

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the  
whole counsel of GOD

Without Price Since 1910

Loving His Appearing

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**T**hou shalt rejoice  
in every good  
thing which the  
Lord thy God  
hath given  
unto thee.  
*DEUTERONOMY 26:11.*

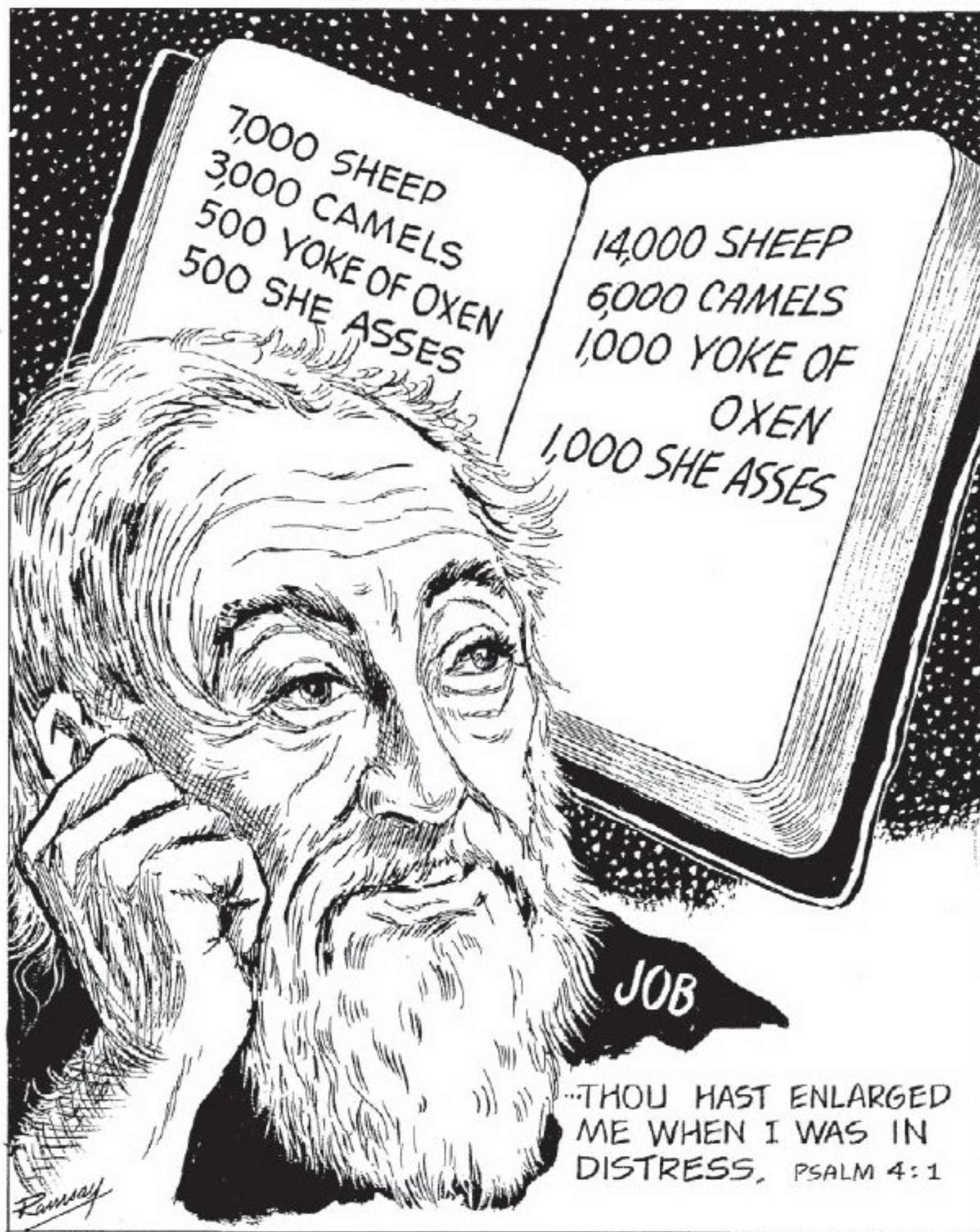


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*In Every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. I Thessalonians 5:18*

## BEFORE AND AFTER



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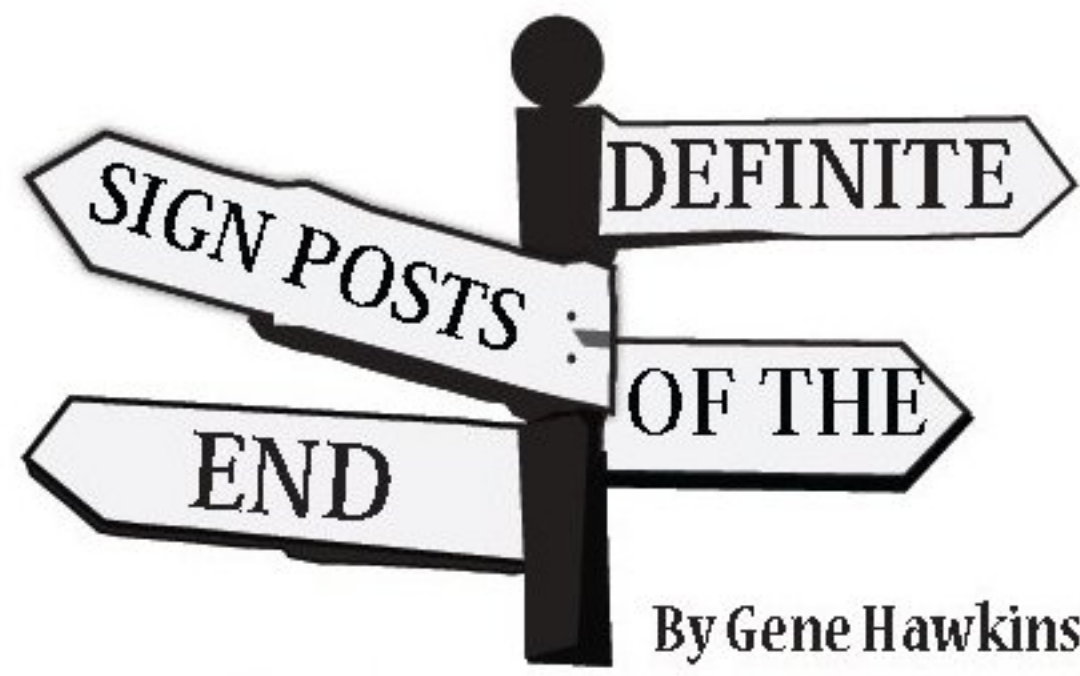
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Editor: Gene Hawkins





*“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.” Dan. 7:7-8*

**D**aniel is so precise in his prophecies depicting historical events, that critics insist that he must have written them after the fact. It is quite true that Daniel was an advisor to Nebuchadnezzar, and his son Evil-Merodach. He was there to read the “handwriting on the wall” when Nebuchadnezzar’s grandson presided over the demise of the Babylonish Empire. Daniel also “prospered in the reign of Darius, (the Mede) and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.” Dan. 6:28 He lived to see the end of the Jews 70 year captivity under the dominion of the first world empire, into the beginning of the second, wherein Cyrus the Persian would free his people to return to Jerusalem. However, the bulk of Daniel’s prophecies came to pass, hundreds, and even thousands of years, after he had passed off the scene. This is a sign of God’s Hand. He challenged those in Israel, who claimed to be “gods,” “Let them bring them forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come. Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods:...” Isa. 41:22-23 He then declared emphatically “I am the LORD: that is my name: ...Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.” Isa. 42:8-9 Thus God, Who can precisely predict the future, sets Himself apart from those who cannot, and our opening text records the pin point accuracy of world events which Daniel predicted thousands of years ago.

