

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole Counsel of GOD

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'Loving His Appearing'

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The Lord is my
light and my
salvation; whom
shall I fear?
the Lord is the
strength of my
life; of whom
shall I be afraid?
PSALM 27:1.

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Another Staunch Warrior Called To Glory

Benjamin Lawrence Morgan was born on October 7, 1928, and went home to be with The Lord, July 22, 2014. He grew up in Gravette, Arkansas, and as stated in a recent sermon, (July 2014) "in Arkansas, when you walk, you walk easy; when you work, you work easy. When you sleep, you sleep easy, and when you sit down, you go to sleep." He spoke of this in the context of not being lazy, and this brother was surely a "firebrand" for The Lord. He came to Grace and Glory Bible School, and upon graduation was asked to stay and teach at the Bible School for an additional 3 years. Bro. David Cloud asserts that "In my first year Bro. Ben was my classmate. In my second, he was my teacher."

Brother Ben was a tremendous contributor to ministries and missionaries around the world, and had an amazing gift of leading people to the Lord. We are persuaded that much of that ability can be attributed to the fact that his life simply exuded the Love of Christ, manifesting the incredible heart which he had for children and young adults. He truly loved the Word of God and his is surely a legacy of Love for Jesus!

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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” Dan. 12:4

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” Matt. 24:12

3 The above verses relate two extreme excesses which have converged in our day and are very much related to one another as both are manifest simultaneously. Today is a day of advanced “knowledge” evidenced by tremendous strides in technology in multiple sectors of society. There have been massive breakthroughs in the medical field, including organ transplants and the ability to literally replace damaged limbs. All sorts of “modern conveniences,” have been invented which were completely unheard of even a hundred years ago. Entertainment has been a major priority, and electronic games occupy the minds of young people often being substituted for physical activity. Modern GPS systems have literally replaced maps in giving very precise and specific instructions to destinations around the world.

The list could go on and on, but these same advances in knowledge have been used to accelerate the abounding iniquity, described above, and many are today running “to and fro,” around this world implementing it, which is another major harbinger of Jesus’ coming in these last days. We long ago dubbed the internet “the modern day tree of knowledge of good and evil,” and while much good and convenience has been derived from it, evil and wickedness continue unabated through massive modern technology.

One of the Boston Marathon bombers declared during his interrogation while he was hospitalized in the aftermath of that horrendous tragedy, that he and his brother “learned to build explosive devices from an online magazine of the al-Qaeda affiliate in Yemen.”

There have also been reports of suicide after very personal and sensitive “knowledge” was posted about certain individuals on facebook and twitter.

The entire world was rocked in 2010 with the massive

high level secret U.S cables released by Wikileaks. Some of them contained highly sensitive material which proved to be extremely embarrassing both to the U.S. and other countries. Then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and other high level officials, literally had to scramble with damage control.

McClatchy Newspapers reported that "One lengthy cable that could prove deeply embarrassing outlined new instructions to U.S. diplomats "around the world and at U.N. headquarters" on collecting intelligence on senior U.N. officials. The information included credit card numbers and frequent flyer miles, e-mail accounts and work schedules."

No less than 39 nations vehemently reacted to these materials, which most agreed should never have been made public. According to Wikipedia "Finance minister of Afghanistan Omar Zakhilwal warned that leaks would damage his country's relations with United States Government and there would no longer be "business as usual".

"External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna said "India's government is not really concerned but we certainly are interested in finding out what this WikiLeaks are all about..." 4

"Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said "We don't think this information was leaked...we think it was organised to be released on a regular basis and they are pursuing political goals."

"Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the leak did not hurt Israel. He also expressed hope that Arab leaders would tell their own people what they say behind closed doors about their desire for attack on Iran. Netanyahu stated that the documents show that "more and more countries, governments and leaders in the Middle East and in the world understand that [Iran's nuclear programme] is the fundamental threat." He also told reporters that the disclosures will make it harder for U.S. diplomats to be honest in their assessments and will make foreign leaders more cautious."

"Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Turkey) said "Let us see everything that comes from the site, then we will gauge how serious this is". Hüseyin Çelik, deputy leader of Erdogan's AKP (the majority party in Parliament), blamed Israel for the release of the documents and accused the Israeli government of trying to put pressure on Turkey through the release."

These are but a very small sample of world reaction to these cables, but they serve to show that this world is now

one global community. They also reveal how each nation is most assuredly concerned with their own welfare and will use, and do, anything in order to get the upper hand.

Subsequent to the Wikileaks' disclosure, former NSA contractor Edward Snowden has also leaked highly classified U.S. documents. The Guardian reports that "A top-secret Pentagon report to assess the damage to national security from the leak of classified National Security Agency documents by Edward Snowden concluded that "the scope of the compromised knowledge related to US intelligence capabilities is staggering". The same article goes on to quote House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers as saying "This report confirms my greatest fears — Snowden's real acts of betrayal place America's military men and women at greater risk. Snowden's actions are likely to have lethal consequences for our troops in the field."

5 It seems that there is simply no end to the dissemination of such "knowledge," and, as Mr. Rogers noted, the potential of such revelations could surely lead to massive acts of "iniquity" and damage against America. Once again, every nation around the world is affected.

Front page news today is directly related to Israel and the tunnels discovered in Gaza. Mordechai Ben-Menachem, writing for the Daily Caller, declares that "Israel has found tunnels with bomb-rigged shafts, located directly under Israeli kindergartens. The intended results are clear. Detonation would mean collapse of the buildings and wholesale murder of the little children within them. Sedatives, hypodermics and piles of handcuffs found in tunnel after tunnel clearly indicate Hamas' intent to abduct Israeli civilians. And the world yawns at another war crime." Mr. Menachem further asserts that "These aren't the trivial hidey-hole that Saddam Hussein hid in. These are reinforced concrete bunkers and interconnected tunnel complexes that enable Hamas senior leadership to move with freedom and continue planning and ordering attacks." We would also note that this author vehemently warns of the "knowledge" Hamas will impart to other terrorists of the world. "Hamas' rapid tunnel and missile technologies advances must be deeply worrisome to any and every American – and that is aside from the U.S. Taxpayer having funded it. Let there be no misunderstanding here. This know-how has already spread to Hezbollah, Al Qaeda, and ISIS to Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya and Lebanon and to the US – Mexico border areas. At a minimum,

if it is allowed to end this fight as a coherent well-armed terrorist army, Hamas will rapidly rebuild and expand its capabilities – with the concomitant export of know-how to Mexico and South America.”

The Wall Street Journal ran this headline criticizing the leadership in Israel for failing to implement knowledge which was clearly available. “Early Failure to Detect Gaza Tunnel Network Triggers Recriminations in Israel.” The following article declares that “Questions over why the tunnel threat was underestimated, and why investment in technology that could detect more of the passages was neglected, are becoming hotly debated in Israel. So is the question of how Hamas was able to obtain the thousands of ton of cement and other materials to build the tunnels.

