

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the  
whole Counsel of GOD

Without Price Since 1910

'Loving his Appearing'

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A



hristmas  
Message

"I am the Way,  
the Truth,  
and the Life;"

St. John 14: 6

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Glory to  
God  
in the highest,  
and on earth  
peace,  
good will  
toward men.



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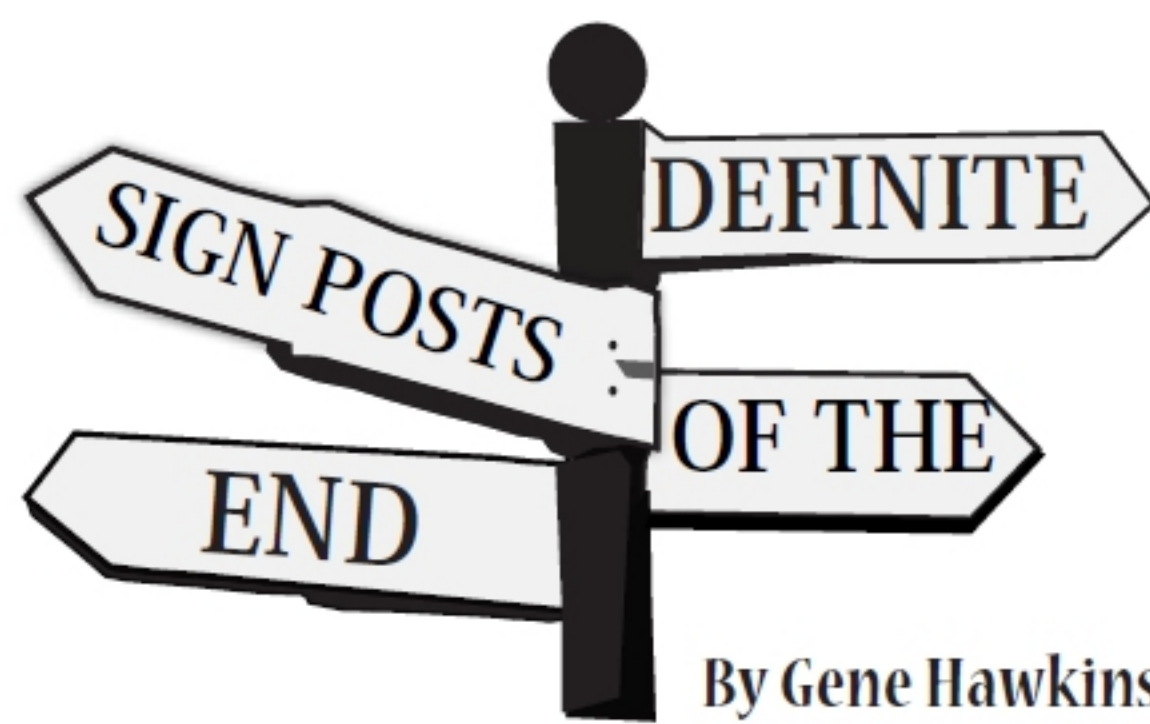
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*“And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters’ clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided;... And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.... they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Dan. 2:41-44*

3

*“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth:... and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots:...” Dan. 7:7-8*

*“Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass;... And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.” Dan. 7:19 – 20*

*“So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. Rev. 17:3*

*“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. Rev. 17:12*

**N**ebuchadnezzar, Daniel, and John all saw various portions and specific details of images which reflect the times and seasons of this world presently unfolding before our very eyes. The very end of these “pictures” is what holds our attention today.

Nebuchadnezzar saw the four world empires as a very appealing and glorious man, while both Daniel and John beheld such empires, from God's point of view, as "beasts." There are many who have assumed that the ten toes in Nebuchadnezzar's dream image would be the same as the ten horns in Daniel's vision, but this cannot be. Three of the horns in Daniel's account were "... plucked up by the roots,..." while the ten toes on the image which Nebuchadnezzar saw, remain intact. Those ten toes carry extreme importance for all those looking for the eminent return of Jesus, because Daniel emphatically declares that, "...**in the days of these kings** shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed:..." That eminent kingdom, is none other than the one wherein Jesus, will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords, and He will take that throne during "... the days..." of these same kings.