The question, asked numerous times over the years, has



been “where does America fit into end time prophecy?” We are persuaded that the recent appalling events of our day find a direct fulfillment in Daniel’s declaration that “...behold there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots:...” Dan. 7:8

Horns, in scripture are typical of power, and in this case they represent world powers even as we see repeatedly in Daniel and Revelation. The powers depicted here show forth nations who have a direct influence, and dominance, on world affairs. There are a multitude of nations in our world today, but only a limited number actually having an impact on global direction. For example, very few of them have “veto” power in the United Nations. We are persuaded that the three horns, or nations, “plucked up by the roots,” must of necessity refer to sheep nations, because the seven which are left will form the end time coalition of unprecedented wickedness portrayed by the seven headed, ten horned, political beast rising out of the water in Rev. 13:1-10 Daniel saw these powers as “horns,” while John beheld them as seven “heads.” John further declares that “...there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.” Rev. 17:10 This simply means that the seven will eventually be reduced to two, and one of that remaining duo will be killed, but will be raised from the dead and become the antichrist who will “continue a short space,” or reign for forty two months. Rev. 13:5 Right now, the two leading candidates for the position of the two remaining horns would be Russia and China.

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Daniel likewise proclaims that the seven horns will be eliminated, until only one remains. “And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;...” Dan. 7:20-21

Scripture is very plain that this entire coalition of nations will be completely annihilated when Jesus assumes His place of King of kings, and establishes His Own Millennial Kingdom. There will be no remembrance of these “goat nations,” and though very painful to watch at this present time, the three “horns plucked up by the roots,” will actually **not be a part**



of the total destruction experienced by the remaining seven.

There can be little doubt that one of the three horns plucked up by the roots must be a most powerful nation of influence and world dominance, and at present only the U.S. can claim that distinction. She was founded on godly principles, and God has blessed her beyond measure for over 200 years. But America, like ancient Israel, has turned away from the God who created her. God was not hesitant to punish His Own chosen people and to put them under the dominion of Gentile powers beginning with Babylon. He would be very unjust if He did not also bring America to her knees. The good news is that, like Israel, she will be preserved as a “sheep nation,” and will still be alive and well after the tribulation is over.

5 It has not been that long since America, like Babylon of old, was considered almost invincible. She was there to liberate the Jews and other oppressed people during WWII. She has been extremely generous in supplying aid to numerous nations around the world. Today, however, this nation is in deep deep trouble, and on the verge of losing their prestige, even as mighty Babylon experienced when God’s plan was implemented. Present day chaos in this nation reveals how easily that could happen.

The recent debacle with Syria, when The U.S. drew a “red line,” and did nothing when it was crossed, propelled Vladimir Putin and Russia into the political driver’s seat in the Middle East. Though the problem with chemical weapons is still a great concern to the entire world and, as reported last month, will remain a problem into the tribulation period, Russia is seen by the world as brokering a deal that basically bailed America out of a very explosive situation. Assad had said that if the U.S. carried out strikes against him, repercussions “may take different forms.” He also said that there could be repercussions against the U.S. from other countries or groups such as Iran or Lebanon’s Hezbollah.

The political fallout was indeed devastating, as stated by Bret Stephens, a Wall Street Journal Columnist and foreign-policy expert. He asserted, in regard to Syria, that “The moment that it becomes clear to the autocrats, dictators, and totalitarians of the world that America has an administration that’s bluffing, they’re going to provoke us.” Mr. Stephens warns however, of another reason, highlighted by the Syrian crisis, as to why America is in a very precarious position. America’s money supply is on the



brink of disaster. According to this columnist "The sequester cuts are starting to really bite." This is a plan that emerged when agreements on a budget could not be agreed upon, and the plan would "carve nearly \$1 trillion from the Defense Department budget over the next 10 years." Experts were persuaded that they would never actually take effect, but "By one Pentagon projection, the sequester could slash the Army's headcount from 535,000 soldiers to as few as 380,000. The Marines would decline from 182,000 to 150,000. And the Navy would shrink from 11 carrier task forces to just eight. This, despite the fact that U.S. politicians continue to paint lines in the sands of the Middle East using the blood of American soldiers." Mr. Stephens continues announcing that "This is a bizarre situation for the United States. We are seeing growing national security threats but we are unilaterally disarming because of concerns about the deficit and the national debt. We have already carved out hundreds of billions of dollars from the Defense budget. And we are headed toward a military that is going to be so reduced in size that it will mean our lack of will may in fact be matched by our lack of wherewithal."

6

America is also faced with another severe economic drain known as the "Affordable Care Act." Though it was reported vigorously, and largely ignored, during the last Presidential election, the looming national debt has now reached around 17 trillion dollars. The aforementioned health care law is projected to add at least \$6 trillion to that. Critics are now screaming that \$400 to \$600 million was spent on a website that simply does not work, and no one seems to know how many tax dollars will be required to fix it. Newsmax reports that visits to the site have dropped 88% in the last two weeks. Analysis also revealed that of the 9.4 million unique visitors to HeathCare.gov that about 1/3 tried to register and only 1.01 million completed the registration. Some have blamed "glitches" in the system. Others say it was because there was such an overwhelming amount of people trying to access the site. All have, at this point, agreed that the site is a miserable failure.

Add to that the horrendous fight over the debt ceiling deadline which came on Oct. 17. The administration did succeed in basically getting "everything they wanted," the result being that much more debt was added to the current deficit. Not only so, but the same fight will be resumed in Dec. and Jan., and who knows how much more will be added. Unprecedented name calling and



accusations created an atmosphere of total chaos as some tried desperately to uphold the constitutional values upon which this country was founded and were severely rebuffed for it. Scripture plainly tells us that “The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.” Prov. 22:7 Politicians have proved this true over the past few years showing that the one who raises the most money wins elections. Some have taken giant strides in trying to cut off the funding of others and the “rich” truly do rule “over the poor.” However, the latter half of this verse is true of nations as well as individuals. Countries who absolutely deny God are among the poorest of nations on the earth, and are often nothing more than servants and pawns due to the debt they are under. Likewise America, with its astronomical debt, is extremely close to becoming subservient to its greatest debtor, China! It seems quite clear that the “uprooted horn,” is looming ever closer.

7 Individuals who ignore the righteous principles of God are also often seen in abject poverty, much of it often due to extremely unwise fleshly spending. God warned Israel “Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods,.....And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, **and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; ....**” Deut. 11:16-17 America’s economic woes are due, in large part, to the fact that this nation has forsaken God. Ninety Five year old Evangelist Billy Graham tells Newsmax Magazine in an exclusive interview “that President Obama's "hope and change" mantra is nothing more than a cliché and warns that the nation faces increasing threats to civil and religious liberties **from its government.**” Mr. Graham further stated that “America is drenched in a "sea of immorality" and suggested that the second coming of Christ is "near." The renowned Evangelist “was asked whether he believes the government may be so large and powerful, in light of the pervasive collection and monitoring of digital communications, that it becomes an inherent threat to basic human liberties.” He replied: “Our early fathers led our nation according to biblical principles. ‘Hope and change’ has become a cliché in our nation, and it is daunting to think that any American could hope for change from what God has blessed, but far greater than the government knowing our every move that could lead to losing our freedom to worship God publicly, is to know that God knows



our every thought; he knows our hearts need transformation.”

Mr. Graham certainly paints a bleak picture, and we wholeheartedly agree with him. It is also quite evident that the economic woes which plague our nation today, surely have all the indentifying ear marks of one which has forsaken God. They too will reap the harvest which God promised to Israel, when that idolatrous nation refused His Counsel.