Meir Sheetrit, a former member of the parliament’s foreign affairs and defense committee, said there was a troubling lack of knowledge about the tunnel building. “I don’t think our intelligence knew how many tunnels were dug, the location of the tunnels or how many of them were planned for assault. We don’t have the technology to detect the tunnels from afar currently. That means we have to rely on information coming from somebody who knows where the tunnel actually is. Of course it’s not easy for Israel to get human intelligence in Gaza.”

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The Jerusalem Post also adds this report in regard to the tunnels, as they describe the ongoing “intelligence battle,” between Israel and Hamas. “The IDF and Hamas are engaged in shadow intelligence war, in which each side seeks to learn as much as it can about the other and use the information to plan painful attacks.

Hamas has come a long way in the world of field intelligence, having recently set up a surveillance and reconnaissance division that is able to communicate the position of IDF ground forces to attack cells, which in turn emerge from tunnels and open fire in coordinated strikes.

On the Israeli side, a mammoth intelligence effort is under way to support the ground forces in Gaza. Military Intelligence and Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) work around the clock to provide alerts for threats such as imminent use of tunnels by Hamas, anti-tank missile attacks, Hamas drones, raids on the Israeli coast from Gaza and rocket launches.

The IDF has in recent years invested heavily in intelligence-based combat. This involves Military Intelligence working intimately with the Infantry Brigades and the Armored and Engineering Corps on the ground. Military Intelligence has deployed its officers to the headquarters of army brigades that are now maneuvering in Gaza.

There, they share a wealth of information on the enemy,

including signal and visual intelligence. Their presence also speeds up the time it takes to open fire on a target detected by Military Intelligence.” Knowledge surely is increasing in this very strategic area, as men indeed “run to and fro.” The ensuing result is, and will continue to be, unprecedented “iniquity,” wickedness and violence.

The Snowden leaks have also triggered plans for “knowledge defeat knowledge.” Securityaffairs.com carried this article disclosing the fact that Al-Qaeda has taken drastic measures to protect themselves from the acquired knowledge of the American National Security Administration. (NSA) “Recorded Future published a report to show that members of Al-Qaeda are developing a series of new encryption software in response to NSA surveillance.

The revelation based on the document leaked by Edward Snowden on the NSA surveillance programs have had also a serious impact on the methods of terrorist organizations like Al-Qaeda. The information provided to the terrorists precious information on the endless technological possibilities implemented by the NSA to spy on citizens all over the world. The same information is influencing the cyber crime ecosystem, in particular the communication in the underground.

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In response to the Snowden’s revelations, members of a terrorist group of Al-Qaeda have started using alternative encryption mechanisms to avoid the adoption of alleged flawed cryptographic algorithms debated in the last months. The Threat Intelligence company, ‘Recorded Future,’ has published a detailed report to demonstrate that members of Al-Qaeda have adopted new encryption applications for the first time, the firm also linked the event to the Snowden revelations.”

The Huffington Post has also published an article on the overreach of knowledge today declaring that the NSA was spying on American Citizens. “The National Security Agency spied on five American citizens despite a lack of any finding that they posed a threat to national security. All five are moderate American citizens who appear to have been targeted for surveillance between 2002 and 2008 because of their political activity.”

We are indeed confident that knowledge will continue to increase and that iniquity will escalate. We are also sure that this one global community is unavoidably linked together and will eventually evolve into one world government, completely controlled by the antichrist. We are sure of these statements because God’s Word declares it so and we are simply watching it unfold in real time.

Every nation on earth is in trouble and none is isolated

from the other. There were reports out of Germany during the holocaust that German citizens simply did not know of the atrocities being committed by Hitler against the Jews. No one on earth today can say that they do not know about the ungodly barbarous acts of iniquity that are being committed by ISIS in Iraq. No one can claim ignorance to the troubles that Ukraine has with Russia, or Israel with Gaza. Syria continues to be nation under siege and oppression, and the aggression of Iran in continuing to develop a nuclear bomb is no secret despite constant denials by Iran. The U.S. has her own major problems, due in large part to the “knowledge,” which went world-wide that any child coming to U.S. borders without a parent would not be deported. In short, we have returned to the days of Noah when “... GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.” Gen. 6:5,11

Men have long told us that education is the answer for all the ills of this world but if imparting such knowledge to men is the answer then we know from the aforementioned examples: “it ain’t workin.” Knowledge has increased dramatically in recent months and years and yet “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” Jer. 17:9 Only the knowledge of Jesus will stop the ungodly wickedness which prevails around this entire earth ball, and men are making every effort to completely eliminate even the very mention of His Name. We know from God’s Word that all of that will change very shortly, and abruptly, for “...he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.” Heb. 10:37 We also know that, **this time**, He is coming in judgment to deliver His People and to pour out His Wrath on those who have oppressed them. His people include the Church, but we speak here especially of Israel, that little despised nation that will one day be free of tunnels, rockets, nuclear bombs and all other threats and attacks against them. Scripture is very plain that they must endure great hardship but Jesus Himself proclaimed that “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and

they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” Matt. 24:29-31

Deliverance for The Church will come even more quickly. His promise to the Church at Philadelphia is “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” Rev. 3:10. This means that this group of saints will be taken out of this world **before** the tribulation actually begins. The bulk of the Church will be transported to glory as seen in Rev. 7:9. “After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, **stood before the throne, and before the Lamb**, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.” Today we are exhorted: “And when these things **begin** to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” Luke 21:2 The good news, amidst all the chaos and turmoil announced in this article, is that **these things have already begun to come to pass**. There is uncertainty, ungodliness, and indeed, abounding iniquity on every hand, but all these things serve to announce that Jesus is even at the door “.....and unto them that **look for him** shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” Heb. 10:28

I’m Going Up

Ever since I have salvation and my burden rolled away,
I have found the path grows brighter all along and ev’ry day.
Since I first looked on the Savior – saw the love-light in His eye,
There has been a mighty pulling from the earth up to the sky.

I’m not climbing up a mountain on my weary lagging feet.
Once I tried that uphill journey which for saints is never meet;
Jesus found me struggling there in disappointment, woe and pain,
Then He picked me up and seated me within His aeroplane.

Yes I mean to keep on going; for the atmosphere is clear,
And the heavens are not crowded, there is plenty room up here.
I am off to meet the Bridegroom, He is coming soon to greet,
All the mighty overcoming band in retinue complete.

Herbert Buffum

God's Clock

Paul N. Smith

"KNOWN UNTO GOD ARE ALL HIS WORKS FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD." Acts 15:18

In verses 14-18 of this chapter, we find God's order for this age and the next, His purposes for men. God framed the ages (Heb. 11:3). He understood what would transpire during those ages. He has everything mapped out. He had all the works concerning men planned out from the foundation of the world. And even though men go about trying to do their own will and they think they are doing their own will, yet, in reality they are doing the will of God. It doesn't matter what they try to do — how they strive and scheme; and no matter who they are — what station, or condition; God always brings about His purposes. He will never be defeated. We find that men and the devil have tried to defeat God's purposes for this world, but every time God has brought about His will. And not only that, but God's will shall be done in those Christians who are chosen of Him and are seeking to be led by the Spirit. It is good to know that, so that we can fit into His plans; then we are saved from a lot of grief and trouble as we walk in His will. If men refuse to do His will, God moves one way or another until His purpose is put over. He has moved men, nations and peoples to accomplish His plans, and He shall continue to do so until Christ is reigning as absolute Sovereign of heaven and earth.

