

Grace and Glory

declaring unto you the
whole counsel of GOD

Without Price Since 1910

Loving His Appearing

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And this is life
eternal, that they
might know thee
the only true
God, and
Jesus Christ
whom thou hast sent.

JOHN 17:3.

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EASTER MORNING

*The stone wasn't rolled
away from the tomb
So that Jesus could leave.
He was already gone!*

*It was rolled away
' so that doubters like me
Could look in and cry,
"I Believe! I believe!"
—Leroy Thomas*

HE IS RISEN

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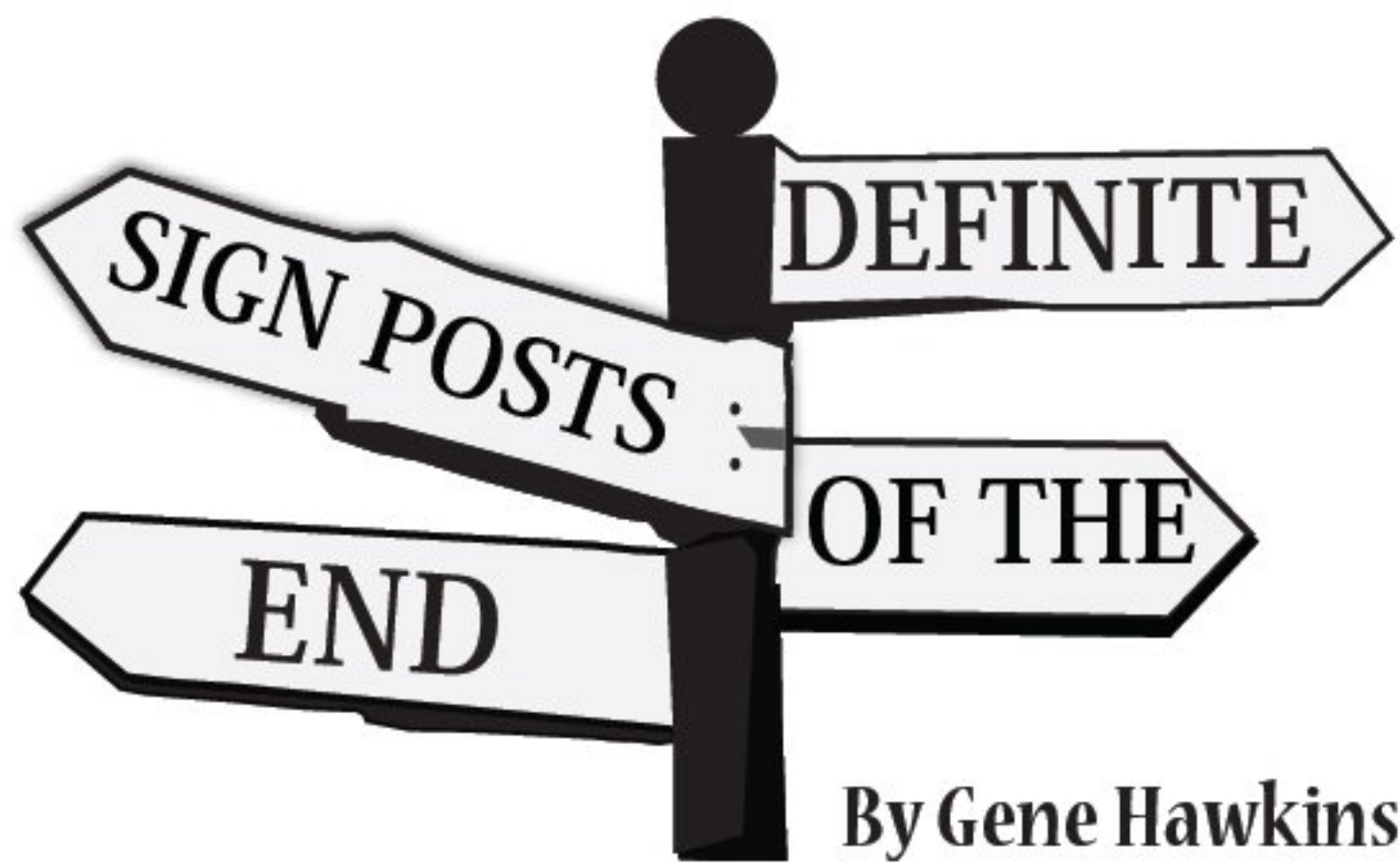
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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;” I Tim. 4:1

“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” II Pet. 3:3-4

“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:” Amos 8:11

“And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” II Thess. 2:11-12

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All these citations combine to show that the world is simply inundated with the signs of His coming, and we hardly know where to begin, or what to include in this month’s feature. Scripture very clearly outlines end time world conditions in regard to religion, immorality, politics, and environmental conditions, the latter being completely beyond the control of men. Paul exhorted us to “See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but **also heaven.**” Heb. 12:25-26 Those heavens were surely shaking just a few days ago when a meteorite disintegrated over Russia. Some Russians are asking, “What can man do to prevent Earth being hit by meteorites and asteroids?” The answer is NOTHING! Scripture plainly declares “He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.” Psa. 2:4 This same article from Reuters goes on to report that “scientists say the explosion of a meteor over central Russia on Friday was a once-in-a-lifetime event.”

Don't bet on it!

Scripture plainly informs us that such events will increase both in intensity and frequency as this type of phenomena, marking end time prophecy, continues to unfold. A report from CHELYABINSK, Russia carrying pictures of a large crater in a frozen lake, produced by the "space rock," also reported "more than 1,200 people injured and broad property damage." Romans 8:22,23 provides this interpretation of such events. "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now..... waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

The opening verses of our text describe the horrendous spiritual apostasy of our day. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly,..." that is, distinctly, out spoken, or clearly that "some shall depart from the faith." Men are not chided here for no faith, but rather for "departing from **the faith.**" The term, "the faith," is found some 45 times in scripture and is a direct reference to the truth, of God's Word. The disciples were exhorted to "continue in the faith," (Acts 14:22) and Churches were "established in the faith,..." Acts 16:5 Paul declared "...we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith,.." (Rom. 1:5) and further admonished "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith,..." I Cor. 16:13 The apostle further makes it extremely personal for every individual when he says "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith;..." II Cor. 13:5 He is not asking anyone to ascertain their salvation, but rather to evaluate whether or not they are claiming God's Message for their own lives.

These last days have surely manifested the fact that men want no part of the standards of righteousness set forth by the Scriptures. There have been many, over the years, who have brought forth various "versions" of the Bible. All of them were said to have been for the purpose of making God's Word "easier to understand," but the real idea was to put forth their own agenda, and most succeeded in either denying the truth altogether or making it say something just the opposite of what God declared. Isaiah proclaims the fact that God pronounces "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" Isa. 5:20 This is exactly what a great many have done with their various translations. Most people are very familiar with the RV

which translates Isaiah 7:14 “a virgin shall conceive...” to “a young woman” shall conceive, thus denying the virgin birth and, thereby, the Deity of Jesus. I am told that at least eight separate translators have changed the “Greek Textus Receptus,” (the Greek text from whence the King James was originally translated) in about 6000 places. For example, the modern English version omitted references to the blood at least 15 times. There was also a time when Rom. 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, (who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.)” had a footnote specifically informing the reader that the last 10 words in the text had been “interpolated.” They were not in the original and they do detract greatly from the meaning, making the state of “no condemnation” conditional on our walk, rather than on simply being a “new creature” in Christ Jesus, by faith alone. II Cor. 5:17 That foot note is no longer included in the KJV.