The health care debacle, still defended by many, is creating havoc not only for the government, but for individual citizens. Some describe the program as a Ponzi-like scheme, dependent on the premiums of young healthy contributors at the bottom, to pay for the immediate medical demands of the elderly, on the top. Thus, at this writing, a mandate, requiring all citizens to be insured, imposes a penalty assessed by the IRS, on those who fail to comply. Current web site difficulties make enrollment virtually impossible, yet the fines will still be rigidly enforced. Some select corporations have been exempted from this mandate, much to the chagrin and total lack of understanding on the part of those trying to comply with the law. All those responsible for passing this law, are also completely exempt from it, as once again 8  
“The rich ruleth over the poor.” Other corporations have elected to simply pay the fine, informing their employees that they are “on their own,” because it is much easier to pay the fine than to supply the insurance. Still other large employers have found another way to survive. They have simply cut the hours of employees because this law does not require them pay the insurance of “part time” workers. This has created a tremendous furor, especially in the union work place which has fought to guarantee the 40 hour work week. Surely “The rich ruleth over the poor....”

The American citizen is caught in an impossible situation. He must enroll in a program or be penalized because he will not. Not only so, but contrary to its advertising, the “Affordable Care Act,” is really not that affordable. From the beginning, the President vigorously and repeatedly denied that it was a tax, but the supreme court upheld it ONLY as a tax. There are supposedly tax subsidies available to the needy, but problems with the web site make it virtually impossible to determine who may qualify for them. Citizens search frantically for an “affordable rate,” only to find out that the deductible for those low rates can be as much as \$4,000 for an individual and \$12,000



for a family. Not only so, but they are informed that the health care provider will not treat the patient unless that deductible is “paid up front.” Some doctors and health specialists have also come forward saying that they simply cannot provide the treatment demanded, for the money which would be paid them.

We can comment first hand on what it is like to try and comply with unreasonable governmental demands. Grace and Glory was caught in the web of the recent IRS scandal when our tax exempt status was rescinded in May of 2010 because we had not filed a certain form required for charities. (The Billy Graham Ministries were also subjected to an IRS audit during this scandal) We learned that the IRS had received such a form, but they would not accept it because it was not “signed by a proper officer.” We asked specifically who had signed it and were emphatically told: “I cannot give you that information.” The only thing we can infer is that the form was signed as “secretary of the board,” rather than simply “secretary.” We were not informed of this loss until Aug. 2011, and immediately tried to take steps for reinstatement, but were advised to “wait while we conduct an investigation.” After 90 days, we received a letter declaring that ANYONE who loses their tax exempt status, must re-apply regardless of the circumstance. The required, voluminous forms were submitted and we were reinstated in Aug. 2013 retro-active to Dec. 2012. However, the same annual filing was necessary and though I asked for a specific deadline, none was given. We did file the form, but received a letter from the IRS demanding over \$3,000 as a “late fee.” Grace and Glory teaches that we are to comply with the powers that be as stated in Rom. 14, and sent that payment in, along with a letter of protest and appeal. God fought our battle and the money was returned with interest, but we can surely sympathize with those who must comply with government regulation, but simply cannot because of government problems.

All of these “complications,” are strongly reminiscent of Israel’s plight while they were yet in Egypt. “Then the officers of the children of Israel came and cried unto Pharaoh, saying, Wherefore dealest thou thus with thy servants? **There is no straw** given unto thy servants, and they say to us, Make brick: and, behold, **thy servants are beaten**; but the fault is in thine own people. But he said, Ye are idle, ye are idle: therefore ye say, Let us go and do sacrifice to the LORD. Go therefore



now, and work; for there shall no straw be given you, **yet shall ye deliver the tale of bricks.**” Ex. 5:15-18 Today also, citizens are still required to gather their own extremely limited resources, in many cases due to working very short hours, in order to meet the very stringent demands of the government.

We would reiterate, by way of summation, that America, because of her economic woes and loss of world-wide political prowess and clout, is a prime candidate to be identified as one of the uprooted horns referenced above.

Now for the Good News! Though the majority, among both political and religious leaders around the world, is trumpeting the idea that “we can turn it all around and save our country,” scripture testifies differently. Judgment is coming, but God’s plan is the same for us as it was for Israel. Shortly after Israel faced the aforementioned dilemma, they marched triumphantly across the Red Sea, leaving Egypt absolutely decimated. God’s plan for the Church is also departure, not restoration. His Word is very plain that the “...great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues,...” will stand before the throne, but not before they come “...out of great tribulation,...” Rev. 7:9,14 We simply do not know how much devastation this group will endure, before they arrive in heaven, but deliverance is assured.

There is an even greater prospect available for those who are watching. Jesus promised the Philadelphia Church that “I also will keep thee from (out of) the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” Rev. 3:10 Paul also tells us that there is a crown of righteousness waiting for all those “that love his appearing.” II Tim. 4:8 Loving His appearing is the operative phrase for us. Yes, governmental requirements of our day are impossible. Sin is rampant throughout the whole world and “...sin is a reproach to any people.” (nation) Prov. 14:34 Trouble, ungodliness, violence, and utter chaos, will be the continued order in this world, until Jesus sets up His Own Kingdom. But, in the midst of all that, our hearts must be aflame with the love of Jesus’ appearing for us. It means that we must absolutely be consumed with Him, and His promise of taking us out of this world rather than trying to rebuild it. We must not lose sight of His promised deliverance. “For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.” Heb. 10:37



# FALLING FROM GRACE

*S. O. Sheldon*

"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law. Ye are fallen from grace."—Gal. 5: 4. The question on my heart is, Can a person fall from grace? Yes, Paul teaches that one can. He declares that some of the Galatian saints were fallen from grace; and his letter to them shows what was the cause. Another question arises—What is it to fall from grace? This question is clearly answered in this same letter.

The majority of people imagine that he who is in a backslidden condition is fallen from grace. That is not the teaching of scripture. A man falls from grace when he rejects God's grace, and seeks to be justified by keeping the law. When he seeks to save himself, or keep himself, he falls from grace. Christ is severed from such a one. That is, he is cut off from the benefits of grace by seeking benefit thru the law. The law has nothing to do with us now. We are under grace. The law put us to death with Christ on the cross. We who believe are a new creation in Christ Jesus. We are in a realm above law. Some of the Galatian saints evidently had turned from the grace of God, and were endeavoring to perfect themselves by their own legal works. Paul wrote to them in order to recover them from their fall and bring them up again under grace. He addressed them as brethren, calling them that nine times, I believe. They were not backslidden; but they were faint, because they were turning away from grace to law; for law does not minister life, but death. Paul had before preached to those people, and they believed the truth and were made free. But afterwards, other men told them that they must be circumcised in order to be saved. The gospel of grace was Paul's message. Some men preached "another gospel," which the Apostle declared "is not another gospel." He said that it is "bondage, and witchcraft." Therefore, he warned those believers



against that doctrine of law-keeping. It is well for us all to listen to his warning. He exclaims, "**If any one preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.**" Gal. 1:9.

Where does that put folks today who are preaching everything else than the gospel? Well, that puts them under the curse. In chap. 1: 3, Paul says, "**Somebody has bewitched you.**" My friend, have you turned away from the truth of grace? Then you have been bewitched. Some false teacher has imposed something on you that is not the gospel. It is not the good news from heaven. It is some man-made, devil-indicted, message. How disgusting that is to us who know the truth.

Beloved, if you seek to be justified by the law, you have to keep the whole law; but there is not a man, nor woman that can do that. Peter said boldly, "**Neither we nor our fathers were able to keep the law.**" If a Jew could not do it then; how can frail Gentiles do so now? And if you attempt to keep the law, you are severed from fellowship with Christ. Even His death for you is in vain. Yes, it is possible to fall from grace, and land under law; but it is not possible, after you are once saved by grace, to go to hell.

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You are saved eternally. Set the Lord before your face, and you will never be moved. If you are in doubt, it is because you do not see Christ crucified. You get occupied with yourself, with your own weakness and failures. Then in your own strength, you seek to do good. Thus you get on the wrong track. You try to be good because of false teaching. Oh, let us look to Calvary. Let us look to Jesus.