Lately a bit of the old song "Grandfather's Clock" kept *going* thru my mind and try as I might, it persisted — "It stopped short; never to go again, *when* the old man died." Of course, this song is about an old man who had an old clock that expired when he did. The Holy Spirit spoke to me of some spiritual truths concerning "clocks". Men, headed by Adam, had their own clock for some four thousand years, and it was running furiously for this time; but it ran down and finally stopped completely when Christ put an end to the old creation, and all its works at Calvary. God has a clock also. He started it at the beginning of this age and it is still running. I believe that we are in the eleventh hour at the present time. We find God's clock illustrated in the first 12 chapters of the book of Acts. The first twelve chapters which comprise the first division of the book, also give us, either typified or epitomized, God's purposes for

this age and the next one also. God's clock never runs down; neither does it conform to our clock of 60 seconds in a minute, 60 minutes in an hour, and 24 hours in a day. God's clock is different. Some of His hours may go by very fast; while others may run slowly. God's time is His own business and we are to go according to His time.

We find in the first chapter, the first hour of this age. "To whom also He showed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being *seen* of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." Acts 1:3. Christ died, was buried, rose again and was seen of many, during the first hour of the age. This was a short hour; but what a tremendous hour it was! The years before had been pointing, and waiting the fulfillment of this hour. God's dealings with men were dependent upon this time. The previous ages were all leading up to this time, because here the foundation of all of God's blessings and judgments was laid. It was the most important time in the history of mankind. We have been hearing much lately about the coming of Jesus as a Babe in a manger; but He didn't remain a little Babe. He grew up to manhood; to be the Savior of the world. He was announced as the Savior from His birth, and that is what He came to do. He came to put an end to men's efforts, strivings and workings to obtain righteousness; because when He died, He put an end to the whole old creation. And He brought forth a new creation out of death. Thus time really began for mankind. When Christ died on the cross, men thought they were the victors. Judas thought he was gaining something for himself when he betrayed the Lord. Because of envy, the elders and chief priests thought they were getting rid of this one who claimed to be the Messiah. The devil took this opportunity to try and defeat God. But oh, they were only doing what God had already determined should be done. They *were* fulfilling Scripture in every act they performed, in every move they made. You can't get ahead of God, no matter how hard you try. He is going to have His will completed.

All through the Old Testament, we find that God's will was done in spite of all of men's efforts to do otherwise. A wonderful example of this is found in Joseph's life. His brothers were envious and jealous of him, and sold him into slavery. But that very act of hatred turned into their own salvation. They didn't know that God would use that spiteful deed to save them from death years later. How wonderfully typical of the Lord Jesus Christ that is! He

became the Savior of those men who hated Him and put Him to death. God is never defeated. He goes about His own way and men have to go that way. If they refuse, He will push them out of the way or pull them on. He does His people the same way. If He didn't, some of us would never be moved. We may be a little stubborn or unyielding, but He makes us go when we don't want to go; or stay when we don't want to stay. God does the moving, and aren't you glad He does?

The Second Hour was another short hour, but an important one. It was another proof that Jesus had been raised from the dead. "This Jesus has God raised up whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear." Acts 2:32,33 The fulfillment of the day of Pentecost with the out-pouring of the Holy Ghost and the mighty signs and wonders, was a proof that Jesus was exalted by the right hand of God, being made both Lord and Christ. V. 36. It was in this hour, that the Holy Spirit was introduced as the Leader and Teacher of the Church. He is also the Agent of God during this age, to carry out the divine plan of God.

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The Third and Fourth Hours are coupled together. In the two chapters corresponding to these hours, we find that the Name of Jesus is prominent, and that there is virtue in that Name. "And His name through faith in His name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know." Acts 3:16 The healing of the lame man and healings all during this age, glorify the Lord Jesus. He healed in that day and He is healing today through His Name. "Be it known unto you all and to all the people of Israel, that by the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by Him doth this man stand here before you whole." Acts 4:10 It is by the Name of Jesus that God moves. We can set that Name against all the powers of darkness; against all difficulties; against all troubles in this day. God has given Him that powerful Name and all men have to acknowledge that Name and have to bow their knees to that Name, either now by voluntary will, or in the day of Christ, when they will be forced to. He declared Himself to be Lord by pouring out the Holy Spirit with the accompanying signs and wonders, and when we accept these blessings and experience them, we are acknowledging that He is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

The Fifth Hour is simply a continuation of the miraculous

acts of the Holy Ghost. The devil tried to disrupt the oneness and victory of that early body of believers by the deception of Ananias and Sapphira; but again we *see* that God was not defeated. The Lord worked and used every circumstance and disturbing influence to bring glory to His Name; for we read — "And great fear came upon all the Church, ...and by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; ... and believers were the more added to the Lord, ... Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets ... that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them"—Acts 5:11-16.

In the Sixth Chapter, we see that a little trouble started from within the Church. The early Church was such a wonderful Church. It had a glorious beginning; the people were all in one accord, but as is usually the case, when the Lord is blessing, the devil tries to hinder. But he couldn't hinder these people. The persecution and trouble worked for good. They appointed seven men to look after the menial tasks, so that the apostles could look after the spiritual duties, and notice the results — "The Word of God increased and the number of disciples in Jerusalem multiplied greatly." V. 7. Also two outstanding preachers came from the seven stewards. There was trouble all right, but we find throughout the book of Acts that the Word also increased greatly.

In the Seventh Chapter, we read of the wonderful sermon preached by Stephen, whose face shone with the glory of God. We see also the Jews rejecting the Gospel, a practice which has continued during this age. Stephen set a precedent by being the first martyr of the Church. Outward persecution began at this time. The death of Stephen would seem to be a defeat, but God was quietly moving behind the scenes, bringing about His will. There was a young man there who was consenting to the death of Stephen, and no doubt great conviction was placed upon his heart as he looked on that wonderful face of glory and heard the gracious words so fragrant of Christ's words from the cross. Some say the devil is working overtime, well, God is working overtime too. The only difference is that God knows how it is going to turn out. He already has it planned and He uses the efforts of the devil to work out His purposes. We will do well to remember that it works the same in our personal lives. When the devil is working, we can know that God is working too, always and only, for our good.

In the Eighth Chapter, great and terrible persecution spread

from the stoning of Stephen to the whole Church. But, God was only pushing them out from Jerusalem in order that the Gospel would spread to other parts of the world. They went everywhere preaching the Gospel. This is a picture of the Gospel going to the world during this age. The Lord had told them that they would be witnesses in Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the world, but He didn't tell them in what manner it would spread. He expects His people to go by faith, not knowing how His promises will be fulfilled; but just the fact that what God promises, He will do. Witness the life of Abraham and of others.

