

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole counsel of GOD

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Loving His Appearing

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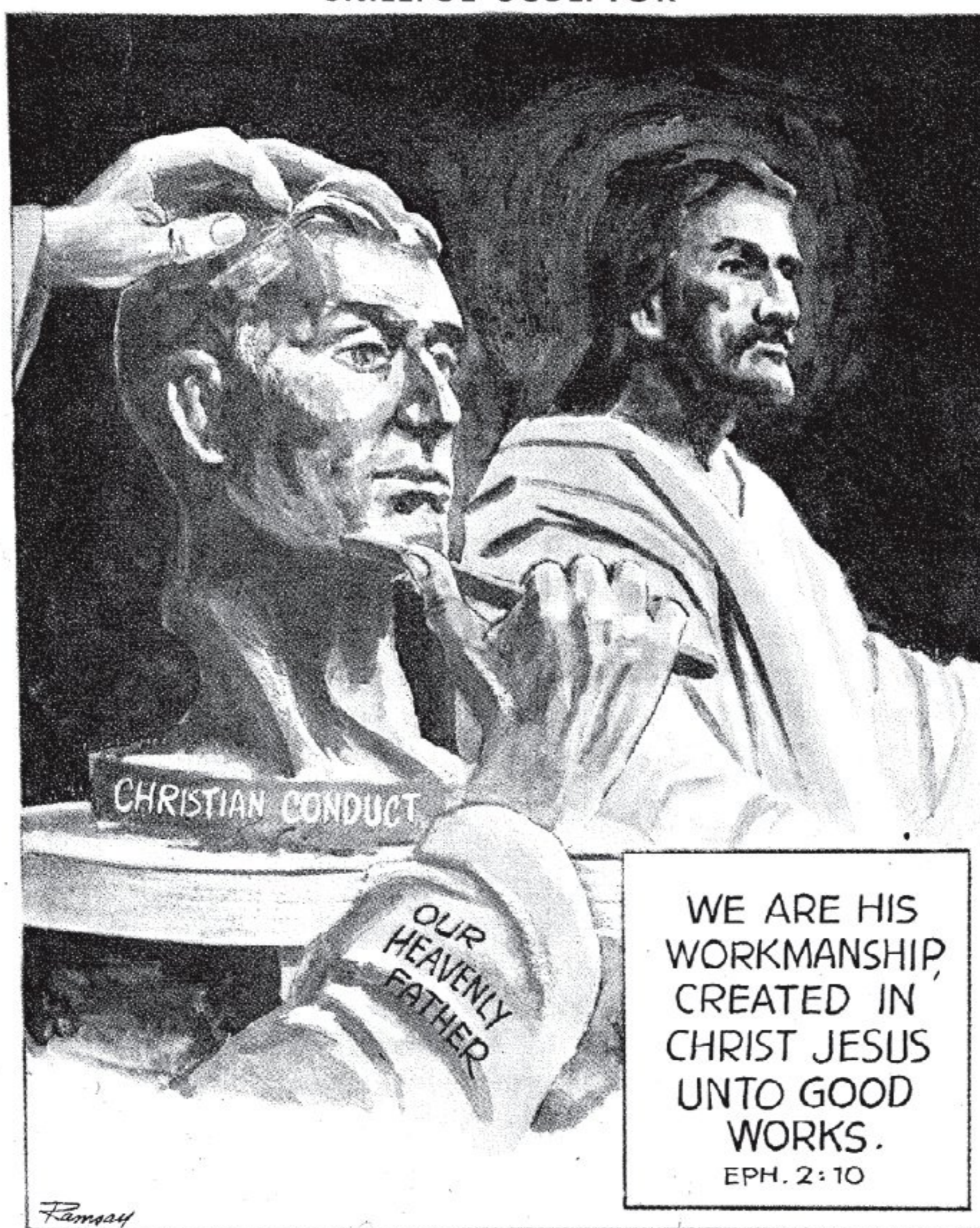
Hold fast the
form of sound
words, which thou
hast heard of me,
in faith and love
which is in
Christ Jesus.

II TIMOTHY 1:13.

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SKILLFUL SCULPTOR



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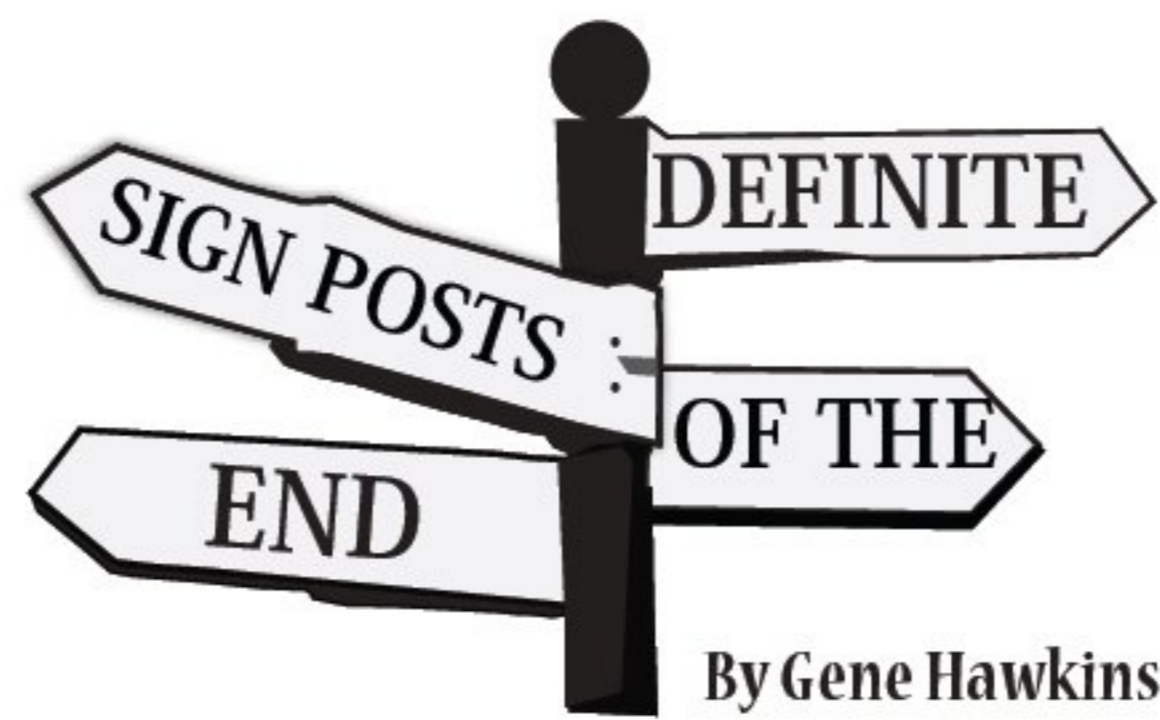
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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.” Jer. 6:14

3 **T**hese words are repeated verbatim in Jeremiah 8:11 emphasizing the importance of them. The religious leaders especially seem to be held accountable as “...the prophet even unto the priest...” are assailed for dealing falsely. Jer. 6:13 This prophecy concerning Jerusalem has undoubtedly been fulfilled many times throughout the ages, for Israel has repeatedly transgressed against The Lord and refused to hear His Word as stated in verses 16-17 of this same chapter. “Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.” That pattern continues down to this present day, and the consequences outlined in verses 22, 23 will shortly come to pass in unprecedented measure, when the anti-christ comes to power, and Jerusalem will be decimated. “Thus saith the LORD, Behold, a people cometh from the north country, and a great nation shall be raised from the sides of the earth. They shall lay hold on bow and spear; they are cruel, and have no mercy; their voice roareth like the sea; and they ride upon horses, set in array as men for war against thee, O daughter of Zion.”

