

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the whole Counsel of GOD

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'Loving His Appearing'

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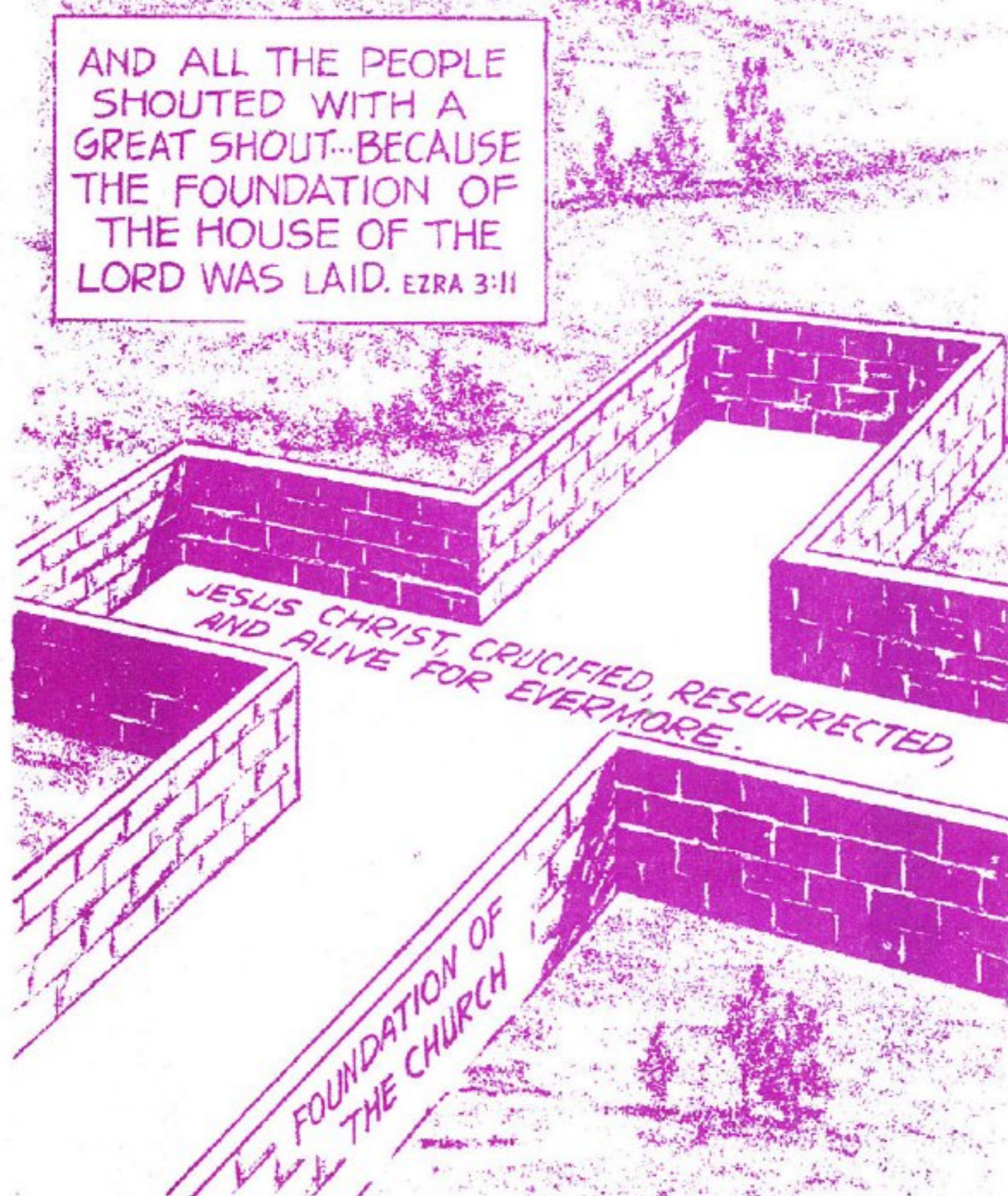
**I** will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

JEREMIAH 31:34

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### WORTH SHOUTING ABOUT



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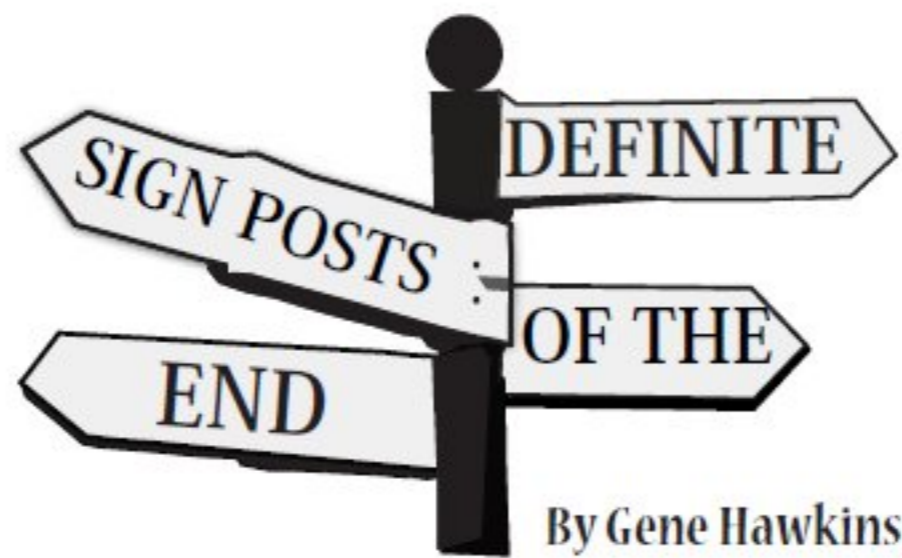
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Editor: Gene Hawkins



*“And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation. Isa 25:9*

*“Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!” Isa 31:1*

The above texts, announce two diametrically opposed states of Israel. The phrase “in that day,” is used repeatedly throughout Isaiah and the prophets, in announcing the Great Day Of The Lord, which covers a rather long period of time. The restoration described in Isaiah 25:9 will not be fulfilled until after Israel has suffered the tremendous devastation of the tribulation period because she did “go down to Egypt for help,” thus putting more confidence and trust in the nations rather than The Lord. Hosea preaches this same message using another, more intimate, analogy. “And she (Israel) shall follow after her lovers, (nations) but she shall not **overtake** them; and she shall **seek** them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now.” Hos. 2:7

Jesus was very emphatic when He declared: “But of that day (The Day Of The Lord) and that hour knoweth no man,... Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.” Mk. 13:32 Paul, however, asserts: “But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves **know perfectly** that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.” I Thess. 5:1-2 Though no man can predict the day or hour of Jesus’ arrival we can, and must, know the conditions that will prevail in this earth “**in that day,**” the chief of which, is the state of Israel. This chosen nation has long been the major harbinger of God’s timetable for this world.

The “day of the Lord,” does NOT refer to one momentous event wherein Jesus will swoop down and take all the saved to heaven, leaving everyone else to suffer the torments of hell. The Day of The Lord, as opposed to the day of man, will in fact,

cover the entire millennium. It will be marked by a number of appearances both before, and during, the tribulation period, as Jesus finally assumes full control, both of the earth and universe, when He reigns, as God Almighty, for 1000 years. I Cor. 15:24-28

The opening texts from Isaiah show both the first and last states of Israel. News, at this present hour, clearly reflects the beginning state, when Israel is surely going “down to Egypt,” or the nations, for her help, rather than putting her confidence, and hopes of salvation in The Lord.

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu’s visit to Washington claims center stage in today’s news bringing with it great controversy and division, both in America, and Israel, as well as most of the world. President Obama was greatly offended because “protocol” was not followed in the P.M.’s. invitation, thus he, and much of his administration, refused to even attend Mr. Netanyahu’s speech before a joint session of congress. In addition, aides to the Pres. stated said that he would not watch the live presentation on T.V. Mr. Obama also refused to even meet with this Head of State, “saying that doing so just ahead of Israel's March 17 general election would be seen as interference.” It is quite clear that he sent an “anti-Netanyahu” message to Israel, Iran, and the rest of the world by this action. Many Christians were not only saddened, but greatly grieved, and extremely embarrassed, by this stark outward display of shameful disrespect directed toward this Head of State who just happens to be God’s current ordained leader of His Own Chosen People.