Daniel was intrigued with the ten horns, representing an end time coalition of ten nations which will be reduced to only seven. Daniel originally saw "ten horns" while John beheld only seven "heads", meaning that Daniel saw this conglomerate earlier in time than did John. John is also informed that the seven heads will be further reduced to two, one of which will which will be the antichrist. Rev. 17:10-11 John saw both the elements represented by the ten toes in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, and the ultimate seven described by Daniel. He saw a beast with seven heads, which corresponds with the seven resulting horns in Daniel's prophecy, but that same beast also had ten horns, corresponding with the ten toes which Nebuchadnezzar beheld.

God also clearly defined the identity of those ten horns saying that they "...are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast." We are more persuaded than ever that the terrorist groups, which are daily gaining pronounced prominence in this world, fulfill the attributes depicted by the "ten toes" in Nebuchadnezzar's dream and the "ten horns" which John saw. They have, first of all, received no kingdom as yet, meaning that they represent no specific country, but desperately desire to control the political affairs of this world, and they have infiltrated a number of major powers world-wide. Their battle is primarily against those perceived as Christians, for "These shall make war with the Lamb,..." This is another major identifying mark of all these terrorist groups, for they are all religious "jihadists," waging "holy war." The AP

reported, in the wake of the recent carnage in Paris, that one of the shooters shouted "Allahu Akbar," "meaning god is greater or god is the greatest." The god of which they speak is certainly not the God of all grace, for their intended target is actually Him, "The Lamb," clearly making this a religious endeavor.

These groups must also most assuredly be the "toes," due to the time in which they appear; representing the very extremity of this image, marking some of the last vestiges of Gentile Times. The modern day term for the way they "... make war..." is terrorism. The fact that they have "... no kingdom as yet..." has presented great problems for some countries, such as the U.S., for some, who deny that there is a war against terrorism, basically say "How can you declare war on an ideology? The only way to issue a declaration of war is country against country." Jesus described such end time warfare as "... ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: ... nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:..." Matt. 24:6-7

5 Surely He does not mean that nations will battle only against nations, and these lesser kingdoms shall simply squabble among themselves. Is it not rather ironic that the "heads," of prominent nations are battling the kingdoms of terrorist "horns" in our day? President Obama has been greatly criticized because he will not even define these religious atrocities as terrorism, and in the eyes of some, both at home and abroad, has done nothing to curb their "despicable religious advances." He further complicated his image, both nationally and internationally, by declaring that Al-Qaeda "is on the run," and that ISIS should be considered "junior varsity."

It is quite obvious, in view of recent attacks against Russia and France, that other world leaders do not share his sentiment. According to Reuters: "President Vladimir Putin vowed to hunt down those responsible for blowing up a Russian airliner over Egypt and intensify air strikes against Islamists in Syria, after the Kremlin concluded a bomb had destroyed the plane last month, killing 224 people. 'We will find them anywhere on the planet and punish them.' Putin said." There had been much wavering on this being a terror attack by ISIS to retaliate against Russia's involvement in Syria, but once bomb residue was found at the crash site, the investigation was over. The Russian President further renewed his resolve to continue the fight against this ISIS kingdom stating that "Our air force's military work in Syria must

not simply be continued," he said. "It must be intensified in such a way that the criminals understand that retribution is inevitable."

Syria is also very much the subject in France, after the ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) attack in Paris. Reuters again ran this headline: **"Confirmed: Paris Terrorists Entered Europe as Refugees."** The story continues declaring that "The holder of a Syrian passport found near the body of one of the gunmen who died in Friday night's attacks in Paris was registered as a refugee in several European countries last month, authorities said. The man, identified by Serbian authorities only by his initials A.A., came into Europe through the Greek island of Leros, where he was processed on Oct. 3, Greek officials said on Saturday. He was among 70 refugees who arrived on a small vessel from Turkey."

Many major politicians in America are trying desperately to persuade the President to change his Syrian refugee policy for this country, fearing that the same infiltration could greatly endanger any city or sporting event in this country. Newsmax published the headline, "Feinstein: ISIS 'Not Contained; NATO Should Join Fight," as the senator very heartily disagreed with present Democratic policy. Ms. Feinstein, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, continued her arguments stating that "I have never been more concerned. ISIL is not contained. ISIL (Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant) is expanding. They just put out a video saying it is their intent to attack this country. I think we have to be prepared. We need to be able to work with Russia and Iran, if they will work with us, in the Syrian area. We need to be able to get a political solution to Assad so that all of everyone's attention can be directed to ISIL. Look, ISIL took down a major aircraft, 224 people. It had a major attack in Beirut, 40 people killed ... they are on the March. It is important to recognize this and prepare to deal with it with action, but airstrikes are not enough."