In the Ninth Chapter, we *see* the young man, who was at the stoning of Stephen, finally being arrested. He was running pretty fast, but not fast enough that the Lord couldn't catch him. The Lord appeared to him and gave him a vision that forever dimmed his eyes to anything but the will of God. So, God's purposes continued to roll on. He got the man He wanted to be the messenger for the Church, and revealed unto him the message that will prepare the Church for translation and highest glory.

The Tenth Chapter begins God's dealings with the Gentiles. This is where we came into the picture. The tenth and eleventh hours have been long hours. They have covered a period of many years. The Gospel was introduced to the Gentiles by Peter, who used the keys given to him by the Lord; but it was continued in a greater measure by the Apostle Paul.

The Eleventh Chapter is a continuation of the tenth with one exception. We read in verses 24 and 25 — "For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith; and much people was added unto the Lord. Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Paul." Barnabas in this instance speaks to me of those who have diligently searched the Scriptures and especially Paul's Gospel, and brought it before the people. How many are doing that today? Everyone is not seeking Paul and the Gospel committed to him. But there were some at the latter part of this age who have sought the Scriptures diligently and brought to light the message that was revealed to Paul for the Church.

In the Twelfth Chapter, we read about the twelfth hour, and this time is about upon us. We read that Herod was vexing the Church and killed James. He saw that it pleased the unbelieving Jews, so he proceeded to take Peter also, and put him into prison. This is illustrative of the days of tribulation when the Jews will come

into such trouble and persecution. They are blindly *going* back to their land, seeking to build a nation for themselves, but they do not know what terrible trouble awaits them. Herod is a type of the anti-Christ, who will set himself up as God — "And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him." Thus, during the time of tribulation, anyone who does not accept the anti-Christ will be slain, as typified by James. Peter was put into prison, but escaped death because The Lord opened the doors. He speaks of the ones who will go through the tribulation without being killed because the Lord will protect them. The downfall of Herod foreshadows the fall of the anti-Christ, the false prophet and all who are in rebellion against God at that time. "But the Word of God grew and multiplied. Is God defeated? Never. Nations will be saved in that day as the Gospel will go, unhindered to the whole world.

And so, the Lord will complete the twelfth hour by coming in power and great glory and put an end to all rebellion and rejection. He is going to take the authority that belongs to Him, and then He will be known as King of kings and Lord of lords.
Rev. 19

Wait, Only Wait

Just a little more of sorrow,
And a little more of song.
Then we'll meet the glad tomorrow.
The time on earth will not be long.
Just a little more of staying,
In our fragile house of clay;
Then we'll drop our tent that's graying,
And step into one new and gay.
Just a little more of toiling,
On this wicked mundane shore;
Then the shouts will come a telling
That we will journey here no more.

Mary M. Bathe

SUBMISSION

Lois Liggett

“(Live) as children of obedience (to God): do not conform yourselves to the evil desires (that governed you) in your former Ignorance (when you did not know the requirements of the Gospel.) But as the One Who called you is Holy, you yourselves also be holy in all your conduct and manner of living.” I Pet. 1:14,15

First, children are to be obedient to parents and to respect them. Praise the Lord for Christian fathers and mothers. The children are sent to Sunday School where they have teachers, and pastors who are spiritual leaders, to instruct them in the way of The Lord. Young people finish school or college and then find employment where they are to be subject to their employers. Later on they are married, and the Bible pattern is to be followed where they are subject one to another. The Christian husband is a type of Christ, and the Christian wife is a symbol of the bride. When they have that revelation, there is peace, contentment, joy and love reigning in their home. When they have this spiritual revelation, they will have the will of God worked out in their lives.

16

Believers are members one of another, "Bone of His bone, and flesh of His flesh. When Christ works in us, we are to be subject one to another. Rom 8:5-8 We had found ourselves in a state of rebellion because the carnal mind is enmity against God. Subjection means to submit one's self, and resist fighting or struggling. We live in the New Creation, and Christ will give us victory and triumph over our flesh, as we submit to Him! We are to yield, judge, or surrender power to another. We can surrender our lives to Jesus Christ, our Precious Redeemer! "We have been bought with a price, even the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Cor. 9:27 declares that Paul was not a cast-away, but was faithful unto the end. He had Divine revelation and never detoured in all the time of his ministry. Col 3:17-25 also proclaims having this attitude of reverence or respect, and promises reward for embracing all Truth of God's Word, yielding to Him and doing His perfect will. He will perfect that which concerneth us and prepare us for the coming of the Lord, if we have that for our heart's desire.

Our Blessed Lord was obedient, even unto death. Phil. 2:5-8, submissive to His Heavenly Father. We can be in subjection also, as sons of God in the New Creation. When

we are judging the flesh and walking in the Spirit, we can be in subjection one to another. "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." Eph. 5:22 We are like diamonds, and it takes one diamond to rub against another to shine and polish it. That is what the Lord can do with us as we yield to Him.

"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." Phil. 2:3 Lowliness of mind is the mind of Christ in operation in us. This work is the Holy Spirit. The old man does not have this tendency because he wants to be first, last and always. When the Lord gets through working in us, He makes us small like the Apostle Paul.

Older saints have gone through many experiences where they found many pitfalls and things in the way. It is worthwhile for younger ones to take counsel and listen to the elders, because they have gone on with the Lord and it has been worked out in their lives. "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder." I Pet. 5:5 When the Lord takes the Word and works it out in our lives, it is not only profitable to us but it is also profitable to others.

Matt. 8:24-27 tells of "a great tempest in the sea,..." This also becomes our experience. We are in the "gospel ship" and The Lord Jesus is with us. There is turbulence and these are lawless times, but we can look up and rejoice in Him knowing we can be more submissive and subject to Him, obeying His will. The time is short and we are living in the last minutes on the earth. As sons of God, what a privilege it is to obey Him and take the training the Lord has for us as racers who are running to win Him as bridegroom!

"And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry....." I Sam. 15:22-23

The Lord is seeking our fellowship, and walking with us as we yield to Him. It is our obedience He is looking for. We can be kings and priests in this life, we can judge ourselves and walk with the Lord, "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:" Praise the Lord for the Prize we are looking for --- to win Christ and sit upon a throne WITH HIM!

(Ed. Note: Sis Liggett preached this message at the Tabernacle while home on furlough from Paraguay, in 1955)

REFLECTIONS

. . . From the Editor

“Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” II Tim. 3:7

What a description of this present day of learning! But such knowledge is not always profitable. This is the season when so many are “going back to school,” on one level or another, but we fear much of that learning is directly opposed to truth. Paul gives the example of Jannes and Jambres who resisted Moses when he appeared before Pharaoh. These were among the magicians who tried to duplicate Moses feat “For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: **but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.**” Ex. 7:12 God let them know that He was Superior, but these men, along with Pharaoh simply did not get the message.