Various news sources have reported that there was indeed an organized effort to unseat P.M. Netanyahu. Newsmax.com, among others, reported that “In a recording of the meeting obtained by Army Radio, Netanyahu is heard saying of the current election campaign, “This is a very close battle. Nothing is ensured because there is a great, worldwide effort to topple Likud rule.” It is quite apparent, at this writing, that whatever may have been intended by these nations, was indeed thwarted, for the P.M. has already been declared the winner in Israel, once again proving that it is God who “...removeth kings, and setteth up kings:...” Dan. 2:21. It is, in no wise, clear as to how this will affect U.S. – Israeli relations, but we do know that God’s timetable, for Israel and the world, is right on track.

The President reportedly did read the transcript of Mr.

Netanyahu's speech, and concluded "as far as I can tell, there was nothing new. The prime minister didn't offer any viable alternatives." Newsmax TV's "American Forum," reports that Harvard Law Professor, Alan Dershowitz, took great exception to that opinion with these words. "President Barack Obama "totally misled the American people" by saying Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, during his Tuesday address to a joint session of Congress, presented no new ideas about striking a deal with Iran over nuclear weapons. The prime minister said, 'If the world leaders are not prepared to insist that Iran changes behavior before a deal is signed, at the very least, they should insist Iran changes behavior before a deal expires. His proposal, and it's a very sound one, is that the sunset provision doesn't kick in unless Iran does three things — it has to stop being the world's greatest exporter of terrorism, it has to stop bullying neighboring countries like Syria and Lebanon, and it has to stop calling for the destruction of Israel. That's new, Mr. President, and you have an obligation to respond to that instead of name-calling and invoking protocol. The marketplace of ideas is now open. He went further and said "to push for a better deal that won't give Iran an easy path to the bomb, a better deal that Israel and its neighbors might not like, but which we could live with, literally."

According to the Jerusalem Post, Mr. Netanyahu likewise defended himself with this account of the matter. "Apparently pushing back against those saying that there was no tactical alternative in his speech, Netanyahu said that he did indeed present a practical alternative that would extend Iran's break out time by adding new restrictions. He also said that he presented a case for not lifting sanctions until the Iranians stop its hostile actions against neighboring countries and stop threatening to annihilate Israel. Netanyahu said that the responses he heard from both Republicans and Democrats were encouraging and that his impression was that they both understand why this is a bad deal."

Another closely watched personage, who did attend the joint session, was House of Rep. Dem. Leader, Nancy Pelosi. Various news sources presented accounts, not only of her words, but "body language," as she repeatedly demonstrated her disagreement and disapproval of Mr. Netanyahu's remarks. Newsmax issued this report. "Nancy Pelosi said afterwards that as a friend of Israel, she was near tears during his speech, calling it "an insult to the intelligence of the United States." She said she was "saddened by the condescension toward our knowledge of the threat

posed by Iran." Her "tears" were apparently not for the plight of Israel, but for the "insult to our intelligence," a statement for which she was severely "slammed," by a top Democrat; House Minority Leader Brad Sherman, a member of The House Foreign Affairs Committee. This is the same Ms. Pelosi who insisted that "we must pass 'Obamacare' in order to find out what is in it." Do we not see the same pattern here, of assuming that America knows Iran's threat to Israel far better than the Israelis do, until this godless nation hits that country with a nuclear warhead and proves this purported knowledge wrong?

The point in all these accounts is that America is very very close to leaving Israel "swinging in the wind." Israel's Prime Minister took great pains to try and smooth over the breaches which have increased between these two countries over the last six years. He tried, as diplomatically and statesmanlike as possible, to commend Pres. Obama for his assistance to Israel, during that time, but the following statement from his speech is very telling, and may constitute only "wishful thinking," on his part. "Even if Israel has to stand alone, Israel will stand," he vowed, although he quickly added "that it does not, and American stands with Israel." Quotes from the Jerusalem Post seem to corroborate the idea that Israel may very soon have to stand alone, as "Opposition leader Isaac Herzog condemned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to Congress on Tuesday in an address he chose to deliver in Nir Moshe, a community near the Gaza Strip... There is no doubt the prime minister knows how to speak well, but the truth is that the speech, as impressive as it was, did not prevent a nuclear Iran and won't impact a deal that is being drafted – not on its content, nor on its timetable. The painful truth is that after all the applause, Netanyahu is alone and Israel is isolated, and the negotiations will continue without Israel's input. The speech sabotaged Israel's relations with the US. It will not change the view of the administration, only deepen the rift with our strategic ally."

We surely would expect that Mr. Herzog would make such a statement to enhance his own political clout and ambition, but he also reinforces the accuracy of God's Word, which plainly declares that Israel will, without fail, be isolated and forsaken by the nations. Jesus Himself said "Then (at that time) shall they (undoubtedly the aforementioned nations of V. 7) deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be **hated of all nations** for my name's sake." Matt. 24:9 Hosea likewise, citing

Israel as an unfaithful lover, describes this scenario of isolation as a “wilderness.” Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.” Hos. 2:14 This is the same “wilderness,” of Rev. 12:14 wherein this same “... 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.” Israel will not endure the fullness of this “isolation” until the last half of the tribulation ensues, but it is clearly evident that the process has already begun. These accounts out of Washington show that if America, Israel’s strongest ally at this present time, is perfectly willing to literally “sacrifice her,” what other nation on earth could, or would, possibly fill the gap?

7 Psalm 2 is also very plain, describing both Israel and the nations. “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?” V. 1 The heathen, or Gentile Nations, do already, “rage,” or tumultuously assemble, an assemblage not only borne out by the chaos seen in Washington during the Prime Minister’s visit, but is manifest in ever growing frequency around the world as nation after nation, reveal themselves as being; “The kings of the earth” who “set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.” V. 2,3 The “people,” of V. 1 are none other than Israel, who are willing to literally clamor after “a vain thing,” that is, the “worthless, or empty” prospect of trusting the nations.

Whom can they trust? A Jewish Advocacy Group, known as the Anti-Defamation League, compiled a report publishing “The Ten Most Jewish-Friendly Nations” in the world today. That report, from May 30, 2014, was based on the percentages of those polled, who are “least **anti-semitic**.” Those nations include Thailand, Tanzania, Denmark, The U.S., The U.K., Vietnam, Netherlands, Sweden, Philippines, and Laos. Some Canadians were greatly offended that they were not on this list of “friendlies” because “a great majority of Canadians are 100% FOR Israel. They cite as well the fact that Canadian P.M. Stephen Harper paid a special visit to that country.

This list ranges from 2% being anti-Jewish in Laos, to 13% being so in Thailand. 9% of the U.S took a stance **against** Israel while 8% were thus tallied in the U.K. Is there even one nation

among all of these other so-called “friendly nations,” who could supply, anything even remotely comparable, to that which America has supplied? The U.S. seems to be their last bastion of hope, and according to the opinions within Israel, that hope is all but gone!

We well know that Jesus will evaluate, and separate, all nations according to their attitude toward Israel. Those who are “friendly,” will be designated as “sheep” nations, and will remain a nation during the millennium, while those against them, are termed “goat,” nations, and will be annihilated “into everlasting fire.” Matt. 25:41 We wonder what criteria The Lord will use in separating them. Scripture is very emphatic that eventually all nations will forsake His Chosen People, but that fact alone cannot designate them as a goat nation, for then there would be NO sheep nations at all. Due to the current economic crisis in America, and her impending bankruptcy, it is quite evident that this country is fast approaching the mark where she would be unable to help Israel even if she wanted to, and such is probably already true for a number of other countries which might be designated as “Friends of Israel.”

When Abraham interceded for Sodom, he persuaded 8  
The LORD to spare them if there were only ten righteous found in that city. Would such “percentages” save a country today? We simply do not know. Matthew 25 seems to indicate that nations are evaluated more on their history, rather than one particular event, of being for or against this nation. History is quite clear that some nations have been diametrically opposed to Israel from the beginning, vowing to literally drive them into the sea and destroy them, and there is little doubt that they have already taken their places as “goat” nations.

The “timetable,” in current negotiations with Iran, is somewhat intriguing. According to numerous reports, the Obama administration has put forth the proposal that Iran freeze, or even roll back their nuclear capabilities for at least ten years. However, according to Reuters, “Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was quoted as saying that Iran will not accept excessive and illogical demands.” Some translate the American proposal as meaning that we should let Iran go ahead and develop their bomb, and then “trust them,” not to use it for ten years.