The elusive peace of our opening text, however, could be a lament for the whole world, and for the same reason: men have absolutely ignored God and His Word. Scripture is very plain that all the affairs of this world center around Israel. There will be no peace for the entire earth until peace comes to this small nation, and right now, such a thing seems completely out of reach.

Egypt is currently occupying lead news stories around the world, loudly demonstrating Jeremiah’s declaration that “there is no peace.” Cairo is the capital of the Arab World’s most populous nation and is now setting the stage for extremely high

levels of violence in what appears to be a looming civil war. This atmosphere is becoming more volatile by the day, and Israel, as well as a multitude of other nations, is greatly concerned about it. Bible scholars have long viewed Egypt as a scriptural type or representative of the world as a whole, and the events taking place at this present time will eventually engulf the entire globe.

Daniel interpreted the foot portion of Nebuchadnezzar's dream image as meaning a coalition of imperialism and democracy, because the feet and toes of this image were composed of iron and clay. "And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, **the kingdom shall be divided;**.... And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be **partly strong, and partly broken.** And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but **they shall not cleave one to another,** even as iron is not mixed with clay. Dan. 2:41-43 Daniel specifically mentions that the "toes of the feet," were of this mixture and those ten toes correspond with the ten kings "who have no kingdom as yet," and reign with the beast one hour. God also uses them to destroy the great whore, and then they too are destroyed. Rev. 17 We are persuaded that these toes are a fitting description of the multiplied terrorists groups "who have no kingdom as yet." They desperately want to rule in political affairs around the world and the Muslim Brotherhood, along with al-Qaida at this point, seem to be leading the charge. They are also "religious," in nature, and would thus be the prime candidate to wage "Jihad" (holy war) against the false Church.

Mohammed Morsi, the candidate set forth by the Muslim Brotherhood, won the Egyptian presidential election after former Dictator Hosni Mubarak was ousted in 2011. He came in under the pretense of bringing democracy to this Arab land, but such has not been the case according to those who actually live in Egypt, and he too has now been deposed. The present widespread upheaval in that country is a clear demonstration of how "iron and clay," simply do not mix. The "Egyptian Democratic Coalition" issued this response in an open letter to American Pres. Obama, after his remarks on the escalating violence in Egypt, which apparently blamed demonstrations of the Egyptian people for the upheaval. "Like most Egyptians, we listened with attention to your statement on Egypt's latest

developments. As representatives of the non-Islamic political forces in Egypt, we believe in the same fundamental values on which the U.S. was founded. But we also have 7,000 years of civilization and history that give us a special identity that we are fighting to keep since the Muslim Brotherhood came to power.

"Let us first inform you about who the Muslim brothers are: They're an unlawful organization operating outside the realm of Egyptian law, receiving foreign funding and laundering money in a flagrant breach of international law. Their aim is to rule the world through a so-called Islamic Caliphate as they believe in their absolute supremacy.

"They pretend they are God's emissaries and they will not rest until they have forced the whole world into submission. For them, Egypt is the launching pad to achieve their fascist dream. Their international reach spans the globe and they command the hearts and minds of many unsuspecting politicians. They have used deceit, soft speeches, international funds and whenever required, violence, to impose their will." (excerpts from an account by Newmax)

The foregoing presents just three paragraphs of this rather lengthy letter, but it goes on to say that "the Muslim Brotherhood and their jihadist allies have never known and will never know peace," clearly agreeing with Jeremiah, and showing the intent of the Muslim Brotherhood, from the Egyptian perspective. Such comments also show the same innermost desires of those who do not have their own kingdom as yet, but want to rule the world. Egypt has gone to great lengths to rid themselves of this terrorist faction, since the fall of Morsi. This headline appeared on Newsmax Wires on Aug. 17, 2013. "Egypt looks to Dissolve the Muslim Brotherhood After Sweeping Arrests." The story goes on to describe how Egyptian authorities rounded up more than 1,000 Islamists and began considering legally dissolving the Muslim Brotherhood. The same report relates the tremendous violence which has taken place claiming the lives of more than 700 and wounding more than 1300. Almost half of that number stemmed from the violence in Cairo alone. According to Newsmax, "The clashes push Egypt ever closer to anarchy."

According to this same news article, the nations also are "taking sides." "The European Union asked its states to consider "appropriate measures" to take in reaction to the violence, while

Germany said it was reconsidering its ties. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro recalled his ambassador to Cairo, and called for Egypt's ousted president Mohammed Morsi to be reinstated. Maduro also accused the United States and Israel of being behind Morsi's ouster as well as revolts in other countries such as Syria. The Venezuelan government has maintained close relations with Middle Eastern countries, particularly Iran. It was also a close partner of Libya's Moammar Gadhafi who was killed in a popular revolt in 2011."

Lawmakers in the U.S. are likewise considering the possibility of cutting off aid to Egypt, in an effort to somehow bring an end to the hostilities there, and some bemoan the fact that Pres. Obama has been unable to address domestic issues properly, because he is so consumed with the explosive situation in Egypt.

Israel, of course, is extremely interested in Egypt, having made various treaties and agreements with them over a number of years. One of those treaties was signed in 1979 requiring the Egyptians to alert the Israelis if Cairo conducts any major military operations in the Sinai Peninsula. Lignet news tells us that "The Israeli government is watching the deteriorating situation in Egypt closely, and especially the Sinai Peninsula, where Islamist militants have congregated. Israel appears to be collaborating with the Egyptian military in strikes on militants in the desert border area. But Israel has a lot to lose if these missions became public knowledge. Its goal is to appear to be only sitting on the sidelines and watching to see if Egypt's 30-day state of emergency leads to a civil war.

Israel sought to give Egypt's interim government time to complete a peaceful transition and allow the Egyptian military to impose order after President Mohammed Morsi was deposed in a coup in July. Israel may have even pressured other governments to refrain from criticizing the military-backed transition team. But the heavy-handed crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood has been too violent for that gambit to work, so now Israel's only choice may be to wait out the storm and monitor the situation in Cairo as a passive spectator."

Israel is most assuredly interested in the Sinai because of its strategic location, and they do not want the Muslim Brotherhood to return to power. Putting a stop to Islamic terrorism there, is in the interest of both Egypt and Israel, because it is a longtime

home to crime and drug trafficking. Thus, according to the Wall Street Journal, “Israel and Egypt are quietly cooperating to quell Islamist militants along their border.”

“Peace, peace; when there is no peace,” cried Jeremiah, and surely the city of Zion is hearing that cry again, even though every leader around the world is desperately trying to find some semblance of it. Peace talks, first in Washington and later in Jerusalem, have apparently produced little or no change in Israeli talks with the Palestinians. One key point of controversy, going as far back as 1948, is the refugee problem, and *The Christian Science Monitor* published this account of it. “Israeli historian Benny Morris writes in “The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-49” that Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion decided in January 1950 to evict the 145 Arabs who remained in Zakaria. The removal was carried out in June 1950 and a Jewish communal farm, or *moshav*, was soon established at the site.”

7 Displaced Palestinians are now determined to claim this land in order to establish their own state. We well know that all this land belongs to God and that one day Israel will occupy every foot promised to them through Abraham, but at this present time, such peace in the land cannot be found anywhere.