5 Another “translation” has now reportedly come on the scene. It is called the “Queen James Version” of the Bible. We wondered, at the outset as to whether or not it might just be some hoax, but there is a huge amount of information on the internet concerning it. It uses the text of the King James Version, and “the editors” used this version because King James is the base version, from whence most of the others sprang. The only changes made in it are the eight verses condemning homosexuality, which have been altered to show that the original translators were simply “ambiguous” in their endeavor. The publisher is named as “Queen James,” and it is advertized as selling for \$34.95 by a well known internet book outlet. I have talked to a couple of Christian Book Store managers who knew nothing about it at the time and I was grateful that both told me they would not sell such a thing even if it were made available to them. Others on the internet are completely frustrated because there are several comments from “the editors,” but they will not mention their names, and though they do invite people to contact them, they do not respond to requests for information. They also refuse to list who their “scholars” were in arriving at their conclusions.

“...some shall depart from the faith,” in these last days and it means a departure both in word and deed. Peter declared “... that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,” and it is manifest on every hand. This “Queen James”

rendition of the Bible, is just one more evidence of it. We would ask the question: “if, as the gay community constantly asserts, God created them with these desires, then why do they need to change the scriptures to justify themselves?” The answer is really quite simple and is probably as old as man himself: to sway public opinion. Men are under the illusion, or false perception, that if they can convince enough people that they are right, in anything, it makes it so. Men have tried to assuage their own guilty consciences for years by trying to get other people to agree with their perception of a “controversy” between themselves and someone else. It never works! The conscience can only be freed one way. By asking forgiveness from the one who was offended and trusting the “...blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, **purge your conscience** from dead works to serve the living God?” Heb. 9:14 Trying to change the Word of God, to “...call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness;....” will never bring the peace and rest for which these individuals so desperately search. Despite their assertions to the contrary, they are in no wise comfortable and at peace with this ungodly practice. If they were, there would be no need to constantly seek the approval and validation of others. 6

The resignation of the Pope has also sparked a great deal of consternation among Catholics, and indeed, the whole world stands in awe at such a decision. The Catholic Church strongly resents the assertion that she is the “great whore,” and “the mother of harlots” portrayed in Rev. 17-19, but she is the only Church who can measure up to all of the specific characteristics which define this woman. Furthermore, she actually boasts in them. She is the only Church of which all men around the world stand in awe even as is evidenced by this decision of the Pope. What other Church has ever been able to boast that kind of world-wide recognition just because their leadership was about to be changed? Pope Benedict boasted in the very beginning of his papacy that “Catholicism provides the only true path to salvation.” The Pope simply verbalized what has been a doctrinal staple of Catholicism for thousands of years. What a departure from “the faith,” which emphatically declares “Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from

the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone (Jesus, not Peter) which was set at nought of you builders,.....Neither is there **salvation in any other**: for there is **none other name under heaven** given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:10-12 They revel in the fact that they, and all the world, recognize Catholicism as “the Mother Church.” Pope Benedict further declared that “Christ established here on earth only one Church. Other communities (outside of Catholic) cannot be called ‘churches’ because they do not have the apostolic succession. They do not recognize the primacy of the pope—a defect that harmed them.” The facts are clear. Pope Benedict was absolutely right. The Catholic Church is the only Church that can trace its roots back to the Day Of Pentecost. They are also the only Church that can claim the distinction of having their finger in the political pie from the beginning of the Church Age, even down to this present time. Consider this report from Lignet news which illustrates the current political perspective of the Catholic Church following Pope Benedict’s announced resignation. “The intrigue that has swirled around Benedict's papacy must be cooled to enable the Church to meet enormous challenges, including the growing secularization of Europe and the West; the rise of militant Islam that is in a violent confrontation with Christians throughout the Middle East; the battle to maintain influence in Africa against well-funded radical Islamists; the need to deal with increasing Protestant evangelization throughout Latin America; and protecting the underground Catholic Church in China so that it can grow.” This same article also reinforces the political aspirations of the Catholic Church, with this assessment of the days to come. “The selection of the new Pope and the role he will play must also be understood in the context of the unraveling of Benedict's papacy. The new Pope will want to reunite the factions that are causing disharmony and to offer energetic leadership as the Church deals with major crises across the world.

The power and influence of the Roman Catholic Church cannot be underestimated. It holds soft, long-term power that can advance Western interests. During the papacy of John Paul II, the Vatican sided with the West in its struggle against Soviet hegemony over the Eastern Bloc. John Paul II worked closely with President Reagan and Prime Minister Thatcher, creating a triumvirate which undermined communist rule, first in Poland

and then in other countries behind the Iron Curtain. A robust, energetic Pope able to heal the divisions within the Holy See could exert a similar level of global influence in the future.”

All of these things simply show the uncompromising control sought, and often enjoyed, by Catholicism from the beginning of the Church Age, down to the present time, where she is seen riding the seven headed political beast shortly to emerge. Rev. 17:3,7. If she is going to claim this world wide renown and prestige of being “the only Church,” she must also claim all the other characteristics of this representative woman. Catholicism must also own Rev. 18:24, because, by her own admission, she was the only one there. None of the others even existed. “And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.” This is a reference to the violent days of the dark ages wherein this Church hid the Scriptures and much of the violence and ungodliness recorded in “Foxes Book of Martyrs” took place.

This woman is the same as the one addressed in Jesus’ letter to the Church at Thyatira, naming her as, “that woman Jezebel, 8 which **calleth herself a prophetess**, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.” Rev. 2:20 The conduct and policies of Catholicism are also easily seen in these latter times, wherein “....some depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;.... Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.” I Tim 4:1-3 Catholicism calls herself that prophetess. How many Catholics were absolutely in shock back in the 60’s when the Pope suddenly decided that eating meat on Friday was no longer a sin? The various stands taken by the current Pope were published recently by Reuters. “Despite his firm opposition to tolerance of homosexual acts, his eight year reign saw gay marriage accepted in many countries. He has staunchly resisted allowing women to be ordained as priests, and opposed embryonic stem cell research, although he retreated slightly from the position that condoms could never be used to fight AIDS.

He repeatedly apologized for the Church's failure to root out child abuse by priests, but critics said he did too little and the efforts failed to stop a rapid decline in Church attendance in the

West, especially in his native Europe.

In addition to child sexual abuse crises, his papacy saw the Church rocked by Muslim anger after he compared Islam to violence. Jews were upset over rehabilitation of a Holocaust denier.” Even amidst all these problems it is quite apparent that “the prophetess,” the papacy, rather than the Word of God, will continue to dictate what is sin, and what is not.