We have suggested repeatedly, in these pages, that Iran could very well be the rogue nation which will touch off the nuclear holocaust described in Rev. 8, after the seventh seal of



judgment is opened. All these current developments simply serve to reinforce that sentiment. “And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the **third part** of the sea became blood; And the **third part** of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the **third part** of the ships were destroyed.” V. 8,9 The graphic characteristics, and the extent of this devastation, can only be described as nuclear warfare. The fear for Israel, and the rest of the world is summed up well by Mr. Netanyahu: "The greatest danger facing our world is the marriage of militant Islam with nuclear weapons." He further stated "that negotiations underway between Iran and the United States would "all but guarantee" that Tehran would get nuclear weapons, a step he said the world must avoid at all costs."

We know from scripture, such as that recorded above, that the world will not be able to avoid this destruction. The only question left to be answered is; “when will it happen?” Many in our world seem to share the view, that such things are only a myth, and that the world will continue on indefinitely, with someone always arising to prevent a catastrophe of such magnitude. But God’s Word is True, and It is indeed precise. If Iran is as close to developing this nuclear arm as some are persuaded, the events of Rev. 8 may not be that far off. The tribulation period will expire 250 days short of seven years, even as Jesus said “And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved:...” Matt. 24:22 We simply do not know how many days of this tribulation period will be exhausted before the horrific devastation described above will come forth, but given the speed at which wickedness, and violence, around the world, is transpiring, all the aforementioned upheaval could certainly begin well before ten years have expired.

It is imperative that those, whose hope is from above, do not become consumed with the idea of preventing the prophecies of end time destruction. Rather we should be filled with ecstatic hope, and joy. Jesus said “And when these things **begin** to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” Luke 21:28 Thus we need not own the fears shared by Mr. Netanyahu and others who seem to have their hopes pinned to the politicians and religious leaders, around the world, as they desperately try to bring in a utopia. Our hope is from above, and though there are those religious leaders who trumpet the idea

that the Church must go through the horrors of the tribulation recorded by the judgments which begin to be poured out in Rev. 6, God has given us a more glorious alternative. Jesus exhorted us to “look up,” when these things, that is the devastating times which we are witnessing at this present hour, “begin to come to pass.” There is no hint that we should be consumed by fear and dread, when these atrocities happen, but rather that we should be filled with glorious anticipation, for our exit from this earth is eminent. The Philadelphia believers were promised that they would be kept “...**from** (out of) the hour of temptation,...” Rev. 3:10 If people are truly looking for Jesus to come, their hearts will not be gripped by fear when men mention the horrific effects of war recorded in God’s Word. Rather, our hearts should be filled with absolute ecstasy for we know that these things must come to pass before that Great Day Of The Lord arrives! We also know that these things mean “salvation,” rather than destruction, “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, 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.” I Thess. 5:9-10

10

### Builder Or Wrecker?

I watched them tearing a building down,  
A gang of men in a busy town,  
With a ho heave ho, and a lusty yell,  
They swung a beam, and the side wall fell.  
I asked the foreman: “are these men skilled,  
And the kind you would hire, if you would build?”  
He laughed and said, “Why no, indeed,  
Just common laborers are all I need ---  
They can easily wreck in a day or two,  
That which has taken builders years to do.”  
So I said to myself as I went on my way,  
What part in the game of life do I play?  
Am I shaping my deeds to a well-made plan?  
Patiently doing the best I can?  
Or am I a wrecker who walks the town,  
Content with the labor of tearing down?

Author Unknown

# Resurrection Power

Mary M. Bodie

*“To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul: And he said, I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. Psa. 18:1-2*

This is a Psalm of Resurrection. David is here telling us of his wonderful deliverance from the hand of Saul, who had boasted that he would slay David. But God intervened and delivered him. So, David begins his eulogy of God's wonderful deliverance, which was a very small victory compared with the resurrection of Christ, of which this is typical. It is most wonderfully significant, and written in a most marvelous and unforgettable language.

11

The **first words we hear Him** say are that **He** loves the Lord for that wonderful deliverance. This word "love" has the thought of fondling. In other words, He says, "He hugged the Lord for this wonderful victory over death and the grave." Then He declares His trouble, saying, "the sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my **God: He heard my voice out of His temple, and my cry came before Him, even into His ears**"—Vs. 4, 6. **Then God answers that cry of His Son, and it is marvelous and powerful** the words we read. All nature is set in motion in **that wonderful deliverance of Christ out of the tomb.**

**"The Earth Shook and Trembled; The Foundations Also Of The Hills Moved And Were Shaken, because He was wroth."** V. 7. God was angry with the devil who had really put His Son to death, although God had allowed it. He gave His Son over to death for our redemption. Nevertheless, Christ's body was in the grave and His Spirit in Hades, and God rushed to the rescue. The earth trembled at the going forth of the mighty God Himself. The language is wonderful: **"There went**

**up a smoke out of His nostrils, and fire out of His mouth devoured everything before Him. Coals were kindled by it. He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under His feet." Vs. 8, 9.** He did not let any time elapse when the cry of His Son came to His ears. He speedily went to His deliverance as we read. "He rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, He did fly upon the wings of the wind." V. 10. What Words of Victory and Power! The mighty God went forth for the deliverance of His Son. "HE MADE darkness His secret place; His pavilion round about Him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies." Unfathomable words! He was going way down to bring His Son's Spirit out of hades, and His Body out of the grave. His mighty power is manifested in every verse here.

"At the brightness that was before Him his thick clouds passed, -hail stones and coals of fire. The Lord also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave His voice. He sent out His arrows, and scattered them (all the forces of Satan). He shot out lightnings, and discomfited them"—Vs. 12-14. He thundered and scattered all the power of the enemy that was against Christ being raised from the dead. All the power of God went forth to deliver Christ, as the devil had Him in his power at this time. This is truly a battle between God and Satan. The devil would hold his prey, but God answered His Holy Son's cry and delivered Him. "Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, O Lord, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils." V. 15. Oh no, God could not allow His Son to remain in hell after he had finished the work of redemption. When Christ went into the grave, He was the beloved Son of God again. He was no longer counted our representative as a sinner. He was once more the holy Son of God, and God went forth to deliver Him.

These latter are the words of Christ. "He sent from above, He took me, he drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me; for they were too strong for Me." Vs. 16, 17 The strong enemy was Satan. Christ died as a weak man and was buried wholly dependent on His Father to raise Him. It thrills our heart to read this Psalm. Christ continues His words of eulogistic ardor and praise. He declares that God went before Him in the day of His calamity and delivered Him, because He delighted in Him. Christ was the delight

of His Father. On earth He was the only green and growing thing He could find in all humanity. These are Christ's words: "The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath He recompensed me." V. 20.

Yes, Christ was surely the only One Who could die in our stead. He was the only Man who was perfect; and we had to have a perfect man as a Savior. Christ was that One. He says, "I was also upright before Him, and I kept myself from all iniquity." He also says, "For Thou wilt light my candle: the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness. For by Thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall." Yes, Christ leaped over the wall of Hades and ran through a troop of wicked demons which were marshaled against Him to hold Him in death. But God's power was for Him, and what could the wicked powers and principalities do against the mighty God!

13 "As for God, His way is perfect: the Word of the Lord is tried; He is a Buckler to all those that trust in Him. For who is God save the Lord? or who is a rock save our God?" These are further eulogistic words of Christ for His Father. "It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect. He maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and setteth me upon my high places. He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms." He continues. but now in a slightly different vein: "Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip. Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies: that I might destroy them that hate me. Thou hast delivered me from the strivings of the people; and thou hast made me the head of the heathen: a people whom I have not known shall serve me. (This is prophetic of His career). It is God that avengeth me and subdueth the people under me. He delivered me from mine enemies; yea, He liftest me up above those that rise up against me. Thou hast delivered me from the violent man (the devil). Therefore, will I give thanks unto Thee. O Lord, among the heathen, and sing praises unto Thy Name. Great deliverance giveth He to His king; and showeth mercy to His anointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore." Vs. 30-50

\* By lifting the **burdens** of others, we lose our own.