We indicated in last month’s issue that the real peace and safety, as short lived as it may be, will not actually come until the Bride of Christ, along with the innumerable company of the Church, is safely home in glory and Jesus opens the book containing seven seals of judgment after taking His throne in heaven. The first seal to be opened will be that of peace and safety, followed quickly by sudden destruction. Until then, affairs in this world will undoubtedly become progressively worse, and men will continue to clamor for power, regardless of the cost to themselves or others. Daniel’s vision of the four world empires was one filled with “beasts,” and that is exactly the mentality we see in our world today. Though many may be looking for improvement and even predict a “turn around” in the economic, and political realms of our day, scripture does not foretell such a day before Jesus comes.

Psalm 2 can also be easily seen in the present trouble surrounding Egypt. The unrest and violence, taking place today, are but a very brief foretaste of that which is yet to come on a massive global scale, which will envelope this entire world.

“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.” V. 1-6 The “heathen,” or the nations, are surely “raging,” as they indeed participate in the “tumultuous” manner presently displayed. The “people” or Israel have hopes of peace and tranquility, but without The Lord they surely are completely vain or empty. The major transgression, in all of this, is that they “would break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us,” or throw off all restraint of The Lord and His anointed. They rebel and reject The Word of The Lord just as those whom Jeremiah indicted in the text above. How many of us have heard any leader in Egypt, Israel, or around the world, calling on the Name of The Lord, to ask Him what must be done to put a stop to the atrocities which are commanding the attention 8 of the entire world at this very momentous time?

The last verse of this Psalm commands men to “Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little.” V. 12 That avenue of escape follows God’s initial response to their rebellion as “He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.” Those kings in Rev. 17 “...shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings:...” Jesus is that King Who will sit “...upon my holy hill of Zion,” and all the rebellion which the world can muster will not prevail against Him. Hallelujah!

One day, it will be clearly and emphatically revealed that the “holy hill of Zion,” Jerusalem, belongs to God and there will be no controversy whatever.

Until then, we must contend with the tremendous uncertainty, and unrest which is so very common to our world today. We must not, however, look for solutions offered by mere men. So many, of our day, are actually trying, and hoping, for political, and national restoration, but that cannot be our goal. Jesus painted an outline of these end time events in Luke 21. The primary exhortation for us is in v. 28. “And when these things

begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” Surely men can see that these things have indeed, already begun to happen. Now is not the time to concentrate on “making them better,” but rather to fix our eyes on the heavens. We must heartily agree with those servants of Pharaoh when Egypt was again under siege those many years ago; “.....knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?” Ex. 10:7 Despite the desires and predictions of men to the contrary, our world also is destroyed and it is time to escape, even as Paul declared “.....that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.” There must be an urgency in our lives right now, just as there was for Israel so long ago. They were instructed to eat the Passover, --- Christ --- “.....with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste:....” Ex. 12:11 Today also, there is no time to lose. We cannot wait around trying to “improve Egypt.” It is rather time to gird up our loins with the staff of God’s Word in our hands, “shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace,” and partake freely and quickly of Christ, ready to depart at any moment. Paul’s quote from Isaiah 49:8 surely applies here. “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)” II Cor. 6:2

9

I’ve Pitched My Tent In Beulah

I long ago left Egypt for the promised land
I trusted in my Savior and to His guiding hand.
He led me out to vict’ry through the great Red Sea,
I sang a song of triumph, and shouted I am free.

I started for the highlands where the fruits abound,
I pitched my tent near Hebron, there grapes of Eshcol found
With milk and honey flowing and new wine so free,
I have no love for Egypt, it has no charms for me.

My heart is so enraptured as I press along,
Each day I find new blessings which fill my heart with song.
I’m ever marching onward to that land on high,
Some day I’ll reach my mansion that’s builded in the sky.

Mrs. M.J. Harris

LUCIFER AND SATAN

Mary M. Bodie

“Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering,the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. *Ezekiel 28:11-14*

In the above chapter of Ezekiel's prophecy, we have two personages described - "the **prince** of Tyrus"(V.2) and "the **king** of Tyrus." (V.12) As we read carefully, we are able to see a distinction between them. "The prince of Tyrus" represents the coming superman, the anti-christ; while the "king of Tyrus" represents his superior, the devil, described here before and after his fall. The "prince" is manifestly revealed as a man; but the "king" is just as truly revealed as not a man, but a supernatural creature.

10

The prince represents a dual personality. We read of him in several instances in Scripture. Daniel, John, and Paul, each give us some information regarding this superman, the anti-christ, in different phases. He will be the incarnation of Satan, being "that Wicked" (the lawless one, R.V.), whom Paul describes as being consumed with the spirit of Christ's mouth and destroyed with the brightness of His coming. II Thess. 2:8 As a man, he will be killed and also resurrected, as John informs us. Rev. 13:3. Satan will be allowed of God to bring up his spirit from hell, and he will live again upon the earth. He will be a counterfeit of Christ, the God-Man, in every way, but he will be the devil-man. When he comes, he will continue a short space --- three and one half years --- showing himself that he is God, and setting up his image in the temple in Jerusalem, insisting upon man's worship of this image, upon pain of death. He

will be a wonderful man in every sense of the word; but he is not Satan. He is a man. Satan is a spirit, yet these two mighty personalities, Satan and anti-Christ, are kin to one another. They are striking counterfeits of God and Christ. Isaiah 14:12-20 is also a vivid description of these two super-beings; the essence of both, is seen there to be a desire to get the place and throne of God. The self-asserting "I" of the creature stands to the front. He sets himself up against God, saying, "I will ascend"; but the Lord God answers and declares that he shall descend. It is a sure principle in God's dealings with His creatures, that "whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." Matthew 23:12.

11 Observe, at the outset, that the man is a representative one. He is not Adam; and none other of the human race has been created, or has been in Eden. All other men, even Christ the last Adam, have been born. No man could be called "the anointed cherub that covereth," except Jesus Christ and the overcoming saints; and they were not existing then, nor were the saints ever in Eden. None of them have yet walked up and down amid the stones of fire in the mountain of God, save probably the Son of God. But Ezekiel's description is not of Him, for this event took place long before He was born as a Man; and, as the Son of God, He **was not created**. It is the record of a marvelous supernatural being, created sinless but not necessarily holy; for sin is found in him. Who is he? The answer to the riddle is not far to seek. It is Satan, before and after his fall.

There are seven points of excellency, each slightly distinct from the others, that are worthy of mention: One. He was the anointed cherub that covered, or guarded, the throne of God. This is a most striking statement, and gives us the key to the special office of the cherubim. The word signifies "those grasped," or "held fast." Isaiah calls the same living creatures, seraphim, or "burning ones." Isa. 6 They are invariably seen in connection with the throne of the Most High. They voice the fact of its holiness, as well as the holiness of the One sitting

upon it. They were grasped or seized, for this purpose, is the thought; but, in the case of Satan, it has a twofold meaning, because he attempted to seize the throne for himself.