According to chap. 2:19, 20, God is responsible. Paul says, "**For I through the law, died to the law, that I might live unto God (above the law). I have been crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live: yet not I; but Christ liveth in me.**"

What benefit is the death of Christ if we can do right and please God in the flesh? We would not need Christ. But we do need Him. We never get so strong, that we need not the merits of the Anointed. He is our life.



Therefore, falling from grace is not committing some great sin. It is doing something in our own strength. In Isaiah we read, "**Your strength is to sit still.**" We take the place of helplessness and as not knowing anything. Then God comes in and causes us to do right. But suppose we fail, some one says. The new creation cannot fail; because it is born of God. The old man is born of the flesh, and it is flesh and it will always be flesh. But that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Yes, it is possible for a child of God to commit sin; but it is the old man. People think that the new man has backslidden, that it has been cut off from God. The word of God makes a distinction. The old man never had any thing to backslide from. The new man never can backslide, because it is holy. Bear in mind, that Paul is writing to saints here. I want to say, Amen to what Bro. Copley said this morning—The message of this Book (the Bible) is to God's children. He is speaking to believers, the ones that are born of God. He is writing this that your joy may be filled.

13        "**Our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.**" I John 1:3. Now it is the new man that has fellowship with Christ. The old man never could have fellowship with God. In Him is light, and we cannot mix the old creation with the new. We have fellowship with God, with Christ and with the saints if we walk in the light. If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. I have heard people say, that they have lived all day without sin.. Do you believe it? The Book says that we deceive ourselves. You are not deceiving your neighbor. The word sin means the sin principal in the old creation. I know some of you do not agree to that: but the root of sin is in every human being. It will not be taken out, "root and branch," until you draw your last breath: It is in the Adamic nature, but not in the Christ life. There is no sin in this life of Christ which is dwelling within us. This life is holy and pure as God Himself. It can never transgress. It can never be lost. It is eternal. It is divine. Oh let us not deceive ourselves any longer. Let us admit that we have a sinful nature. The natural man says, That is all a contradiction. No, it is practical truth.

"**For that which I do, I allow not; for what I would, I do not; but what I hate, that do I.....Now it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me;**



for I know that in me, (that is in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good, I find not"—Rom.7: 15-17. (Here the speaker illustrated the nature of the two creations by a black hat and the new creation by a white handkerchief). He showed that sin is black, because it is bad, and it can never be changed. So is the flesh, in which sin dwells. It too is bad.

We are sanctified in Christ the moment we believe, because then we obtain a holy nature, the "I" which seeks to do God's will all the time; but the "sin in the flesh" hinders the new life until it learns the way of deliverance thru counting the old man dead. The black hat never can become white: neither can the kerchief ever become a black hat. Likewise, the old man never will be a new man, never will be improved; neither can the new man ever be old, or bad, or sinful. In the new birth, we get the very life of Christ, which said, "I do always those things that please the Father."

Beloved, have you found deliverance? Did it come by the law? No. If it came by the law, then Christ died in vain. Christ can be of no benefit to you if you can be justified by the law. Oh, how you feel the need of Christ as soon as you get a revelation that sin is in you. There are two natures in a believer. One is the old man after the flesh and the other is the New man after the Spirit. Oh, to think that you have a divine nature in you that cannot sin and by the sacrifice of Christ, sin was put away. **"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."** I John 1:9.

Sins are the fruitage of this sinful nature. It is true that if we do not walk in the Spirit, this old sinful nature of ours will bear fruit. If we do not walk in the light, we will commit sin; however it is not I, but the old man that does it. If we do allow the old creation to perform, then we must confess our sins before God. What does it do? It does not cause us to be lost; but we lose our fellowship with God. We do not have an appetite to read the Word of God. Then the people think we are lost; we quit praying, do not want to go to Church. We get into a condition that Paul calls faint. He needs to be refreshed. How is he going to be refreshed? Why, by the Spirit of God. He just needs to hear the truth, and that will revive him. He is not dead to God; but he has fainted. As he goes before the throne of grace and acknowledges his sins, he obtains forgiveness.



15 You remember the man that fell down the third story in Acts 20th chapter. The man became sleepy, and down he went to the earth. He was in the third story, which speaks of our place in the heavenlies. The truth was shining brightly in that room; but that man went to sleep and, fell down from the third story and was taken up for dead. He came down from the heavens in his experience even to the earth. Well, you say, there is no help for that man. He has gone to hell. Oh, no; for Paul went down and embraced that man and brought him up and he received food. If you have fallen down from where the bright lights are shining in heaven, go to Paul's messages and get comfort. Oh, I am glad that this life can never die. I am glad that the Son of God has given us of His life, and that Christ is faithful, if we commit sin. Of course, we must confess that we do not see the lights shining like they did before. Christ has provided a way whereby we can be cleansed. Paul tells us that Jesus loved the Church and gave Himself for it that He might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water by the Word. Water speaks of the Word. The flood-water speaks of the wrath of judgment. So if you are defiled, having permitted the old creation to reign in you, then confess to the Lord and let Him wash you with His Word. Do you remember how Jesus washed the disciples' feet? He poured water into the basin. He cleansed them. Why? Because their feet were in the world and they became defiled with the things of this present world. How can we wash one another's feet? How can we get our brother into a state where he is cleansed from all defilement? We must show him where his trouble is, where he committed some sin, and probably fainted and needs a refreshing, needs to allow the Word of God to cleanse him. **"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."** That is the way to wash a saint's feet.  
—Preached at the Topeka Camp meeting 1924

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\* "The poorest of all people is he who has nothing but material riches."

\* "If we say we have need of nothing, may the Lord open our eyes to see our desperate need."



# None Like Him

Albert J. Woehr Jr.

**“He trusted in the Lord God of Israel.”** II Kings 18:5.

In the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, the Lord names some of His greatest heroes—those of whom "He was not ashamed to be called their God." In our text we have another, great man of God mentioned, named Hezekiah. Of this king it is said, "after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any before him." This takes in a great deal of territory. What was the outstanding characteristic that caused God to have such a high opinion of His servant? It was his faith in God. For "he trusted in the Lord God of Israel."

We always trust those in whom we have faith! The significance of the word "trust" in this verse is to lean hard on God as a foundation. The actual use, of the word is as a cripple leans hard upon crutches in order to move forward. This was the exact attitude expressed in the life of Hezekiah. There was no fretting when highly successful Sennacherib came up against him, for Hezekiah "trusted in the Lord God," that is, leaned hard (depended upon) his foundation. 16

How well have we learned this lesson? Can it be said that we daily lean hard upon our sure Foundation, Jesus Christ? There is no other foundation for the people of God. Let us surrender ourselves unto our God, trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, leaning and depending hard on Him, constantly looking away from all the difficult circumstances, unto Him who died for us and rose again, ascending on high to live and make intercession, for us.

Then our God will not be ashamed to, be called our God.

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You cannot keep a good man  
down!

‘Tis fact none dare assail,  
As witness Jesus in the grave  
And Jonah in the whale.



## How to Pray

*The proper way for a man to pray”  
Said Deacon Lemuel Keys,  
“The only proper attitude  
Is down upon his knees.”*

*“No. I should say the way to pray,”  
Said Reverend Doctor Wise  
“Is standing straight with outstretched arms  
And rapturous upturned eyes.”*

*“It seems to me his hands should be  
Devoutly clasped in front,  
With both thumbs pointing t’ward the ground”  
Said Reverend Doctor Blunt.*

*“Last year I fell in Hodkins; well  
Head first,” said Cyrus Brown.  
“With both my heels a stickin’ up,  
My head pointin’ down.”*

*“And I made prayer right then and there—  
Best prayer I ever said  
The prayenest prayer I ever prayed  
Was standin’ on my head.”*

- ANON

## Oh, Man, You're Well

Emmanuel! Emmanuel!  
God came to earth with men to dwell,  
To set them free from death and hell,  
And say to each, Oh, man, you're well,  
Oh, man, you're well.