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Today seems to be no different. Though God has shown Himself Mighty, over and over again, men still pursue their own avenues of learning and never come to the knowledge of the truth.

Jesus declared to Pilate “Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice,” to which Pilate responded “What is truth?” John 18:37,38. It seems that men have been asking that question repeatedly down through the ages and the answer is still exactly the same: “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6

The problem in our day is that men are obsessed with knowledge rather than truth. Romans 1 tells us plainly that God revealed Himself unto men, “Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.” V. 19 The apostle then gives creation as the proof of God’s Existence; “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; **so that they are without excuse:**” V. 20 However, men have pursued their own theories of “evolution,” in an effort to completely eliminate The

Creator, and Paul again reveals "...that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." V. 21 This chief apostle to the Church then describes the penalty for such rejection in V. 28. "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;"

He then reiterates this same message in this second letter to Timothy, describing men like Jannes and Jambres as those "... of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith." II Tim. 3:8

The good news is that there is a glorious path to the "knowledge of the truth." Paul exhorted his young son with these powerful words of instruction. "But thou hast fully known my doctrine,.... But evil men and seducers shall wax worse... But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;.... from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable....That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." II Tim. 3:10-17

Let us also spend our time pursuing this path to real and profitable knowledge of truth!

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The Heavens

Carson Richards

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Eph. 2:1-9.

I will speak on the heavenly truth—when, where, why, how, and how long. When I went to school, that seemed to be a good idea for an English composition — to ask those questions; and so tonight, we will find the answer to those questions about the heavens in the Word — who, when, where, etc. Ephesians is the Heavenly book, so that is our authority.

It is hard to talk about a place you have never been to; and yet, here I find out that we have been there—it sounds as if we even are there. It is amazing, some of the things Paul tells us. No wonder poor old Festus said, "Brother Paul, much learning hath made thee mad." In modern language, this is just what he said, "Paul, you are downright crazy." When you talk about the Heavens, that is just the way it sounds to the natural mind. I was thinking about that today. When the Lord had me speak on this, I thought, Well, what about the heavens? There are some words there, but there must be a reality there too. We read here who are in the heavens. Right here, it says, "us," speaking of you and me. In Jesus Christ, the Church has been raised up and made to sit together in the heavens. It surely must be a spiritual experience—and it is. It is hard to speak on something that would seem to be beyond our experience; and yet, we find that if we believe the Word of God, it is not beyond our experience. As we take it as our own, it is made a part of our experience. That

is God's provision for the Church. He has judicially raised us up and set us in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. It is way up there. It is a long way from us physically; and, unfortunately, spiritually it is a long way from most of God's dear people.

When? When did it happen? "God hath raised us up together and made us sit together in Heavenly Places in Christ." When did Christ come forth as a New Creation? At His resurrection from the dead. He was quickened in the tomb, raised from the dead, taken to glory and the Church was raised up together with Him, the Head. We were quickened and resurrected with Christ, and placed up there in the Heavenly places in God's purpose and provision.

We know that one of the first acts of a child when he goes to school is to learn to count; and so it is spiritually—we learn to count spiritually with God, to reckon with Him as He reckons. When God says, "it is this way," we say, "Amen, it is so." He *sees* the end from the beginning and reckons it so. He reckons the Church to be part of Christ. And when God says it, it is so; there is nothing we can say to change it. He knows no tense—past, present, or future. He knows no time. Whether it seems to happen in the future or past or now, it is so. His Word that He utters can never be retracted, can never be confounded, can never be changed, even by Himself; because He utters the Truth, which is unchangeable.

The Church then is raised up and made to sit in Heavenly places—a high place, way up there, in an exalted, lofty place, not to be sneered at, not to be reasoned about; because it is a true spiritual location, and a real experience too. It is God's provision. So we go on to **when** it was. It happened when Christ was raised from the dead. We were quickened with Him in the grave and taken up with Him, the Church being with the Head. The placing of the Church is past for us, as we look at things. God speaks to us in terms we can understand. He puts it in the past, present, or future, for our own convenience — not for His — and He is very gracious to bring things down to the level of our finite minds. He speaks through the Spirit, but He still has to go to the mind to get the understanding over to us; and so He says, "we were." He has (modern English), He has (past); or we could call it present perfect, something which was begun in the past and completed in the present — but He has finished His work, quickening the Church with Christ, raising them up with Him in the Heavenly Places. That is the provision. God

did that at the resurrection of Christ. He brought the Church of Jesus Christ up with Him and placed them in the heavenlies.

Well, that is provisionally --- how about practically? We like practical truth. Everybody likes to say, "Preach it, Brother," on the practical side (as long as Brother is not preaching at them!). Yes the natural man likes the practical side, and there are some who like the provisional side — but, praise God, there are both sides. However, there is no practice without provision, and there is no true spiritual practice without a true spiritual understanding of the provisional. And so, to walk and live as Heavenly people, --- we have to know we are a Heavenly people.

Every saved person is provisionally seated in the heavenlies. We come into the knowledge of it when we hear somebody that preaches in the power of the Spirit and the Word comes into our heart. God has to make us realize it. Maybe we shout or dance, but whatever it is, it is because we are in the heavenlies. When the fact dawns upon us that we are in the Heavenlies, it makes us very happy. We get a vision of the glorious gospel of grace — the gospel of grace and the gospel of glory. And we learn that our spirit is joined forever in that high location with our Head, the Lord Jesus Christ. So, though it happened at the quickening and resurrection of Christ in God's purpose and reckoning, it comes to us practically when we believe it. And I am sure that when we count with God that we are there, God is more willing to count it so too; and He deals with us from that moment on in that relationship and from that standpoint. Therefore, we should not kick about the loss of earthly things or the way God deals with us regarding earthly things. When we say we are in the heavenlies, God deals with us thusly. So we come to that practical experience by hearing the Word of Truth.

No wonder many of God's people are not practically in this experience in the Heavenlies. If they do not have the opportunity of hearing this wonderful truth, how can they know they are there? It is the eternal goal of the Church, the redeemed, and the abode of the eternal City of God. Well, where is this place? In Eph. 1:20, we read that God raised Christ from the dead and this same power which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the Heavenly places, is to usward who believe. Christ is declared to be in Heavenly places at the right hand of God, on the Father's throne, but the Church is

not on that throne of Deity. The saints are in the heavenlies and by faith realize that fact and live a life accordingly in the world. But the present abode of Christ is not their permanent abode.

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." Rev. 21:1, 2. Christ is going to come out of His present location when He takes up His throne as King. He will take up a new abode — an abode reserved for Him and His people, as the Scripture teaches. There is a City that will descend out of Heaven from God and Christ and His Body will take up a new abode. Some believe that Job had a vision of that Heavenly place. "He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." Job 26:7. In Psalm 104:2, we read, "Who coverest thyself with light as a garment; who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain." God has prepared in the Heavens a place, stretched it out; and He seemed to leave a place there. Even astronomers have discovered a large empty place in the firmament up there. Jesus said, "In My Father's house are many mansions; I go to prepare a place for you." God's house is heavenly, not earthly. He shall be King over the earth. That is, God is going to take up the rulership of the earth in the Person of His Son; and His House is Heavenly.