The first view we have of the cherubim in Scripture is in Genesis. They were placed east of the Garden of Eden, after the fall, when Adam and Eve had been cast out. Genesis 3:24. They are, as it were, guarding the tree of life. The flaming sword which they wielded proclaimed God's wrath against sin, but the cherubim themselves were proclaiming His mercy. They were the pledge that man's inheritance should be restored to him and to all creation allied and connected with him. Cherubim were also imaged in the Holy of Holies in the movable tabernacle in the wilderness and later in the abiding temple in Jerusalem, as one with the mercy seat. They looked down upon that blood-sprinkled cover upon the ark, the meeting place of God with sinners as reconciled with them. They are there expressing their satisfaction, in that mercy and truth have been manifested in man's redemption; and are symbolically guarding the way to God from profanation and desecration. Later, we are shown a vision of these same symbolic creatures, "in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne" of Christ (Rev.4&5) still in the capacity of its holy character. Thus, we infer that Satan or Lucifer, ("son of the morning," his name as unfallen - Isaiah 14:12) in his first estate was called to the priestly office of worship by the fact of his anointing. He was officially consecrated to fill the most sacred and august place in the universe, a place of exaltation, above all creatures. His authority was so absolute, his rank so supreme, that even the archangel Michael when contending with the devil "durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee." Jude 9. Remember that Michael's referring of Satan's judgment to the Lord, was after he was fallen; for though God had removed him from his royal seat as official guardian of His throne and leader of the angelic priesthood, yet his rank as chief of angels remained unchanged even as his authority and place in the universe, as the next point emphasizes.

Two. He was upon "the holy mountain of God" in Eden, "the garden of God" above. Observe this fact: Two Edens are mentioned in Scripture - the one in Heaven, the other on earth. Tragedy has played an important part in both gardens and plunged myriads of created beings into havoc and ruin, Satan being the first cause in both instances. His Maker was not responsible. He came from the Creator's hand without a flaw, and was given free will, and almost supreme authority and power. The latter he abused as the sequel shows. He sought to attain for himself the place of Deity (Isaiah 14), and thus lost his near place to God; but, otherwise, he is not put down from the pinnacle of power whereupon God had seated him. He is morally "the god of this world (age)" - II Cor. 4:4. He rules over the fallen creation on earth as also the fallen angelic hierarchy of heaven. He is "the prince of this world," acknowledged so by the Lord Himself - John 12:31. He offered all the glory and authority of these world kingdoms as a gift to Christ, if He would fall down and worship him. "All this power will I give Thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will, I give it." Luke 4:6. Jesus allowed his claim; hence, established the fact of his unchallenged lordship over the nations.

Three. He walked up and down amidst the stones of fire. He not only had access to the very Presence of God, but he was actively engaged there. Though the scene of his operations has been changed to a lower sphere, he is still restlessly active, as we learn from Job 1:7. He goes "to and fro in the earth ... walking up and down in it," that he may find something wherewith to accuse the saints.

Four. His perfection of wisdom and beauty is as supreme as his authority and power. "Thou sealest up the sum"; that is, he filled full the measure of perfection. Even the Almighty God could make nothing greater, wiser, or more beautiful. He expressed the acme of His skill. The embodiment of personal intelligence and beauty was shown in Lucifer. He was superb, the masterpiece of creation. God could look with satisfaction and even admiration upon this splendid object of His workmanship. The Word declares that Lucifer was perfect from every point of view. He had no equal, and

only one Superior --- God!

Five. Every precious stone was his covering. He was encased in a jewel-studded palace. His home was overlaid with glittering gems. He dwelt in the midst of effulgent light. Sparkling, scintillating, glowing, he was a resplendent blazing orb of fire. There are nine of these matchless jewels named - three times three, the number of the Trinity --- revealing how near was Lucifer in his created light, to God Who is Light. The meanings of these jewels are full of instruction on this line.

Sardius - "love and anguish" - tells us that this wonderful creature had feelings. **Topaz** - "the joy of the Lord" - means that Lucifer shared God's joy. **Diamond** - "clear and unfailing" - bespeaks God's Character in which Lucifer seemed to share. **Beryl** - "bliss" - tells us how unutterably happy he was in his first estate. **Onyx** - "tenderness" - witnesses of the condition of his heart. **Jasper** - "passionate suffering" - hints to us of the depths of feeling. **Sapphire** - "truth" - expresses nearness to God. **Emerald** - "hope" - is also characteristic of Deity. **Carbuncle** - "shining" - shows him as a reflection of his Maker. **Gold**, the uniting bond declares, in symbol, how perfect was this creature - almost a reflection of his Creator.

14

We emphasize again the marvelous perfection of Lucifer. His very name tells us of his transcendently glorious heritage of beauty, indicating the fact that it was very near like unto the perfection of the Creator --- the great I AM. The radiant splendor and crystal clearness of Deity were almost, but not quite, duplicated in this supernatural spirit.

Six. The workmanship of his tabrets (timbrels) and of his pipes were prepared in him, speaking of his musical qualities. All the harmonies of heaven were found in him. Music was a composite part of his very being. He was a whole pipe organ in himself, voicing all that was lovely in symphony and sound. His pipes and timbrels were prepared in him by the Creator, and no discord was ever found in him. He was the fullest expression, from every possible angle, of God's creative genius.

Seven. He was perfect in his ways. His conduct was as

irreproachable as his person. He did everything just as it should be done, even as one would expect of such a glorious creature. The Word affirms that all his ways pleased the Creator. But notice this point: HE WAS A CREATURE. He was no rival, or self-made deity, as some false cults assert; but he was dependent upon his Maker. And, he pleased Him well, "till," **and here is the turning point**, "iniquity (unrighteousness) was found" in him. V. 15 Sad, sad finale to such perfection!

This is a great mystery. Iniquity was found in a flawless perfect creature. Sin originated in Satan. He is the source of all the wickedness in the world. Yea, more, all the evil of the universe may be laid at his door. Hence, we learn that evil began not in matter, as some false cults teach, but in spirit, as Scripture plainly affirms; Satan being the original cause. The words, "Thou hast sinned," spoken by Jehovah, thundered into his ears. It was the first time that the word "sin" had ever been used, but not the last. All the sorrow, anguish, pain, unutterable woe and wickedness, as well as the everlasting horror - the lake of fire - have been born of that first sin of Satan's in the garden of God in heaven.

15

His immediate fall is announced, but his full doom is not spoken. That is left for a future time and future place. Jehovah declares, "I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire." Ezekiel 28:16. What a descent from the highest pinnacle of fame! Nothing could be more spectacular than the fall of this glorious creature. The higher the elevation or rank from whence the fall, the greater the abasement and deeper the degradation. Satan fell from the amazing heights of heaven's glory and light and love - from the pinnacle of fame - to the lowest rung of the ladder of unutterable depths of darkness and woe. From "stones of fire" to "lake of fire," expresses the fall in a few words. There are seven steps in the downward sweep of evil in this marvelous being. Seven stages of wickedness are shown in the record as developing from that first sin in heaven, until its culmination in the lake of fire. Notice:

One. Self-occupation was the beginning of Satan's sin. It was the basis of his fall. V. 17 As Lucifer, he

became occupied with his own beauty and was well pleased with himself. He admired his own glorious person instead of God, and His Excellency; hence, he was no longer loyal to God and his charge. He aspired to the place of the Creator and became dissatisfied with his position as the creature, though of the highest rank. He, who had been placed as the guardian of the throne, now has the thought of getting it. Here was where his sin began. He became his own god. He worshipped himself, foolishly imagining that he was able to rule the universe better than its Creator. How plainly manifest is the fact that all sin begins here. Subjection unto the throne of God is necessary for the creature. When this is denied, there are no lengths to which sin will not go. All the wickedness seen in the world today had its beginning, in satisfaction found in self, instead of in God. Christians would do well to ponder this fact. It is a most important point. Self-occupation generally leads to self-glorying, and then comes self on the throne of sovereignty instead of God. It is deadly in its effect, because it is satanic. Let us beware of self in any phase or form. It is our worst enemy, because even the devil can have no power over us if self is denied. Matthew 16:24. Iniquity was found in Lucifer, because he was not only satisfied but delighted with himself. 16

Two. Pride follows self-satisfaction. V. 17 It is the sure result of introspection. Satan looked at himself and said, as it were, "What a beautiful angel I am! How intelligent! How wise! There is none so great or powerful." He was delighted with his self-analysis. God did not please him anymore, for he beheld a more pleasing object. It is surely manifest that the evil is working. It is like the yeast --- a little leaven affects the whole mass in a short time. Lucifer is fallen, and there are no lengths to which he will not go to attain his ends. He imagines he is superior to the Creator. His presumption is incredible, even as his assumption. But so it is.

