

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole Counsel of GOD

Without Price Since 1910

'Loving His Appearing'

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Blessed be the
God and Father
of our Lord
Jesus Christ,
which according
to his abundant
mercy hath
begotten us
again unto a
lively hope by
the resurrection
of Jesus Christ
from the dead.
I PETER 1:3.

Another Warrior Called Home

Brother Jim Cramer, having reached the age of 93, can surely be identified as “an old warrior.” Bro. Cramer was a long time associate of Grace and Glory and a former teacher in the Bible School. He had a special gift of leading people to the Lord and prayed very successfully with so many to be filled with The Holy Spirit. He had lived in various Nursing Homes the past few years and once said that he needed to find another one because “all these folks are saved.” He reportedly told an orderly, on Mar. 24, 2014, “I am going home tonight” --- and indeed he did, as The Lord took him quietly into glory. He was a tremendous musician, piano tuner and technician, and was known for singing the song “I’ve Been Changed.” He has an even greater realization of that now, than he did heretofore. Our hearts are saddened once again, because a little more light has been taken out of this world.

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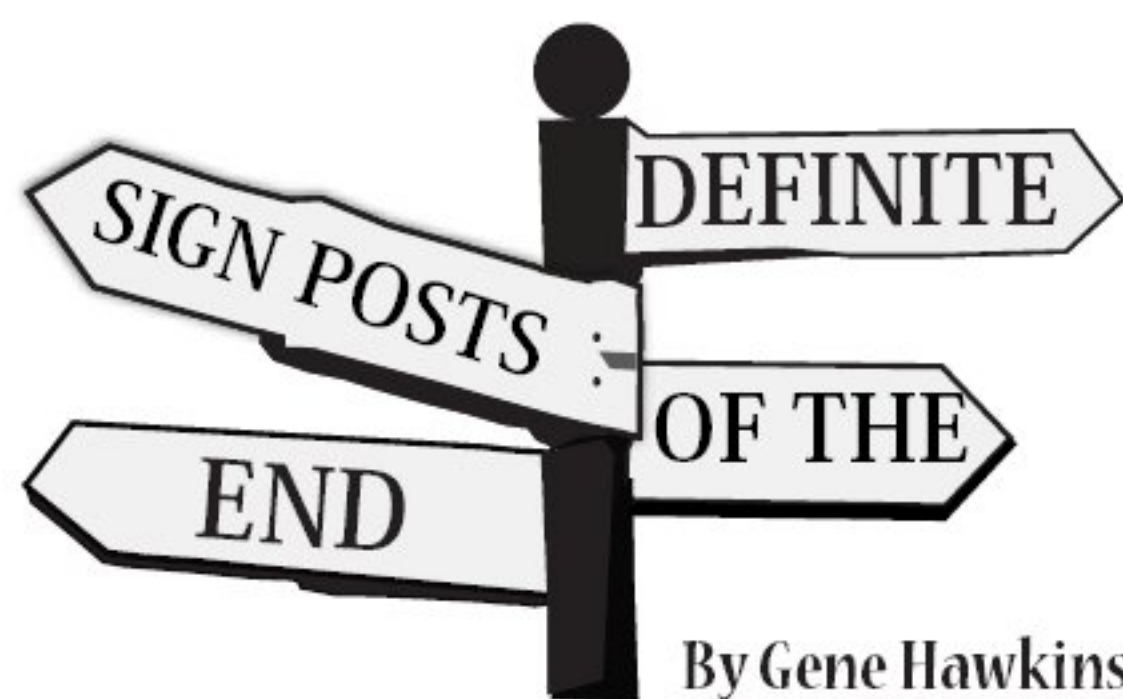
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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible,.....and 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. I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.” Dan. 7:8-9

3 The words “considered, behold, and beheld,” all carry somewhat the same significance, meaning that Daniel watched as a changing panorama unfolded before him. The “thrones,” plural, refer to governments which prevail on earth, and are to be contrasted with the “throne,” which belonged to the “Ancient of days.” Daniel “beheld till the thrones were cast down.” This word means “to throw, set, cast (down), impose.” Thus it tells us that some thrones are being demolished while others are being set up in power or imposed. The order here is imperative, for the changing governments on the earth take place just **prior** to the time when The Ancient Of Days is placed upon His throne as King of kings, and Lord of lords. The latter is seen in Rev. 4 – 5 and when He takes that place, all governments upon this earth will be illegitimate and ruling in usurpation.

Jesus has not taken His throne, as yet, but we are persuaded that we are viewing, in “real time,” the rapidly changing world governments which Daniel beheld in the visions which passed before him. Ours is surely a day of chaos and uncertainty and it seems that no corner of this earth is exempt.

Peter plainly tells us “..that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” II Pet. 3:8 Moses likewise declares “For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.” Psa. 90:4 Prophecy scholars have also used Hosea’s prophecy in Hos. 6:2, to show Israel’s restoration in the millennium after the “two

days,” of the Church Age are past. “After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.”

The over-all message from, both Peter and Moses, is that “time means nothing to God.” Two days with Him can indeed represent 2,000 years, but we also understand that He can change, and accomplish in one literal day of time what may have stood for a 1,000 years. Our own country is just a little over 200 years old, but God brought irreversible change ONE DAY, which is now known world-wide as 9/11. Likewise, we are witnessing changes in nations that may have existed for thousands of years, occurring in rapid succession. Thrones are indeed being “cast down,” before our very eyes.

This rapid change, in so many areas of life, is one of the great signs of the end time. Daniel watched as the ten horns were very quickly reduced to seven. We have said repeatedly that we have not seen this 10 nation coalition come into view as yet, but when it does, these changes could indeed happen in just “one day.” Prophecy is very clear that there will be ten nations very closely bound together in an effort to rule the world. Three will be eliminated and, as noted before in these pages, these three will undoubtedly be “sheep,” nations, for the remaining seven will completely vanish into oblivion. John saw these remaining seven horns, which Daniel recorded, as “...a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.” Rev. 13:1 This “beast,” will rise up out of the sea of nations and be in place at the beginning of the tribulation period. Though he will not be revealed as such, the man of sin, the antichrist, “..... shall confirm the covenant with many for one week,....” which shall mark the beginning of the long prophesied seven year period of tribulation.

The changes in governments, which have already begun in our day, will become even more rapid in that day. Revelation 17:10 declares plainly that the seven headed beast which prevailed at the beginning of the tribulation will not remain intact. “And 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.” Two of the seven will be eliminated leaving only five, and that number is very quickly reduced to only two. The language in this verse tells us that one of the remaining two will be killed, he being “the other,” which “is not yet come.” “....and when he

cometh, he must continue a short space,” that is forty two months, or 1260 days, the remainder of the tribulation period. Rev. 13:5

We simply do not know, at this point, which nations will comprise the original ten, but there are indications of the direction that present “political winds,” are blowing. We are persuaded that America, along with what would be known as two other “sheep nations,” will be eliminated, and current news events seem to constantly confirm this view. 9/11 did most assuredly change all facets of life in this country and, though some news outlets reported, that for a time “America had gone back to Church,” there are no vestiges remaining of such a “revival,” in this nation. False religions are rapidly escalating, but true Christianity is openly persecuted and disdained. Godly principles are ignored in every sector of our society and laws are being enacted to literally flaunt those things which God himself has declared as being “an abomination.”