And so there is a practical experience of laying hold of the provision and taking our place in the Heavenlies. Perhaps everyone here knows this truth, practically, better than I do; but there is one thing about the Word of God, and it remains so — we have to bring Truth out in the open. The Spirit has continually to bring the Word of God before us and we have, to continually apply the Truth. We have to accept it. We get it, yes; but to take it, believe it, that is another question. The Heavenlies is there, and the Heavenly experience is there, but it is not all so automatic as some would make it sound. If we would tell some people that we believe there are degrees of experience in the Church, they would say that they do not care to discuss ranks; nevertheless, we believe it is a part of the Truth. And when Paul speaks to the Ephesians as to the Heavenlies, he is speaking of the highest place, to encourage the people to take that place as their very own. Not everybody will walk with the Lord — that is, have continual fellowship or companionship with Him. Some do not believe that, although all

will have a part of His glory, in a sense. Speaking of the spheres in the heavens, we read, (Amos 9:6) that there are many ascensions or spheres, and Christ will dwell in the highest place as King. Surely only those who take their place in the highest rank by faith now and believe from the heart that they shall forever be there: those will be the ones who will have the highest place throughout eternity. “With the heart man believeth unto righteousness,” as Paul, referring to salvation, said, and it continues on that way. We get only as far as we believe. Just saying we believe is not enough. We have to grasp God’s truths with the heart. It is faith that takes the place and keeps the place; and, “Faith cometh by hearing the Word of God.” This high place has to be heard about and accepted. It is a Heavenly place! And the Heavenly City will descend out of Heaven from God, where Christ will reign with His people forever. Heaven is a wonderful place. Many of God’s people think of it and dream of it occasionally, but not many take their place in the Heavens by faith. Heaven is not just a resting place for the dead, or a place to believe you can get to when you die. It is much more than that. It is a place of glory and satisfaction. God

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has given us a heavenly life; all the Church has this new life; but to really live this life and overcome in the world is a far different thing. It is an attainment. God’s Word makes us know what it means. Satan will contend against us and against that truth, for we will have that place only as we continually bring it to the front, speak of it, believe it, and practice it. That is the only way. It will have to be before us continually, and we must tell it to others, that we are in the Heavens. Oh! Praise the Lord for that truth. We don’t want to lose that place in the heavens for anything that man or Satan has to offer. He fights against a full apprehension of that highest heavenly place. He knows what he is doing and knows how to deal with each of us to keep us out of that place, which is to be the abode of Christ and His people, if we are not on our guard and resist him with the Word, as Jesus did. Luke 4.

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them and be their God”—Rev. 21:3.

God, is going to dwell in that Heavenly place with men. It will be the tabernacle of God. So we claim it by faith. He prepares our place there and He puts our sign out there, that it is our

place. I am sure that when some mighty religious men fall, we take it too lightly. Sometimes there is quite a stir when somebody falls into what is known as “open sin;” but when somebody falls from this Heavenly place, nothing much is thought of it. Paul speaks of this to the Corinthians, (I Cor. 5:1) which we know has much more than just the natural meaning. We are not fighting, but we are wrestling, not with flesh and blood or men of the world. If someone falls from the Heavens, it is Satan that got hold of him and pulled him out. We should pray for him and believe God; but if this one still fails to heed the voice of God, what more can we do? Nothing! Some may have had as much of the Word as others and still refuse to take that place. Our fight is not with this one or the other, whoever it may be — our fight is with Satan. Satan is a deceiver. How does he get us to fail? Not by the fact that something we know is against God. He convinces us that it is not against God, and he has us, when he lets us think it is all right to be a little lax in our walk. He is very astute. The Heavens is in the spirit. It is beyond the veil of the flesh. It is with Satan, and organized principalities and powers, that we must deal, and they know how to deal with each one of us.

How do we get there? We already know that, as we find in Romans 1:4 When Jesus was raised from the dead, the Church was taken there — and Who raised Jesus from the dead? He declared Him to be “the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” The Spirit raised Jesus up and also His Church. That is why we are up there, and that is how we got there, and that is how it is made practical in our lives —through the power of the Spirit. Then back to Ephesians: How long will that continue? Unto the ages of the ages, “That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.” Eph. 2:7. Whatever God has on His plan and program, it is there forever. So we have to claim our resurrection and heavenly place by faith **in this age**, and it will be fully manifested through all the ages to come. We will have that heavenly place forever. So it is not for so long that we have to maintain it by faith, to enjoy it forever. In Rev. 22:5 John confirmed Paul’s message in the vision that he had. Through this latter Revelation, we can look into all God’s eternal purposes. “And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light; and they

shall reign forever and ever.” You could, put as many “evers” as you want there, and you won’t get past the time when we shall reign. So praise God for the Heavens that shall be for some folk. It is said to be for the Church, but only a part of the Church will heed the Ephesian truth and take this high place now by faith and continue to allow it to be made practical in each experience. Paul told the Philippians, “Your citizenship is in Heaven”—not in America, South America, China, or somewhere else—but in Heaven. I am sure that if the Lord, the Head of the Church, is in Heaven, then that is where the orders for the Church are to come from. In the Army we used to say that we didn’t want to do anything without orders from headquarters. That is the way it is with the Church. I believe that if we really take our place in the Heavens, we will have to take our orders from the Lord, and Him alone. The devil tries to persuade us to believe the Lord will not order us and guide us as He did in the early Church; but as we claim it by faith, we will find it is sometimes all too clear and all too plain for our own feeling’s sake — all too clear that the Lord will **give** orders and expect us to walk in them. Yes, He is still able to give directions to those who will obey them. Praise God.

(Reprint 1953)

On The Potter’s Wheel

Laid bare once more, on the Potter’s wheel,
Straining, stretching, squeezing; all this I feel.
Master Artist, Potter, His finest work to wield,
Can only be accomplished, as to Him I yield.

What shall I then say? Can I not trust Him?

Though the way seems dark, and circumstance grim?

Yet each morning His mercies, are surely made new.

All things work for good, as my love remains true.

Though bitter times may filter, through the Potter’s Hands,
I’m His workmanship, and will one day understand.

For now must I know, He alone knows the best.

The work He is doing, should I stiffen in protest?

The Lord is my Rock, perfect in All His Way!

I’ll praise though He’s given, and taken away.

Cara Schnakenberg

GOD'S DWELLING PLACE

“Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, ...earth is my footstool:....all those things hath mine hand made,.... to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.” Isa. 66:2.

This chapter begins with these words which were quoted by Stephen in his arraignment of the rulers of his day. He declares that Jehovah has the infinite heavens above for His throne. The earth is but a footstool for His feet. Does anyone imagine that He needs anything upon this earth? His Hand and Power has created all these things. There is not one physical thing existing that does not owe its being to Him.

