phone: 816-618-3306. You may also request any of our materials by e-mail: gjhawk1@msn.com

We have also collaborated with Bro. David Cloud in publishing "*Paul's Gospel In The Song Of Solomon*," written by Sis. Alice S. Mooneyhan. These lessons are now available in Spanish and may be obtained by ordering them directly from Bro. Cloud at: P.O. Box 181; Pharr, Texas 78577

We also rejoice that we will soon have the Spanish version of Romans available.

The Four Freedoms

Paul N. Smith

NOW the Lord is that Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty"—II Cor. 3:17

Today in this world of conflict, nation is fighting against nation for what is called the "Four Freedoms." Many people have lost their lives, deceived by the cry that is ringing thruout the nation. "Fight for democracy! Fight for your country!" and people are so blind that they cannot see the futility of warring against one another. They will never gain that for which they are striving. Never will they have the four freedoms which are so loudly proclaimed. It would be ideal to have them, and it is a great gesture for men of this world—but as long as the master deceiver, the devil, is running loose, man will never be free. The whole human race has been bound by Satan. Only those who believe on the Son of God can ever enjoy real freedom. One of these days, Jesus Christ will come from heaven with His people and set up the only righteous and true reign. Then shall the earth know freedom for a thousand years. 20

For those who believe the Gospel of Grace, God gives the four freedoms that the world advocates and more. They are everlasting. Freedoms that the world cannot give and the god of this world cannot take away. God through His Word offers these four—"freedom from fear, freedom from want, freedom of religion and freedom of speech." In II Timothy 1:7, we read, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." After we accept Jesus Christ and what He has done for us on Calvary, we receive His Spirit which does not fear. Instead of fearing we are set free, entirely free from all fear and condemnation and we begin to know God as our Father and love Him as such. "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father"—Rom. 8:15. It is the rare privilege to be able to call the God of the universe our Father. We are loosed from all fear, once we are made a new creature and we come into the relationship of sons of God. There need be no fear that our Father will cast us off. He has loved us with an everlasting love and He so loved us in the beginning that He sent His only Son to die for our sins. And the love that is put down in our hearts cannot fear God. "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear." We also have **freedom from want**. "The Lord is my Shepherd, I

shall not want"—Psalms 23:1. There is a lot of truth in that short verse. We can say, Since the Lord is my shepherd I have no want. He is my all in all. If anyone is in need, it is because he has not believed God in that respect. It is not God's fault when he wants for something. He has spread out a great spiritual feast for him and if he stands back and is afraid to partake of what is provided, he is the loser. What God has promised in His Word, He will surely perform. One who trusts in the Lord will find that He is faithful. His grace and mercies are unlimited. "But my God shall supply ALL your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus"—Phil. 4:19. The wonders of God's grace that reaches down to us, such lowly creatures and nourishes us and takes care of our every need astounds those who realize some of its depths. Surely we are freed from any want if only we believe His Word.

21

The United States claims freedom of religion, but thanks be to God we have **freedom FROM religion**. Instead of religion, we have salvation. Let us read what the Apostle Paul says about this so-called religion. "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world and not after Christ"—Col. 2:8. Also the eighteenth and nineteenth verses, "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not balding the Head from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God." These words are plain and to the point. There is a possibility that someone could rob us of a heavenly inheritance thru the philosophies and the traditions of men. Most of the large religious systems today are spoiling thousands of people by teaching some dead person's philosophy that has been handed down from generation to generation. Teaching things which are of no profit for the hearers.

Everything that we take which is not according to the Word of God, is to our loss. If we listen to those who are not preaching the Gospel of Grace, we are allowing them to spoil us of riches which we would otherwise receive from hearing and taking in the Word of God. In Phil. 3:4 Paul calls these men dogs and evil workers. He tells us to beware of these dogs who are not preaching Christ. Isaiah also gives us a picture of these evil workers. "His watchmen are **blind**, they are all **ignorant**, they are all **dumb** dogs, they cannot bark, sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea,

they are **greedy** dogs which can never have enough, and they are **shepherds** who cannot understand. They all look to their own way, everyone for HIS GAIN from his quarter"—Isa. 56:10, 11. Do you see a picture of those who call themselves true shepherds and servants of mankind ? Isaiah knew a lot about them and we of today do also. The blindness and ignorance among religious professors is truly sad. If only they would receive salvation and read the Word of God, this world would be a better place in which to live. How rightly, many of these professors who add a D. D. to their names, applies to their real titles—dumb dogs. Let us beware of these evil workers and seek the Lord with a whole heart and study His precious Word. We who are free from this religiousness are able to shout aloud our praises to God for delivering us from the bondage of false religions. Many of God's people do not shout enough. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed"—John 8:36.