Three. His wisdom becomes corrupted. V. 17 His mind is fallen from its perfection. God had made it pure, but it becomes impure and corrupt. His thoughts were not

only wrong, but they are no longer in harmony with God's thoughts. Herein lies their great corruption. This was the terrible condition which evolved from self-occupation and self-gratification. He was so well satisfied with himself, that he commenced to think of ways and means to get rid of God. What a fool! Did he not know that the One who created him was aware of all his thoughts? Despite all his greatness, beauty, and wisdom, was not the One Who so created him, greater yet? But such a fool is a fallen creature!

Four. Defilement of his sanctuary follows. V.18 It is the result of corruption of heart. His beautiful dwelling of light, that gem-adorned crystal palace, is dimmed because of his unrighteousness. All is defilement and wickedness. He becomes a trafficker in the glorious wisdom and wealth of which he was given possession, using his beautiful dwelling - his gifts from God - to bring ruin upon others. A third of the angels were brought under his spell, and were corrupted and ruined forever. He won followers for himself from among God's creatures, because of his superior intelligence and extraordinary endowment of power.

Five. "I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God." V. 16. Not only was his own house defiled, but the mountain of the Lord felt the effects of Lucifer's fall. He was profane. He did not appreciate the honors that God had put upon him. He was ungrateful and disloyal to his Creator. He influenced others by his attitude. He profaned the tabernacle in heaven, because he was false to his God and his charge.

Six. He was filled with violence. V. 16 The results of sin increase. More and more wicked he becomes. Violence filled his being --- envy, hatred, covetousness, anger, malice; and every other evil vicious element found in sin today; filled, and still fills, his bosom. He will stop at nothing, to attain his ends. He has commenced the reign of iniquity, which is like a river whose sweep becomes gradually deeper and wider until finally the extent of the stream is impassable.

(To Be Concluded in the Oct. 2013 Issue)

REFLECTIONS

. . . *From the Editor*

“But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed.” II Kings 6:5

This rather humorous incident involving a “bible school student,” using an instrument which belonged to someone else, tells us that it can be very dangerous to chop with a borrowed axe. It can likewise be detrimental to use the sword of the spirit, when we have not made it our own. The narrative in this chapter outlines the process whereby the Word of God becomes personal. Elisha, the man of God, “. . . cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim.” V. 6 God has many ways of preaching Christ, and His redemption, and this is one of them. He was the “stick” Who was cut down and cast into death represented by the river Jordan. Elisha preached that same message to Namaan, the leper, as he told him to go and wash seven times in the river Jordan and he would be healed of his leprosy, a disease typifying sin. The message was simple, “. . . Wash, and be clean?” II Kings 5:13 Elisha’s instruction to cast meal into the poison pot of pottage in ch. 3:40 teaches the same glorious message of Christ coming into this world as a man to bring forth His healing power.

Any revelation of truth must be based on Calvary, and God has taught many such lessons throughout the scripture, showing sinful humanity that Jesus and His redemption are paramount to any experience we have with Him. Here, in our text, Elisha said “. . . Take it up **to thee. And he put out his hand, and took it.**” V. 7 Thus it now became his own. I am quite certain he never lost it again, nor could he ever forget the experience.

Scripture is very plain that “The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, . . .” Deut. 29:29 Paul, likewise, makes it abundantly clear that “. Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.” I Cor. 2:9-10 God intends

that those “secret” things should belong to us, and has made every provision that it should come to pass in a very practical way in our lives.

Mary did indeed discover that same path as she sat at the feet of Jesus and heard His Word. Many, at this time of year are “going back to school,” and it should serve as a reminder that we never outgrow our need to follow the path of Mary. She also heard His high commendation as He too declared “Mary hath chosen that good part, **which shall not be taken away from her.**” She made it her own, and charted the way for all of us. The sword of the spirit must indeed become our own possession or we may suffer the consequence of “chopping with a borrowed axe.” Paul informs us that imparting anything unto others is “.....according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.” II Cor. 8:12 Simply stated, it means that “we cannot give, what we do not have.” Thus we must possess God’s glorious revelations of truth as our own, if we ever intend to impart the blessing of them to others.

19

GH

CORRECTION:

We inadvertantly omitted the author of “Uttermost Salvation” on page 20 of the August 2013 issue of Grace and Glory. It was indeed written by A.S. Copley.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

We have received some orders for Bro. Albert Astle’s lessons on Ezra. We also have access to lessons which he gave on Nehemiah. Please let us know if you would be interested in them and we will try to put them on CD as we have done with Ezra.

A man after God's own heart

R. Hawkins

' . . .thy kingdom shall not continue; the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart. . . '

1 Samuel 13:14

God, at times, has been known to be blunt. Such is the case above when Israel's prophet and judge, Samuel, ended speculation on King Saul's future. A young man named David, with a heart for the things of God, is his replacement – and for good reason. It was an obedient heart that God found in David while those stinging words to Saul still carry much weight.

If only King Saul would have listened, but if we learn anything from a study in Samuel, it is that he had his chance. And second chance. Third and fourth chances, but nothing could soften his heart and as sad as it is true, Jesus confirms God's rule on truth: *'from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.'* Luke 19:26. 20

On cue the Apostle Paul came along to remind us God is still no respecter of persons because Christians are: *'...raised up together and made sit together in heavenly places...'* Eph. 2:6. Of course we may not appreciate who we're sitting with, but God knows how to bring out the *'Christ in you'* just like He knew who to put on David's path.

Now follow the story of the shepherd boy from Bethlehem with these 7 examples of why God called him, *'a man after His own heart.'* It's a classic tale of overcoming because getting seated is one thing and wanting God's best is another for saints *'sitting together'* - some having refused the blessings while others struggle to learn God's Grace.

WEARY OF OUR TRIALS

It's hard not to mistake God's impression of David. We see a heart for God from the moment we meet him – or don't meet him – for he is tending the sheep when Samuel comes to anoint him. We read that he is filled with the Spirit "from that day forward," (I Sam. 16:13) and later shows that power when he returns the rebuke of his older brother Eliab with a soft answer (I

Sam. 17:29). Perhaps more powerful a display than killing the giant was David's control of his own spirit (Prov. 25:28).

He will need that control because Saul spends most of the next 10 chapters of I Samuel trying to kill David. There is enough grace in those pages for our 7 examples but we'll start where it ran out. Tired of being chased and hiding in caves we read: '*...David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: there is nothing better for me than. . . .*' (27:1).

We will finish David's thought in a moment - but it appears he's thrown in the towel. How about you? Feeling adrift lately? Haven't read your Bible in a while? Would you know where to start if you did? Spending time on your own in God's Word eludes many because we were used to being distracted. It's intimidating... but take heart. Saul intimidated David too.