\* "Force is all-conquering, but its victories are short-lived.

# The Planting And The Harvest

Paul N. Smith

*“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.” I Corinthians 15:20.*

*“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.*

Jesus was the Seed that should fall into the ground and die. The natural law of the growth of plant life demands the death of the seed. Every plant bearing seeds can only reproduce in this manner. A seed has life in itself; and, therefore, has the ability to reproduce.

This principle of nature was used to illustrate redemption. Jesus knew that He must take the place of that seed which should fall into the ground and die, so that a new creation could be brought forth. He is also the Firstfruit of redemption. God received Him after His resurrection in His glory, beauty, and power. What a reunion that must have been! Sin and death had marred the body of Jesus, but nothing could destroy that heavenly life. When He came forth in resurrection, He did not come forth alone. He was the Firstfruit, but He was not the only Fruit.

God's planting has been successful. He brought forth much fruit. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" - I Cor. 15:22. Jesus assumed the Headship of the human race; and He also assumed the sin of humanity upon Himself on the Cross.

Although Jesus was the great example of a perfect and holy life, yet His nature could never be transferred to another by imitation. He could never make others holy by His teaching. He could never make a sinner into a saint by persuasion. He could not give His life TO others until He gave His life FOR others. When He came forth in resurrection, He was the Head of a new creation. The first creation ended in death; the new creation lives forever.

All Christians are the fruit of redemption. Our very existence as children of God testifies to the fact that life has triumphed over death. Jesus pointed to the lilies of the field. How beautiful they were in their growth! And yet, they put forth

no effort to become like that. We are like these lilies of the field. By faith we receive Divine life. This life grows and brings forth fruit unto God. What a blessed privilege it is to yield to the tender hand of our Husbandman. He will present a most marvelous harvest of fruit to His Father. He will bring forth much fruit.

Because of the resurrection of Christ, God has triumphed over His enemies. He has made them serve His purposes. He used death to bring forth life. He has taken us who were dead in trespasses and sins and, through the simple operation of faith, has transformed us into beautiful objects of His love. He has made us fruitful unto Himself. Miracle of the ages! He has raised us up with Christ, and seated us with Him in heavenly places. He will be alone no longer. Christ has brought many sons unto glory through His death, burial, and resurrection. We are the happy recipients!



### Why Weepest Thou?

“Why weepest thou?” the angels said.  
The Christ has risen from the dead.  
He vanquished Satan and the grave,  
And up to God a host has led,  
Of captive souls from prison cave.  
And all men now He’ll freely save.

Why weepest thou? we say to all.  
The world enwrapped in sorrow’s pall.  
O loose the bands! Set captives free!  
Christ has redeemed us from the fall.  
And ever lives for you and me.  
The grave is empty. Shout with glee!

Why weepest thou, who just hast seen,  
Thy dear ones laid in sleep to dream?  
A little while, and they shall rise.  
They are not dead, tho’ it so seem;  
But rest above in peaceful guise,  
With Christ alive in Paradise.

Author Unknown

## THE END OF A SPY

In 1782, "The Vulture," a British sloop of war, crept up the Hudson River to anchorage above Stony Point. In the dark, a young man wearing a heavy coat stepped from the "Vulture," into a small boat that had come out from the shore. This coat purposely covered the bright regimentals of a British Army Officer. The boat with muffled oars was rowed back to the shore, and in fulfillment of pre-arranged plans the strange man from "The Vulture," who was to be known as Mr. Anderson, was met by a man on shore. Soon the pair were seated in a nearby house—locked in—with deep plans and heavy bargaining.

Of course, we have guessed the names of this pair. General Arnold of the American Forces in command of West Point and Gov. Clinton's adjutant general, Major Andre. Finally, Arnold handed over his plans and received his guarantee of reward.

While attempting to return to New York, by land, he was captured and the plans were discovered in his stockings. Andre was court-martialled to be hanged as a spy.

He was publicly hanged from a lofty oak tree, and buried in a nearby shallow grave.

The following, remarkable poem, was found in his pocket after his execution. May the reader himself also find this "Hiding Place," which alone is to be found in Jesus Christ.