Those of us who have freedom from religion have, or should have **freedom of speech**. We need not be empty-mouthed 22 when it comes to telling about our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and what He has done for us. In Ps. 81:10, the Lord says, "Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it." When we have our hearts full of the Word our mouths will not be empty. We are told in II Timothy 4:2 to use our freedom of speech to preach the Word. We need not always preach from the pulpit, but we can preach anywhere and anytime that the Lord leads us to do so. Our ministry is not confined to a pulpit, but when our mouths are open to proclaim God's Grace, we are exercising our freedom of speech. Not only has God given us the freedom to speak, but He has given us a gift of speech, by which we may glorify God, edify the Church and ourselves. The 120 received this gift of speech on the day of Pentecost and many have received the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues since. The world may talk about freedom of speech, but we have the most glorious freedom of anyone. To be able to talk to God is wisdom and knowledge far above the greatest minds of this world. God has given us freely of all things to enjoy, including these four freedoms. Not only these are ours, but many more freedoms. If we take our place in Christ, we will be free. So, with the liberty we have, let us shout our freedom, for we are free, **free, FREE!**

The Envelope Story

Ulela Martin

After I had spent eight years in Shanghai, China, the Sino-Japanese war brought much uncertainty, and, in the latter part of 1940, in response to Consular advice, many of us planned to return to the homeland. Members of my family had already left and I was making preparations to leave on the "Washington," sailing November 20th. Because of war conditions, my own personal check had been coming from the States later and later—sometimes reaching me about the fifteenth of the month instead of the first. In this month of November, the 15th came and no check. In five days I was to sail. I could not go and leave behind me unpaid bills -- a thing which would dishonor the Lord. I was much puzzled and much concerned. In this state of mind, I attended a little prayer and praise service in the home of friends. During the evening, an English missionary gave the following testimony:

At one time she was greatly tested" about money matters, and one night she had a dream. She saw a closed door, and a friend near her said, "Knock on that door." She knocked; and a very kind voice from the inside said, "Come in." Upon opening the door, she saw the Lord Jesus dressed in beautiful white and sitting behind a large desk, upon which lay many envelopes. His main concern seemed to be to get these into the hands of those in need, for whom they were intended. The Lord addressed this friend, saying, "What can I do for you?" She answered, "Please, Lord, I need some money." He immediately reached over and took an envelope and handed it to her. She noticed her name written on it, but, above her name, was another which had been crossed off. She said, "But, Lord, this belongs to another." He replied, "No she never called for it, so it is yours." Upon hearing this story, I thought, Oh! So that was it. She did not call for her envelope. Perhaps the Lord is waiting for me to call for mine. Upon reaching home that night, I said: "Please, Lord, let me have my envelope and every envelope that is on your desk for me; and please note that I am calling for them." A day or so later, I was invited by friends to a gathering for tea and fellowship. Upon leaving, three of the friends each gave me an envelope. I thanked them and, thinking they were steamer letters; placed them in my brief case. Upon reaching home, again came this pressure of the financial test with redoubled force; "How can

you leave Shanghai with bills unpaid? How can you get ready to go? How will you meet other, traveling expenses? --- How? How? How? My mind was strained with the thinking of it all and with the impossible situation. Finally, I came to *my* senses and said, "Lord, I am preparing to leave for the States in accordance with what I have felt was Thy leading, and I cannot be worried with the financial part of it." I had no sooner spoken than I seemed to hear Him. say, "You have not opened your envelopes, have you?" Sure enough! I had not, for I thought they were steamer letters. I took them from the brief case and, upon opening the first one, found tucked in with a friendly note, a check for fifty dollars; the second contained a check for one hundred dollars; the third had thirty dollars in bills. Later another friend called at the apartment and, when going, left me an envelope. In this I found twenty dollars. I received, in all, two hundred dollars in Chinese currency, and was enabled to make all the arrangements it was necessary, to make before going.