Here is what happened: '*...there is nothing better for me than I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines....*' (27:1) Imagine that! The anointed king of Israel, who slew the lion and the bear and cut off the giant's head is going to hide out under the arm of Achish, - the king of Goliath's hometown of all places.

21

It might seem an odd time to be a man after God's own heart but David volunteers to do a little dirty work for Achish: '*David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and Amalekites: for those nations were of old the inhabitants of the land, as thou goest to Shur, even unto the land of Egypt (I Sam. 27:8)*. Those weren't Philistine interests he's looking out for, no this **1st Heart** remembered scripture.

David's dad surely taught him the land might belong to others now but God gave it to Israel. Promises may not always keep us from throwing in the towel but it's the only way to get back up. David knew his inheritance and every Christian needs to remember theirs (Phil. 3:14) because no matter where life takes or leaves you, there is really '*nothing better than*' learning God's word. It can serve you well as it did David, and maybe like him, God will make your next decision for you.

A SOVEREIGN ACT

When you commit to learn God's Word don't be surprised if something is taken out of your hands. A routine, a decision,

a destination or a job can all be changed when God responds to his saints. In chapter 29 of I Samuel, David is still with Achish and prepared to fight Israel. He would have done it too, and even pleads his case, but Achish sends him away. It was a sovereign act on God's part to change his behavior and God wasn't finished.

It would seem the Amalekites did not appreciate David's knowledge of scripture. While gathered with the Philistines they come and burn David's camp and kidnap everyone's family. His men are grief stricken and there is talk of stoning David. It is here we find David's **2nd Heart**: *David encouraged himself in the LORD his God – 30:6*

When trials of faith come why not let God encourage us? When there is talk of stoning because things are out of your hands follow David's example and have a verse ready to stand on. Here's one to remember: *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”* Rom. 8:28.

22

And things did work for good because David was encouraged to still have God's Ear. God gave him the blessing to pursue the Amalekites and David recovered every wife, every child, and every possession that was taken plus they took of the spoil. At roughly the time Saul is battling the Philistines, David is about to show us another heart.

He had 600 men, and in Ch. 30:10 we find out that 200 of them were so faint they had to stay behind. When the two groups meet up again, there are some hard feelings. Some of the 400 do not want to share the spoil with those who stayed behind. Scripture calls those who took this attitude wicked men and this is how David's **3rd Heart** answered them: *‘Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us. . .’* I Sam. 30:23.

We must believe that God fights our battles. David wanted his men to get this because it meant they had no useless members. *‘...as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike- 30:24.* David made it an ordinance for Israel and we heed the principle in the Grace Churches.

So, why no useless members in the body of Christ?

Easy. It's an opportunity to show, *or be shown*, **Grace**.

USE OF THE BOW

David finally hears a report. The fight he was so eager to join, the one against King Saul and his kindred nation of Israel, is over and mark this well: David did not go looking for answers. Scripture says an Amalekite showed up and '*It came to pass on the third day. . .*' - II Sam. 1:2. In the information grab that is our world today, going three days without hearing breaking news is almost impossible, but David's **4th Heart of God** knew it was time to meditate.

David and his men spent 2 long days, and an anxious third, waiting on the LORD. If we circumnavigate this process, the one where God has all the time He needs to present the facts and filter through emotions, we limit His power. God still has his people on a need to know basis and this 4th heart of God lets him do it.

Of course it went bad for Saul and everyone saw it coming - I Sam. 28:19. But notice the effect 3 days in the dark produced - II Sam. 1:12, 7-27. All of David's mourning might be called a proper Jewish response to a tragic national outcome, but the grief literally jumps off the pages because it had deep roots in nearly being a part of it. Laying hold of the Grace of God sometimes can be as simple as knowing He kept you out of your own shoes.

This battle marks the end of David's 16 months with the Philistines and if your Christian walk is pre-occupied with social ills or political injustice – you're in the wrong camp too. David didn't need to keep one foot in the world and stay busy trying to drive out the '*inhabitants of old*' because he was moving on to more truth.

David had already figured out why the '*people are fled from the battle*' - II Sam. 1:14 and he didn't need to see the carnage to know the Philistine archers were better. This all important 4th Heart had been meditating on the Word of God and therefore David '*bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow . . .*' - II Sam. 1:18.

Weapons in scripture mean something. It is a parent's responsibility to identify weakness and introduce their children to the '*full armour of God*' (Eph. 6) and in case one think the job ends at adulthood, it does not. My father and mother still teach the use of the bow every time I see the Grace of God displayed in their lives.

And one more thing about the Amalekite that just showed

up with news that third day. Be wary of what you hear, and even see, these days. That young man ‘*Out of the camp of Israel am I escaped*’ (II Sam 1:3) smelled funny from the beginning – and it turns out David was right. If there was ever a time for Christians to walk by the Spirit’s discernment, it’s now; and if killing that self-serving Amalekite seems harsh to you consider the following.

Amalek was a grandson of Esau and God made no bones about the fact he wanted this bloodline cut-off (I Sam. 15:3). Amalekites will forever be typecast as flesh in a believer and that is why we are taught to stand on Paul’s Gospel (Rom 6-8). Religious flesh is the most deceiving and it’s everywhere and like that Amalekite – it looks like it’s doing everything right. He showed up with rent clothes and earth on his head. He gave due reverence. He claimed a mercy killing was requested by Saul to spare certain torture AND he transferred Saul’s royal crown and bracelet to its rightful heir.

Any other man on that day in Israel other than David’s ‘*new man,*’ and it would have worked.

24

GARRISONS IN EDOM AND SYRIA

If God gives you something special He probably knew you would take care of it. For David it started with those ‘*few little sheep*’ that his brother Eliab just had to point out in I Sam. 17:28 - **but oh for those small things!** Taking care of what God gives you is a great start with God. ‘*Little sheep*’ is like revealed truth. It is like your home or the inside of your car. There is a lot to be said about people by the condition of their things.

David’s brother Eliab was the oldest son of Jesse, probably tall, with a handsome face. He was the first to watch his father’s sheep so you know the task kept getting handed down. and by the time it got to David, it was like the old family car. David saw those dents his brothers made and became despised when he washed it every Saturday.

David’s **5th Heart of God** values whatever God hands us. David protected those few little sheep and now God gives him his highest truth: **an Eternal Throne** (II Sam. 7). What does David do with it? ‘*Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus.....And he put garrisons in Edom.....*’ - II Sam 8:6, 14. David has to be separated. He needs protection and

he has it: An early warning system on his borders. These outposts' send a clear signal that David is seriously going to '*hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*' - Rev. 3:11.

Today organized religion is still '*sitting together*' but they failed to care for the truth in those first '*few little sheep*'. It explains why most Protestant churches put every believer in the Bride of Christ and our legal brethren struggle not to lose their '*free gift*' of salvation. It is how the Catholic Church can say they '*sit alone*' on a path to the altar despite what *Revelation 17* might say. They've all come to secretly admire and copy the playbook of the sprawling mega Churches but who's preaching the soon coming of Jesus? Who's hearing how to live the separated tent life of Abraham? Well, we're still out here, but it will always be the '*Grace Churches*' who had the most to lose. (Rev. 2:4).

25

Oh, if we would all just start from the beginning and learn the '*two natures*' in Paul's Gospel and start eating right! The '*prize of the high calling*', is the Crown that keeps getting taken but David's **5th Heart** provides protection because his garrisons represent the powerful in-filling of the Holy Spirit.