Emmanuel! Emmanuel!  
Came down to lift up man who fell,  
And all the pangs of Satan quell,  
By telling all, Oh, man, you're well,  
Oh, man, you're well.

Emmanuel! Emmanuel!  
Has taken man with Him to dwell.  
And ever more, His grace we'll tell  
To high and low, Oh, man, you're well,  
Oh, man, you're well.

ANON



# REFLECTIONS

. . . *From the Editor*

*“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” I Thess. 5:18*

**G**iving thanks, is the will of God for us. This time of year often brings thanksgiving for all the bounty which God has bestowed upon us, but Paul exhorts us here: “In everything give thanks.” Such gratefulness is almost a lost art in our day, despite the fact that it is stated here to be the will of God. When thanksgiving is not forthcoming, it often expresses an attitude which says, “well you owed it to me anyway,” or perhaps it means that “what you gave, I really did not need or want.” It may sometimes mean that “your gift was not up to my expectation.” There seems to be some who think that “my gifts come from the Lord, and therefore I do not need to express any kind of gratitude to men.” Paul’s counsel contradicts that. “Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.” Rom. 13:7 Those who give of themselves should be honored, even as Paul commended the Macedonian saints for their liberal giving. II Cor. 8 He also declared that the receivers of those gifts “pray for” and “long after,” (earnestly desire) those who have expressed “the exceeding grace of God” to them. II Cor. 9:14 For this cause, we would express our own deep and heartfelt appreciation to all those who have been so faithful with their offerings, even when they knew they were not tax deductible. We also value so very highly those who continue to “hold our hands up,” with their love, faith, and prayer for this ministry. Thank you seems to come short of our true gratitude, but The Lord will surely reward all your efforts with eternal glory.

If it is the will of God for us to be thankful, then our growth will not be complete until we exercise this part of His will and purpose for our lives as well as all the rest of the intentions He has ordained for our tenure on this earth.

There are, in addition, a multitude of scriptural reasons for thanksgiving unto The Lord. Psalm 118:29 loudly proclaims, “O



give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.” If we are saved, we have already experienced both the goodness and grace which God has so freely bestowed upon us. We also know that such bounty goes much further than just initial salvation, and the depths of divine grace are really impossible to measure. It is no wonder that Paul exulted “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!” Rom. 11:33

The apostle further exhorts us to “.....let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” Col 3:15 This is the peace OF God rather than the peace WITH God (Rom. 5:1) which ensured that we are no longer His enemy. The peace OF God is a reference to the same peace that God has, regardless of difficulty or disturbance. What a great asset to have in our lives and such peace is here associated with the rest of the body. What a reason for thanksgiving! We are at peace with others, and must understand that we do need the rest of the body.

19

Finally David exhorts: “Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. Psa. 95:2 Singing is a sign of victory, and such is the reason for our many thanksgivings today, even in the very Presence of God.

GH

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

*We have received a number of requests for Bro. Astle’s lessons on Nehemiah. They have now been transcribed to CD, and are ready for distribution., If you desire to have a set of them, you may order them by e-mail at [gjhawk1@msn.com](mailto:gjhawk1@msn.com). They are also available from P. O. Box 831, Grandview, MO. 64030. You may also call us at 816-618-3306*

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*We are in process of writing the notes on Isaiah, but these lessons were given out at our Wed. Eve. Bible Study and are also available immediately on CD. Order information is the same as that found above.*



# Exhortation to Thanksgiving

Ethel Barnett

**“I BESEECH YOU THEREFORE, BRETHREN, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, THAT YE PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE,** holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service, and be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that **GOOD** and **ACCEPTABLE** and **PREFECT WILL OF GOD**”

The renewing of your mind by the Word of God is the way to prove the above quoted Scripture. And of course to be the example of such a victory, we will heed Paul's words in I Timothy 4:12. "Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation (manner of living), in charity (love of God), in spirit, in faith, in purity." By making our salvation practical in our every-day lives, we must appropriate Christ's life, and depend upon the Holy Ghost to bring it to pass in us. By obedience to the Word of God, we bring our state up to our standing in Christ, which makes us complete, perfect, in reality grown up in Christ! The Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit agree, and we agree with them when we see the light of these truths. "Present your bodies a living sacrifice," compared with Rom. 6:13 and II Cor. 5:14, gives us the secret to such a place of growth and fruitfulness. The flesh has been crucified and we, as a part of the New Creation, live in the newness of life. 20

We find that one phase to the will of God is to give thanks. "In everything **GIVE THANKS**; for this is the **WILL OF GOD** in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thess. 5:18 Note that this exhortation was written to the highest type of Christians. The reason for such thanksgiving is found in II Cor. 4, "For **ALL THINGS** are for your sakes that the abundant grace might thru the **THANKSGIVING** of many redound to the glory of God." As we give thanks to God for the **ALL THINGS**, we are enriched spiritually and are made to rejoice in the Lord with continued thanksgiving. As concerning giving, Paul further states, "For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many **THANKSGIVINGS** unto God." Again in Col. 3:17. "Whatsoever ye do in word or deed do all in the name of the Lord Jesus **GIVING THANKS** to God and the Father by Him."



When we realize that we are in the will of God, our lives will be full of thanksgiving unto God for the way in which He leads us. Colossians 1:9-12 is a prayer of Paul's in which he desires that we might be filled with the knowledge of HIS WILL in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, GIVING THANKS unto the Father.

Our prayers should always be in the will of God, and they will be as we yield to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to pray through us. Rom. 8:26,27 As we thus yield to the power of the Holy Ghost and let the Word work in our lives, then we are led from the good will of God, into the acceptable and finally into the perfect will of God. If we are abiding in the perfect will of God, we will have put on the new creation in all its loveliness and perfection, giving thanks to God continually and rejoicing in the Hope of the glory of God.

Enoch as a type of the full-overcomer had the testimony that he pleased God. He surely had all the characteristics of a life well-pleasing to the Lord — a life that led to translation. A good way to be well-pleasing to the Lord is to heed Paul's instruction in Heb. 13:15-16. "By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name. But to do good and to communicate forget not; FOR WITH SUCH SACRIFICES GOD IS WELL PLEASED."

*Reprint 1949*

### **LOVE IS**

Slow to suspect—quick to trust  
Slow to condemn—quick to justify  
Slow to offend—quick to defend  
Slow to expose —quick to shield  
Slow to reprimand—quick to forbear  
Slow to belittle—quick to appreciate  
Slow to demand—quick to give  
Slow to provoke—quick to conciliate  
Slow to hinder—quick to help  
Slow to resent—quick to forgive



# The Pleasure of the Lord

Paul N. Smith

**“BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,** who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, according as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love ; having predestinated us unto the adoption (son-placing) of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the **good pleasure of His will.**” Eph. 1:3-5.