As I stepped onto the tender to go to the "Washington," another friend handed me an envelope, saying, "You will need this on your trip." This contained twenty dollars U.S.A. currency. The Lord had sent from His desk, through these dear friends, five envelopes. All the way across the Pacific, I was deeply conscious of His marvelous presence and His undertaking for me, even down to the minutest detail. The check I was expecting did not reach, me until three months later and, in the meantime, He wanted to give a fresh lesson concerning His faithfulness. He is not confined to any particular method, but is a God of resources.

24

“His Wisdom is sublime;
His heart profoundly kind.
God never is before His time,
And never is behind.”

Selected.

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- \* **Beware of knowing more** of the Scriptures than you practice.
- \* **Whine less. Pray more.** Hate less. Love more.
- \* **Jesus did not say** to anyone, “Take up **My** cross,” but “take up **thy** cross.
- \* A real friend is one who walks in when the world walks out.
- \* “The greatest of faults, is to be conscious of none.”



## *Filling The Waterpots*

H. G. Desha, Jr.

***"And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two, or three firkins apiece. Jesus saith unto them, Fill the water-pots with water."*** And they filled them up to the brim"-John 2:6,7. The assertion may seem strange. nevertheless true; every child of God is a "waterpot of stone." Christ was termed ***"a living stone, a chief corner stone"*** and ***"a stone of stumbling."*** And His people are called ***"lively stones."*** I Pet. 2:5. These lively stones hold the water of life, the Word of God, even Christ Jesus.

Christ found those six waterpots empty; but they were put there for a purpose. He used them to display His power. In the miracle which He performed, is seen the marvelous grace of God. The pots could put forth no effort to help the Lord in performing it. It was all sovereign. They only held the water that was put in them. This is a type of people being saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. We cannot say, I did this and I did the other thing, which the Law demanded as the means of my salvation. No: salvation is of the Lord. It is of grace thru faith and not of works. Those waterpots were lifeless. They could not move. They could not pray. They could not repent. They were empty. They were so dry that they would rattle. So is everyone until the Lord begins to deal with him.

Yes, the Lord is still filling water-pots. It is so wonderful. One of His servants came our way and filled us with the Word of God, because Jesus had said to His ministers, ***"Fill the waterpots with water."*** That is what every true minister of the Lord does. He gives out the Word, and the people become full of it. Not only do they receive salvation; but ere long they receive the Holy Spirit, the other Comforter, also. The Lord turns the water into wine. Some people get so much of the Word, that they can almost hold two firkins (one half barrel) of water, so to speak. And my! when all of this is turned into wine, there sure is some intoxication. No wonder people become hilarious when filled with the Holy Spirit. No wonder the multitudes



said that the disciples were drunk on the day of Pentecost. And drunk they were, but on the new wine from heaven. I have heard people say, When Christmas comes, I sure am going to get me a gallon. Oh, do not wait until Christmas. You may get a gallon now. There is at least a gallon for every believer, according to these verses. There were six waterpots, containing two, or three firkins apiece. We are safe in saying that they averaged two and one half firkins each. Six times two and a half are fifteen. And as one firkin is seven and three-fourth gallons, the six pots contained one hundred and sixteen gallons.

When the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost, a hundred and twenty received Him. And we may say here, that there were about a hundred and twenty gallons of wine, one gallon for every believer. Each one's jug was filled early in the morning. By nine o'clock they were well on their way. They did not care what the people said about them being drunk. Friends, if you have a craving for drink, why not drink something that will give you an everlasting good feeling and profit. Come and get your jug filled. Do not try to slip out with just a pint full of wine. The officer will not get you; it is permissible to carry a jug full.

26



## Qualifications of a Pas-

The strength- of an ox.  
The tenacity of a bulldog.  
The daring of a lion.  
The patience of a donkey.,  
The industry of a beaver.  
The versatility of a chameleon.  
The vision of an eagle.  
The melodies of a nightingale.  
The meekness of a lamb.

The hide of a rhinoceros.  
The disposition of an angel.  
The resignation of an incurable.  
The loyalty of an apostle.  
The faithfulness of a prophet.  
The tenderness of a shepherd.  
The fervency of an evangelist.  
The devotion of a mother.