5 There is also a great absence of “light” in this country simply because men refuse to declare The Word of God. Prominent ministers have refused simply to proclaim, on national T.V., “.... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6 We have spoken to others in our own area who have openly stated that “we simply do not have time to teach the Word verse by verse,” and that is mostly because they are intent on pursuing their own agenda of trying to convert the world before Jesus comes again. It is amazing, however, that the eminent return of Jesus rarely seems to cross their lips!

This country is also in great peril due to the tremendous economic debt incurred. Not only so, but America has lost a great deal of political clout around the world and she has surrendered a tremendous amount of military might as the present administration has slashed military spending, and agreed to reduce nuclear arsenals. Some experts are extremely concerned that this country is very quickly reaching the point where she will, in no wise, be able to protect herself against any enemy. This once proud country has been known to most around the world as the sole superpower of the world, but that status seems to erode almost daily.

Meanwhile, two other nations come quickly to mind as those who might well fit the criteria of the remaining two kings, in Rev. 17, that are left standing. Both China and Russia seem

to be “making their moves,” to conquer the world, and both are doing it at America’s expense. It is well known that China owns 90 percent of U.S. debt, which already makes this nation subservient to them, making them the greater economic power. Russia’s interest is more in the political and military realms, and Pres. Putin made tremendous “political hay,” over the Syrian crisis. He thwarted a potential conflagration for both countries, but he did not do it for the benefit of either. Mr. Putin, is intent on his own interests, and from what we have been able to ascertain, the WMD which were the issue of this conflict have not even been found, let alone destroyed. The matter just seems to have dropped out of sight, and nothing has changed.

The “old bear of the North,” however has not faded into the background, and now a new crisis occupies center stage of most news outlets. Once again, the U.S. has tried to intervene, this time, in the Ukraine, using various “sanctions,” to try and stem the efforts of Russia in overrunning it. Russia seems not to pay any attention to it, and some reports indicate that these sanctions have been issued against everyone concerned, except Vladimir Putin.

The Russian President does seem to be following the exact same “opportunistic” path he pursued in Syria, and also Georgia, accomplishing the same outcome. Lignet News gives this summation of events leading up to the following headline published by Reuters and the Associated Press. **“Putin signs treaty making Crimea, Sevastopol part of Russia”** “The crisis began in December when pro-EU demonstrators occupied Independence Square in the Ukrainian capital after President Viktor Yanukovich abandoned a trade deal with the EU in favor of monetary aid from Russia. On Feb. 22, two days after 88 people were killed in clashes between demonstrators and riot police and one day after a compromise was reached between Yanukovich and opposition leaders, the president fled Kiev and was subsequently removed from his post by parliament.

Moscow condemned the ouster as an “unconstitutional coup” and vowed to protect the interest of ethnic Russians within Ukraine. By the end of February, Russian-speaking militias took control of Crimea, a strategically important peninsula that is home to Russia’s Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol.”

Lignet’s analysis continues with this assessment: “Snatching victory from the jaws of defeat, Moscow acted decisively at the first

signs of miscalculation in Kiev. One day after Ukraine's parliament removed Yanukovich from power, Russian forces were invading Crimea.

Similar to Moscow's 2008 escapade in northern Georgia, Putin and his soldiers have again extended Russia's national defense perimeter through what scholar Thomas de Waal called the "soft annexation" of foreign territories. Such tactics call for the use of all political, economic, and military levers – short of a traditional invasion – to exploit ethnic divisions and gain control in the former Soviet republics."

This article concludes declaring that, "...from Russia's perspective, Kiev can no longer be the springboard from which the United States and European Union can attack its strategic interest."

During his speech, announcing the annexation of Crimea, Pres. Putin declared "that Russia doesn't want to move to other regions of Ukraine, saying that "we don't want division of Ukraine." We are quite sure that no world leader believes such a statement but it remains to be seen just where, and how soon, the next act of aggression on the part of Russia, will occur.

7 Will these same tactics prevail into the tribulation period, as perhaps these same aggressive nations plot their strategies to become that one head which will rule for the last 1260 days of that era known as the time of Jacob's trouble?

Time and space do not permit a lengthy report on the relationship between China and Russia, but Lignet again concludes that "nothing has caused more damage to the seemingly solid Beijing-Moscow united front than the crisis in Ukraine." These two nations, which have combined forces to resist any kind of interference from the West, will certainly continue in their efforts to be number 1 in the world.

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down,..” announced Daniel, and surely we have been witnessing these changes for the past few years prior to these present crises. The “Arab Spring,” saw countries such as Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen, force their dictatorial leaders from power in an effort to adopt a democratic government. There have also been protests, in Syria, Iraq, Iran, and others, rising up against governments which have been ruled by a monarchy for very long periods of time. Daniel also interpreted the mixture of the “iron and clay” in the “feet and toes” portion of Nebuchanezzar’s dream image as portraying both imperial and democratic governments which will prevail during the last vestiges of Gentile world powers. Such

government would “...**be divided**; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. 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.**” Dan. 2:41,42 What a picture of the world-wide climate of government at this present hour. We would expect some national governments of the world to be imperial and others democratic, as has been in evidence for a great many years, but some of the governments around the world seem to have these features **WITHIN THE SAME GOVERNEMENT**. Iran boasts of a democratic government whose officials are “elected,” but demonstrations from her own people indicate that it carries more of a flavor associated with imperialism, even as was the case with Saddam Hussein, former dictator of Iraq. Russia likewise loves to call Mr. Putin a “president,” but he too is very famous for unilateral decisions. Even the U.S. has seen a President using “executive order,” multiple times, to by-pass the congress and the U.S. constitution manifesting shades of dictatorship. Daniel indicates that this type of government is not a strong one as “... 8 they shall not cleave one to another...” Dan. 2:43 It is this very condition that will usher in the Throne occupied by “the Ancient of Days.” “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.” Dan. 2:44

This is, of course, referring to the Kingdom wherein Jesus will be the Supreme Potentate of the Universe, thus bringing Gentile Times to a very violent end. We are confident that the skirmishes such as seen in Ukraine, and other parts of the world, will most assuredly increase, both in intensity and frequency. We are also assured by God’s Word that all these “incidents” will eventually include Israel, and we continue to watch that area of the world looking for those signs which signal her infamous signing of that end-time covenant. We have not heard of any rumblings out of Iran recently but, due to past history, that could change in a moment of time creating even more chaos and turmoil, perhaps bringing about even more changes of power than we have already seen.

The world, as a whole, is in a state of turmoil and the only

9 thing we, as those looking earnestly for the coming of Jesus can do, is keep our minds and hearts focused on Him. We rejoice greatly to know that that special company known as the ‘Bride of Christ’ will be in attendance when “the Ancient of days,” is placed on His throne. Until then, she must simply watch as the scenes, like unto those recorded in this article, come to pass fulfilling the intricate details foretold by Daniel, John, and various other prophets. The Church, as a whole, can in no wise agree when they will be transported to glory. Some insist that the whole “Body of Christ,” will be taken out of this world BEFORE that horrific hour. Others quote one early writer after another showing that the ENTIRE body of believers will all experience those horrendous judgments that are coming. Scripture clearly points out that neither of those scenarios can apply to the whole Church. How can we assume that every member of the body of Christ will be immersed in the horrors of tribulation, when Jesus clearly promised the Philadelphia assembly; “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, 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 How can we assume that the entire Church will be taken out BEFORE that hour when Paul fervently exhorted; “Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.” I Thess. 5:6 What is the point of such diligence if every Christian will be taken out of the world regardless of his walk with The Lord? Why are we given the oft repeated command to “WATCH,” for the signs of His coming, if He is just going to interrupt us mid stride in our own agenda, and automatically whisk us off to glory? Echo answers Why!