We have also heard open and boastful Catholic news commentators wondering which direction the new Pope will lead, whether he will lean to the conservative right, or liberal left. There seems to be no consideration or regard for simply leading according to the tenets of “the faith.” Regardless of the pontifical leadership, Catholicism has established herself as the prophetess of righteousness, rather than The Word of God, and we would repeat that it is a world-wide influence.

The woman of Rev. 17 was also “....arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand....” V. 4 Add to that her recorded riches in Rev. 18:16-17 “.....Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! For in one hour so great riches is come to nought.” Verses 12-14 of this same chapter describe the tremendous riches of “The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her,....” There is no richer place on earth than the Vatican. It seems that Pope Benedict also took this into account before he abdicated his office. Lignet again reports that “Benedict’s naming of Ernst Von Freyberg to be the new head of the Vatican Bank will be a more lasting appointment, one that will make it difficult for the Curia (the Vatican’s bureaucracy, which is dominated by Italians) to re-assert control over the Vatican’s finances.” Rest assured that those finances will be preserved and held in tact until they are completely destroyed at the time of Armageddon. Rev. 18.

We may sometimes wonder how men can believe things which are so contrary to “the faith,” or the glorious tenets of God’s Word, which are recorded in black and white. The answer is, as is quoted above, “....for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:” II Thess. 2:11 The “cause,” for God’s action is found in the previous verse of this same chapter, “...because they received not the love of the

truth, that they might be saved.” When men refuse the light, the candlestick is removed. Rev. 2:5 When men refuse truth, they lay themselves wide open, and become vulnerable to Satanic deception whereby they will readily accept a lie. This can happen on any level of truth and the Church as a whole is suffering severely because of it. The famine of which Amos spoke is here, and as the prophet stated, it was God Himself Who said “...I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:” Amos 8:11 The Church and the world are literally starving because men, those who were supposed to be messengers of “the faith,” have departed from their mission, in order to proclaim a message that is popular with the people.

Paul’s closing exhortation to his son Timothy, following his warning of the “latter times,” is sound advice for every minister of the gospel to follow, if we are to escape the horrendous consequences of these last days and be ready for the sound of that first trumpet. We must absolutely give faithful attendance to “the faith,” and know that “If **thou** put the brethren in remembrance of these things, **thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith** and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. But refuse profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation. For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe. These things command and teach. (Timothy!) Let no man despise **thy** youth; but be **thou** an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. (Timothy you,) Meditate upon these things; give **thyself** wholly to them; that **thy** profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto **thyself**, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this **thou** shalt both save **thyself**, and them that hear thee.” I Tim. 4:6-16

Easter ... or Resurrection?

Paul N. Smith

The word "Easter" occurs only once in the Bible—Acts 12:4, "And when he had apprehended him (Peter), he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quarternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people." It is translated thus only in the King James Version. The Original tongues, along with the Diaglott and revised, translate the word as "Passover." As the two words have become diffused, so have the days celebrated. The pagan celebration of Easter and the Jews' celebration of their Passover have become confused and diffused with the Christian observance of the resurrection of Christ.

The origin of the name, Easter has been in some doubt. Bede, an English writer, said that the Saxons so called it because of a Teutonic goddess of Spring, "Eostre," but others dispute this and trace it back to an old heathen festival of "Eostur" in honor of the Spring Sun.

No one knows exactly just how or when the celebration of Easter commenced, or how it became a custom of the Church. One writer, commenting on this says, "It was the invariable policy of the early Church to give a Christian significance to such of the extant pagan ceremonies that could not be rooted out. In the case of Easter, the conversion was peculiarly easy. Joy at the rising of the natural sun, and at the awakening of nature from the death of winter, became joy at the rising of the Sun of righteousness at the resurrection of Christ." So, we conclude from this that many of the heathen who were saved brought certain customs into the Church, which could not be weeded out. There is no mention of such a festival as Easter in Paul's writings, therefore, that might signify that the custom had, not gained much prestige during his lifetime.

For a long time the early Church could not decide upon an exact date for the Easter celebration. After much disputing, the question was settled at the council of Nicea, 325 A. D., which remains today.

The decree fixed it on the Sunday following the 14th day of the Pascal moon, which falls upon the first Sunday after the vernal equinox. An easier method of determining the date, is to say it is the first Sunday after the full moon which happens after Mar. 21. This year the full moon after March 21, occurs Thursday, April 10. Thus Easter falls on April 13.

The early believers had a Festival of Crucifixion, or Day of Salvation. The Church service was of the simplest. The usual chants and praises were omitted, and no music was allowed, but of the most plaintive description. No one bowed the knee in prayer, because by this ceremony, the Jews reviled Jesus. Neither did people kiss one another, because with a kiss Judas betrayed the Lord. When the morning of the festival of the Resurrection dawned, they would give signs of great joy. In order to call forth universal joy, they sang Psa. 118:24, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Great joy was in evidence; and believers would greet each other with, "The Lord Is Risen !"

The Greek Church, national religion of Czarist Russia, and the Roman Catholic Church have elaborate celebrations from Good Friday until Easter Sunday. Other Churches have followed in their footsteps and have added customs of their own, until this time of the year has more attention than at any other season, including Christmas.

The Greek Church begins its celebrations of Good Friday with an image of Christ reposing in state. And throughout the following days, thousands kiss its hands and feet and drop coins into the Church treasury. On Easter Eve, the climax is reached. The people are all exhausted from long fasting. At midnight, the priests march around the Church in elaborate procession, searching for the dead Christ. Then follows a two hour service. Afterwards the golden doors of the Holy of Holies are thrown open, and the chief priest advances, holding the cross in his hands and announces, "Christ Is Risen !" "He Is Risen" — the cry is taken up by all the people and resounds amid kisses and embraces, while bells peal out, cannons are fired, and the city becomes flooded with light. Then follows the blessing of food—bread, white cheese, red-colored eggs, sugar, honey and fruit. At 3 o'clock, the crowd scatters for feasting, and for three or four days the festivities continue.

At St. Peter's in Rome, the services are no less elaborate. The Pope is borne from the Vatican on a chair carried on men's shoulders, wearing his triple crown and all his vestments. A silken canopy is raised over his head, while attendants wave huge fans of ostrich and peacock feathers on each side. After the service the Pope is borne back thru crowds which he blesses, and then the people scramble for printed papers containing a copy of the prayers he has uttered, which are thrown down from an upper balcony.

The curious custom of giving eggs may be traced back to

the Egyptians, Persians, Gauls, Greeks, Romans and others, among all of whom an *egg* was an emblem of the universe, the work of Supreme Divinity. There was also an ancient custom of dyeing or staining eggs at this season—red, symbolizing joy; yellow, the promise of the sun, etc. This custom had its origin in paganism, since a great many pagan customs celebrating the return of Spring, gravitated to Easter, and the day of Resurrection, celebrated by the believers. *Eggs* were held by the Egyptians as a sacred emblem of the renovation of mankind after the Deluge.