Selected

16

~~~~~  

### MY HIDING PLACE

Hail, Sovereign Love, which first began  
The scheme to rescue fallen man!  
Hail, matchless, free, eternal Grace,  
Which gave my soul a HIDING PLACE!

Against the God who built the sky  
I fought with hands uplifted high—  
Despised the mention of His grace,  
Too proud to seek a HIDING PLACE.



Enwrapt in thick Egyptian night,  
And fond of darkness more than light,  
Madly I ran the sinful race,  
Secure—without, a HIDING PLACE!

But thus the eternal counsel ran:—  
Almighty Love, arrest that man!  
I felt the arrows of distress,  
And found I had no HIDING PLACE.

Indignant—justice stood in view;  
To Sinai's fiery mount I flew;  
But Justice cried with frowning face,  
This mountain is no HIDING PLACE!

Ere long a heavenly voice I heard,  
And mercy's angel soon appeared:  
He led me, with a beaming face,  
TO JESUS as a HIDING PLACE.

On Him Almighty vengeance fell,  
Which must have sunk a world to hell!  
He bore it for a sinful race,  
And thus became their HIDING PLACE.

Should sevenfold storms of thunder roll,  
And shake this globe from pole to pole,  
No thunderbolt shall daunt my face,  
For JESUS is my HIDING PLACE.

Apparently this man was saved and trusting the Lord, but the Lord was not hiding him from the justice of man. We cannot have faith for things that are not in His will. Jesus Himself would not jump from the temple to prove He was the Son of God, nor did He cause His Father to prove it. He would not do anything foolish or anything out of His Father's will, for that would be presumptuous. Let us be sure that we have faith for the things we do.

# REFLECTIONS

## REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

*“Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom;...” Ro 13:7*

This is the glorious season of Easter, the time of resurrection. However, in this country, it is also the season when “the tax man cometh,” and Paul exhorts us to render that which is due. It is rather significant that this chapter follows Rom. 12 wherein the apostle counsels us to “...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” V. 1 That theme continues in this chapter as we are admonished to surrender to the authority on earth as unto the Lord. “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God:... rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil...” V. 1-3

18

Jesus too declared specifically, in regard to tribute, “... Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s.” Matt. 22:21 He also practiced this same message, and demonstrated His glorious power, when he instructed Peter to “...go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up;... thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.” Matt. 17:27 This is surely a good example of “resurrection power,” and The Lord has demonstrated that same miraculous power to many down through the years as He has supplied such needs to those who found themselves in impossible financial circumstance.

This same submission to authority must also be manifest in other ways as we are instructed to “...do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good...” V. 3-4 The “he of this verse would undoubtedly refer to those in law enforcement, and he is specifically designated as God’s minister in our behalf for good. We are also told in this same verse that this “minister,” will be used as a disciplinarian in our behalf “...for he beareth not the sword in vain:...”

The greatest blessing for us, however, is in regard to conscience. “Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.” V. 5 No man can live victoriously with guilt. This verse informs us that we do not obey the law, simply to avoid consequence, but rather to ensure a clear conscience, and the fact is that the conscience will suffer whether we are “caught,” (speeding, running red lights) or not. James says it thus: “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” Jas. 4:17 It is for “...this cause,..." of conscience, that Paul insists, “...pay ye tribute also: for they are God’s ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.” V. 5-6 Not only so, but this matter of conscience impels us to “Render therefore to **all** their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. Owe **no man** any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.” V. 7 This debt of love must always be paid ON, but it can never be paid OFF, and love must be operative in our lives, even in what we might think, are the most insignificant ways, as a guarantee of an absolutely clear conscience. GH

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### **LADIES RETREAT**

May 1-3, 2015

Carbondale, Kansas

For more information please call

Brenda Hawkins 816-765-7607

or e-mail [jerbrenhawkins@yahoo.com](mailto:jerbrenhawkins@yahoo.com)

June Hawkins is available at 816-618-3306

Or e-mail [jghawk2@msn.com](mailto:jghawk2@msn.com)

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**“He is not here:  
for he is risen, as he said!...”**

**Matt. 28:6**

# Love Beckons

Part 5

Ken Trujillo

*“Come unto me, all ye that labour 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.” Matt. 11:28-30*

The great American poet and lecturer Ralph Emerson once wrote that a great teacher should be, “an opener of doors for such as come after.” Revelation 3:7-8 thus states: “And to the angel of the church of Philadelphia write; These things saith He that is holy, He that is true, He that hath the key of David, He that openeth, and no man shutteth, and shutteth, and no man openeth *behold, I have set before thee an open door.*” THE KEY to any door of our lives belongs to Jesus and Him Alone, the Messiah, the descendant of David and heir to his throne throughout the millennium, the Divine Door And Opener of Doors! This Church of Philadelphia represents a company of people whom Jesus, is calling for the “out resurrection” through the Apostle Paul’s gospel. Only the Triune Godhead can open the door of truth for the enlightenment of this select calling, Matt 7:7 “... knock and it shall be opened unto you.” Only Jesus opens this door to furnish an opportunity for immediate access on our behalf as He reveals His Bridal proposal. He “shuts us in” when we embrace His invitation, to enclose and completely surround us for His very own, captivating our hearts through the written Word of the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe. Eph 1:19 The Shulamite was shut-in and captivated as she stated “The King hath brought me into his chambers.” S.O.S. 1:4 She separates herself completely unto Him as she flees to His Celestial Enclosure!

The phrase “into his chambers” intimately implies, “*to enclose in the innermost and inward part.*” This is where the Shulamite finds a most desirable haven, within the veil, wherein His left hand is under her head and His right hand embraces her. S.O.S. 2:6 When those cold north stormy winds encompass her, He supports and enables her, lifting her above the circumstances and adverse conditions while His Right Hand strengthens her as more than a conqueror through Him who loved her as He embraces her NEVER letting her go! We too, in the heat of battle, cast all our care upon Him. We find Him to be faithful to fight that battle FOR US as we learn and experience the power of His resurrection, the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death. Phil. 3:10

There is another somber expression of the word “shutteth,” which is so applicable to this Church of Philadelphia ---- the runners for the Prize ---- the Shulamite Company! Genesis 2:21 declares that “...the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and while he slept, He took one of his ribs and **“CLOSED UP** the flesh in stead thereof...” This “closing up of the flesh” means to “*shut-up the whole body.*” After the rib portion was taken from Adam’s body to create his wife Eve, God brought her to the man, the First Adam. She was perfect, complete and fully mature just as Rebecca was, when Abraham, through Eliezer, brought her to her beloved bridegroom, Isaac. ONE VERSE, Gen. 24:61, containing (25) words, describes Rebecca’s journey to Isaac. Twenty-Five Words, (5x5) expressing Grace Upon Grace needed throughout her journey! Each trial, each test, and each fiery furnace we face along our earthly journey, will take *grace upon grace* to ultimately bring us to our Heavenly Isaac! Dear saints, we are being offered an open door with a glistening sign that reads, **“SUN GLORY”!** The apostle Paul has espoused us to be wedded to Jesus, the Last Adam (I Cor. 15:45), as our Bridegroom to-be, throughout the endless ages. Many have heard this message, and Jesus was their “first love” for a while, but some have since drawn back as the thunderous storm clouds that test one’s perseverance began to erupt. Many have left this Church of Brotherly Love, as it requires a pressing-onward in spite of the painful hurts others inflict upon us, even things that can penetrate down to the very core of our heart to discourage us. However, the finish line is just ahead and then the Father will say, “*Son, it’s time to receive her,*” and after she is caught up, **the rib portion door** of His mystical body, the Church, will be forever shut!

*Precious Lord Jesus, may we treasure the moment we have, and may your “grace upon grace” be poured out upon our journey. Enable us NOT TO MISS IT, not to be left behind when that door shuts. I ask this in your Precious Name. Dear precious saints, the choice is ours!*

This *HIGH CALLING* will take the blessed Holy Spirit to open and enlighten the eyes of our understanding; for neither man’s knowledge nor man’s wisdom, can enlighten. Job 33:16, “...He openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction...” If men and women truly desire to hear and search the scriptures, God will faithfully uncover and reveal His plan and purpose for this Church Age. The carnal Christian can only open a door of error and false doctrine. They open doors calling for one to fulfill the Great Commission, another

door asserting that one is filled with the Holy Spirit when he or she is saved, and another, saying that you can lose your salvation, as well as, many other doors of false teaching and doctrine. Paul told Timothy not to give any credence to so called “Doctors of Divinity and Dogmatic Theologians”, he warned of those “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” II Tim 3:5