French Pres. Hollande likewise quickly blamed ISIS for the attack on his country, leaving no doubt that this is war. The A.P. published this report. "French President Francois Hollande blamed the Islamic State group for the attacks in Paris that left at least 128 dead, calling them an "act of war". The multiple attacks across the city late Friday were "an act of war... committed by a terrorist army, the Islamic State, against France, against... what we are, a free country," Hollande said." He further stated in this same account that "France — which is already bombing IS (Islamic State) targets in Syria and Iraq as part of the U.S.-led coalition, and has troops fighting

militants in Africa — "will be merciless toward the barbarians of Islamic State group." The A.P. also included the intentions and resolve of other world leaders such as British Prime Minister David Cameron. "Reflecting fears in other European capitals of the risk of coordinated or copycat attacks, the British government scheduled a meeting of its own emergency COBRA intelligence committee overseen by Prime Minister David Cameron. Italy said it, too, was raising security levels on borders and major public places."

7 These ten toes and ten horns are a global threat, and most of the "heads," or nations, recognize it. We would, however, point out that while many of the above reports speak of annihilating groups such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS, scripture is very plain that these kings will "...receive power as kings one hour with the beast." Rev. 17:12 This means that they will in no wise be destroyed, and they will still be very much alive and well when the antichrist takes complete control about 250 days before the middle of the tribulation week. It is also a scriptural fact that, "... the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire." Rev. 17:16 The whole world has witnessed the barbaric tactics of ISIS and it is surely not difficult to imagine how God will use them to inflict the same punishment on this woman, Catholicism, who is "... drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus:..." (V. 6) with the same ungodly barbarism, which she wielded against all who would dare resist her, during the dark ages and beyond. After He is finished with their "ministry," both Daniel and John testify that these toes and horns will then be destroyed.

Despite the above foreordained outcome for these kings, national leaders today must make every effort to contain this ungodly wicked enemy, and reports already indicate that many of these nations seem to be banding together against ISIS. French forces are already in Syria, but have openly stated that they will join Russia in the fight against ISIS. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu asserted that "Israel stands shoulder to shoulder with President François Hollande and with the French people in the joint war against terrorism." Will other nations become actively involved in this "war," and is this perhaps the spark that will literally drive all of them toward the coveted atmosphere of "peace and safety" foretold by The Word of God?

We must not become disoriented or discouraged by all these events. It is rather a time to rejoice due to the promise of deliverance which will come "... in the days of these kings..." Paul stated plainly "... that in the last days perilous times shall come." II Tim. 3:1 Those times are most assuredly upon us, as we are living in some of the most "difficult, dangerous, furious, and fierce," times the world has known. We also know from God's Word that this is only the "beginning of sorrows," and this current world state will wax worse and worse throughout the tribulation period. It is rather interesting that Paul begins his definition of these "last days" characteristics with "... men shall be lovers of their own selves,..." which seemingly gives rise to other unsavory attributes of "...covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy," V.2 Next is "Without natural affection..." and the whole world, in every sector of life, can attest to that deficit, whereby there is absolutely no restraint because men are neither controlled or motivated by the love of God.

There is no way that any of this long catalog of wickedness will be eliminated or reversed as some are wont to declare. The world will not get better until King Jesus sets up the aforementioned kingdom, "... which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." That will be the millennium, but we must know how to protect and conduct ourselves in the midst of the chaotic world condition swirling around us at this present time. This same chapter has that answer. The apostle begins in verse 12 warning that all "... that will live godly in Christ Jesus **shall** suffer persecution." He continues with the absolute assertion that "... evil men and seducers **shall wax worse and worse**, deceiving, and being deceived." V. 13 Peter likewise exhorts "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves likewise with the same mind:...**" I Pet. 1:4 However, in the midst of all such opposition, we are strongly urged to "... continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that 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 for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” V. 14-17 Now is the time to actively, and continuously, pursue God’s Word, which will not only be a helmet of salvation for our hearts and minds, but It will also make us “...perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” We not only stand in opposition to the widespread evil of our day, but God can, and will, perfect us to reign with Christ! Paul also gives us this final word of exhortation for these last days. “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.” Rom. 13:11-14



### **Wondrous Gift!**

Peace! Peace! The angels sang.  
Good will to man! The heavens rang.  
This the chorus at His birth—  
Christ the King has come to earth.  
Unto us a CHILD is given:  
God’s own Son is born from heaven.

Peace! Peace! The joyful strain,  
Naught of sorrow, sin nor pain.  
Good will to man, they only tell,  
As their voices rise and swell.  
Heaven’s Joy has come to earth,  
Born a Babe of lowly birth.