# GOD'S FAST

*“Is not this the fast that I have chosen; to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo heavy burdens and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?”—Isa. 56:8*

Read the above chapter. In it we have a beautiful commentary on fasting; both the negative and positive sides are given us. We are told that the fasting that pleases God is not that we abstain from eating and afflict our soul or body in any manner, bowing down our head as the bulrush and spreading sack cloth and ashes under us for our bed. No; the fast of which God approves is not in being hard on ourselves, making ourselves miserable, and incidentally everyone else; but the fast that He not only approves, but commands, consists in doing good to the other fellow, making his burdens light, being easy on him; bringing blessing to him in every conceivable way. It is the "Grace" way of which Isaiah is speaking. He is emphasizing all the blessings that follow those that preach grace, live grace and show grace. They will deal their bread to the hungry, and bring those that have no home unto their house. To do good is the essence of Grace. To make others happy is its very core even if it is at our own expense. This is the fast in which God delights. If we abstain from food that we may have something to give to others or if we cover ourselves in poor attire that we may have the wherewith to clothe the poor; ah, that is the fast that God hath chosen; but just to fast that we may boast or become self-righteous and censorious against the other fellow, that is not God's fast. Notice the blessings which accrue to those that choose to fast according to God's way. They are so favored of Jehovah that their very being is beautiful to the Lord—V. 11. He delights in them, even finds great satisfaction in all their words and ways. They yield fragrance to Him even as a "watered garden" to its possessor; and they refresh Him and others even as a spring whose waters fail not. There is never a drought in their vicinity. While others may be dry, heady, hard and high-minded; these gracious ones are tender, fertile, flourishing and comforting. And all this multitude of blessings is because of the abundance of "grace" which is at



their disposal and of which they are partaking and then giving to others. If folks preach grace and are not gracious, it is as "the fly in the ointment." Every one gazes upon the ugly thing, consequently the ointment is not appreciated, likewise "grace" when it is not lived. That does not signify we must be perfect to preach grace, but that we must be gracious, tender, loving, kind. We must consider others rather than ourselves, yea sacrifice ourselves, for the other fellow. Some folks want their brother to show grace and give to them, while they never think that they must do like-wise. They say, Oh, we have nothing to give. But showing grace does not consist only in giving money and goods, but it consists in giving ourselves. And if we thus do, even our deep poverty will abound unto the riches of our liberality-2 Cor. 9: 2.

*(Reprint 1925 Anon)*

## *The Cross*

28

***The Cross, dear Lord, I'll take from Thee,  
Because Thy cross has set me free.  
I'll take it from Thy nail-pierced Hand,  
The sign that Thou dost understand.***

***Thy crown is Thy reward of cross.  
There is no gain without a loss.  
Hence, why should I, fear sorrow's pall,  
Since Thou has drunk wormwood and gall?***

***And so, dear Lord, I'll follow Thee.  
No joy, save in, Thy path for me:  
For well I know, there's not a pain,  
But what has compensating gain.***

♦ *Delayed answers to prayer are not only trials of faith, but they give us opportunities of honoring God by our steadfast confidence in Him under apparent repulses.*

♦ *A small cloud may hide the sun. A little shortcoming, or an unnoticed transgression, may deprive us of joyous communion with God.*



# ISAIAH NINE

Gene Hawkins

Chap. 9 Concl. - Ch. 10

“Therefore the LORD shall set up the adversaries of Rezin against him, and join his enemies together; The Syrians before, and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.” V. 11-12

29 Before this people can become the treasure God envisions, they must turn from their own rebellious ways and surrender to Him, and He will use their adversaries for that purpose. These verses portray the tribulation period wherein Israel is completely surrounded by nations who will literally “devour Israel with open mouth.” But there is glorious grace in these verses for three times we read, “his hand is stretched out still,” (V. 12,17,21) despite the fact that “his anger is not turned away.” Isaiah further declares that the assaults will wax worse and worse, and there is a specific reason for it. “For the people turneth not unto him that smiteth them, neither do they seek the LORD of hosts.” V. 13 God often allows oppression in order that men may learn to bow to authority. We often wonder how much abuse some people can tolerate before they finally surrender. Even those left behind in Jerusalem after Nebuchanezzar’s first invasion, apparently learned nothing from the experience, for Zedekiah still rebelled against his superior, and indeed, against The Lord. Jer. 38:17-21 Isaiah likewise records that same attitude here for “...neither do they seek the LORD of hosts.”