When Paul wrote to the Philippians, he made it very clear that, at the time then present, he had not attained the goal for which he sought. “Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after,....” Phil. 3:12 Instead he used extremely energetic terms like “follow after, (pursue, ensue) reaching forth, (stretch) press, (pursue, ensue) and if by any means I might attain,” to show forth his example of vigorously seeking an exalted place far above the bulk of the Church. Verse 11 reveals that he expended such energy in order that he “might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.” The more correct rendering is “out from among,” the dead. Paul was surely not trying to simply ensure a place in heaven, for that is the reward of **every** believer

as Jesus said to the repentant thief, “today shalt thou be with me in paradise.” Nor can the apostle mean that he wanted to be raised up before the unrighteous dead, as some insist, for scripture plainly tells us that ALL believers will be raised 1,000 years before the wicked dead. Rev. 20:5 We rather learn from these verses that there is a race to be run, and only those who are willing to follow the rules will qualify to win the prize, which is not merely being in heaven, but being taken out of this world like unto those of the Church at Philadelphia. Though he spoke of a much later time, Peter also exhorted, in view of the coming of Jesus, “what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God,...” II Pet. 3:11,12

Finally, if all believers shall be taken out of this world at the same time, why would Paul issue the following solemn warnings and admonitions? “But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, **as do others**; (Christians who will be taken unawares) but let us watch and be sober..... But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, (of the tribulation) but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.” I Thess. 5:4-11

10



Why Preach the Second Coming?

1. It leads to preparedness—Luke 12
2. It centers the mind on heavenly things—Phil. 3:20, Tit.11-13.
3. It comforts those who mourn—I. Thess. 4:13.
4. It furnishes a strong incentive for holy living—I John 3:3.
5. It creates willingness to suffer for Christ—I Peter 1:7.

Things Mary Pondered

Mary M. Bodie

“BUT Mary kept all these things—and pondered them in her heart.” Luke 2:19.

Yes, we are sure of this fact, there was plenty for Mary to think about as the mother of the Babe of destiny. She never had a dull moment—though she may have had some sad ones—for she always had something to marvel about, something to ponder relating to her supernatural Child. He was a constant wonder, a "Sweet Wonder" to her. What was she next going to hear about Him? What next was He going to do? There were unusual things for her to ponder, for He was an unusual Son.

What had the angel said to her? She pondered his words. **"Behold thou shalt conceive and bring forth a Son and shall call His Name Jesus.** He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His Father David; and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever and of His Kingdom there shall be no end"—Luke 1 :31-33. Mary had much to meditate upon in these words, even if there had been nothing more. She was well aware of that covenant made with David wherein the Lord promised that his Seed would sit upon his throne forever-2 Sam. Therefore she would indeed ponder the prophecy spoken by Gabriel. The Messiah was due. Long had they waited His appearing. Would her Son be that Great One ? The angel said that He should be GREAT. Can it be that I shall be His mother?

We wonder if she realized how well she fitted the prophecy, **"A virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His Name, Immanuel"**—Isa. 7:14. She must have been thrilled as she pondered these words. What did all these wonderful happenings signify? It had been four hundred years since there had been any prophecy or vision. The angel intimated that her cousin Elizabeth was to become a mother and she pondered this news item. And that other prophecy **"Unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given,** and the government shall be upon His **shoulder.** His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace," surely gave her much food for thought. What did these things signify? Was she to be the mother of Him whose government and the peace thereof should have no end?

There were the words of Elizabeth whom she visited immediately and verified the angel's words. Elizabeth was filled with the Spirit as Mary entered her home and spoke aloud saying, "Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. Whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For as soon as thy salutation was sounded in my ears then the babe leaped for joy." And afterward the shepherds telling of the angel, saying, "Fear not for behold. I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. Unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord." Were these not wonderful events? Surely she pondered them. The shepherds related further strange things, the wonderful heavenly choir was heard singing, "**Glory to God in the highest peace and good will on earth.**" Others wondered also—but Mary kept all these things in her heart.

Simeon's words too she remembered. They were weighty. As he took the Babe up in his arms in the Temple he exclaimed "Lord, now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word, for my eyes have SEEN THY SALVATION.....A light to lighten the Gentile and the glory of Thy people Israel." And to Mary he said, "Behold this Child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (yea a sword shall pierce thru thy own soul also) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Did she wonder at these words? Did she think upon them? Surely often she was found looking off into space, wondering what all these things meant.

And after the years passed there must have been many interesting events happening all the time which she would remember. She had an unusual Son. There was that year when He remained in Jerusalem. It was three days until they found Him, asking questions of the learned divines, in the Temple. His answer, after they enquired why he had not gone with them was amazing, "Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business." She pondered over that statement; for she realized that He knew that His Father was God. It was a source of constant amazement to watch that supernatural Son develop. There was always much that was out of the ordinary which she could meditate upon.

As the years passed and He went on about His daily labor, working with His foster father as a carpenter she might often have enquired, **Is this all? But** things began to happen quickly when He

was about thirty years of age. He went out into the wilderness where John the Baptist was preaching and was immersed in the Jordan. The Holy Spirit came upon Him at this juncture and then He went "about His Father's business." Mary must have pondered on the things reported of Him. There was so much to think about. His life-day was full. He was preaching and teaching, healing the sick, loosing the captives, even as it was written the Messiah would do—and Mary pondered. What will be next? She often thought, Simeon's words about the sword piercing her heart recurred to her again and again. When she heard of the threats made against her Son by the Pharisees and rulers of the Jews, her heart would sink and she would tremble. "O He is beside Himself," she exclaimed upon one occasion; and she sent to Him desiring Him to come to His mother. He answered apparently cruelly, "Who is my mother, sisters and brothers? Then answered, "Those that do the will of my Father which is in heaven." O yes, she pondered all these things in her heart.

13 When he was a child she noticed that he was different from other children, and now He is different from all other men. She knew that there never was anyone like Him. He surprised her, though she knew how He was begotten. She pondered that too. And then when Judas betrayed Him, did she know that it was so written? She had feared for Him. Somehow she knew that He would not be with her long. She thought of His birth so different from others; His life so different, and now will His death be different? She was pondering all the unusual in His life when she heard the news—He was arrested. All the long night when He was in the judgment hall she was remembering the past events of His youth and manhood. What is the meaning? Is this the end? She was afraid.

In the morning they come and tell her, that He is sentenced to die upon the cross. Her wonderful Son! Does she know that He must go this way? Has He ever told her that He must be crucified and be raised the third day? He had told others. Anyway she ponders over the past—and now the end. She will only have her memories now. The cortege of mourners move up the hill of Calvary. She also goes to see her Son. The rabble is calling for His death. She is broken-hearted as she follows. The cross is ready and her Son is laid upon it and the nails are driven into those dear hands that were always ministering to the sick and suffering. She hears the thuds of the hammer as they come down upon the nails. Then the feet are also nailed to the cross—those feet that went about doing good—and

she ponders these things in her heart. The sword is piercing her. It cuts deeply. They lift Him up. She looks upon her beloved First-born as His life blood ebbs away—and she remembers that Babe that was laid in the manger, the Babe the shepherds and wise men worshipped, her Babe, that laid in her bosom and fed of her breasts. He is hanging on the cross.