Peace! Peace! The story This—  
Angels sang of Grace and Bliss;  
For on Mary’s gentle breast,  
Lay the GIFT of endless Rest,  
And in Christ “The Lord from heaven,”  
God’s Eternal Peace is given.

Mary M. Bodie

# In A Manger

Mary M. Bodie

*“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7.*

Here is recorded an astounding fact, and it is the inspired report of the Spirit of God. There was no ROOM in the inn for the Holy Son of God when He came to dwell in an earthen vessel in which He was to die. We read in a previous verse that his foster-father, Joseph, was of the house and lineage of David, the, ruling tribe of Judah. He was of the royal line — yet there was no room for Him in the inn.

methinks that innkeeper did not want to accommodate that royal couple because they looked shabby and he did not know who they were. They were disguised, as it were, and did not look the part of princes. If he had known that Joseph was of the royal seed of David he might have made room for his family. That phrase, "no room in the inn," has a double meaning. It not only gives us the fact of the scarcity of room in that hotel in that little town of Bethlehem but it is telling the lack of room for Jesus in the hearts of men for whom He came to die. Do you hear the solemn and sad refrain? — "no room in the inn." "He came unto His own people, the Jews, but His own received Him not." There was no place in their hearts, nor in the world for Him. Worldly things — desire for gain, for honor and fame, crowd out the desire for the Saviour of men, or maybe in some cases the cares of the world absorbed their interests.

The Joy of heaven, the Light of this world, the bright and shining Orb of day, the Gold of Ophir, the fairest Jewel of all time, found no favor in this cold world, no house to shelter His little head, when He was born, nothing except a rude and barren stable. It is almost unbelievable! Who could ever have imagined such a thing? The Lord of Life and Glory was laid in a manger. He first opened His eyes on the drab and dreary exterior of a barn. He saw the world at its worst even in infancy. It was a little symbol of the earth as sin had made it, fleshly and corrupt, into which He had come. No silver cradle, lined with soft downy white cushions, was waiting for

Him. O mystery divine, what surging emotions stir in our hearts when we think upon these things! What memories sweep over us of the condescension of the Creator in His humbling stoop! The angels sang at His birth, all heaven was interested as the heavenly choristers made the welkin ring — but the subject of it all, the Babe in the manger heard only the lowing of the cattle or the bleating of the sheep.

11 "No room in the inn" for the royal Seed of David! Can we imagine such a contingency! The royal couple, Joseph and Mary, must have looked poor and friendless and the innkeeper turned them away. He did not recognize royalty. We wonder if he ever learned what he had missed. We saw a picture recently, supposedly the scene of Christ's birth and of Joseph and Mary, by a renowned artist. The setting was perfect and beautiful. The master-painter had caught the beauty and mellow glow of the sunset — but he never caught the real message of the Babe in the manger. It was adorned, as also the stable. These were not bare and uninviting. No ugliness was visible. The "holy family," as it was labeled, were all clothed as the rich and the great. Nothing betokened poverty or need. Joseph was portrayed as a prince (which he was) instead of the poverty-stricken peasant, husband of Mary the virgin. The artist missed the mark entirely. The Son of God left the riches of heaven, the glory of the Father, and identified Himself with woe and poverty. What could the riches of earth add to Him who had the wealth of heaven at His command? All of earth's greatness was cheap and tawdry to Him. He poured contempt on all the pride of man. He needed no raiment or ornament to adorn or glorify Him. The earth was adorned with His presence. He was the glory of that rude stable. He stooped to earth. He disdained its wealth. What had vain man to offer Him whose hands had created all these things? He had called worlds into being. Man's very best was as tinsel, compared to the glory of that which He had left — but the poor innkeeper never knew. Like the mass of humanity, he looked upon the outward man, and did not know that God had come to visit him. He let Joseph and Mary pass on and the Child was born elsewhere. It was too late, to take Him into his home. Too late! How sad — No room for Jesus.

# CHRIST'S DOUBLE FATHERHOOD

*Author Unknown*

Here is an interesting and new explanation of the words of God's Anointed Son in His prayer in Gethsemane, in which He calls the Self-Existent and Absolute God "Abba Father."

That prefix "Abba" is pure Chaldee. Ere the Hebrew race or language were born, or God had "Called Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees," it was their word for "Father" meaning "originator," the "head," the "chief," even as we speak of the "Aboriginal," or call the **founders** of a people, "the Aborigines." The absolute God then is "The Originator," "All-father," or "Aboriginal Father," the "Abba" of the human race.