Jesus, so willingly, *GAVE HIS LIFE* to open the door into the Holy of Holies for us, the ultimate of which is His intimate bridal chamber! His Precious Blood shed on the cross, sprinkled on the mercy seat, was the glorious act that made it possible. Our Precious Lamb of God rent the veil from the top to bottom, giving entrance into that Celestial Enclosure! A natural wedding illustrates it beautifully: After the bridegroom confirms his vows with the words: “I DO,” and the pronouncement is made by the minister, the bridegroom unveils his bride and kisses her. He has committed his love, loyalty, protection and fidelity to her, and her alone, for the rest of his natural life. When Jesus said, “It Is Finished,” at Calvary, He not only put away sin forever for all mankind, but He also committed His Love, His Loyalty, His Protection and His Fidelity to that company of people, known as the Lamb’s wife, for the rest of eternity! When our Precious Lord and Savior parted the wedding veil, He wasn’t donning a tuxedo with white gloves and polished paten-leathered shoes on an altar garnished with beautiful flowers. OH NO! He was stripped of everything and all clothing as He suffered in shame, pain and agony, beaten and bloodied, nailed on that altar of sacrifice, all for His Chosen One, His Fair One! That divine qualification, as that pure and spotless Lamb, made **HIM WORTHY** for her, as He gave up the ghost and was consumed by Holy Fire acceptable unto God the Father, and that sacrifice upon Calvary’s brazen altar also made **US WORTHY** for Him. Wow! Dear saints - what unspeakable love displayed is ours!

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### **LEARN OF ME**

“For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth...” Heb. 12:6 This word “chasteneth” is *Paideuo* in the Greek Concordance and means to be instructed, “to cause one to learn.” We begin to learn more of His love and faithfulness as He chastens through trials and tests, through afflictions and adversities. This is not punishment as some may think. Always remember dear ones; Joseph’s training began by being hated, betrayed and cast into a pit before he became a ruler in Pharaoh’s palace. He did nothing wrong as he embraced God’s favor when he had a vision (revelation) of His High Calling!

Chastisement seems to have this negative connotation throughout Christendom, the devil often using it to place guilt on one. What did I do to deserve this? Lord, where are You? Why me? Have you ever asked those questions or had those thoughts enter your mind? Joseph, our dear Old Testament brother, a man of like passions, must have entertained those thoughts as he was cast down, by his own brethren, in that dark, cold and damp stony pit, left to die with no food or water! We may even start to wonder what others might think of our maladies and at times may even feel ashamed. What do you think? I know I have! His exceeding great and precious promise states: If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you AS WITH SONS. Heb 12:7 If we would ENDURE is it paramount that we remain; not recede or flee. We must rather be held in place so that we do not become indifferent! This requires a CRYING OUT for His strength, and His peace, to enable us for that endurance! God was faithful to Joseph – He’ll be faithful TO YOU! God, help us not to draw back or carry guilt nor be ashamed when we are chastened, but, *au contraire*, to embrace His peace and rest, rejoicing, knowing that he is shaping, not the wedding gown to fit us, **but molding and shaping us** that we might be fit to wear that glorious raiment! Moses was instructed in Exodus 25:18 “thou shalt make two cherubims of gold: of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat.” Cherubim comes from the Hebrew word *keruwb*, which signifies a celestial creature of a man, an ox, a lion, and an eagle. THE FOUR LIVING ONES - THE BRIDE, THE LAMB’S WIFE! The acceptance and endurance of His chastisement is woven within her raiment. Yes, she is made of a beaten work and though grievous at times, yet molded, shaped and designed to the Potter’s Artistry! Throughout the eternities to come, what a masterpiece on display she will be!

Inside a grand piano there are close to 250 strings, each of which, holds approximately 185 lbs. of pull. That’s a total of over 46,000 lbs. of string tension! This tension enables this magnificent instrument to sing forth its sweet bell-tone quality. A cast-iron plate holds all that “torque, twisting, and pull” together inside its wooden case. The golden sheen color and beautiful design and strength of this plate is produced in a mold. Metal is heated in a furnace to over 2,750 degrees Fahrenheit until it is liquefied and then poured into the mold and shaped for its design. Afterwards, it is set to cool and temper for strength to withhold the tension to do the job needed to make this magnificent instrument sound incredible!

The 100,000<sup>th</sup> Concert Grand Steinway Crown Jewel painstakingly hand-made was dedicated, christened and given to the White House in 1903 during Theodore Roosevelt's presidency. *The case / body-work contained (40) species of wood along with gold gilded sculptured eagles, carefully studded with mounted jewels and gems of dazzling brilliant colors delineating the award-winning design of the workmanship which also had over 2,000 mother-of-pearl inlays. WOW!! A work- of-art made by man of sheer beauty beyond description, viewed in awe, by millions and millions of visitors worldwide!* How much more are we, as God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works! Eph 2:10 A Divine Work-Of-His Artistry! The angel said to the apostle John in Rev 21:9 as he was caught up to glory, "Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the lambs wife." She descends out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, garnished with all manner of precious stones, studded with diamonds and pure gold supported with twelve gates, miles and miles high, each one made of one solid pearl! To be molded into His image from glory to glory and reflect a Christ-like character, is to endure, abide, and remain with all patience, longsuffering and joyfulness, indeed, His chastening. Col. 1:11 Rom 8:17 states that we may be "joint-heirs with Christ; **IF** so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together." In the Vulgate Latin version of the bible, glorified together is *conglorifico*, which means exalted to the same glory to which Christ has been raised.

All praise, glory and honor unto Him! The Bridegroom spoke of the Shulamite declaring "My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one..."! S.O.S. 6:9

### **For I Am Meek**

Meekness is not weakness! You may have heard this cliché in times past; however, meekness is kindness, compassionate and gentleness in spirit and character. Inner strength to control and restrain our impatience, frustrations and anger in situations of stress when confrontation arises requires the power of the Holy Ghost. Only He can anoint us with a mild and temperate disposition in behavior toward others, not haughty, harsh or bitter. We call out to the Mighty and Powerful Name of Jesus when danger confronts us, when our world seems to collapse, learning that only He can equip us with a peace that passeth ALL understanding keeping our hearts and minds! Phil. 4:7

Mario Tonelli, was a survivor of the unimaginable horrific atrocities during the Bataan Death March of WWII. Prior to joining



the Army, Tonelli was a star running back for Notre Dame and during a 1937 season finale game against the University of Southern California, tied at 6 to 6 with only minutes left in the game, Notre Dame, deep in their own territory, handed Tonelli the football and he ran a 70 yard sprint toward the goal line culminating one of the most exciting victories in Notre Dame football! After the attack on Pearl Harbor the American and Philippine troops were left almost defenseless in their standoff at Bataan and eventually were forced to surrender to the Japanese Imperial Army. Tonelli was amongst the prisoners of war. Close to 15,000 took part in that deadly 65-mile march and at the end of the journey, approximately only 2,500 survived, Tonelli included. When starting that deadly trek, he proudly wore that gold and gem studded Notre Dame “school ring” signifying the year of that victory against USC. He, along with the rest of the prisoners, starved and dehydrated, sick with diseases, were beaten and stripped of all their dignity and belongings. Many who couldn’t continue on the march were tortured and murdered, their bodies strewn along the roadside. A Japanese guard spotted the signet ring on Tonelli’s finger and demanded it. When Tonelli refused to take it off and give it to him, the guard pulled out his Samurai sword. Just then, a fellow prisoner yelled out, *give it to him! It’s not worth dying for!* Tonelli sadly, and reluctantly, surrendered the ring to this malevolent ruthless guard who would have been delighted to behead him. Tonelli, a once 210 lb. physically fit all- star running fullback for Notre Dame was now a broken-hearted 110 lb. gangly skeleton of a man. Shortly afterwards, a certain Japanese officer came up and asked him, “did one of my men take something from you?” Tonelli answered, “yes sir, my college ring.” After demanding the ring back from the guard, the officer pressed it back into Tonelli’s bony hand, told him to hide it somewhere or he would never get it back next time. He also mentioned how that he was educated in America at USC and attended that final game of the season when Notre Dame pulled off a victorious win due to Tonelli’s touchdown. Having recognized Tonelli in spite of his physical condition, he went on to say, “I know how much this ring means to you, and I wanted you to have it back.” Tonelli was speechless! The gridiron and battlefield rivals parted ways never to see each other again. **WHAT AN ACT OF KINDNESS!** Tonelli testified that the officer’s meekness, kindness, and gentleness in giving me back my ring, gave me a renewed hope. He continued saying, no matter the

hardship and suffering, each glimpse of that ring gave me the strength and inspiration I needed to endure and survive! Our precious Lord through the apostle Paul is offering to us “a precious engagement ring for the eternities!” We have been espoused to one husband, as a chaste virgin to Christ. II Cor. 11:2 May this engagement ring, sprinkled with His Precious Blood, from our Beloved, inspire us as we endure hardness as a good soldier and run our racecourse.