She hears him say, to her, "**Woman, behold thy son,**" and then "Behold thy mother," the latter to John the beloved disciple. He dies triumphantly, crying aloud, "It is finished." They take Him down from the tree and lay Him to sleep in Joseph's new tomb. She goes home with John to ponder these things in her heart. She still has her memories. The years that He was with her and the wonders of his life they cannot take away from her, though they could take Him, her joy and her crown. She still could ponder all these things in her heart. But there came another day and she had more to remember of Him. He arose from the dead. She must have seen her Son and rejoiced at the sight. Again she pondered these things in her heart.

14

CHRIST IS RISEN

Rabboni, Rabboni! O can it be true
That Jesus has risen into life anew?
O tell the glad tidings—the proof He's God's Son.
He paid the great cost of redemption and won.

“O touch me not, Mary,” Rabboni did say.
“I go to my Father,” but return today.
“Run to my brethren with these words of love.
They're one body with Me in new life above.”

Then John and Peter came to see the great sight.
They were amazed at the grave's radiant light.
For there sat two angels in place of the dead.
Forever we're loosed from its power and, dread.

Mary M. Bodie

JESUS, And His REJECTION

“YET A LITTLE WHILE IS THE LIGHT WITH YOU. WALK WHILE YE HAVE THE LIGHT, lest darkness come upon you; for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth”—John 12:35.

15 **A**fter Jesus spoke these words of warning, He was rejected by all, and forsaken. There follows here again, as is seen so constantly in John, the conflict between faith and unbelief. Man's condition is revealed by the Presence of Jesus in the midst, as the Savior. The cross is an offense to men unless they realize and admit their need. It is the self-righteous man who refuses the blood-way of salvation. It is abhorrent to him—but how precious for the one who knows that he is a sinner. And the verdict of the Scripture is absolutely against the unbeliever, and for, Christ and His cross. His "lifting up" is His glory though men refuse to accept this only way of salvation. And they are without excuse; for He had given them every possible sign that He was the Messiah; yet they remained adamant. Nevertheless, that was no surprise to the Lord. It had been written centuries earlier by the prophet Isaiah, that such would be the attitude of Israel. John declares that the Prophet had so written: “That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?” V. 38 Therefore it must be fulfilled. This does not signify that the unbelief of the people was in order to fulfill a prophecy; but in not believing, they **did** fulfill it. There are two quotations in this text from Isaiah. This first one is a reference to Christ's first advent, the other to His second. The first is from the marvelous atonement chapter, Isa.53. The second, from the great throne vision of chapter 6, is found in V. 40. “He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.”

Here are some vivid facts recorded, concerning these Scriptures. Isaiah's prophecy, in the first connection, is striking. He appears to be distressed that his words are not believed. "Who hath believed our report ?" (or preaching?) he inquires. Then the question is answered by the second citation. "They could not

believe because Isaiah said again, He hath blinded their eyes and hardened their heart..... "

Here are tremendous facts revealed. The prophetic Word does not **make** these things to happen; but rather, they are revealed beforehand by the prophecy. The Lord bases all His claims to being what He Is (The True And Living God) upon His ability to make known beforehand, that which shall come to pass. He challenges all claimants to His honor and glory, to do likewise, and so prove their claims to divine prerogatives. "Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods." Isa. 41:21-23. Unbelief is voluntary, not compulsory. They could not believe because they **would** not. Their state was due to their own attitude—not to the will of God. Observe, this important fact; the Lord whom Isaiah, in vision, saw sitting upon a throne, was Christ. Isa. 6:1. "He saw His glory and spoke of Him." Nevertheless, with the glory before their eyes, the people did not believe, and the few who did, feared to confess Him on account of the Pharisees. And the verdict of the Scriptures is: "That They Loved The Praises Of Men, More Than The Praise Of God." V. 43

16

Author unknown

WATER

In a wilderness He found me—
Desert land of barren waste—
Nothing there for my refreshing,
Naught found I my thirst to slake.

As I languished—faint of thirsting—
Life's mirages seemed to mock
When I saw my smitten Savior.
Water poured forth from the Rock.

Clear as crystal—flowing freely
From eternal throne above;
Cleansing—ever satisfying,
Boundless as My Savior's love.

Margaret Keener

You Will Never Fall

A.J. Woehr Jr.

“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:” II Pet. 1:10.

I still remember her very clearly that certain morning. She was only a little girl, all prettied in a lovely white dress, socks and shoes to match. She literally glowed with health and sprightly vigor. Walking ahead of her mother, who was taking her to the corner store, she heard her mother call "do not run, dear". "I won't mother," the little girl called back. And in her heart she intended to obey the instruction to "walk". But, like all little girls, something ahead struck her fancy and she began to run. It was but a moment or two later when suddenly I saw her trip and fall. Quick as I moved toward her, mother was quicker. Picking up the now crying child, who a moment before had been so happy, mother exclaimed, "Oh, why did you run?" The child's dress, so white and clean a moment ago was now soiled, one sock was torn and one of the child's knees was scraped and bleeding.

How like God's children. Through the Word we are given certain commands, warnings and instructions. We know that if we do not heed the Scriptures, difficulty will follow. We will fall, become soiled, hurt ourselves by the experience to the point of physical suffering. We start out like a child, in our heart meaning to be obedient, but soon, we get our eyes on something else, instead of the Lord Jesus. We run ahead of the Word. Then comes the fall, suffering, heartache, and discouragement. The devil would tempt us to believe that all is over, that God's displeasure means being forsaken. Like the anxious parent, God, like a loving mother and father, pities His children. Psa. 103:13 He is ever ready, through the Lord Jesus Christ, to pick us up, cleanse us and establish our going "in and out." John 10.

Let us yield readily to Him, being reminded that though we may be temporarily isolated, we are never forsaken, nor will He ever leave us. Heb. 13:5 Knowing that if we are obedient to His Word, giving diligence to make our calling and election sure, we shall never fall. II Pet. 1:10

The Bible does not need to be re-written but re-read.

REFLECTIONS

REFLECTIONS

. . . From the Editor

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.” John 12:24

These are wonderful words of hope, in regard to Jesus being that “corn of wheat,” which would fall into the ground and die, thereby bringing forth much fruit. Job likewise tells us that “...there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease.” Job 14:7 These marvelous citations tell us of the wondrous provision that Jesus has made because of His trek to Calvary, in order to gain that eternal victory over death. He has indeed brought “many sons” to glory, and bodily resurrection is a guarantee for all of them because of the victory won on that first Easter Morn.

18

These glorious words, however, can become even more personal to us and we rejoice greatly that hope does spring eternal. It seems that the entire world has experienced an unusually severe winter, whereby many records of temperature and snowfall have been completely shattered. Days have been dreary and great hardship, creating much privation, has ensued.

This same analogy can also be applied to the individual lives of believers. It seems that God’s people have been absolutely inundated with the “winter storms,” of life. Many have been greatly afflicted by sickness and disease. Others have experienced great difficulty due to economic woes. Still others have felt the cold winds inflicted by the fleshly conduct, and often false accusations, of those around them. The good news today is that even though such cold harsh winds and snows may be dominant in our experience, FOR A TIME; *the springtime of resurrection is even at the door.* Peter gives us this glorious outline. “But the God of all grace, who hath

called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.” I Pet. 5:10 We have most assuredly been called unto His glory, but according to Peter, suffering “**for a while,**” is absolutely imperative, if we are going to be made “perfect” or complete. He also declared in chapter one that we are most assuredly to rejoice in God’s salvation, “though now for a season, **if need be,** ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:” Many of us were encouraged again and again by Dear Sis. Anderson who often said: “This too shall pass!”