God does not seek to please men in His dealings with the world, or the human race, or in fact in any of His mighty acts. It would be impossible for even God to be able to please all men. Instead all things that have been done by the tri-une God or the dealings that He shall have with humanity will be done to please Him. He is the God of this universe and the creator of mankind and therefore has the right to do things as He pleases. Blessed is the man who realizes that what God does is according to the good pleasure of His will and is the best for all concerned. There are many things that might be told , in which God is not pleased, but there are five distinct acts of the Lord in which He was well pleased. 22

The above Scriptures give us God's purposes for the man whom He was yet to create. Even before Adam breathed, or the animals walked the earth, God was planning thousands of years ahead of this time. Why God wanted fellowship with man is not known ,to us, but seemingly He wanted some creatures, made in His likeness that would glorify and worship Him. Adam, along with the rest of God's creation came into being in a sinless and perfect state. The world was a wonderful place in which to dwell. Man was in full fellowship with God and the animals and even the vegetation were all in harmony with the Lord. It was a paradise upon earth. Even the man, Adam, had someone to keep him company —Eve. Everything was lovely and folk might wonder why things didn't continue in that way. Couldn't God have made Adam so perfect that He would have remained as God created him? We cease to wonder why when we read the Scriptures and find that God had something far better planned than that original



beginning in the Garden of Eden. A New Creation was planned by God before the old creation or the first Adam was formed. God knew that Adam would fall and also He knew that the man He had created was subject to failure and disobedience, therefore it was necessary for Him to plan way ahead into the future and bring about a perfect, sinless and holy creation of which His Son, Jesus Christ would be the Head.

God could not have pleasure with Adam after he fell, neither could He have pleasure and fellowship with man from then on. It was His pleasure therefore to form a New Race through Jesus Christ, a family in which He would always be pleased. But man could not be holy and blameless and lovely as was soon manifested in Cain's action against his brother Abel. Through Christ only can man be in the condition body, soul and spirit, of deep fellowship and pleasure with God. What a sad picture it would be for humanity if God had not planned into the future, but left man in his ruined state! How glad we are that God had His will done! What God purposes to do is done. There is no guess-work where God is concerned. Man has nothing to do with God's will and purposes. He sometimes uses one here and there to bring it about, but back of it all is His pleasure in performing His heart's desires.

If man had been in the "drivers-seat" of the creation, he would have been in a quandary to know what to do after Adam sinned and fell. Men are limited in their knowledge and capacity of action, although they seem to think otherwise. God was waiting for Adam to fall, in order that He might bring about His next step. He was ready with His plans as soon as the former ones had been fulfilled. Genesis 3:15 gives us a promise of a coming Redeemer, of which the slain animal was a type. Thus it pleased Him to bring His Son upon the earth to bring about this perfect creation. In Isaiah 53, we have a wonderful pen-picture of God's good pleasure towards His Son, the Redeemer of all mankind. In verse 10 we read, -"Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief; when thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand." Here is an epitome of this Chapter



and also of the other Scriptures relating to Christ's suffering and death. God took pleasure in His Son's rejection and suffering; His grief and torment; His stripes and imprisonment, because it meant the bringing about of God's will and purposes for mankind. Christ was even made sin for the sinful human race that those who would believe might be made the righteousness of God in Him. Christ was pleased also to make this supreme sacrifice, for He, as did His Father, saw the joy and the revelation of the New Creation in glory. They could see in the future and gaze at the earth in all its glory, and greater joy yet was the scene that will be enacted in heaven. All heaven and earth will shine with the glory of that glorified Saviour and His body of people. God's Son shall also have a Bride, like Him, sharing His throne. There is no wonder then that all the suffering and torment Christ suffered as well as God, was their pleasure. The remaining verses of this chapter give us a small picture of the results of Calvary.

There was no other way for God to bring about the plans which He purposed before the foundation of the world than the way He did. Sinful man needed a sinless Saviour. Fallen man needed a risen Saviour. Who else but our Lord Jesus Christ could fit into God's plan. How glad we are that God is doing the planning!

The way in which God makes known His will and shows man a way out is according to His pleasure also. Men would probably think of many ways to make the Gospel known to his fellowman. But God chose one way and that way is the best way. In Cor. 1:20,21, we see what God's plan is. "Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world. For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness or preaching to save them that believe." Gather all the wise men and all the scribes and all the disputers of this world and they together with all their natural wisdom cannot come to the knowledge of God. Man was left to himself in the early years of this world to see if he could come to any righteousness of his own. They were left to see if they could find the God of the universe. They tried to find God by building a tower and they are continually trying to find Him



by their towers of strength and wisdom. But God says that man in all his wisdom could not find God. God did not use His wisdom in bringing the Gospel to men and revealing Himself to them, but He used foolishness (in man's eyes) to save them that believe. It pleased God to separate men and women through the years to preach the Gospel to others. By this "foolishness" many have believed and have gone about in the same old "foolish" way. God chose poor ignorant fishermen, wise men and all classes to preach His Gospel. Thus it doesn't depend on man or his wisdom, but upon God. He has pleasure in taking weak folk and making them messengers of His Word.

25 It was God's pleasure to separate one man especially to preach this Gospel and bring to us the complete revelation of God's will and purpose. This man was Saul of Tarsus, who before his conversion was the opposite of weakness and foolishness. He was strong-willed, conceited and very wise. But God took Him down to utter weakness in order for him to be fit for His use. God uses man's weakness to show forth His power. "But when it **pleased** God who separated me from my mother's womb and called me by His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood"—Gal. 1:15,16. Paul was one of those "foolish" preachers. He was turned right about face and began preaching Christ to the heathen, when before he had persecuted Him. Paul is the outstanding preacher of this age and all ages. To him was given the revelation of the Gospel that was hid from men until this time. The Lord delights to do the seemingly impossible thing. Paul would have been the last one man would have chosen for this job. Had the choice been left to Peter or one of the other apostles, this Saul of Tarsus would most surely have not been chosen. This Saul who consented unto Stephen's death, became the greatest apostle of all times. This Saul who persecuted the Christians, hailing them to prisons and consenting unto their death became the champion of the cause he had once persecuted and fought against. God's ways are surely not man's ways and how wonderful to know it. What pleases God pleases us when we are in agreement with Him.

The purposes of God are complete and perfect, leaving



nothing undone. We have seen how that God has had pleasure in predestinating a new creation in His Son and how He has brought this about according to the good pleasure of His will. He has this new creation provisionally seated with Christ in the heavenlies. His plan is to actually seat this body of people into their blood-bought place. A Bride has been predestinated for His Son and there have been some faithful ones who have yielded to His will and shall qualify for that wonderful place. Others shall have a place with Him not as glorious as the Bride, but glorious just the same. Who shall constitute that Bride, and who shall constitute the lesser companies is all known and planned by God.

I Corinthians 15 shows us that God shall culminate His plans as it will please Him. Verses 35 to 58 of this Chapter shows us in what manner His people shall be raised. Notice especially verses 35 and 38, "But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? But God giveth it a body as it hath **pleased Him**, and to every seed his own body." Thus, if we are called to the highest glory, it will be that God has planned it thus and is pleased with what He is doing. God has more pleasure in some of His people than in others. Those who do his perfect will and yield completely to Him, will of course please Him perfectly. Just as Christ pleased His Father by doing His will, so we will be pleasing to Him and have the best place He has to offer, if we seek to please Him in everything we do. God pleases us as we please Him. If we find pleasure in God and His Word and Will, He will have pleasure in us. Thus, no matter where He leads us or in what way He deals with us. it will please us, because it is pleasing Him. How wonderful to be in harmony with God and His will! Just to experience salvation is pleasure beyond human words. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is more wonderful yet, and to continue in His will and learn His word and be built up in the Truth makes our lives more glorious and pleasing to the Lord.