So many customs from paganism and heathenism have entered into the worship of the Church, that they have beclouded and defiled the true meaning of the day. Easter, as is celebrated by the Catholic, Protestant and Greek Churches alike, was not found in the Early Church. The early believers celebrated the day as commemorating the resurrection of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. They celebrated, by truly worshipping the Lord, and not by rituals and ceremonies. And one day was not sufficient to express their devotion for this Mighty One. Every day was a day of rejoicing. And we, today, who know the meaning of Christ's resurrection, and have experienced the power of that Life working in us, will not be drawn into the many paganistic customs that prevail. True Christians have been delivered from all paganism, and have been provisionally raised up with Christ when He arose. These are walking in newness of life, apart from the affairs of this world, whether religious or political or social. Thank God, we can exclaim with the angels at the tomb, "He Is Risen!" For when we really believe that He Is Risen, then that means we too have been raised from the darkness of the tomb, and have a new, glorious, heavenly life from above. Our hearts are full of praises, that rise in heavenly anthems of glory to the God of heaven who raised our Lord from the grave!

13

(Reprint April 1952)

Kingship

"They pressed on HIm a thorny crown;
They called HIm King in bitter jest,
And robed HIm in a scarlet gown that,
Royally He might be dressed.
"Forgive them Father!" thus He prayed.
"They know not what it is they do!"
Thus in Golgotha's gloom and shade died,
Nobler Kingship than they knew."

Edgar Guest

THE PASSOVER SUPPER

George Meyer

The Jewish people begin the Passover celebration in the evening of the 14th day of the Jewish month "Nisan," which occurs in the spring, and continue the celebration eight days. I make mention in the lines which follow, a few of the ceremonies of the Passover Supper which they celebrate on the first two evenings of the eight day festival.

All male persons at the Passover Supper Table, are usually to sit reclined against cushions on their left side, characteristic of free men. The father of the house serving, from his reclining position, to the people around the table. In addition to the specially prepared Passover Supper food, there is on the table, (1), Three unleavened cakes, put one on the other, (2), Wine, and wine cups, a cup for each person around the table, and an extra cup filled with wine for the prophet Elijah who is usually invited as a guest as the forerunner of the Messiah to come in and to partake, (3) A roasted bone with some meat on it. (4) Bitter herbs and salt water to dip in it some of the bitter herbs before eating them.

14

The unleavened three cakes on the Passover Supper table, like the other unleavened cakes which the Jews eat during Passover, are rolled and baked in a very thin form, and they have to be broken when used.

Each person sitting at the table drinks four cups of wine. The reason for their drinking four cups of wine, each, is a ceremony in remembrance that God has fulfilled His four "I will" promises of deliverance of Israel from the servitude of Egypt. "**I will** bring you out from under the bondage of the Egyptians, and **I will** rid you out of their bondage, and **I will** redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgment, and **I will** take you to me for a people"—Exodus 6:6,7.

The roasted bone with some meat on it on the table is a remembrance that no bone could be broken of the paschal lamb. "Neither shall ye break a bone thereof"—Exodus 12:46.

The bitter herbs and salt water on the table, some bitter herbs dipped in it and some not dipped, along the eating of them, is a ceremony in remembrance, metaphorically, of the bitter life of the Israelites in the servitude in Egypt. "And they made bitter their lives with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field; all their service wherein they made to serve was with rigour"—Exodus 1:14.

During the several ceremonies of the Supper, they

recite from their Passover reading book of the story of their forefathers in Egypt and their deliverance from bondage to freedom, by the power and wonders of Jehovah.

One of the ceremonies of the Passover Supper is that the father of the house' who presides at the table, breaks from the three cakes, the middle cake in half, and then breaks one half into smaller pieces and gives the pieces to the persons around the table, then, they make small sandwiches of it putting horseradish between it and they eat it solemnly. After eating this, they again drink each a cup of wine.

Before the conclusion of the Supper they recite from their Passover reading the book the "Hallel," the six chapters of Psalm 113-118, which the Levites used to recite or sing during the time when the paschal lamb used to be sacrificed in the temple at Jerusalem.

The Lord and His apostles at their Passover gathering on that Passover night at the holy city of Jerusalem, He explained to them the spiritual meaning of their celebration then of the Passover — I Cor. 11:23-26.

15

The Jewish people celebrate the Passover Supper and its ceremonies, as a remembrance of the sacrifice of the paschal lamb, and of the events connected with Israel's story in Egypt, and their deliverance from Egypt, in that night of Passover. The blood of the paschal lamb was sprinkled on the two posts and lintel of the doors where the people were assembled, and the death angel passed over those houses, and they escaped the death of the firstborn. The Scriptural import of the celebration of the Passover by Christ and the apostles, as the Lord declared it, is in remembrance of the sacrifice of Jesus—"The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8), that we, might be saved by His sacrifice on that Passover in Jerusalem.

The multitudes of Jewish people do not know Christ and His salvation, nor the spiritual import of the Passover. They do not know the plan of God's salvation by grace, through the atonement and justification of Christ, that "to Him give all the prophets witness, that through His Name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins"—Acts 10:43. Accordingly, in obedience to the Divine command of Christ to give His Gospel to His people Israel, this mission work is yours as well as ours, because it is of God. "For Israel shall be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation"—Isa. 45.

(Reprint March 1951)

The Evening Chime: *An Addendum*

Is there anything more unique than a hand-addressed letter? We love to see them, especially when a saint has a piece of a puzzle we started. We happily quote our writer of last month's piece on The Evening Chime, p. 13 paragraph 2: "*I understand the collaboration was often Brother Copley using her poems....but I doubt the Evening Chime began as a finished poem.*"

Well, we were half right. Below is *Life's Last Chime* found on the last page of Sister Bodies study of the Gospel of John. It contains the exact meter of the song and was obviously Brother Copley's blueprint. We still believe, however, the finished words & chorus to the *Evening Chime* came as a result of his passing. Thank You Brother Paul Lynn of Topeka, Ks. for your letter and recall of Sister Bodies poetry.

Life's Last Chime, 1941

It will matter very little
at the ending of the race,
That we halted as we started and
did not get first place, and those
little frets and worries that beset us
day by day, will appear so
unimportant on the last
lap of the way.

It's the present that is counting
as we're running on the course,
And not lagging on the highway,
but employing pow'r and force:
For the detours and the doubtings
are consuming priceless time,
Which we will regret so deeply
when has sounded life's last chime.

Oh, the skies are dark this
morning and it seems
too cold to run;
But some day in Paradise, when
the race we shall have won,
And we're walking midst the
flowers where the
Golden sunbeams play,
We will never once remember any
hardships of The way.

The Evening Chime, 1945

It will matter much I venture,
at the ending of our race,
We were halted by the Master
in our choice of earthly place.
but the little frets and worries
that beset the ways of time,
will not be remembered yonder,
when we hear the Evening Chime.

When the miles have all been
counted, as we journey here below
with no lagging on the highway,
with no halting as we go, All the
daily vexing detours that consume
the pilgrims time, will not mar our
pleasure yonder, when we hear the
Evening Chime.