Reader, if you aspire to a deep Truth like sharing a throne with Jesus, then remember this call. Giving up control of your tongue *was and is* just the start. It is the Spirit's job to teach you how to '*love not the world*' and John 16:13 explains how: '*Howbeit when he, the spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*'

It's just like David's garrisons. Separation from the world, an early warning system, and best of all, straight talk and wisdom from Jesus Christ himself.

That makes five ways in which David was '*a man after God's own heart*' with two more left to share, but like Habakkuk 2:3, it will have to wait . . . but only till next month.



The Lord Adding

T. B. Lennon

"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved"—Acts 2:47. The English Revised Version has it, *"Those that were being saved,"* which is the Greek reading exactly. A person may be used to add others to the Lord, by his testimony, or preaching, or better still by his godly life. Acts 2:41 records three thousand added to the Lord as a result of Peter's preaching under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. And men are still so used today. God has often used me in this way; yet I could not add myself, nor anyone else, to the Lord. The Lord Himself must do that. No, and neither can I add any one to the Church, because adding to the Lord and adding to the church are one and the same thing. Therefore, let us not meddle with things divine; let us not attempt to do what He has not called us to do and what is not possible for us to do. What God did He always pronounced good. If He is satisfied; so am I.

26

Since the days of Constantine, men have been trying to re-make a church. They are busy today at this carnal endeavor. Keep your finger out of their pie, or you will be drawn off into deception, thinking to work out something superior. Whereas you will only be working after the flesh, a poor substitute for God's reality. The real church, which is the body of Christ, has never failed; nor can it fail. The church of the firstborn, of which Christ is the Head and Life is not a failure. Jesus said, *"Upon this Rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it"*—Matt. 16:18. All hail thou conquering one! The true church is all around us. The Holy Spirit will lead you to see it if you desire to find it. Only the born-again ones make up the true church.

The church of Christ is on earth today. This is a most important fact. I do not refer to any human organization, but to the assembly which is gathered by the Holy Spirit around the Person of the Son of God. It is of the utmost importance to distinguish between what Christ builds and what man builds. The gates of hell will surely prevail against all that is of man. Hence, it is a fatal mistake to apply to man's structure the words which apply only to Christ's building. Man builds with "wood and hay and stubble," which is sure to crumble (1 Cor. 3:12,15) ; but

all that our Lord and Savior builds, shall stand forever. The stamp of eternity is upon all the work of His dear pierced hands. Praise His glorious name! God has His assembly on earth, and we are responsible to confess the truth of it, and to be a practical expression of it. Therefore, we must not suffer ourselves to be deprived of God's reality by reason of Satan's counterfeit. If we ally ourselves to any human organization, we become spiritual adulterers and will be judged as such. ***"He that is joined to the Lord is ONE spirit."***

27 There is no such thing in the Scriptures as being "a member of a church." We are "everyone members one of another"—Rom. 12:5. Everyone who is born again, born of the Spirit; every actual believer in Jesus is a real member of the church of God, the body of Christ, and cannot consistently with the Word of God, be a member of any supposed-to-be church, framed by human hands. Can my limbs in any sense be members of any other body? Certainly not. Neither can you, my fellow-believer, be a member of any man-made organization. The Greek word "ecclesia" has been rendered both "church" and "assembly" in our English translation. The word assembly gives the true meaning. The only ground on which believers can gather is set forth in that clear, clean-cut statement, "There is ***ONE body and ONE Spirit***"—*Eph.* 4:4. And again, "For we being many are ONE bread, ONE body; for we are all partakers of that ONE Bread" (Christ) 1 Cor. 10:17. If God declares that there is only "one body," surely it must be contrary to His will to own more than that one.

"Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid." (Bro. Paul never united his followers with any human organization.) "What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith He, shall be one flesh: but he that is joined to the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication"—1 Cor. 6:15-17. Surely, a union with any religious body that does not scripturally represent the church of Christ, is spiritual adultery and an abomination in God's sight. Now while it is true that no assembly of believers on earth can be called "the body of Christ," or "the assembly of God," yet all believers should be gathered in the name of Jesus only, recognizing Him alone as their Head, and thus represent the whole body of Christ of which they are a

part.

The Assembly Founded

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were added about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship and in breaking of bread and in prayers"—Acts 2: 41,42. We learn from Paul's letters that the church, the body of Christ, began at Pentecost. He says, "For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free; and were all made to drink of one Spirit; for the body is not one member, but many"—1 Cor. 12:13,14, R. V. Both Jews and Gentile proselytes were present at Pentecost and believed Peter's mighty message. The church was there and then founded. Paul says further, "So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners; but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God, being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets (New Testament prophets), Christ Jesus Himself being the chief corner stone"—Eph. 2:19,29, R. V.

28

All those who constituted the church were born again. They were all one body. There were no sects, or parties, each claiming to be a church, or an assembly of God, etc. Such was the original, simple, apostolic order.- Why should it be different today? The assembly of God was not a human organization, but a divine institution, yet a plain, palpable, real body of people, established and maintained by the Lord, the Head Himself. In Matt. 16:18, we have the first allusion to the church. Our Lord spoke of it as a future thing. He said, "On this Rock I will build my church." It would be distinctly His property, His church, His body. Hence, the church had no existence till after Pentecost, which followed the resurrection and glorification of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is not to be found in the Old Testament. Paul expressly tells us that it was not revealed in other ages. It was hid in God, until it was revealed to him. (Read carefully Rom. 16:25, 26, Eph. 3:3-11 and Col. 1:24-27.) The expression used by Stephen, "the church in the wilderness" (Acts 7:38), simply refers to the congregation of Israel. Pentecost (Acts 2) and the rapture (1 Thess. 4) are the termini of the church's earthly history.

How We Get In

We are born into the church of Christ. He has been building it during this age by adding those who believe the Gospel,

"those that are being saved." Twice we read that "people were added to the Lord" (Acts 5:14 and 11:24), which means the same as being added to the church, because the church is His body. He is her Head. The new birth puts people into Christ's church. The anointing with the Spirit does not put folk into the church; for they must be saved before they can receive the Holy Spirit. Water baptism does not put men into the church, because that is only a symbol of our death and resurrection with Christ. It is a confession that we are already in Christ's body. All who received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost were worshippers already and true believers up to the light they had. They were sovereignly constituted the first members, or nucleus of the church, or body of Christ. That baptism in the Spirit embraced provisionally all believers on Christ during this church age.

29 "The Lord knoweth them that are His." He knoweth the end from the beginning, and He is not saving souls today whom He must destroy tomorrow. When He saves a soul, He gives to that soul ETERNAL LIFE, with the assurance, that it shall never perish—John 10:28. When He adds to His church, it is for time and eternity. Praise His holy name! How it grieves one today when asked by another who should know better, Are you still keeping saved brother? Are you keeping in the victory? etc., etc. No, I am not keeping anything. "The Lord is my Keeper; the Lord is my Shade, on the right hand and on the left." "He will hold me fast;" for underneath and round about are the everlasting arms. "The gates of hades shall not prevail against" the church of Christ.