But notwithstanding the infinity of His being, His limitless majesty, His glorious splendor, His resistless power, there is **ONE** dwelling that He will not despise, one object that will arrest His Eye. It is not found among the mighty principalities and angelic hierarchy of heaven. Neither Michael nor Gabriel stop the search of His eye. He passes over all the great and mighty people, to rest upon **One** that is not distinguished by anything that men esteem as valuable. There are three marks that He approves. Notice the above verse, referring to the person of whom He approves.

FIRST — he is poor. This has no reference to financial poverty. Though it could include that, the word goes much deeper. It speaks of that one who has no high thought of self. The man who stood in the temple with bowed head and cried, "God, be merciful to me the sinner" was poor indeed, and God looked upon him. Even to this very day, it is with such only, that the Almighty God deigns to dwell.

SECOND — The result of his poverty — "He is of contrite spirit." The best illustration of that contrition is the thief on the cross who hung by the side of the Lord and cried to his fellow, "Do you not fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation, and we indeed justly?". That is the contrite spirit. His mouth is stopped from all excuses. His self-esteem is gone, and pride abased. His spirit is awake to the voice of Jehovah in His Word and this is the next mark.

THIRD — "He trembles at His Word." Alas, there are few of such character, but yet it remains the most outstanding miracle in the world. It unfolds eternal issues involving another creation than this with divine marks of majesty, profundity, simplicity, unity and unfathomable wisdom, with the tender loving kindness in His Plan of eternal salvation to guilty man and makes us to not only tremble at its marvels, but to revere its precepts. Moses trembled before Mt. Sinai with its fire, tempest and gloom, and Paul trembled at Corinth, lest he should not speak as he ought to speak, lest he should fail to speak the Truth.

Author Unknown

ISAIAH 20

Gene Hawkins

Ch. 22 Conl. Chap. 23



And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah: And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy government into his hand: and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah.” V. 20,21

These words are a glorious prophecy of Christ Himself. Eliakim (God Will Establish) is called “my servant.” He is the son of “Hilkiah,” meaning “portion of Jehovah,” representing the fact that the Jews will finally receive the portion which was long ago promised to them. The “robe” of leadership, and “girdle” of power is now taken from “Shebna” and given to Christ, who will indeed rule in righteousness, replacing the ungodly regimes that have led the people into bondage. He will attend to the needs of the people as “he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah.” Furthermore, “And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.” V. 22 None other than the “Lion of the tribe of Juda,” (Rev. 5:5) shall occupy this place. He has the “key of the house of David,” and it is that house that will rule for 1,000 years.

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These glorious verses will come to pass only after the aforementioned devastation has brought Israel to repentance. Jeremiah cried out “Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:” Jer. 3:14 This is the time when God will be able to take “His wife,” Israel, unto Himself, and bring them to Zion, or Jerusalem, for “....He which hath key of the house of David,” is in complete control and will now be free to open up all the glorious provisions ordained for this people. None can prevent it from happening because “he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.”

The superiority of Christ is further emphasized with God’s

promise that “.....I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house.” V. 23 Jesus has always been the only Sure Anchor, for all men, and now this Chosen People will finally realize just Who He Is. He is the elusive “Security” for which they had searched among the nations, and now “.....they shall hang upon him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the issue, all vessels of small quantity, from the vessels of cups, even to all the vessels of flagons.” Everything, both small and great, will be centered around Christ, in this new and Glorious Day which has dawned for Israel.

This chapter closes with the final demise of Shebna. “In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall the nail that is fastened in the sure place be removed, and be cut down, and fall; and the burden that was upon it shall be cut off: for the LORD hath spoken it.” Just so, all the “peace and safety,” represented by this nail, supposedly “fastened in the sure place,” shall come to naught. All the visions and efforts of bringing in their own utopia, will be but a distant memory when they come crashing down upon them, and none can prevent it, “for the LORD hath spoken it.”

Chapter 23

This twenty third chapter captures the essence of the entire book of Isaiah. The prophet's overall theme throughout these writings is expressed in words like “burden,” and “woe,” which together, are recorded at least 36 times throughout this book. We read of the “burden,” of Tyre, Egypt, Moab, Damascus, Babylon, The Desert Of The Sea, Dumah, and Arabia, along with many other declarations in regard to the “doom,” which will be poured out upon all the nations of this world. Our present text is somewhat of a synopsis, or summation regarding those judgments.

“The burden of Tyre. Howl, ye ships of Tarshish; for it is laid waste, so that there is no house, no entering in: from the land of Chittim it is revealed to them.” V. 1 Tyre means “Distress,” and she surely lives up to her name here, because of the great doom which has fallen upon her. Tyre is the home of a major seaport,

and thus the “howl,” with a “wailing tone,” is heard far and wide due to the loss of commerce. This opening verse announces “that there is no house,” meaning that there is no shelter or protection from God’s judgment. The last phrase, “from the land of Chittim (Cyprus) it is revealed them,” means that ports from as far away as the shores opposite Palestine, have received the message that this port is closed. Such will be the case in the end time. All nations will be affected by one another. The judgment of God will be poured out upon the entire earth and none will escape. Even now, our world is becoming a global community, and that which befalls those in the far corners of the earth have a striking impact on the rest of the world. Eventually, every nation around the globe will feel and “howl,” because of the judgments which God levels against them.

Zidon is the next addressed and the “inhabitants of the isle,” or those living along the coast line, are forewarned that the merchants of Zidon, “the fishery,” which is in no wise a “fisher of men,” will no longer be able to supply them and “replenish their stores. Thus they are told to “Be still,” which means to cease or be astonished, because their former ample supplies have been cut off by the loss of Tyre. V. 2

“And by great waters the seed of Sihor, the harvest of the river, is her revenue; and she is a mart of nations.” V. 3 Tyre is still the subject of all this trouble and this time it is Sihor which affects her. Sihor was a river of Egypt bringing the “seed” or harvest of food, here called the “harvest of the river,” which became a great revenue in Tyre. Tyre was a great merchandise mart for the nations, but her supplies have been completely depleted. Verse 4 announces shame on Zidon, evidently because Zidon had founded Tyre, and the latter has proven to be a great detriment rather than blessing. “Be thou ashamed, O Zidon: for the sea hath spoken, even the strength of the sea, saying, I travail not, nor bring forth children, neither do I nourish up young men, nor bring up virgins.” These words are literal for those nations which were involved at the time, but the symbolic teaching here is also so very accurate for the end time. “The sea,” is once again, a precise description of the unrest found in the nations in our day,

while the “strength of the sea,” has great reference to Babylon The Great which will be so very prominent in the end time. John describes such dominance thus: “And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which **reigneth over the kings of the earth.**” Rev. 17:18 John further defines her as the “strength of the waters,” with these words: “.....I will shew unto thee the judgment of the **great whore that sitteth upon many waters:** With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and I saw a woman **sit upon a scarlet coloured beast,**having seven heads and ten horns.” Rev. 17:1-3 Revelation 18 declares her merchandising ability. “And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:” V. 11 This same “strength of the sea,” here in Isaiah, also asserts: “I travail not, nor bring forth children, neither do I nourish up young men, nor bring up virgins.” All these things are exactly opposite of what the False Church of the end time claims that she would do. Jesus the Judge assails her for calling “.....herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.” Rev. 2:20 She did not teach that which would bring forth spiritually strong young men and separated chaste virgins. She instead corrupted them with fornication and idols. She is further assailed in Rev. 18:7 as “she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.”