Yes, sometimes the way is rugged
and the arching skies are gray,
but the rapture waits our
watching, when we reach the close
of day,
We shall walk amidst the flowers in
that golden sunlit clime,
and forget our earthly hardships,
when we hear the
Evening Chime.

Love's Attitude

In a packed Church in a village in the heart of France on Easter Sunday, 1914, the preacher's text was "And Judas went out and hanged himself." He ended by saying: "I was speaking on this subject of the girls in the school, and I said 'If you had acted as Judas did, would you too have gone out and hanged yourself? And one of them replied: 'Qui, monsieur le cure. Je meme serais pendu ---au cou de Jesus!' Which may be translated --- 'I would have hung myself around the neck of Jesus'."

OUT AND OUT

17 Some men are afraid of being too religious. What we need today are men who believe, down deep in their souls, what they profess. The world is tired and sick of sham. Let your whole heart be given up to God's service. Aim high. God wants us all to be His ambassadors. It is a position higher than that of any monarch on earth to be a herald of the Cross; but you must be filled with the Holy Ghost. A great many people are afraid to be filled with the Spirit of God---afraid of being called fanatics. You are not good for anything until the world considers you a fanatic. Fox said that every Quaker ought to shake-the country ten miles around. What does the Scripture say? "One shall chase a thousand and two shall put ten thousand to flight." It takes about a thousand to chase one now. It takes about a thousand Christians to make one decent one now. Why? Because they are afraid of being too religious! What does this, world want today? MEN---men that are out and out for God, and not half-hearted in their allegiance and service. --- D. L. Moody

* In the beginning, man fell because he sought to become as God. In the end, man rises because God became a Man.

* As a lake without an outlet becomes stagnant, so a life that is self-centered bitter and unattractive.

REFLECTIONS . . . From the Editor

“And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. Matt. 28:5

He is not here, for he is risen! What wonderful words of freedom, power, victory, and joy are bespoken by them. They are words which prove that Jesus was Whom He said He was; The Son of God. The world has reveled in this glorious announcement by the angel, since that first Easter morning, but there are some marvelous personal lessons which must be true in our own lives, and all of them stem from the fact that Jesus rose from the dead.

First, these women heard that marvelous message of comfort, “Fear not,” in the midst of an extremely troublous and uncertain time. Cannot the same truth bring quiet the anxiety, and unrest in our lives today, as we realize the unlimited power which was unleashed to overcome this arch enemy of death?

Secondly, such a message comes to us also as we “seek Jesus,” in our own experience and we surely are not disappointed in such a search. Just as these women acknowledged and knew He “was crucified,” so do we refuse to take the path of denial and fail to recognize the magnitude of the problem at hand.

Third is the sign of the empty tomb, “Come see the place where the Lord lay,” past tense. Though they do not actually see Jesus, they know without doubt that something wonderful has already taken place. A change has happened in their own hearts even though they have not seen Jesus Himself.

Fourth, “.....go quickly, and tell his disciples,...” These women were the first heralds of the new message that was about to spring forth, and they undoubtedly heard the urgency in the voice of the angel. This was something that could not wait.

Fifth, is the message itself. The Jesus they sought is “risen from the dead,” and that must be the theme of our message today. Many speak of winning the sinner in our day, and that is surely an important burden for us to shoulder, but the urgency of this

mission was in behalf of the disciples. Christians today need to understand the reality and power of Jesus' resurrection for their own lives.

Number six is the promise, "behold, he goeth before you into Galilee;..." These devout women have only faith to back that statement up, but that is sufficient. Likewise we too must know that He goes before us into Galilee, or "circuit" meaning that regardless of the varied events that will cross our paths, He has already gone before us.

Seventh, "there shall ye see him...." It is in the circuitous events of our lives wherein we finally see Him, which is the object of our spiritual exercise, and the end of this resurrection story confirms that such a sight surely did transpire.

The eighth, and final, point is the basis for all of them. "Lo I have told you...." Jesus rose "as he said," and that same message is confirmed by the angel. Today's angels, or messengers, likewise convey this same assurance announced by The Word of God and such a word is sufficient for the one who would walk by faith and "go quickly," just because He said so. GH

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Living Waters Tabernacle Youth Camp 2013

This event is sponsored by Living Waters Tabernacle in Denver and will be held July 1-5. More information will be published in the April issue.



2013 Living Waters Tabernacle President's Day Convention CDs

The President's Day Convention services and music are available for listening and for download from the Living Waters Tabernacle web site at www.livingwaterstabernacle.com. Please be encouraged to first visit the site as not only is the President's Day Convention information hosted there, but much more! However, if you do not have internet access and/or you cannot download or listen to the services from the site we will be glad to mail you a CD of all the Convention services and music. Please send your request to cdanddvds@livingwaterstabernacle.com or call (303) 883-1414 and a CD will be sent to you via mail.

Loose Him. Let Him Go.

E. G. Hughes

TRULY the Lord is marvelous and He works in ways that we do not understand, but one thing we can know assuredly, if we wait before Him and let Him speak to our hearts, He will always supply what we need. I like that attitude in anyone, just to reach out after a little more of the Lord, to reach out after a closer walk with Him; then quietly wait on Him till it is accomplished.

I am calling your attention to a very, familiar portion of the Scriptures tonight, found in the eleventh chapter of John, beginning with the 21st verse. "Lord, if thou hadst been here my brother had not died." Oh what a heart cry, what pathetic, yearning regrets it expresses. No doubt some of us have passed through the same heart breaking experience that Mary and Martha were undergoing at this time. We have been at the place where we had to part with loved ones. The heart is crushed with sorrow, with such a loneliness and yearning in our grief that we are made to cry out for relief. Mary and Martha had the utmost faith in Jesus, but He was not there in their hour of trial. Have you ever been in that place where somehow the Lord seemed to be away? He was not there when you needed Him so much. Somehow you were unable to lay hold of the promises, you just could not get hold of the Lord in your hour of sore trial. I am sure you have. 20

Martha said, "Lord if thou hadst been here my brother had not died, but I know that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it Thee." Can you say that tonight? even now, not tomorrow, not, out yonder at the hour of resurrection; but now, this moment? "Whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee?" Martha believed her Lord. But she was not sure of His will Jesus saith unto her, "Thy brother shall rise again." Martha saith unto Him, "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection, at the last day." Oh, dear troubled, soul, let me assure you tonight, it

is not just something out there beyond us that He has made provision for. I have the utmost sympathy, and may I say, pity for the Christian world that look upon the resurrection as an event that somehow God has accomplished, and do not realize that our glorious Lord and Saviour **is** the Resurrection and the **Life**. He has but to speak the word and it is done, because all power and all authority in heaven and in earth, have been given into His hands. No wonder Martha could say, "Even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee." I wonder if our faith will measure up to that standard. It should. Jesus said unto her, "I am the resurrection and the life! He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" Martha said,

21 "I believe thou art the Christ, the Son of God, that should come into the world." In that confession she acknowledged Jesus as the Anointed One, the Lord of life, sufficient for every need.. Beloved, that was true then. It 'is true now, if we can only receive it.