**“God in nature is above us; God in  
providence is beyond us; God in law is  
against us; but God in Christ is FOR us.”**



## Excerpts Of Letters From Our Readers

**Dear Friends:** *Many years ago our dear mother, Clara Richmond sent a subscription for us to your magazine which we have received faithfully through the years. It has been a great blessing as we have shared the poems, quotes, & articles with others by mail, in cards & letters in times of need, etc. One of them, a true believer but living in psychiatric hospitals since she graduated H.S. with our oldest daughter (64 years old) just died. In her last phone conversation with me, she commented on the blessing of reading an article from GRACE AND GLORY. She was highly medicated but God ministered to her soul & spirit through your magazine & she even wrote beautiful poems exalting our Lord Jesus. God bless your ministry. We are thankful for it & its effective witness through the years. Pastor Jim and Jean Richmond. New Jersey*

27 **Dear Ones in Christ:** *I thought surely the Lord would return before now and I would not have to do this any more. We can see signs all around us; everywhere we look, we see warning signs. Sin, corruption, wars, distress of Nations. We do not know what the economic situation will be with the change going on with the administration but we know it is not going to be good. Psa. 20:7 Says: "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God." It is certain we cannot trust our Government any more. But God is faithful: He will not fail. He promised [Isa.43:2] "When thou pass through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not over flow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." I like that word through. He did not promise to keep us out of the troubled waters, but tells us we shall not remain in fire or flood. We trust that all is going well with the ministry there. Let us keep looking up. Our waiting will not be much longer. Raymond Hart. Ariz.*

**Bro. Hawkins & Saints:** *Thank you for the precious Word of God. Enclosed is an offering for the expenses of Grace and Glory. We have also enjoyed the CDs on Isaiah. God is fighting our battles and we are resting in His love. Bro. & Sis. Fent. Okla.*

**Dear Saints:** *Praise God and thanks for the CDs and music CD. Thank you for the Grace and Glory also, and for your prayers. I have had an upsetting week, but God has been with me all the way. He is with me always. Bonnie Bergerson. Okla.*



Bro. Hawkins: Just loved the last issue! Can hardly wait for the continuing articles. Your Sign Post teaching, excellent! Phil. 1:3-4 Jo Clopton. Mo.

Dear Bro. Hawkins: As always, you, yours, the meeting, school, magazine, are all in our prayers. Also continue praying for a young mother here who is now receiving treatment for a brain tumor. The doctors did not believe she would survive after being operated on this past summer and wanted her off life support. (It was a very hard summer for everybody here.) Our Lord was (and continues to be) so gracious and merciful to all of us and thru the prayers of saints everywhere this woman survived to such a degree that one doctor kept saying over and over "this is a miracle, this is a miracle. When she was moved to rehab, doctors and nurses kept coming to see her. She was truly a witness to all." Am soooo looking forward to the coming of our Lord. No one told me when I became pastor how much I would feel with the saints. No one told me then that every pain they felt, I would feel too. I am not complaining. I get to enjoy their victories as well. Pastor Sharon Townsend. Mich.

28

Dear Bro. Gene: We are truly living in a time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken, but we don't have to fear. I am happy the Lord is coming to take the bride home soon. I have been warning most Christians & they are all afraid, instead of glad the Lord is coming! Anyway, I hope we all in the bride will allow the Lord to put the finishing touches on us. I am enjoying the studies in Ezra by Bro. Astle. He is a good teacher. Also the studies about the minor prophets. It sure suits the time we live in. The Church, just like Israel, have fallen away so badly. I pray for all of you that God will protect you and supply all your need. Nora Gorensek. Canada.

Bro. Gene: Thank you for those wonderful tapes. We are listening to I Peter on Wed. and your Mammon Series on Sunday. They are a blessing to all of us here. Thank you for the Word you share with us. Joe Walsh. Louisiana

Dear Bro. Gene: "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Prov. 3:6 This verse comes to me a lot these days. There are so many of God's saints going through great difficulty in these last days, as God is preparing our hearts with final touches. Without acknowledging Him in all things we would be at a complete loss as to what to do. We are in the final moments for those who love the appearance of Christ and are watching for it. Sad there are many who do not share that love and hope. Wade Kemper. New Mexico



## **ADDITIONS AND INVENTIONS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR THE PERVERSION OF CHRISTIANITY**

- \*Prayers for the dead, in the year A. D. 300.**
- \*Making the *sign* of the Cross, A. D. 300.**
- \*Worship in Latin language, A. D. 600.**
- \*Adoration of Mary and saints, A. D. 788.**
- \*Adoration of the cross, images and relics, A. D. 788.**
- \*Blessings of Bells, A. D. 965.**
- \*Fasting on Fridays & during lent, A. D. 998.**
- \*Fabrication of "holy water," A. D. 1000.**
- \*Marriage of priests forbidden, A. D. 1079.**
- \*Rosary beads invented, A. D. 1090.**
- \*Sale of indulgences, A. D. 1190.**
- \*Sacrifice of the mass, A. D. 1215.**
- \*Transubstantiation of bread, A. D. 1215.**
- \*Adoration of the wafer or hosts, A. D. 1220.**
- \*Auricular (out loud) Confession of sins to a priest instead of to God, instituted by pope Innocent III, in Lateral council 1215**
- \*Bible forbidden to laymen- placed on the Index of Forbidden books by the council of Toulouse, 1229**
- \*Cup forbidden to people at Communion, A. D. 1414.**
- \*Purgatory proclaimed, A. D. 1438.**
- \*Apocryphal books, added to the Bible, 1546**
- \*Infallibility of the pope in matters of faith and morals, proclaimed by the Vatican Council 1870  
(Reprint, 1949)**

### ***Some recent additions....***

- \*Assumption of the Virgin Mary (bodily ascension into heaven shortly after her death), proclaimed by pope Pius XII 1950**
- \*Mary proclaimed Mother of the Church, by pope Paul VI 1965**



# ISAIAH

## Chapter 13

*Gene Hawkins*

**T**his chapter correlates beautifully with I Chronicles, which presents the history of David becoming king after spending years in the wilderness being pursued, and hounded relentlessly, by Saul. This book records Saul's removal, and David's advancement to the throne. The nation had been divided heretofore, but chapter 11 reveals the glorious unification of the people as they sought out David, even as Israel, of the end time, will clamor after Jesus. "Then all Israel gathered themselves to David unto Hebron, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh. And moreover in time past, even when Saul was king, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD thy God said unto thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be ruler over my people Israel. Therefore came all the elders of Israel to the king to Hebron; and David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the LORD; and they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the LORD by Samuel." I Chron. 11:1-3 The pattern in the days of tribulation likewise follows the same example presented in this book. Israel will be gathered unto Jesus, but He must still judge multiplied nations as is evidenced in Ch. 18. "Now after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them, and took Gath and her towns out of the hand of the Philistines. And he smote Moab; and the Moabites became David's servants,.... And David smote Hadarezer king of Zobah unto Hamath... And when the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadarezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians..... Then David put garrisons in Syriadamascus; and the Syrians became David's servants,..... Thus the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went." I Chron. 18:1-6 Israel's Messiah will also enjoy such wholesale victory as He takes His throne and puts down all rule and authority against Him. The words in verse one of our present chapter here in Isaiah foretell the end of first world empire. It is figurative of the end time world empire which will likewise succumb to the final world Kingdom ushered in by The Son of God. "The burden (doom) of Babylon, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see. Lift ye up a banner upon the high mountain, exalt the voice unto them, shake the hand, that they may go into the gates of the nobles." The term "shake the hand,"



literally means “to beckon with the hand,” and speaks of the time that the Medo-Persian empire would be beckoned to replace the Babylonish regime. It is this second world empire which will invade “the gates of the nobles,” or the mighty forces of Babylon. God’s message from the mouth of Isaiah continues as He declares that “I have commanded my sanctified ones, I have also called my mighty ones for mine anger, even them that rejoice in my highness.” V. 3 God did indeed call this Medo-Persian empire to execute His wrath upon Babylon and Darius, the Mede did give honor to the Lord, rejoicing in His “highness.” “I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.” Dan. 6:26 Later on, it was Cyrus, of the Persian side of the empire, who again honored God and set the Jews free to return to Jerusalem.