We do look for a break in the natural weather, and we rejoice in the spiritual increase that God also brings into our lives, but Oh! Praise The Lord! Our hearts are looking up for the real resurrection and the very coming of Our Bridegroom! “For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;” S.O.S. 2:11

GH

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LIVING WATERS TABERNACLE

2014 CAMP DATES

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Ph. # 785-862-6330 or 785-836-9305

Fellowship Meeting Carbondale, Kansas

419 S. 3rd St.

April 26, 2014 (Services begin as 10 A.M.)

Love Beckons - Part 3

Ken Trujillo

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

England's largest centre for business, both for legal and financial services, is located in the city of Leeds, which is about 200 miles north of London in the state/region of West Yorkshire. The city museum in Leeds opened its doors to the public back in 1821, and in 1862 the galleries moved into the Leeds Institute. Although part of the building, and some of the artifacts, were damaged in WWII bombing raids, it was refurbished and the majority of contents restored. The galleries in the Institute were closed for several years and recently a newly redesigned 4-level state-of-the-art facility reopened in 2008 and remains one of the most treasured landmarks in the UK.

20

The Leeds City Museum's archaeological displays are revered worldwide. The primary mission of the museum is four-fold: to COLLECT; to INTERPRET; to PRESERVE; and to EXHIBIT. All artifacts, and incoming cargo, are treated as being fragile, with great professional solicitous keeping. The curator of the museum is an extremely skilled guardian, and superintendent, whose job is to oversee these most precious objects day-by-day, hour-by-hour, and minute-by minute with personal security, sensitivity and otherwise, what is known as TLC (tender love and care)!

Our Lord, The Great Curator of the Universe, continually beckons unto us, in order that He might fulfill the same four-fold obligation, described above, in our own personal lives. He cries out “Come unto ME, all ye that labor and are HEAVY LADEN....” The thought of heavy-laden, in this text, is that of a great load borne and carried by ship. Our weights of care and heavy-hearted burdens are counted as precious cargo, and kept in His tender keeping, as He navigates and leads us along

life's journey. The number four, as seen in the above curator's responsibilities, suggests our own human weakness as He ministers to us at this present time.

First, **HE COLLECTS**. I Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." No matter how big or how small, He wants YOUR ALL, AND ALL, poured out unto Him!

He collects this precious cargo, and treasures it, as we completely surrender and commit it to Him! There is one collection, which we all must offer, that might not initially appear to be a treasure. It is illustrated by the sin offering which was offered upon the brazen altar of the tabernacle in the wilderness. After this sacrifice was completely burnt, it was carried forth without the camp unto a clean place, where its ashes were poured out. Lev 4:12 Jesus, likewise, sacrificed as the Lamb of God on the Cross of Calvary, shed His Own Precious Blood. He then released His spirit to His Heavenly Father, bowed His Head and died. Luke 23:46 This was indeed precious cargo, and though His Offering represented the entire body of sin, collected from all men, for all time, it was greatly treasured by His Father, and completely consumed by Holy Fire! Jesus satisfied God's wrath, in that the judgment of God's government for sin, which was rightfully due us, was transferred and placed upon Him while hanging on the cross. The shedding of Jesus' Precious blood also opened the vail to the Holy of Holies, making a way for us to enter in and become one with the mercy seat as a recipient of His Divine Proposal; His very Own Bride To-Be throughout the endless eternities to come! The only way through the vail was through the blood, once again, enabling us to enter in, and embrace the espousal. It had to be His Very Own! Once a year, Aaron, the High Priest brought the blood of the sin-offering within the vail, for the congregation of Israel, and sprinkled it (the shedding of sacrificial blood) before and upon the mercy seat. Lev 16:15 During this age of grace the application of the precious blood of Jesus, which was offered only **once**, hath made us kings and priests unto God (Rev 1:6) giving us access to the inner chamber of intimacy providing fellowship with our Bridegroom. We sing that wonderful song:

Made one with Him who died for me,
One thru the blood of Calvary;

Made one with Him, I worship and adore;
Jesus and I are one forever more!”

The sacrifice which was carried forth without the camp represented the sin-offering. Jesus also was literally crucified outside the city gates of Jerusalem, where He suffered and died Alone. What about us? Are we willing to get on our knees before Him and separate ourselves alone unto Him not looking to, or leaning on the arm of man? Are we willing to suffer mocking and ridicule from friends, family and loved ones including, many times, our brothers and sisters within God’s family? The ashes of the sin-offering were taken to a clean place. The day we accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior, His Incorruptible Seed took residence in our hearts and we were made clean, becoming the very righteousness of God, which is by faith in Him for all that believe. Rom 3:22 The sacrificial ashes were poured out! Consumed by holy fire on the cross, Jesus was poured forth for us COMPLETELY! Praise our Blessed Savior!

22

Here in Colorado, my wife and I have a mountain house, and in 2002, the Hayman Fire destroyed just short of 140,000 acres, the largest mountain wildfire in Colorado history with over 600 structures destroyed. Our subdivision was within the center of that devastating inferno. Since then, the burnt ashes from the fire, containing nutrients, have re-fertilized the soil. The area affected by the Hayman fire is now more lush and fertile than it ever was before, and apart from the trees that were burnt and left standing, the mountainsides are thick with colors of gold and green sagebrush grass, shrubs and flowers! The landscape of luscious golden-green plant life against the blackened trees has an uncanny beauty of its own! When our Savior, as The Burnt Offering at Calvary, was buried and arose again, “rejuvenation and newness of life sprouted forth” for all mankind and a most glorious and divine blessed hope became ours! Ashes also contain the fertilizing compound, potash, which is used to make **soap and glass**. What a marvelous analogy that, as the ashes from the brazen alter were poured out representing our Glorious Lamb of God unto God the Father, we are cleansed from sins past, present and future, we are also made transparent and set completely apart unto Him! As we allow more of His Word to enlighten our hearts and lives, we reflect His glory

back to Him! II Cor. 3:18, describes it thus: “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” We see Him in this glass and are changed into the exact same image, growing from glory to glory. Isaiah 61:3 poetically captures this thought stating that those mourning in Zion will be given “beauty for ashes.” The word beauty means “a head-ornament or tiara,” very fitting for a bride. The ashes of Calvary bespeak His unfathomable love poured out for us!

23

Secondly, **HE INTERPRETS**. The unique skill of a museum curator is to communicate the meaning, the intent, and the vision for the enhancement of the artifact. How its character is a conduit of inspiration and enrichment from its maker and designer to others! He propitiates its potential and its worth. II Cor. 5:21 “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” The phrase “MIGHT BE MADE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS...” means pure and undefiled, virtuous, to be presented as a chaste virgin to Christ (II Cor. 11:2), with the root meaning “to show and/or exhibit”, the same word used in Rev 21:9 “...Come hither, I will **shew** thee the Bride, the Lamb’s wife.” What potential is ours for the eternities to come! Our precious Lord communicates to us His plan and purpose according to one’s own individual understanding and sensitivity. Jesus interprets His Word through the ministering of the Holy Spirit and gifted men and women, for the perfecting of the saints! (Eph 4:12)

We can be “in tune” with His mind. Phil 2:5 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” The phrase LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU means: To be of the same mind, to agree together, to cherish the same views, to be in harmony. He anoints us with divine complicity, that is, an invisible mutual understanding! Standing together in agreement and connected in Spirit. Having His mind as preeminent throughout our earthly journey’s walk, is like having “spiritual telepathy” with our Lord and Savior! Telepathy is defined as a knowledge and communication conveyed from one individual to another without trusting the five natural senses. Prov. 3:5 tells us to lean not unto our own understanding, but to acknowledge Him in all our ways and He will direct our

paths! We sing that beautiful song in the Grace and Glory songbook: "He knows along life's pathway are trials for His sake; but tho' they dim our vision still, He knows the way we take. In His own way He leads us; because He loves us so; and when the heart grows weary; He knows, our Lord doth know." For the precious Word of God is a discerner, skilled in interpreting and presiding with power, the thoughts and intents of the heart (Heb 4:12). Bless the Lord!