(Reprint 1934)

The Enemy Hinders

*Oh oft and oft, it seems to me,
That Satan battles hard with me
And garbles up the words I write,
Till white looks black and black looks white.
Until 'tis such a childish thing,
'Tis laid away too poor to bring.
And only when my heart doth sing,
I burst from bonds to praise my King.*

Hattie T, Moore

ISAIAH ELEVEN

Gene Hawkins

“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:” V. 1

This chapter announces the fulfillment of the Davidic covenant, wherein Christ is seen reigning on the throne of David. It beautifully corresponds with I Kings which reveals Solomon as the immediate heir to that throne, even as God promised his father. God Himself spoke to the young king with the promise “Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.” I Kings 9:5 When David wanted to build an “house” for the Lord, he was forbidden to do so, and the primary reason, as noted in I Chron. 28:3, was because David had been “a man of war, and hast shed blood.” David is a beautiful picture of Christ putting down all rule and authority against Him. Solomon, on the other hand, came on the scene after David had slain those enemies, leaving an atmosphere for his son of glorious peace, symbolic of the utopia which will be enjoyed during the thousand year reign of Christ. Thus, our present chapter is filled with the glorious attributes of Jesus which He will fully manifest during this most glorious, and unprecedented, time.

Isaiah begins by proclaiming both the deity and humanity of Jesus. The “rod,” or “twig” out of the “stem of Jesse,” is a reference to The Man Christ Jesus, as He sprang forth from the royal line of David. The majestic “Branch,” however, which grew “out of his roots:” speaks loudly of that which came **before** David. Jesus baffled His critics by asking this question. “... What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The LORD (Jehovah) said unto my Lord, (Jesus) Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? **If David then call him Lord, how is he (Jesus) his (David’s) son?** And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.” Matt. 22:42-46 The only answer to such questions is that Jesus is the Son of God, a fact that the Pharisees refused to acknowledge. He is the “root” of Jesse as well as the offspring of David, and gives this glorious, and final, summation. “I am Alpha

and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.”
Rev. 22:13

The “Branch” herein described, is undoubtedly the prophecy to which Matt. 2:23 alludes. “And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: (branch) that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.”

“And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD:” V. 2-3 Isaiah here paints a beautiful picture of Christ displaying the “seven spirits” or seven fold spirit of God, and it is this fullness which qualifies Him as the Judge, described in the verses following. John saw Him when He took His throne in Rev. 5:6 as “..... having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God (seven fold spirit of God) sent forth into all the earth.” Isaiah portrays this same Christ as being completely controlled by, and manifesting, the fullness of the Holy Spirit and specifically defines those seven glorious traits. The first is that of “wisdom.” Paul declares that Christ is “...made unto us wisdom,...” I Cor. 1:30 Proverbs 8 portrays Him as the very “personification” of wisdom. All of the characteristics of that chapter can be attributed directly to Jesus, but consider some of these things that can apply only to Him. “The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; Before the mountains were settled, While as yet he had not made the earth,When he prepared the heavens, I was there: ... When he established the clouds above:When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;and my delights were with the sons of men.” Prov. 8: 22-31

He is also defined here in Isaiah as having the spirit of “understanding,” meaning that He understands all things. He understands the will of God and all God’s purposes. He knows us, in regard to our most intimate and intricate needs. He understands the fullness of God’s Word, for He is indeed that Word.

The third “spirit” is that of “counsel,” meaning that He has the ability to guide our own paths according to the counsels

of His Own Word. He truly does know how to instruct His own, in the glorious ways of His righteousness.

His next trait is that of “might,” and He is all powerful. We know that He has, and will yet display, literal outward dynamic power, including that of devastating judgment, but we would point out that so many of these attributes have a direct connection with the Word of God. Thus His “might” is often found in His Word, even as we read “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword,....” Heb. 4:12

The fifth attribute of His “spirit” is knowledge. That knowledge is directly because He WAS and IS the Word, even from the beginning. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1 John becomes even more emphatic and specific with these words. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” V. 14 There is no real understanding and knowledge apart from Him. Job was challenged to declare if he could measure up to such knowledge in Job 38-41, and he was forced to repent in dust and ashes, affirming that he could, in no wise, compete with God in that arena. Jesus is declared to be The Very Source of knowledge!

Next follows the spirit of “the fear of the Lord.” The word “fear,” means awe or reverence, which the dictionary describes as being synonymous with words like “utmost respect, esteem, bow down, love, worship.” All these terms reflect the same attitude Jesus had toward His Father. He was in no wise “afraid,” of Him, but set the example before us, as to what the real “fear of the Lord” is. The seventh “spirit” is “quick understanding in the fear of the LORD,” and it too carries deep meaning in direct reference to Jesus. The word “quick,” is associated with the nose, or sense of smell. It is the same word used when “the LORD smelled a sweet savour;” as Noah offered his offering unto God after the flood. Gen. 8:21 It means here in Isaiah that Jesus searched out “the fear of the Lord,” or complete submission to His Father’s will, which went far beyond the surface, knowing that God’s pleasure was not simply in the horrendous suffering He would endure on the cross, but rather the deep seated attitudes of complete unreserved surrender to the perfect will of God.

All seven of these attributes qualify Jesus for His role

as The Judge, and indeed He shall “..... judge and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.” V. 2-4 He is seen in the first chapter of Revelation as The Judge, walking amidst the Churches throughout this Church Age. Isaiah describes Him both during this present Church Age and the next dispensation. He will judge righteously, and “shall not judge after the sight of his eyes.” Jesus likewise declared “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.” John 5:30 He reinforced the same thought in John 8:16. “And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.” He shall “judge the poor,” but that judgment does not always carry the connotation that some suppose. The word rather means to “pronounce sentence (for or against); by implication, to vindicate or punish.” He is constantly making decisions or “judgments” in our lives today but there will come the day when He will “reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.” He will vindicate His own people, but with “his mouth” or His Word, will mete out the severest of judgment against those who have abused them. His character is next proclaimed as being the very basis of His righteous reign. “And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.”

The foregoing words are just a brief summation of the fact that Jesus will annihilate all powers against Him, during the tribulation period. His thousand year reign of peace, once again typified by Solomon in I Kings, follows immediately as “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.” V. 6-8 All of these describe the glorious millennial blessings which will prevail when Jesus

reigns unhindered as King of kings and Lord of lords, and the curse, even on the natural creation is reversed. Even the diet of carnivorous animals will change, and they will dwell in peace with their former prey. There is one exception, for there is still a hole for the asp (adder) and a den for the cockatrice, (viper, adder) meaning that the curse is not lifted from the serpent. God pronounced this sentence in the Garden of Eden, and it will still stand. "...upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:..." Gen. 3:14 However, Isaiah also points out that such a serpent will be powerless to bring harm even to innocent unsuspecting children.

Men are searching for, and some even predicting, this promised utopia today, but it will never transpire during this Church Age. However, when Jesus reigns, there will come that glorious time of peace in the Holy Land, when "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." V. 9 This will be the result when Israel has finally claimed that status of being the "head and not the tail of the nations." Deut. 28:13 Jerusalem will be solely in the hands of Israel and they will have fulfilled the great commission of Matt. 28:19,20 wherein they were commanded to "...teach all nations,.... to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:..." This is the primary reason that "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." It means that God's Word will be the predominate force throughout the whole world, having been published far and wide by His kingdom of priests. Ex. 19:6

(To Be Concluded in Oct. 2013 Issue)

Clock or Watch

Some Christians workers are like an old-fashioned clock. They will not work unless they are placed in precisely to their liking. But the more useful workers are like watches; they will work equally well in any position.

Christianity is not "ethics," but experience Not "morals," but "The Master; Not "standards," but The Savior Himself! Not principles to practice, but power to perform.



Our Corn Crib

"Buy The Truth, and Sell It Not"

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