Jesus spoke of a certain man who had a son that ran away and wasted his substance with riotous living. That prodigal son also was completely stripped of all his belongings and dignity. Penniless, and unable to buy food, with no one caring about his condition or need, he longed to eat the husks that the swine, he tended, consumed. He was starving, sick and physically in ruin, as he abhorred his current state, and he came to a momentous crossroad. I’m sure as he fell on his knees, he cried out to God and emptied himself of his pride, his self-indulgences and made room in his heart for true repentance. He chose to return to ask for his father’s forgiveness, willing to take the place of one of his hired servants, knowing after what he did, he wasn’t worthy to be called “a son any longer.” I would think his journey back to his father’s home was somewhat akin to that 65-mile Bataan death march. Scripture declares that while he was a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. Lk. 15:20 Praise you Lord Jesus! With great joy his father shouted: My son has returned, let us prepare a feast! Bring forth the best robe! Put a ring on his finger! New shoes for his feet! What love, meekness, kindness and gentleness displayed by the father, in spite of his son’s squandering past. How precious is our God, Who forgives and will never look upon our past faults, but receives, restores and continues to call us, as nothing less than, HIS VERY OWN SON! One of my favorite songs in the Grace & Glory Hymnal, written by Brother Copley and Mary Bodie, says it thus: *“O Love that would not let me go, that moved my will and brought me low! I find my happy home in Thee, A captive bound yet ever free; I could not live apart from Thee. O Love...O Love! O Love that Jesus did bestow; O Love...O Love! O Love that would not let me go!”*

The Bataan Death March lasted seven weeks for those that were able to endure. Through it all, Mario Tonelli’s vision was fixed on a mere corruptible crown. What about us? Our spiritual vision

should be fixed on the mark for the prize of the High Calling in Christ Jesus, an incorruptible crown reserved in heaven that fadeth not away when the Chief Shepherd of meekness and gentleness appears. I Pet. 1:4, 5:4 Many of those prisoners gave up, convinced that there was no hope, that the sufferings would never end, and they perished along the way. Prov. 29:18 declares that “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” “PERISH,” means “letting go or letting loose; to give up and recede or turn back.” One of my all-time favorite quotes is from Helen Keller who said, “**The only thing worse than being blind is having natural sight but *NO SPIRITUAL VISION.***” Our spiritual vision is often renewed as we find ourselves down in the pits and valleys! Isaiah 22:5 describes that path as “...a day of trouble, and of treading down, and of perplexity by the Lord God of Hosts in the *valley of vision*, breaking down the walls, and of crying to the mountains!” This not only refers to the judgment and sufferings of Israel, but it speaks to us. There is always a glorious divine purpose in the *breaking down of walls and crying out unto Him* when we are in this valley. The root of this word valley is “ga’ah”, meaning “to increase; to be exalted in triumph.” We must be brought to the low places to experience this growth. While in this *valley of vision*, as we are pressed out of measure, we find enlightenment, a vision of beholding His Favor and Faithfulness, that the very power (the ability to endure) of Christ may rest upon us. II Cor. 12:9 This valley is also known as the King’s Dale where Melchizedek (typical of Christ, our King and High Priest) met Abraham and brought forth “bread and wine.” Gen. 14:17-18 The Word of God and the joy, enlightenment and power of the Holy Spirit are revealed and readily available throughout the journey through this *valley of vision*. The Shulamite is known in S.O.S. 2:1 as the “**lily of the valleys.**” She has inhabited many lowlands and is yet distinguished as a lily. Strong’s Concordance defines “Lily” as meaning “to rejoice as an instrument of music.” Rejoicing and singing His praises may not happen immediately, however, as we trust Him for each testing and difficulty, we experience His faithfulness to bring us through victoriously that we might be transformed into that “lily”! The apostle Paul describes (8) perils of his journeys in II Cor. 11:26. One reference of the number eight, is to the Bride Of Christ. No matter how many deep dark pits and valleys we experience, we rest, wait patiently, rejoice and tarry for that glorious vision to see our Bridegroom yonder - our Heavenly Issac – God’s Very Own Beloved Son! Dear Saints, it will be worth it all and it won’t be long. His Love Truly Beckons!

# The Almond Tree Rod

*“Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree.” Jer. 1:11*

The rod of the almond tree is a symbol easily understood when read in connection with Numbers 17. It there refers to God's Anointed One declared to be the Son of God by the resurrection from the dead—Rom. 1:4. The lesson that Jeremiah was to learn by the symbol was of the intervention of God when all the power of nature is at an end. He was to find God in his life and thus to proclaim Him to others as the God of resurrection, the God of power.

The almond tree was called, "the hastening tree," by the Hebrew, because of its early and sudden breaking forth into bud and blossom when the chilling winds of winter had scarcely passed away. "I will hasten my word to perform it," is the divine comment on the vision; therefore the inference is plain. When all hope is taken away and all things for Israel appear as if they were ended, God will intervene in their behalf. They will come forth suddenly into full bloom, in resurrection beauty and power; because the Rod of the hastening tree will be on the scene.

The almond branch was but a dry stick and worthless when Israel viewed Him at His first advent. He was a Root out of a dry ground; yet they saw no beauty that they should desire Him; but hidden away from the eyes of men, "He has budded and brought forth buds and blossomed blossoms and yielded almonds" Num. 17:8. Just a little while and the once despised Nazarene will appear in glory and all nations will delight in His beauty, rest under His shadow and find strength in His fruit. Then will be manifested, "How great is His goodness and how great is His beauty"—Zech. 19:17. God will hasten His Word to perform it. Marvelous things will happen suddenly when Jehovah begins to work. Miracle after miracle, divine supernaturals, will be in evidence on every hand. "Tho the vision tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come; it will not tarry"—Hab. 2:3.

# ISAIAH 29

*Gene Hawkins*

“Woe to Ariel, to Ariel, the city where David dwelt! add ye year to year; let them kill sacrifices.” V. 1

This chapter is a continuation of Isaiah 28, and it too, contains a message of devastating judgment, thus correlating beautifully with the next consecutive book of the Bible, which is Joel. Joel contains only three small chapters, but they are filled with proclamations of judgment, extending not only to Israel and Judah, but also to the nations. “Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation. That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten. Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth. Joel 1:3 “And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?” Joel 2:11 “Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.” Joel 3:12 God’s cup of wrath will be poured out on His Own People, but this last reference, to “the heathen,” and “the valley of Jehoshaphat,” clearly prophesies the battle of Armageddon whereunto all nations will be gathered. Isaiah 28, records the fact that God will use the nations to punish Israel, but He will, in turn, punish those who have been so used.

“Ariel,” is yet another name used for Jerusalem, “the city where David dwelt.” It means “Lion of God,” and would have signified that victorious lion of victory against their enemies, had they submitted themselves to the ways of The Lord. Instead, God declares, “Yet I will **distress** (“compress, oppress”) Ariel, and there shall be heaviness and sorrow: and it shall be unto me as Ariel. And I will camp against thee round about, and will lay siege against thee with a mount, and I will raise forts against thee.” V. 2-3 An entire “mount,” or nation will lay siege against this chosen city, and thus God Himself, actually become a “Lion,” executing great wrath against them, raising “forts,” seemingly

compassing them about from multiple directions.

Verse one concludes with a reference to their religious façade, as God invites them to “....add ye year to year; let them kill sacrifices.” Those offerings have long since ceased to mean anything to Israel, and certainly The Lord Himself makes it clear that He will not accept such hypocrisy. Thus, despite all their efforts, and presumption that they will be protected, He is not impressed and declares, “...thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust.” V. 4 This is a devastating indictment against them, for though they would cry out to Him in their misery, and desire for deliverance, those small voices out of the dust sound as though they are coming from a “familiar,” or idolatrous satanic spirit. “Moreover the multitude of thy strangers shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the terrible ones shall be as chaff that passeth away: yea, it shall be at an instant suddenly. Thou shalt be visited of the LORD of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire.” V. 5-6 This is a very familiar message, which we have seen numerous times in this book. The “strangers,” and the “multitude of terrible ones,” are the nations whom God had used to punish Israel. However, these same tools of destruction have themselves, now been reduced to nothing more than small dust or powder and chaff, after the same pattern as that described by Joel. Though this has happened, it does not mean that Israel’s troubles are over, for “the LORD of hosts,” shall visit them with thunders, earthquakes, great noise, and flame of fire. These are things that are completely beyond the control of men, and they are leveled against the entire world, but the next verse seems to target those nations which have been directly against Israel.