Isaiah continues with this “burden” declaring that “....the report concerning Egypt, so shall they be sorely pained at the report of Tyre.” V. 5 Egypt is consistently portrayed as the world over-all throughout the scripture and these words mean once again that the entire world will be engulfed in this report related to the economic crush of the end time represented here by Tyre.

The “inhabitants of the isle,” once again, a reference to those who lived along the coast line of Tyre, are now told to go to Tarshish. “Pass ye over to Tarshish; howl, ye inhabitants of the isle.” V. 6 The reason for such instruction is that the former luxury afforded them by this strategic port in Tyre is gone. Tarshish, “poverty,” is surely significant here, for it bespeaks the

devastation which the world will experience on a global scale when the judgments of God begin to fall. There will be no safe haven found anywhere.

The prophet continues his barrage with some questions. “Is this your joyous city, whose antiquity is of ancient days? her own feet shall carry her afar off to sojourn. Who hath taken this counsel against Tyre, the crowning city, whose merchants are princes, whose traffickers are the honourable of the earth?” V. 7-8 All these “inhabitants of the Isle,” had apparently put their hopes in this supposedly “joyous,” and “crowning” city of Tyre, but they have all been sorely disappointed. The same can be said of those who will put their trust in the merchandise and promises of end time Babylon for they too will be the valued merchants, the princes, and honorable traffickers put forth by the False Church. It will all come to nought, and Isaiah’s final question of “Who” shall take up this banner against Tyre, is answered in V. 9. “The LORD of hosts hath purposed it, to stain the pride of all glory, and to bring into contempt all the honourable of the earth.”

32

The aforementioned “inhabitants of the Isle,” had been instructed to flee to Tarshish, but that also has proven to be futile.

“Pass through thy land as a river, O daughter of Tarshish: there is no more strength.” V. 10 They did, in no wise, find the riches for which they sought, and as stated earlier, The LORD Himself is responsible for such devastation. “He stretched out his hand over the sea, he shook the kingdoms: the LORD hath given a commandment against the merchant city, to destroy the strong holds thereof.” V. 11 That merchant city is Tyre, and is, once again, symbolic of all the economic chaos which will come to pass in the great tribulation, including the merchandising of Babylon The Great. We would note that the LORD “stretched out his hand over the sea,” meaning that all nations will feel the effect of this wholesale economic collapse, as He will completely “destroy the strong holds thereof.”

There is no prophesied respite either. “And he said, Thou shalt no more rejoice, O thou oppressed virgin, daughter of Zidon: arise, pass over to Chittim; there also shalt thou have no rest.” V. 12 The “daughter of Zidon,” is Tyre, and there is

no cause for rejoicing nor rest for her, as the local fulfillment of these next few verse predict their captivity. “Behold the land of the Chaldeans; this people was not, till the Assyrian founded it for them that dwell in the wilderness: they set up the towers thereof, they raised up the palaces thereof; and he brought it to ruin.” V. 13 History clearly shows that Assyria was, for a period of time, the dominant force in this region and actually helped to found Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon and bring it to power. We are told here that “they set up the towers thereof, they raised up the palaces thereof;” However, “he brought it to ruin,” means that Nebuchadnezzar brought Tyre to ruin. Tarshish was also included in that destruction as we read in V. 14. “Howl, ye ships of Tarshish: for your strength is laid waste.”

33 Next comes a reference to the 70 year dominance of the first world empire; Babylon. And it shall come to pass in that day, that Tyre shall be forgotten seventy years, according to the days of one king: after the end of seventy years shall Tyre sing as an harlot. Take an harp, go about the city, thou harlot that hast been forgotten; make sweet melody, sing many songs, that thou mayest be remembered. And it shall come to pass after the end of seventy years, that the LORD will visit Tyre, and she shall turn to her hire, and shall commit fornication with all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth.” Tyre was literally laid waste during that 70 year period but these verses indicate she was, in no wise rehabilitated, for even after that period of time would “Tyre sing as an harlot.” This is, of course, prophetic of end time Babylon described above as the Great Whore, associated with Tyre the merchandise “mart of nations.” The first part of our closing verse might seem to indicate a repentance on the part of both Tyre and Babylon The Great, but such is, in no wise, the case.

“And her merchandise and her hire shall be holiness to the LORD:” Her hire is in being a harlot, and the above verses indicate that there has been no change in that occupation. She is still a harlot, so how can such “hire” be counted as “holiness to the LORD?” The remainder of this text informs us that “it (her hire) shall not be treasured nor laid up; for her merchandise

shall be for them that dwell before the LORD, to eat sufficiently, and for durable clothing.” V. 18 “Them that dwell before the LORD,” are a reference to Israel who would be benefitted by the merchandise of Tyre. We wonder if this may be one way in which God will fulfill His promise to Israel, the woman of Revelation 12. “And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.” Rev. 12:14 It is no secret that the Vatican is among the most luxurious and richest places on earth boasting wealth that none can even imagine. Will God use “her merchandise,” to once again benefit His Chosen People “to eat sufficiently, and for durable clothing,” during that final 1260 day period of the tribulation known as the time of Jacob’s trouble?

IN THE CARPENTER SHOP.

I wish I had been His apprentice,
To see Him each morning at seven,
As He tossed His gray tunic about Him,
The Master of earth and of heaven;
When He lifted the lid of His work chest
And opened His carpenter’s kit,
And looked at His chisels and augers,
And took the bright tools out of it;
When He gazed at the rising sun tinting
The dew on the opening flowers,
And He smiled at the thought of His Father
Whose love floods this fair world of ours;
When He fastened the apron about Him,
And put on His workingman’s cap,
And grasped the smooth haft of His hammer
To *give* the bent woodwork a tap,
Saying, “Lad, let us finish this ox yoke,
The farmer must finish his crop.”
Oh, I wish I had been His apprentice
And worked in the Nazareth shop.



Our Corn Crib

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Eternal Life	Living Ones	The Unforgiven Sin
Extra! Extra!	Made Sin for Us	This is That
Faith	Man Child- Rev. 12	Times of the Gentiles
Fear of the Lord	Mercy or Judgement	Tithing
First Day of the Week	New Birth	Water Baptism
Five Much Mores	Not Legislation, Revelation	Wheat and Tares
Five Consequences	Oneness of Christ	Why am I Not Healed

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Will lift up mine eyes
unto the hills,
from whence cometh
my help.
My help cometh
from the Lord,
which made heaven
and earth.

PSALM 121:1,2