“Therefore the LORD will cut off from Israel head and tail, branch and rush, in one day. The ancient and honourable, he is the head; and the prophet that teacheth lies, he is the tail.” When men refuse to heed His words, God will speak in stronger terms, and the language here indicates that those in authority were the major problem. The “ancient and honorable,” who should have been giving sound instruction as leaders, simply failed to lead according to the ways of The Lord. Likewise the prophet taught lies rather than truth, and thus God would remove them.



Verse 16 accuses these leaders of causing “them to err and they that are led of them are destroyed.” When men follow lies rather than truth, destruction is always the result, as indicated by the severity outlined next. “Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one is an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.” V. 17 God can, not only take no pleasure in their young men, but His mercy is also withheld from the needy because of their tremendous hypocrisy. However, this verse closes with those glorious words of hope, and even though His anger is not turned away, “his hand is stretched out still.” It means that, despite the rebellion and subsequent punishment coming to this nation, God’s Hand of deliverance is still stretched out, ready to deliver them when they cry out to Him.

The remaining verses of this chapter loudly proclaim that Israel has not yet arrived at this point, “For wickedness burneth as the fire: it shall devour the briers and thorns, and shall kindle in the thickets of the forest, and they shall mount up like the lifting up of smoke. Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts is the land darkened, and the people shall be as the fuel of the fire: no man shall spare his brother.” All these are consequences of “the wrath of the LORD of hosts,” and none shall be spared. Once again, this is a prophecy of the end time and the efforts of men will not spare them. “And he shall snatch on the right hand, and be hungry; and he shall eat on the left hand, and they shall not be satisfied: they shall eat every man the flesh of his own arm:” V.20 The word “snatch” means to cut, and even though men may try to “cut” others, they themselves are still hungry, and what they do eat, does in no way satisfy them. They also seem to be turning on themselves as “they shall eat every man his own arm.” This seems to be explained in V. 21 “Manasseh, Ephraim; and Ephraim, Manasseh: and they together shall be against Judah...” The civil war against Judah continues here, bearing out Jesus’ words in Matt. 24:10 “And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.” Jesus clearly taught that the nations would be against Israel, but here they are victimized by one another, even as Jerusalem was besieged by the



ten tribes so long ago.

This chapter ends, however, with glorious hope. Just as I Samuel announces hope through the coming king, just so, Isaiah declares “.....For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.” The promises to Israel are very clear. God will speak to Israel in His anger, but even in the midst of that, His “hand is stretched out still,” just waiting for them to bow down before Him in true humility and accept His glorious offer of grace.



## *Isaiah 10*

31

The truth of this chapter is captured in the tenth book of the Bible, II Samuel. II Samuel 22 presents the rather phenomenal record of David conquering the Philistines, even in his old age, just as Christ is shown annihilating His enemies here in our text. Furthermore II Samuel 7 asserts that Israel will be firmly planted in their own inheritance and that David should have an heir on his throne forever, as decreed by the Davidic Covenant. “Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,.... And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.” II Sam. 16:7,10 The fulfillment of that covenant is found in Christ and our present chapter emphasizes the fact that God will use the antichrist to punish Israel, but will, in turn, judge both this false king and the nations for their maltreatment of His chosen people. This prophesied reign of Israel’s Messiah will begin with Jesus pouring out the horrendous devastation described in verses 17-34. It is summed up with the final words of this chapter. “Behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, shall lop the bough with terror: and the high ones of stature shall be hewn down, and the haughty shall be humbled. And he shall cut down the thickets of the forest with iron, and Lebanon shall fall by a mighty one.”

Though much of this text declares God’s judgment against



decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed;”  
V. 1 “Them that decree unrighteous decrees,” are a reference to the leaders in Israel. They bespeak the fact that these leaders are adding their own ideas and “prescriptions” in regard to the law, as is evidenced in the time of Jesus, but these words may also have a direct reference to the infamous covenant which they will make with the antichrist in Dan. 9:27. Both of them bring “grievance,” that is, toil, labor, and iniquity and both produce the results of verse 2. “To turn aside the needy from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless!” Israel has already experienced these consequences because they completely missed the point, in regard to the law. They assumed it was to make one righteous, but instead it turned the needy aside from finding a real judgment, or justice, in Christ. The poor of the people, along with the fatherless and widows, were robbed of the goodness of God which they could have had. That same thing will be true in the end time when the leaders of Israel will steer Israel toward the lies of the antichrist rather than pointing them to the Promised Messiah. The results of that error, follows with the questions, “And what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation which shall come from far? to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory? V. 3