Third, **HE PRESERVES**: Thou art my hiding place; Thou shalt preserve me from trouble. Let Thy loving kindness and Thy truth continually preserve me. (Ps 32:7, 40:11) This word preserve means: 1) He rescues; 2) He heals; 3) He restores. His loving kindness is His ardent desire and intense devotion toward us. His truth is His Word. Thy word is truth (John 17:17). We can say with full assurance: His love and the power of His Word keeps us and continually rescues us, heals us, and restores us! Webster defines the word preserve: "to keep as a treasured possession." My Dad, Orlando B. Trujillo, at 19 years of age, was aboard the USS Hull in the Pacific Ocean just off the Philippine Islands during World War II. On December 19, 1945, his destroyer, 1500 tons of steel was sunk to the bottom of the ocean along with two other destroyers in a ferocious storm known as Typhoon Cobra. 790 navy men lost their lives at sea; my Dad was one of the survivors! Winds from 150 to 200 mph and waves up to 70 feet (equivalent to a seven-story building) pounded ships of the 3rd Fleet. After 49 hours afloat in shark-infested waters God preserved and rescued my Dad so I could be divinely rescued! God knew, before I was ever conceived, that I would want His best to be counted as one amongst the Bridal Calling all by His marvelous grace. You talk about RESCUE! He also heals and restores. He is The Great Physician of all our infirmities (Isa 53:5) and with His stripes we are healed. As we enter into the Holy of Holies by faith in prayer, the privilege is ours to bind ourselves, as it were, with Calvary and His cross! His wounded side! His nail prints! His Crown Of Thorns! His back afflicted and bloodied by the plowers! Psa. 129:3 Every wound imaginable was inflicted upon our Blessed Redeemer and now we have healing through His Precious Blood! Physical healing! Emotional healing! Healing for resentment! Healing to forgive! Healing for guilt, etc! Our Savior is touched and

relates to every feeling of our infirmities! Heb 4:15 The All-Powerful Word of God thus states: He shall cover thee with His feathers and under His wings shalt thou trust; His truth shall be thy shield and buckler! Praise You Lord Jesus!

As the museum curator preserves his treasured artifacts with proper light and temperature, as well as, keeping them from being contaminated by harmful pests and pollutants, so our Divine Curator preserves us with the enlightenment of His Word no matter the temperature of our circumstances! The museum artifacts are cleaned and dusted on a daily basis sometimes with abrasive brushing and toxic chemicals so as to restore brilliant color and sheen for their ultimate display of glorious splendor! "The God of all grace who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." I Peter 5:10

25 Finally, **HE EXHIBITS**: The museum curator's ultimate goal, that which culminates his handiwork in preparation and caring for his artifacts, is to put them on display to be admired! There were tens of millions of viewers that paid top dollar to attend the showing of King Tutankhamen's mummified body when it toured the world. That lifeless cadaver had been infested with toxic moulds, deadly bacteria and diseases of all sorts over the centuries and yet the curators stood with great pride and delight, as scores of viewers looked upon it with awe and reverence! **Can you imagine, decay and corruption being such a worldly attraction!** Thank God that we can delight in a different "awe and wonder" which can be seen in Lev 16:15, where the blood of the sin-offering was carried by Aaron the high priest, within the veil. This word "within" signifies "to be built up." Gen 2:21-22 provides this beautiful illustration: "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and He took one of his ribs. And the rib which the Lord God had taken from man, **made he a woman**, and brought her unto the man. "MADE HE A WOMAN, literally means to be built up as a wife for her husband. His desire is for us to abide in His presence within the veil! While we are yet pilgrims here on earth, may we dwell within the Holy of Holies amidst the Shekinah Glory in the most inner chamber with Jesus, not only to be MADE READY but also to BE READY when the

first trumpet sounds. It is ALL BY HIS ENABLING GRACE! The Great Curator of the universe wants to exhibit us, arrayed with all manner of precious stones, where neither moth nor rust corrupt. The New Jerusalem, reflects that glory, coming down from God out of Heaven prepared as a Bride adorned for her husband. Rev 21:2 How about us? Is it OK to be fanatical about this? Webster defines fanatical as “surpassing that which is normal or accepted in enthusiasm.” How can we not be! I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Rev 3:9 Our great and mighty God, our Heavenly Father, the Great Curator, will look upon His Son’s Bride with Great Delight as she is on display when the marriage of the Lamb is come! This IS REALITY, dear saints, of the most high calling, Jesus is coming soon, and it could be today! Are you getting ready? His Love Truly Beckons!

Oh What Thou Hast Done For Me

26

Oh what Thou hast done for me, O mighty Friend
For Thy love hast no beginning and no end;
Thou wast made known on Golgatha’s tree
Bearing the curse which was made for me!

Exceeding sorrowful at Gethsemane
That I might be made free from sin and exceeding glad in Thee
Oh Thou wast crowned with thorns to bear
That I might have a crown of glory fair;

For Thee reviling and a mocking throng,
For me a jubilant Song of Songs;
For Thee the hiding of Thy Father’s face,
For me to come boldly to thy Throne of Grace
Nail prints and a wounded side Oh Blessed Savior for Thee;
From the grave Thou wast raised in glory for me, yea for me!

Author Unknown

A Roll of “Ments”

Ralph E. Hawk

“AND THEY SAID ONE TO ANOTHER, DID NOT OUR HEART BURN WITHIN US, WHILE HE TALKED WITH US BY THE WAY, AND WHILE HE OPENED TO US THE SCRIPTURES?”—Luke 24:32.

I would like to write a few words about spiritual heart burn. In the natural, when we partake of too much of some rich food, we are sometimes likely to develop a case of heart burn. When Jesus began to open the Scriptures to these two disciples on the way to Emmaus, He brought forth from the Old Testament such rich, sweet and exotic words that immediately after they had finally recognized Him and He had disappeared, they wondered that they had not recognized Him from the first, by His Spirit-inspired ability to make the Scriptures a living and vital food to their innermost beings.

And so it is today, as the Holy Spirit makes real to our hearts the precious Word of God. At times it seems almost too much to contain, and truly our hearts *begin* to burn as they are quickened and we are made to realize some of the things which had been previously hidden from our view. We may have had somewhat of an understanding of some thought, but there is such a vast difference when the Holy Spirit makes it real in the way which He alone can. And often such a visitation takes place in a time such as we have here in Luke, when we are walking along a dusty, lonely road, saddened by some seeming defeat. These disciples thought they had lost forever the one who was dearest to them, when suddenly He appeared beside them, walking the *same* lonely road. And yet how that road *was* transformed by the presence and words of this stranger. What lessons were learned! Though they could not fully appreciate until afterward the real and potent power of the Speaker and the words, they showed what manner of heart they had by the fact that they could be warmed and burning by Jesus' words.