31 God’s assault against Babylon continues, declaring that “The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: the LORD of hosts mustereth the host of the battle. They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the LORD, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land.” V. 4,5 These words indicate that God Himself is responsible for this devastating blow and they are prophetic of the time when, once again, all the nations will be gathered together to the battle. That battle will be none other than Armageddon, and no nation on earth will be spared, as “the LORD of hosts mustereth the host.” His indignation will be so intense that it will “destroy the whole land.” The response will be “Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.” V. 6 Such wailing will be commonplace in that day for “the day of the Lord,” is truly a day of devastation and destruction which shall produce the following results: “Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames.” V. 7,8 All these things were fulfilled when mighty Babylon fell, but the greater impact of these prophetic words will be felt in the end time. Jesus used the same analogy of “a woman that travaileth,” when he described



the “beginning of sorrows,” that is, the pangs of childbirth, which will increase dramatically as the seven years of tribulation reach their conclusion.

“Behold the day of the LORD cometh...” and with it comes a day that is “cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.” V. 9 These words undoubtedly describe a day of warfare, even as that manifest when Darius dethroned Belshazzar, but the next verse is in direct agreement with the events prophesied for the coming tribulation, “For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.” V10 God has, and will continue, to use one nation to punish another, but some of His judgments are completely beyond the control of men. We are witnessing such phenomenon more and more even in this present day leading up to the devastating upheaval of the elements during the tribulation period. All of these varied “judgments” occur because “...I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.” V. 11 God has always hated the independent spirit of natural man, for it is the very product of Satan himself. Pride caused his fall, and Paul warns us not to fall into that condemnation. I Tim. 3:6 The devastation continues as God next declares that “I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.” V. 12 The reason that one man seems to be so “precious” is because they are in such short supply. Isaiah 4:1 prophesies of the day when “...seven women shall take hold of one man,....” This is undoubtedly because so many of them have been destroyed by war. The day in which we live is very much in contrast to this, for it is a day when life seems to be so very “cheap,” in so many parts of our world. Suicide bombers, and others willing to be the “martyr for their causes,” proclaim the fact that people are expendable. We live in a “throw away” society, but according to these words, that mind set will change and God “will make a man more precious than fine gold;....”

War will take its toll, and casualties will mount both in human life and other resources, but God’s arsenal extends quite beyond the reach of men. “Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD



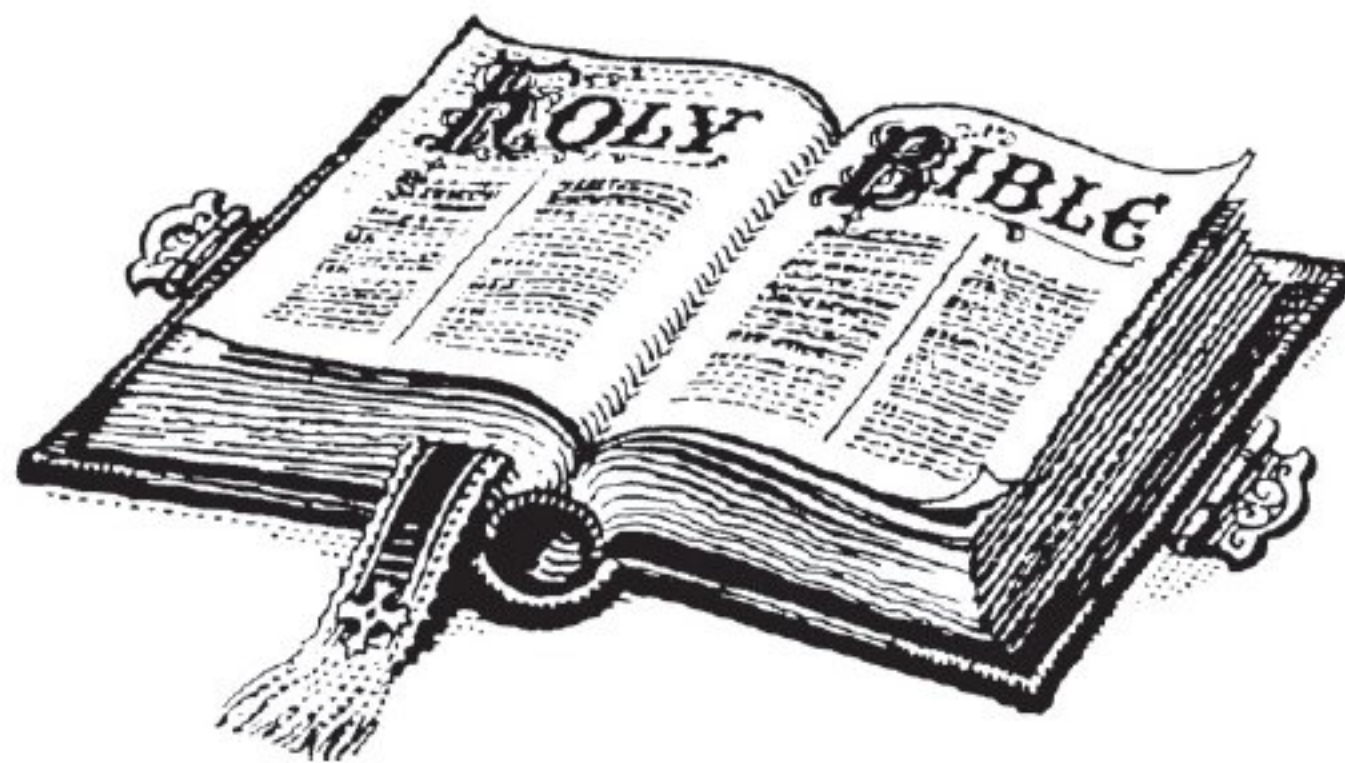
of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.” V. 13 Men today do have great weapons of mass destruction, and such weaponry will increase during the tribulation period. There are, however, no match for the devastation that will be caused on this earth by the upheaval in the heavens. Peter declares “...the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” II Pet. 3:10 The full impact of these words will not be realized until very near the end of this most devastating “day of the Lord,” but the shaking of the heavens is already manifest and the results are being seen even now, for it shall be a time when “....it (the earth of V. 13) shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up: they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land.” V. 14 This verse describes life on this earth as men finally realize “there is no place to hide.” They do indeed turn “every man to his own people,..” but to no avail. “Every one that is found shall be thrust through; and every one that is joined unto them shall fall by the sword. Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished. Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it.” V. 15-17 These words outline the devastation which occurred when the Medes invaded Babylon but, once again, the greater fulfillment is yet to come. The same pattern will prevail when men shall find that “bribery” will avail nothing, and the destruction described above will continue unabated. The days of Armageddon will also be a time when “Their bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children.” V. 18

“And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.” These words show emphatically that these words extend to the tribulation period, for there is no record that Nebuchanezzar's Babylon experienced the destruction of “fire and brimstone,” which rained down upon Sodom and Gomorrah. Such language is, however, attributed to the devastation of the end time. “The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of



the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:" Rev. 14:10 Such words are not limited to one locale, for the whole world will experience this total annihilation. However, history shows clearly that Isaiah's next reference does most assuredly single out the first world empire. "It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there." V. 20 This refers to political Babylon, which has not risen again. It is also prophetic, and typical, of "religious Babylon," that is, the false Church, which will likewise experience the severe judgment of God. "And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Rev. 18:2

The closing verses of this chapter could well be a reference to religious Babylon being "the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hateful bird," symbolic of the evil spirits which inhabit Catholicism today, but they especially apply to the literal history of that formerly glorious city. "But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there. And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged." V. 21-22 Isaiah was a contemporary of Hezekiah, somewhere around 713 B.C. Nebuchanezzar became the golden head of Babylon in 606 B.C. That first world empire met its demise 70 years later. Thus Isaiah prophesied of these literal events about 177 years before they actually came to pass. They were literally fulfilled exactly as they are recorded here, and we can rest assured that every jot and tittle of all the far reaching prophecies, in regard to the end time, will also shortly come to pass.







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