“And the multitude of all the nations that fight against Ariel, even all that fight against her and her munition, (tower, bulwark, net) and that distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision.” V. 7 Ariel’s “munition,” means the protection that God will provide at that time. These verses are actually a reference to Armageddon, and though Jerusalem shall be punished at that same time, God will never forsake His Own, and these nations will be severely punished for their maltreatment of her. Isaiah’s

poetic style comes to the fore here, indicating that all of this activity will be as only a “dream.” God will not punish either the nations or Israel, forever. This devastation will be very real, but it is only temporary, and will last only as long as it takes for Him to achieve His purposes. Isaiah’s analogy in describing this fleeting “dream,” continues in V. 8. “It shall even be as when an hungry man dreameth, and, behold, he eateth; but he awaketh, and his soul is empty: or as when a thirsty man dreameth, and, behold, he drinketh; but he awaketh, and, behold, he is faint, and his soul hath appetite: so shall the multitude of all the nations be, that fight against mount Zion.” These nations, “that fight against mount Zion,” may think they have finally achieved their purpose in destroying this nation, but it is only a “pipe dream,” for they will awake to the grim reality that they are the ones who will be sorely disappointed. They will “awake from their dream,” to discover God’s reality for them. “Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink. For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.” V. 9-10 They are actually drunken on the wine of God’s wrath. All the “information,” from their so-called prophets and advisors has turned out to be bogus, as “..... the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is **learned**, (Israel) saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed: And the book is delivered to him that is **not learned**, (nations) saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.” V. 11-12 This “vision of all” is undoubtedly directed to both the nations and Israel. It is that vision found in the book, The Word of God, but it is “sealed,” and none can understand it, even as is the case, in our day. This ignorance of God’s Word is due directly to unbelief, and rebellion, and those two unsavory traits, are most prevalent in both Israel and the nations. The remainder of this chapter, however, is more aptly directed to Israel, as is seen in verses 22,23 by the reference to the children of God in Abraham and Jacob. “This people,” of our next verse also seems to specifically describe Israel. “Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept

of men:” V. 13 Their hypocritical tongues are quite evident as they claim to be allied with God, but their hearts, are in no wise, submitted to Him, for they choose instead to follow the “precept of men.” This condition would be very much like unto the days of the Judges, when “every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” Jud. 17:6 Such attitudes always merit a rather severe penalty and, “Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvelous (separate, wonderful, miraculous) work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.” V. 14 These words are apparently directed to those who perceived themselves to be knowledgeable, having followed the ways of men rather than the instruction God would have given. The Lord designates them as “**their** wise men,” and “**their** prudent men.” That is, they were not sent by God, and their counsel was very much contrary to His. “Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?” V. 15 These are none other than the tactics of Satan, who has always conducted his business shrouded in darkness. He is the very father of such deception, the very purpose being to “hide,” their intentions from God. Such efforts have never worked and God here declares, “Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?” V. 16. Do these nations really think that they can dictate the foreordained purposes of God? They apparently do not realize that they, the nations, were made by the Great Creator, but they also have the mistaken idea that they can “turn things upside down and do as they please with Israel, the subject of the following verse. “Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest?” V. 17

This nation will most assuredly be restored, but only by virtue of the fact that they turn to The Lord. “And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.” V. 18 “In that day” is, once again, used numerous times in this book and refers to end time days which are quickly approaching. We are told in these words that Israel will look upon that book which was “sealed” in



V. 11, but now they can both hear and see the glorious message they had so long rejected. Their entire attitude of repentance is reflected in V. 19 “The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.” The abuse and discipline inflicted by the nations has produced these two glorious traits, whereby Israel as a nation finally accepts her Messiah, and finds joy and great rejoicing in “the Holy One of Israel.” They have truly become “the poor among men,” as they have been reduced to total dependence on the Lord, rather than being rich in their own strength and abilities. When they finally realize that they can no longer trust the nations, and the foolishness of the ill advised covenant with death to which they agreed in Ch. 28:15, God will come to their aid and defeat all their enemies, bringing about the glorious victory of V. 20. “For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off:” The “terrible one,” is none other than the antichrist whose end will be the lake of fire. The “scorner,” would be those nations who have scorned this chosen nation throughout gentile times and all of those nations “that watch” or “hasten” “for iniquity,” will be cut off. All men who persist in ungodliness will finally get their due, but the words here are primarily addressed to those who have made a science of persecuting Israel.

The tactics of those “that watch for iniquity,” are further described in these words. “That make a man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproveth in the gate, and turn aside the just for a thing of nought.” V. 21 The very slightest comment or “a word,” has indeed made Israel an “offender,” as men have tried to entrap them for years. The practice of laying “a snare for him that reproveth in the gate,” seems to refer to one who was trying to make his case “in the gate,” or before a government official. The remainder of this verse indicates that such an one would be “just,” undoubtedly presenting wise counsel, and reproof, but he is summarily turned away because these “officials,” would choose “a thing of nought,” or something entirely worthless. Such attitudes and conduct, basically discounts the way and counsel of God. “Therefore thus saith the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob, Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall his face now wax pale.” V. 22 The day of humiliation for Israel has ended, and God will

put them on display as His Mighty Work. All these nations will see “up close and personal,” exactly what the power of God can accomplish. However, Jacob, or Israel seems to be the one who will especially observe and understand God’s accomplishments, as indicated by the following.

“But when he (Jacob) seeth his children, the work of mine hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel.” V. 23 There are five glorious indentifying marks of “his children” listed here, which will be fully manifest once Israel, as a nation, has come to complete repentance. God says that they are “the work of mine hands.” They truly are the product of His redemption. Secondly God is now able to “be in the midst of him,” meaning that His Hands have free course to work in the lives of His Chosen People. Third, “they shall sanctify my name,” and the attention of this entire people will now magnify only The Name of The Lord. They will, at last, understand the power of Jesus’ Name. Fourth, they will “sanctify the Holy One of Jacob.” God will finally be set aside as The One and Only God. No longer will they go a whoring after other gods, as they had done throughout their history. They will finally “have no other gods before me.” Finally they shall “fear the God of Israel.” This will be complete surrender unto the God Who chose them in the first place.

“They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.” V. 24 This final verse could undoubtedly refer to both Israel and the nations, for when Israel becomes the head and not the tail of the nations, they will lead them in righteousness. The nations, as well as Israel, have surely “erred in spirit,” but shall also come to understanding. They too murmured, but shall also learn doctrine, that is, God’s doctrine. All those nations who came against Israel, as seen in V. 7, along with those who “dreamed,” of destroying her in V. 8, and those who were “unlearned,” in V. 12, will now come to understanding God’s purposes for those whom they have so long oppressed. They will finally learn the truth of V. 16, that they cannot simply turn the purposes of God “upside down.” They will surely come to the realization that the Heavenly Potter does have “understanding,” with full acknowledgment of the fact that they must comply with the fullness of His “doctrine,” rather than their own.



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Eternal Life	Living Ones	The Unforgiven Sin
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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

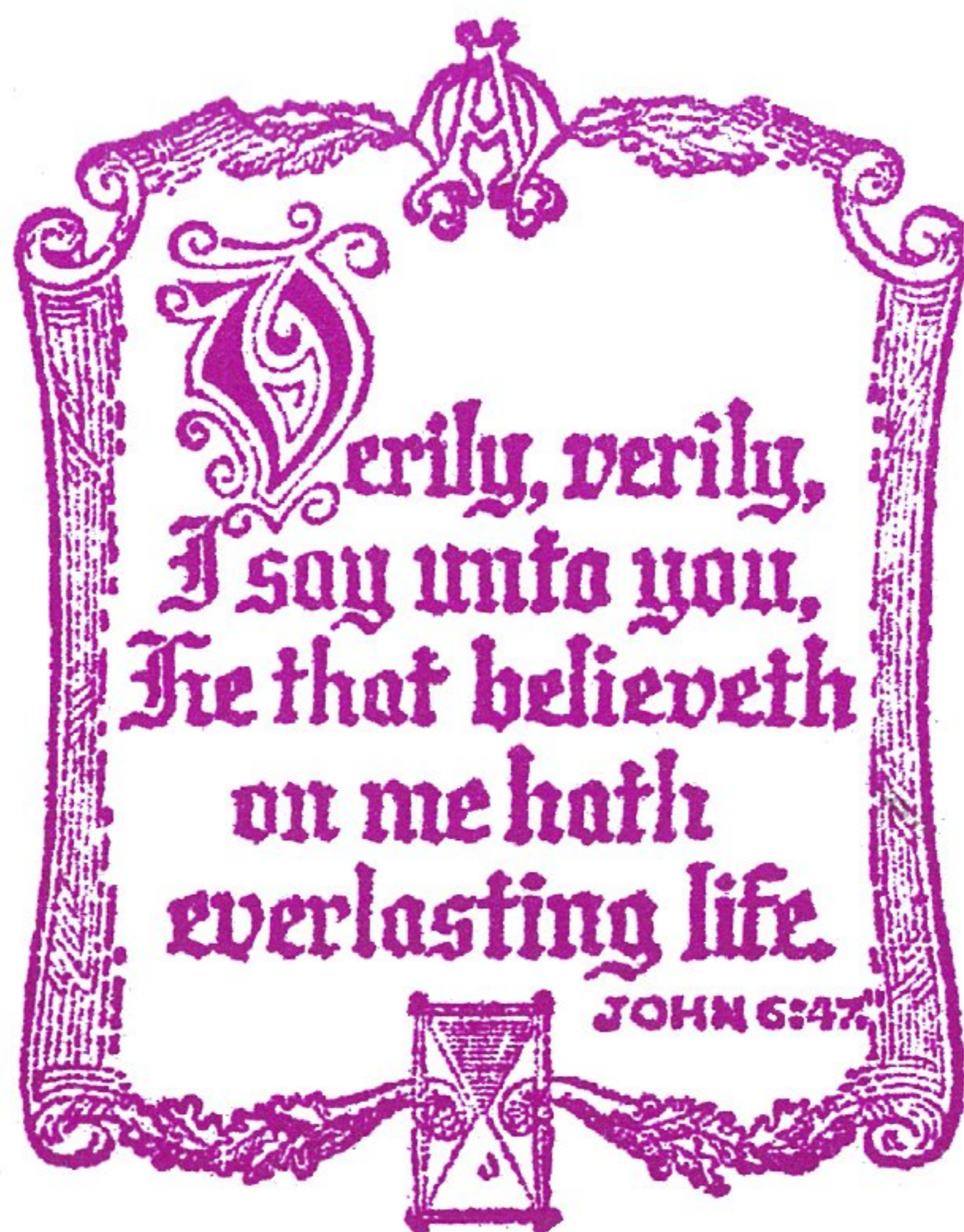
## Books of the Bible

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Exodus	Job	John	1, 2 Timothy
Leviticus	Ecclesiastes	The Acts	Philemon
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Joshua	Paul's Gospel in S.O.S.-A.Mooneyhan	1, 2 Corinthians	2nd John
Judges	Isaiah	Galatians	Jude
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**V**erily, verily,  
I say unto you,  
He that believeth  
on me hath  
everlasting life.

JOHN 6:47