The “day of visitation,” is simply another term defining God’s Day Of Judgment. It is a time of desolation that will “come from far,” when the entire world will be gathered together against Israel. There will come the day when this beat down people must answer the question as to what they will do, for all their options will finally have been exhausted, and there will be none to help. God continues to describe their most devastating plight declaring that “Without me they shall bow down under the prisoners, and they shall fall under the slain.....” Israel will finally learn the lesson that has eluded them for ages. Their salvation comes only from God and without Him, they will remain a prisoner of the nations who are determined to exterminate them. That attitude, among the enemies of Israel, already prevails in the end of this present Church Age, and will escalate even further, as the tribulation progresses. The remainder of this verse, however, testifies loudly of God’s inexhaustible grace. “For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.” This glorious statement



was made repeatedly in chapter nine, and means exactly the same thing here. God must, and will, pour out His wrath upon His beloved people, but His Hand is continually stretched out and ready to deliver them, when they finally fall on their faces before Him.

His next address is to the Assyrian, which becomes a tool to punish Israel. “O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.” V. 5, 6 The “Assyrian,” and those allied with them, are chosen instruments which God will use to carry out His indignation against this “hypocritical nation” and “the people of my wrath,” that is, Israel. He has used the nations throughout the ages to punish her, and will yet use the regime of the antichrist, typified here by Assyria, to further that purpose. This man of sin is given a three-fold charge as God tells him (1) “to take the spoil, and (2) to take the prey, and (3) to tread them down like the mire of the streets.” This is a description of the total devastation which Israel will undergo during the tribulation period, especially during the “time of Jacob’s trouble.” Jer. 30:7

33

The antichrist will be very proficient at his job, and will try to carry out his own agenda beyond the boundaries God has allotted him. “Howbeit he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy and cut off nations not a few. For he saith, Are not my princes altogether kings? Is not Calno as Carchemish? is not Hamath as Arpad? is not Samaria as Damascus? As my hand hath found the kingdoms of the idols, and whose graven images did excel them of Jerusalem and of Samaria; Shall I not, as I have done unto Samaria and her idols, so do to Jerusalem and her idols?” V. 7-11 This prophecy seems to jump forward a few years from the time of Ahaz’ reign, for these words were spoken almost verbatim by Rabshakeh, Sennacherib’s general when Assyria besieged Jerusalem during the reign of Hezekiah, the son of Ahaz. II Kings 18:33-35, Isa. 36:18-20 The history of Isaiah chapters 7 through 9 centers around the time when Syria and Israel joined forces against Jerusalem. The same account is found in II Kings 16. Assyria is now the designated enemy, and as noted above, she has already taken Samaria (Israel) captive. The statements, attributed to her



in the above verses, reflect a very ambitious attitude, revealing a desire to conquer the entire world assuming, at this point, that Jerusalem will also fall before her. Sennacherib was not allowed to accomplish that objective, but scripture very clearly describes how this beloved city **will** fall to the antichrist. However, he will never realize his goal of becoming the universal conqueror like unto Christ. Thus the same pattern will prevail in the end time as seen here. “Wherefore it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks.” God did punish the proud and arrogant attitudes in those days of old when Assyria was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar along with the rest of the world. He will likewise “punish the fruit of the stout (rebellious) heart” and “the glory of his high looks,” of pride, when He judges the antichrist after He has “performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem.” V. 12 When God has finished using “his tools” to bring Israel to her knees, then He will also punish both the antichrist and the nations for their presumptuous ways. “For he saith, By the strength of **my** hand **I** have done it, and by **my** wisdom; for **I** am prudent: and **I** have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed their treasures, and **I** have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man: And **my** hand hath found as a nest the riches of the people: and as one gathereth eggs that are left, have **I** gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped.” V. 13,14 The repeated use of the personal pronouns “I and my” reflect one who is greatly self centered and consumed with his own abilities, and ingenuity, claiming credit for something that only God can do. It was God who gave the king of Assyria all this success, and it was to complete His Own purposes, yet the king took all this glory to himself. Nebuchadnezzar likewise had to learn the same lesson and was humbled for seven long years until he learned, “...I Nebuchadnezzar ...blessed the most High, .....and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?..... Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, ....and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.” Dan. 4:34-37

*(To Be Continued )*





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