In the meantime Mary came weeping and heartbroken and fell at Jesus' feet, making the same statement that Martha had made. "When Jesus therefore saw her weeping and the Jews also weeping that came with her, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled and said, "Where have ye laid him?" They said unto Him, "Lord, come and see." Notice the next verse, so short, but it speaks volumes, "Jesus wept." Oh the pathos, the heart break, the unutterable love and yearning revealed in these words. Why was our Lord troubled in spirit there beside the tomb? Why did He weep? I am fully persuaded, that it was not because of the passing of Lazarus whom He loved dearly. It was not because of the heartbroken sisters, whom He also loved, weeping there at his feet in their sorrow. No it was not that. Jesus knew that Lazarus was going. He could have prevented it, but He purposely stayed where He was, when they sent word to Him, until Lazarus had been

dead and buried four days before He came on the scene, in order that He might prove to them His all-sufficiency in any emergency. Why then did He weep?

Oh, beloved! I think He wept there for the very same reason that His heart is often broken, perhaps even now, as He sits yonder at the right hand of the Majesty on high, because of our own slowness of heart to believe. Even then they were unable to lay hold of the marvelous truth. They were unable to grasp the marvelous fact that He was really the resurrection and the life. That all power was at His command. Slow of heart to believe. Slow to fully trust Him. He groaned in spirit and wept there, not for the dead, but for the living. I know He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. Jesus, therefore as He looked upon that scene, saw not only anxiety and sorrow in the hearts of those He loved so dearly, but He saw, their deep need and how absolutely unable they were to grasp His marvelous all-sufficiency for all their needs. Therefore, Jesus again groaning in Himself said, "Take ye away the stone." Oh, glory to God! He was about to show them that He had power over every enemy of man, even death. But Martha objected. How weak she was. Some Somehow, even though just a short time before she had been able to lay hold of at least a portion of that faith that Jesus sought to plant in her heart, but when Jesus spoke that crucial statement she drew back and began to wonder if after all, she might have been mistaken, just as you and I do when we come to the crucial moment, the testing time. Jesus gently reminded her. "Said I, not unto thee, that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God." Oh, the blessings that we miss and the victories that we lose because we doubt and are unwilling to take the Lord at His word and stand firmly upon the promises He has made to us.

Then they took away the stone and Jesus said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me." I wonder if it ever occurred to you just when Jesus prayed through on that situation, as we commonly

express it. Was it after He arrived there? I think not. Perhaps it was when the Word came to Him that Lazarus was sick. I think that Jesus had already won the victory. He knew what was going to take place. He had already prayed before He came upon the scene. Perhaps I am surmising a little, but we know that Jesus was truly man, and did nothing of Himself, till He had prayed and ascertained the will of His Father in all that He did. He told the disciples plainly, "Lazarus is dead and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there." Why was He glad that He was not present to assist those He loved in their hour of deepest need? It was that He might bring them a richer and more glorious blessing, proving to them that He was the resurrection and the life.

"Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I know that thou hearest me always, but because of the people that stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent Me." And when He had thus spoken He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." It has been said that if Jesus had not designated the one to whom He was speaking, all the dead would have come forth. I do not know, but I do know that Jesus had conquered because He was the resurrection. Therefore we hear Him say with a loud voice, "LAZARUS. COME FORTH." All glory and praise to our conquering Christ. Listen to the next verse. In it we have complete victory. "And he that was dead, came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was bound about with a napkin." Jesus saith unto them, "LOOSE HIM AND LET HIM GO." If I had any text at all tonight it would be these glowing words, "COME FORTH, LOOSE HIM AND LET HIM GO." That is the heart of the message for us tonight. Are you confronted with a problem, something that you do not know how to meet? Are you face to face with difficulties that seemingly are too much for you? That are all but overcoming you? I am sure that each of us have difficult problems to solve, and we often come to that

place in our experience that we do not know which way to turn, but there is one who has already solved that problem, that has already overcome every difficulty. I know One that has already conquered every foe, Who has already marked out every pathway, and we have but to lend a listening ear, in order that we may be able to catch His voice when He speaks, and we, too, can have our problems solved.

I recall one occasion in my own experience in which I found myself facing a problem for which I could see no solution, praying very definitely and seeking the Lord that I might know His perfect will in the matter. I find that is the only way to settle any problem, just to lay it before the Lord till He gives us out of His own precious word the sure solution. As I prayed day after day, I was not sure of the will of the Lord. Then one day I took my Bible and kneeling before the Lord, I asked Him to give me a Scripture that would authoritatively settle it. This is the Scripture that He gave' me. I pondered over it. How could this be the answer to my problem? Surely there could not be a more hopeless situation than this. There was Lazarus in the grave, sealed in the tomb, already in the process of decay, hideous to look upon; but there was the resurrection and the life, present also, and when Jesus spoke the word He spoke with authority. When He said, "Lazarus come forth," he came forth bound hand and foot. Then Jesus spoke the second authoritative word, "Loose him and let him go." It seemed to me as I caught the meaning of that message, "Come forth." I recognized the wonderful truth that no matter how difficult the situation might seem to me, no matter how bound he was, how hopeless it might appear to my human vision, when Jesus spoke the word, Lazarus came forth, he was loosed and went out every whit whole and absolutely free.

Brother, Sister, whatever the problem that confronts you, if you will put it into the hands of Jesus, He can speak the same authoritative word and your problem will be solved and your need

supplied. But we are so frail, it does not matter how much, or how indefinitely the Lord speaks to us, we still have a question just like Martha had. She said, "Whatsoever you ask of the Father, He will give it thee." Even now with my brother lying in the grave I know the Father will give you what you ask. I think Martha had faith enough to believe that if Jesus asked the Father for anything He would receive it. The question in her mind was, will He ask? Is it His will? Thus we question the Lord.

After the Lord had so marvelously spoken to me that day, I came back to question with Him. Oh how weak we are! I began to say, Lord I know you are going to speak the word to bring me out of this difficulty, but when? How will you do it? I cannot see any way? How are you going to supply the needs? How will You remove the hindrances that seem so terribly difficult? How carnal we are sometimes after the Lord speaks to us, but thank God, He has a satisfying portion for us just the same. For several hours I continued to meditate upon the matter, earnestly seeking the will of the Lord. I said, Lord, I cannot see how you will do this, but I am sure you will do so, and at the proper time speak the word that will bring me out victorious. I have faith enough to believe that you are going to do that for me, but I would like to know how, Lord. Speak to me right out of the word and reveal it. I want to say tonight that one of the richest experiences we can have is to let the Holy Spirit lead us to the word and quicken it to our hearts. The blessed Holy Spirit speaks to us in the still small voice, often in a very definite way, but I want Him to speak to me out of the word, too. The Lord gave me Matt. 16:6-12. "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees." And the disciples began to reason among themselves. I know they were unbelieving alright. I am not the only one who ever tried to reason these things out. I suspect I have plenty of company right here tonight. Yes, that is just what I did. I began to reason within myself

and tried to reason with the Lord. Beloved, when we try to reason these things out it just won't work. Did you ever try it? Don't do it, you will only fail. I began to say, Why Lord, how can this apply to my case? Surely I am mistaken. There is nothing here to show me the solution of my problem. Absolutely nothing to indicate the way out. Then it was that Jesus really spoke to me in the words that He addressed to the disciples that day. "Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up?" It came to me then in a flood of light. Jesus is absolutely sufficient for every possible need, no matter how difficult it may appear to human reasoning. Lord, forgive me for asking how you will take care of the situation. I too, have only been looking at the material side, the human side, just as the disciples were that day. I am giving this experience because it may be what you need tonight. Maybe He is speaking to your heart tonight as He seeks to loose you and let you go. He may be saying to you and to me tonight, Oh ye of little faith, do you not remember the five thousand I fed and the twelve baskets full you took up? Jesus wants us to bring our all and lay it down at His feet. The disciples brought all they had to Jesus. With His blessing upon it they fed the multitude, then each of them took up a basket full for himself. Much more than they had brought to Him. Glory to God!