Sometimes the words which the Spirit makes real to us seem to be more than these earthen vessels can contain, though the inner man gives his vehement response. For such occasions, we have a "roll of ments," from God's Word, if we may make a play upon words. Let us look at some of them:

First—Atonement. "And not only so, but we also joy in *God* through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement"—Rom. 5:11. Here is a wonderful after-dinner "ment." Paul shows us that although our being made one, or at one with God took place when we were born again, the fact of atonement is a constant source of joy to us. Satan would sometimes tempt us by causing us to look at the great differences which sometimes exist between the full meal the Spirit feeds us and the seeming lack of that Word in our practical lives. Well, when the devil tries that on you next time, just pull out your roll of "ments" and take an atone-ment, a realization that Jesus' blood has brought us into the supreme favor of almighty God, and we are at-one with Him because He chose to bring us to Himself. All the accusations which Satan may hurl *against* us are absolutely true as to our old nature, but praise God that in Christ Jesus we are a new creation.

Next—Endue-ment. "But tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power ..."—Lu. 24:49. This is where we get the power and strength we need to overcome when we realize our own lack of strength. It is in the power of the Holy Spirit. What a "ment" this is. We can say, "Yes, I know very well that I am a complete and miserable failure, but I have within me One who has never lost a battle, One who is abundantly able to bring me out more than a conqueror." The more of God's Word we take in, the more our hearts burn, but also the more dependent we become upon the "power that worketh in us."

Then there is—Equip-ment. We see that in Eph. 6:11. "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." The Holy Spirit has His own way of making sure that we conquer Satan, and He makes sure that we cannot glory or boast that we have done it ourselves, by miraculously equipping us with a supernatural armour from the Word of God. We cannot fail to stand if we only yield to Him and allow Him to outfit us as only He can. Satan taunts and all his fiery darts glance harmlessly off our armour and do not harm us at all.

Fourth we see—Adjust-ment. "Let us therefore, as many be perfect be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be Otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you." How precious for us to realize that even though we may see a great distance between our state and our wonderful standing along certain lines, yet as we trust our

Lord and yield to Him, He will see that the necessary adjustments are made. Often we are prone to fret and worry when our growth is not accomplished as quickly as we want it to be, but God knows just When, where and how to do this necessary work. He knows the real desires of our hearts.

And of course there is constant need for the next "ment." That is judg-ment. Some saints do not fully realize the proper use of this "ment." It must be administered by prescription. And the Word of God, of course, is the only prescription. The dictionary defines judgment as being "the mental faculty of deciding correctly by the comparison of facts and ideas." Many saints decide incorrectly because they do not go by the facts of the Word. True victory in any Christian's life is dependent upon his judging as God does, as is revealed in the Scriptures. Perhaps the heart of God's facts is seen in Rom. 6:11. "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." In other words, our very basic victory is in reckoning, or judging with God that our old man was crucified with Christ, and that through His resurrection we are a new creation. When we judge thus, we become content with the way God works and the things He allows, because we see the way in which He is dealing with us.

Now let us see one final "ment." This ment has been known to cure all manner of ills which come upon overcoming saints. That is **elope-ment**. The hope of the return of our beloved Bridegroom, and the expectation of seeing Him face to face and being with Him thru-out eternity, is probably the greatest source of encouragement the overcomer has. As the Lord disengages us from more and more of the things of this world, we see Jesus' coming more clearly as the event around which all of God's purposes revolve, both as to us as individuals and as to all things He is doing. "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words"-1 Thess. 4:16-18. It seems at times that we can begin to sense the notes of the prelude of that long-awaited trumpet solo, and hear these sweet words, "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away." So let Satan fire away with his

fire-extinguishers, for they cannot affect this heavenly heart burn. We only sing the more, "My heart is aglow with a vehement flame, to win the Beloved as mine ; all else I forego to be called by His name, united in wedlock divine!"

WE MUST BELIEVE

Ruth Bozart

How else can I see
That He died for me,
Lest to His cross I am led?
How else can I know
Of His heart felt woe,
Lest my heart like His has bled?

How else can I feel
As He felt long ago,
Lest in a garden I pray ?
How else to recall
The long "Pilate's hall"
Lest friends, like His, turn away?

How else see the hill
More bitter still,
Lest to the cross with Him I go ?
How else can I wait,
At this darkened gate?
Lest I know He took my woe?

How else then at last
To see cross is past
Lest I, a new man behold?
Then up through the skies,
By faith I arise;
And, with Him, walk streets of gold.

ISAIAH 18

Gene Hawkins

This chapter of Isaiah forms a beautiful parallel with Job. That book shows a man who was completely devastated, but in the end, received twice as much as he had before. “And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.” Job 42:10 Israel shall likewise enjoy a place of blessing which they have never experienced, even before they became a nation. This people has never occupied all the land given to Abraham, even in the early days of victory when Joshua took them into the land of Canaan. The beautiful conclusion of this chapter, however, records the fact that the Jews are gathered back to “the mount Zion,” and given as a “present” unto “the LORD of hosts.”

31

But, like unto Job, Israel will experience great suffering at the hands of the nations, because they have trusted in man, rather than God for their protection. The description of that path begins in verse one. “Woe to the land shadowing with wings, which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia:” This “land shadowing with wings,…” is a reference to the protection Israel will seek from that seven headed coalition of the end time when they sign the infamous covenant with the antichrist. “And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week:…” Dan. 9:27 It is in direct contrast to the plea of the psalmist. “Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings, From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about.” Psa. 17:8,9 Jesus likewise offered Jerusalem that invitation for protection. “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!” Matt.23:37 His offer was summarily rejected at His first advent, and it will remain that way in the beginning of the tribulation period, as Israel is induced to trust in the protecting wings of the nations, which will ultimately fail.

The “woe” of verse 1 is further extended to the nations

of the end time as they “That sendeth ambassadors by the sea, even in vessels of bulrushes upon the waters, saying, Go, ye swift messengers, to a nation scattered and peeled, to a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden down,....” This is a description of Israel, in dire straits and in great need of assistance. They have been duped into thinking that they can depend on the armaments of the nations to help, but the “vessels” or weapons sent by these “ambassadors” are nothing more than fragile “bulrushes” which will prove completely ineffective to defend them. Israel is further described in this verse as a nation “...whose land the rivers have spoiled!” V. 2 Rivers in scripture often represent the waters of religion. Such waters were supposed to be the waters of refreshing as in Psa. 23 and the well of water which Jesus offered the Samaritan woman in John 4. They have instead, become waters of religious deception which have “spoiled,” rather than refreshed and cleansed, those who trusted them. Israel has been indeed “spoiled,” by the rejection of Christ in Judaism, and the influence of the same polluting waters will be clearly manifest by Catholicism throughout the whole world in the end of this age. Indeed, “All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye.” V. 3 God is desperately trying to get the attention of Israel and the whole world with the “trumpet” of His Word. “Hear ye...” is His message, but it seems that none will heed His warning. Isaiah tells us clearly that the Word of the Lord is meant here for the message of verse 4 is directly from Him. 32

“For so the LORD said unto me, I will take my rest, and I will consider in my dwelling place like a clear (dazzling, sunny, bright) heat (hot) upon herbs, (illumination, brightness) and like a cloud (an envelope) of dew (covering) in the heat of harvest.” V. 4 The “rest,” to which The Lord alludes, is the millennial rest, but it will come only after the tremendous devastation of the tribulation expressed by the “heat upon herbs.” The Septuagint clarifies this verse as follows: “For thus said the Lord to me, There shall be security in my city, as the light of noonday heat, and it shall be as a cloud of dew in the day of harvest.” This promise, directly

from The LORD to Isaiah in behalf of Israel, simply states that God will protect His dwelling place of Jerusalem and the land of Israel during this very devastating time of judgment, even before the real rest of the millennium arrives. Though the nations are clamoring, even now, over who has the right to Jerusalem, God has gone on record stating that this entire land is His, and He will secure it, when the efforts of all the nations and their appointed ambassadors have failed. He will secure and protect His Own, amidst the devastating harvest of judgment upon the nations recorded in the next two verses.