When we come to the Lord and lay ourselves upon the altar, with all that we have and are, wholly surrendered to Him, and truly say, Lord, here I am, take me and use me in any way that you see fit, He can and will do for us just what He did that day when He fed the multitude. It doesn't matter how much, or how little we have, if it is all presented to Him, yielded into His hands, He will bless and multiply and make it a blessing to all those about us. Every time we give out to someone else we will take up a basket for ourselves. If we withhold one thing from the Lord, it will not be sufficient. He requires a complete

offering. After the multitude was fed they took up more than they had to begin with. Isn't that wonderful? Why should we doubt? The Lord NEVER FAILS. There is only one reason we fail, our own carnal self that we have to battle with. The Lord is more than sufficient for any situation. Why not yield yourself to Him? Why not let Him have His way with you? Why not give Him your little all? It is so pitifully small at best and He gives so much more in return.

Beloved, it is the only way to insure our welfare in this life and in the life to come. David said, "Once was I young, but now am I old and I have never seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." I have seen multitudes of Christians, believe the Lord for salvation and not go beyond that, who went down, but I have yet to find one, who wholly surrendered to the Lord, cut loose from the world and launched out into the great deep of God's eternal love, who ever went down. Jesus met the need at the tomb of Lazarus with His life giving power. He met the need of the hungry multitude with His life sustaining power. He met the need of the sick, blind, deaf, lame and halt, with His health restoring power. And He met the need of the devil-bound and demon possessed with His mighty delivering power. Oh, glory to God! All praise and honor and glory, be unto Jesus, our mighty, all-sufficient Savior.

Rest assured of this one thing, dear saints of God, if you have put yourself and your all into the hands of the Lord, fully surrendered to His will, wholly at His disposal in all things, HE WILL keep that little basket of yours filled at all times.

(Reprint March 1943)

* He wore the crown of thorns which we had deserved, that we might wear the crown of glory which He merited.

* In the old creation, man was made lower than the angels. In the new creation, man is made higher than the angels.

ISAIAH

Chapter 5 Continued

Gene Hawkins

The wine of religion is next assaulted in Verse 22. “Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink.” A great majority seem to think that “religion” holds the answer to their strength today, but that is surely not the case for it does not ring of godliness at all.

The indictment against wicked men, who are bound with the “cart rope,” continues and they are further identified as those “Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!” V. 23 This is surely paramount in our day when men do justify the wicked, claiming one ridiculous reason after another as to why they should be excused for the errors they have committed. More often than not, it is for reward, (their own reward,) but it is also at the expense of another as “they take away the righteousness of the righteous from him;” Such offenders, in no wise, acknowledge the righteous values of those who stand up for the righteousness of God, and once again The Word of God is completely ignored. Professing themselves to be wise, they most assuredly have become the “fools” of our day.

Our next verse, however, declares that there is a penalty for such conduct. “Therefore as the fire devoured the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness....” V. 24 Regardless of their arguments against the righteous, God’s judgment will still prevail. Woe will surely come unto those who “...draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope:...” V. 18 These rebellious men, will pay the price, as the remainder of this verse informs us, “...because they have cast away the law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.”

This barrage continues in V. 25, declaring, “Therefore is the anger of the Lord kindled against his people.” These words are primarily a reference to Israel, but because the Church has followed that same rebellious path, God has no choice but to bring judgment upon her too. Thus God concludes His dealings with the Church in the first half of the tribulation, whereas during the last 1260 days, the time of Jacob’s trouble, the anger of the Lord is “...kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth

his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away.....” God will not be appeased and just ignore the fact that His people have despised The Word of The Lord. Judgment will come on both the world and Israel, but there is a beautiful ray of hope couched in this same verse. “**But** his hand is stretched out still.” Even in the midst of judgment, His Hand is “stretched out still,” to those who would call upon His Name. Despite the fact that Israel will be punished and God will use the nations, at least in part, to carry that out, He will deliver His people by judging those same nations. “And he will lift up an ensign to the nations from far.....” The last few verses of this chapter describe the Battle of Armageddon, as God will “... hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly:” The word *hiss* means to “call in scorn,” and simply means that God will scornfully call all those nations together in order to punish Israel, and they will come “with speed swiftly.” However, those same nations will provide actually provide the menu for “.... the supper of the great God;...” Who will invite the fowls of heaven to “.... eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them,...” Rev. 19:17,18. Armageddon is the culmination of the “the time of Jacob’s trouble,” wherein Israel will be punished, but at the same time, the faithful remnant will be delivered.

This gathering of the nations continues as “None shall be weary nor stumble among them;” that is, will be removed in order for them to keep this momentous appointment. Furthermore, “..... none shall slumber nor sleep; neither shall the girdle of their loins be loosed, nor the latchet of their shoes be broken: whose arrows are sharp, and all their bows bent, their horses’ hoofs shall be counted like flint, and their wheels like a whirlwind: their roaring shall be like a lion, they shall roar like young lions: yea, they shall roar, and lay hold of the prey, and shall carry it away safe, and none shall deliver it.” These words describe the freedom that God will give to these end-time nations as they speedily gather against Jerusalem. All the “woes” against them are culminated in the verses.

This chapter closes declaring, “And in that day they (the nations) shall roar against them, (the people of Israel,) like the roaring of the sea; and if one look unto the land,” the land of

Israel, “behold darkness and sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof.” The judgments promised in Deuteronomy, because Israel would “...not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God,...(Deut. 28:15) have, and will, come upon them. However, as noted in V. 25, “his hand is stretched out still,...” and the last chapter for Israel declares plainly that a nation shall be born in one day. Isa. 66:8. Israel will be spared and come forth rejoicing.

CHAPTER 6

Isaiah 6 corresponds with Joshua, which is a record of Israel’s entrance into their promised land. It is figurative of the millennial period wherein Israel will be the dominant nation upon this earth, after Christ takes His throne as King of kings, and Lord of lords. The first few verses of our present text presents that magnificent scene as Isaiah, in the year that King Uzziah died, “saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.” These words are beautifully prophetic of the time after the tribulation when the temple has been restored and Jesus is seen reigning as God for one thousand years. Scripture is very plain that Israel’s Messiah will take His throne at the beginning of the tribulation period, and when that happens, as recorded in Rev. 4, all the nations of the earth will be ruling in usurpation. By the time this scene here in Isaiah comes to pass, all rule and authority will have been put down, the temple will have been cleansed from the abomination of desolation and both the anti-christ and false prophet will have been cast into the lake of fire. According to Daniel 8:13 & 14, this cleansing of the temple, marking the end of the tribulation period, will not occur until 2300 days after the daily sacrifice is taken away. Thus when Isaiah beholds Jesus, with His train filling the temple, the time of peace and prosperity for Israel has arrived. They have indeed come forth into the glories of their millennial promised land.

Isaiah’s description in verse 2 is strikingly similar to John’s account of the living creatures unveiled in the throne room of Rev. 4. “Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.” Those living ones, along with the twenty four elders, are symbolic of the full overcomers or of the bride of Christ, who will be reigning con-jointly with Christ. These

seraphim are leading chorus of praise in Revelation even as Isaiah proclaims here. “And one cried unto another;” “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts.” They are giving honor and glory unto Jesus attributing to Him the place that He so richly deserves. Their paeon of praise further announces that “the whole earth is full of his glory.” V. 3 That started during the tribulation period when the glory of the judgments were poured out, but by the time that this happens they are actually at the very threshold of the millennial period.

“And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him,...” This has not changed from our day when His voice moves, empowers, and motivates us. The power of that voice will also hold complete sway in that day, and produce the same effect which Isaiah beheld as “.....the house was filled with smoke.” Smoke in Scripture is symbolic of glory, and the glory of God just permeates every part of the temple, as it spreads out to the rest of the world.

There is a problem however, as we hear the plaintive cry of Isaiah, figurative of Israel as a nation. “Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.” Both Daniel and John had this same experience of awe and need, in the Presence of Deity. Likewise, Isaiah has done nothing amiss, but he feels a need of cleansing and purging, just by being in the Presence of such a Personage. Symbolically, Israel will have come forth from the judgments of the tribulation period, but the glorious provisions of Calvary must be made practical in their lives before they can complete the ministry that God has purposed for them. Israel, at the present time and even going back to the time of Jesus, is a very proud and arrogant nation, unwilling to bow unto their Messiah. The tribulation will bring them to their knees and to the place wherein they will cry out as Isaiah did, “I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips.” God has the answer for that condition. When people recognize their need, God has a way to fix it. Jesus said “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh?” The reason that the lips are unclean is because of the deeper problem of the heart, and the answer for Isaiah and the entire world is found in the following words.

“Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar.” V. 6 The altar, in Scripture, is beautifully symbolic of

Calvary. The live coal is representative of God's Word. The reason It is so powerful and effective, is because Jesus came into this world, where He died, and was buried, and rose again. This is the coal that "He laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged." V. 7 This same thing happens in our lives today when we accept the cleansing power of God's Word. Why? Because the Word is Christ, Himself, and thus "and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged."

Isaiah is now prepared to hear another voice. "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" V. 8 We can almost see the prophet jumping up and down in the back of the room, waving his arms furiously and crying out, "...Here am I; send me." What a contrast to his earlier cry. No longer do we hear "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips...." The live coal has had the desired effect. Now he is cleansed, and ready for the question, "...Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Isaiah is, once again, figurative of the nation of Israel, a small remnant though it is, but now, after being cleansed, ready to go forth and evangelize the world. That is the purpose of the great commission found in Matthew 28:19. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" The Church has tried to claim that ministry, but throughout this Church age, not one nation has been converted. The great apostle Paul, as effective as he was, could not boast of bringing even an entire city to Christ, let alone a nation. We now know that the reason Israel will be so effective during this millennial reign of Christ is because Satan will be bound for that 1,000 year period. The Church does not enjoy such a luxury today.

The burden for the Church is found in Mark, where we are instructed to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." The ministry for the Church is to individuals, rather than nations. Jesus further identified the time wherein this would take place as beginning on the Day of Pentecost, and continuing throughout this Church Age. "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Mk. 16:15-18

Thus Israel, like Isaiah, will have their own lips cleansed and they too will be energized to spread His gospel of the kingdom to the rest of the world.

There is, however, a local fulfillment of this portion, an immediate ministry for Isaiah. “And he said, Go and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.” V. 9 Jesus cites these verses in Matt.13:13-15, as the reason for which He taught the people in parables, telling His disciples that those who had ears to hear, could understand the “mysteries” of which He spoke and those who believed not would still be ignorant. God basically told Isaiah, at the time then present, to go and preach His message but that the children of Israel would not hear him. History bears that out, as Paul quotes from the prophet in Rom. 10:21. “But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.”

33 Their obstinate attitude is further revealed as God instructs Isaiah to “Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.” It was not Isaiah’s own efforts which would produce this effect, but rather The Word of God. We learn later in this book that “...my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” Sometimes people interpret that to mean that “when God speaks, lives will automatically be reversed,” but that is not the case. It means, rather, that God’s Word will not remain neutral. It will always have an effect. If one chooses to believe It, the result will be enlightenment and change. But if they refuse, as did Israel, will have the effect described above of hearts being made fat or independent. Ears become deaf, and eyes blind. This same thing will be true during the millennium as Israel preaches to the nations.

Isaiah’s next question is an appropriate one, in view of the outcome he has already heard. “Then said I, Lord, how long?” This faithful servant wants to know “How long shall I cry out? How long shall I preach? How long is this scenario going to exist?” God’s answers, “Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, And the LORD have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land.” This undoubtedly

refers to the captivity of both Israel and Judah. Isaiah, and many other prophets, were sent to the people, and their message was very soundly rejected. Jeremiah faithfully gave forth The Word of God, even to the time when Judah was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar, and was given the opportunity to go to Babylon where he was promised great kindness. He refused that offer and stayed in Jerusalem to minister to the remnant which was left. That same small band of people still rejected his word from The Lord not to go into the land of Egypt, but still they went, and the weeping prophet perished in that land because of their rejection.

This chapter closes, however, with a glorious message of hope. “Yet in it, (the land) shall be a tenth and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves:.....” There has never been a time in history, nor will there ever be, a time when God does not have a faithful remnant. Such worthies of faith are further described as “...the holy seed shall be the substance thereof.” V. 13 This “holy seed” will form the nucleus of Christ’s Kingdom on earth supplying the “substance” or the pillar, the stability, for this fledgling nation that will bring spirituality to the entire world at that time. After the devastation recorded in verses 11-12, the land shall be restored and “eaten,” for as Isaiah later describes “The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.” Isa 35:1 Israel, and the world, await the time when the majestic vision at the beginning of this chapter will become reality, and these spectacular results will prevail.

34

For Simple Things

I ask Thee, Lord, for simple things---
A humble, honest heart that sings,
And work to do that vision brings.

Someone to love and to love me,
A modest home, a book, a tree,
And deep, abiding faith in Thee.

I ask Thee, Lord, for simple things,
For simple things in life, have wings!

-Elizabeth Beck Davidson.



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will forgive their
iniquity, and I
will remember
their sin no more.

JEREMIAH 31:34.