33 “For afore the harvest, when the bud is perfect, and the sour grape is ripening in the flower, he shall both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks, and take away and cut down the branches. They shall be left together unto the fowls of the mountains, and to the beasts of the earth: and the fowls shall summer upon them, and all the beasts of the earth shall winter upon them.” V. 5-6 This is, in no wise, spiritual fruit, but rather “sour grapes,” or that which is good for nothing, other than to feed “the fowls of the mountains,” and “beasts of the earth.” The retribution upon these nations will be both swift and thorough, and none shall escape. Verse 3 indicates that all the “inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth,” are included in such sweeping judgment, thus separating the world from His Chosen People, who will most assuredly be secure. Not only so, but..... “In that time shall the present be brought unto the LORD of hosts of a people scattered and peeled, and from a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden under foot, whose land the rivers have spoiled, to the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, the mount Zion.”

Much of this verse is repeated verbatim from V. 2. It brings emphasis upon the condition of Israel before their restoration, along with the reasons for their intense sufferings. They are a people who have been scattered and peeled, but for good reason. God had warned them repeatedly that He would “scatter” them, (Deut. 30) but He also promised that they would be gathered back again unto their own land. Our present text describes Israel presenting themselves as “a present.” That present is “from a

people terrible from their beginning hitherto..." meaning that "in that day," they will acknowledge that God has had every right to inflict upon them all the misery they have endured. Job cried out "the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." Job 1:21 Israel will likewise learn the same lesson. They will, in no wise, blame God for all their troubles, but will honor Him and declare His righteousness in treating them as He has. They will also be like unto Job after his affliction, as they will now finally enjoy the fullness of the Abrahamic covenant, for they will be restored, "to the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, the mount Zion." They, like Job, will surely be given at least "twice as much" as they have had since their beginning, for they will be in their own land in their rightful and promised place as "the head and not the tail" of the nations, in Christ's Millennial Kingdom. Deut. 28:13

Answer to the Test

34

The story is told of a Christian blacksmith who had had a good deal of affliction, and was challenged by an unbeliever to account for it. This was his explanation: "I don't know that I can account for these things to your satisfaction, but I think I can to my own. You know that I am a blacksmith. I often take a piece of iron, and put it into the fire, and bring it to white heat. Then I put it on the anvil, and strike it once or twice to see if it will take a temper. If I think it will, I plunge it into the water, and suddenly change the temperature. Then I put it into the fire again; and again, I plunge it into the water. This I repeat several times. Then I put it on the anvil, and hammer it, and bend it, and rasp and file it, and it makes some useful article which I put into a carriage, where it will do good service for twenty-five years. "If, however, when I first strike it on the anvil, I think it will not take a temper, I throw it into the scrap heap, and sell it at a, halfpenny a pound. "Now, I believe that my heavenly Father has been testing me to see if I will take a temper. He has put me into the fire; and into the water. I have tried to bear it just as patiently, as I could, and my daily prayer has been: "Lord, put me into the fire, if You will; put me into the water, if You think I need; do anything You please, Oh Lord; only, for Christ's sake, don't throw me into the scrap heap."



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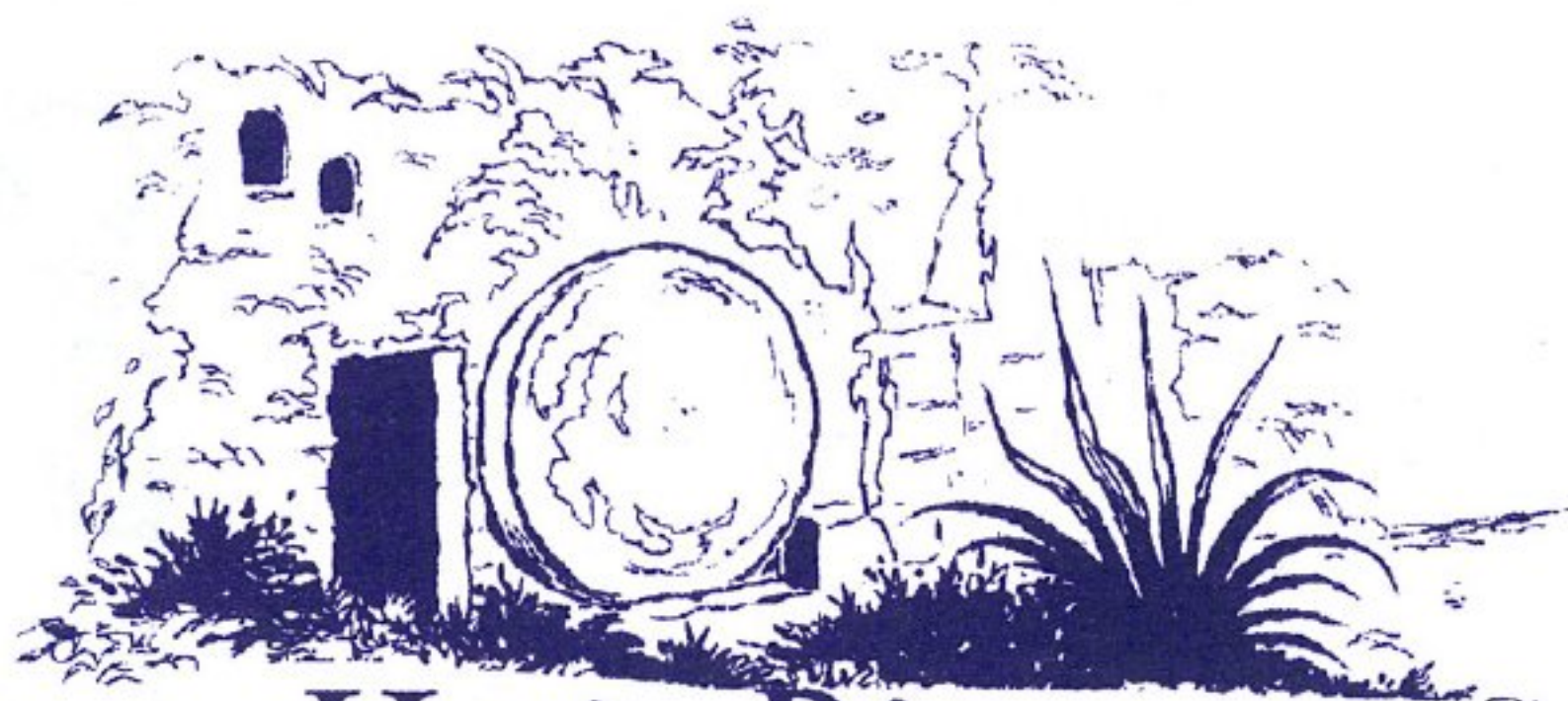
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