But He was more than that to Jesus, the Christ. He was His actual, and only, Father as well. Joseph was only His foster-father, and God had creatively over-shadowed that "virgin" mother just as He had before over-shadowed the virgin earth in Adam's creation, and in the Aboriginal creation of every rose and lily and every flower, fish, beast, bird, etc.

Jesus was then God's "only begotten Son." No one, then on earth but He, had a right to call God "Abba, Father," because in this double sense He was not the father of all those on the earth. He was "Abba," **only**, to all other men, but *Jesus*: because they had human fathers and Jesus had not. 12

God was doubly His Father, being the "Aboriginal" or "Abba" of the race, into which Jesus had now come, and also by the Holy and creative Spirit's "over-shadowing" He had brought "His Son into the world," and God was truly "Abba, Father" to Jesus in that agony of Gethsemane.

But since "God is a Spirit, and men may become "born of God," and may receive His Spirit, Paul in the 8th of Romans and the 4th of Galatians says of those who are born from above and receive His Spirit, we have now a right to cry, "Abba, Father," and through Christ by the Spirit we are "Become the sons of God," "Heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ," etc.

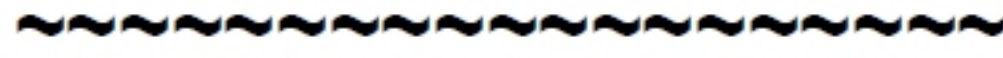
This glorious One is now doubly our father as Christians, or Abba, Father to us as our originator and our spiritually transforming Redeemer. All glory to our Great Self-Existent One, absolute, benevolent and eternal Father who planned this transformation through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.

Here then is a new and glorious recognition by the Saviour Himself, of both His virgin birth, and His divine character, in His most desperate and agonized state of mind, when nothing but

truth and necessity could stir His soul, crying out "... Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt." Mk. 14:36

Selected

(Reprint 1948)



### Bethlehem And Calvary

There was no room in Bethlehem  
For Him who left His throne  
To seek the lost at countless cost  
And make their griefs His own.

But there was room on Calvary  
Upon the cross of shame  
For Him to die uplifted high  
To bear the sinner's blame.

There was no room in Bethlehem;  
And in the world today  
Men will not give Him room to live,  
And bid Him turn away

But there is room on Calvary;  
And there He stands to give  
A home to all who heed His call  
And look to Him and live.

There was no room in Bethlehem  
For Christ, the Prince of Kings,  
From throne and crown to earth come down  
With healing in His wings.

But there is room in Calvary  
For sinners to abide;  
And who will come may find a home  
In Jesus crucified!

— *E. M. Clarkson*

# Unspeakable Gift

Author Unknown

*"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." II Cor. 9:15*

**B**ethlehem, the name which is fraught with every conceivable gift for mankind is well known to men. Herein God uttered His Voice in manifold ways. The Builder of all things, who is God, came and tabernacled in dust. It is this that the apostle Paul calls "God's unspeakable Gift"—so wonderful that there are no words to utter it. Let us look at its method first, then its universal character and third, its uniqueness.

The Method is amazing. God entered humanity by birth. "There is born to you," the angel said to the shepherds. He came by way of the incarnation, which is according to all God's great first purposes and original laws. "There is born to you." Here is the Eternal, Illimitable, the Unbounded God consenting to be bound and limited. He voluntarily submits Himself to the same law by which the universe is unconsciously submitted. It could not be otherwise if God is to become a man. We do not need an unveiling of power. We do not need a catalog of wisdom. The universe is sown with wisdom and power which the scientist is only beginning to decipher. No man wanted the Heart of the Universe and so He came. "God so loved the world that He gave," gave His heart, His soul, Himself. This is the wonder before which all wonders fail, before which all philosophy, all fiction falls. For neither Theology, Science, Philosophy, nor all combined can compete with the account of Bethlehem. Here we are confronted by the supreme sacrifice of the Supreme Sovereign to put into effect immortal humanity. Someone has said, "He that hath been cradled in majesty will not leave the throne to play with beggars", but that is just what God has done. He has come down to beggars. And because of this unheard of thing, these beggars are now in the unbroken line of Christ's succession.

Then consider the Uniqueness of God's Gift, "For there is born to you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Salvation is the

work of God alone. A Savior is born for the human race. This work is greater than creation. It brings forth a new creation—Christ, the firstborn of a holy race of humanity. The Son of God assumes our nature and makes it divine—worthy to stand before God in the glory. He is no reformer, king, nor teacher. Rather He is all of these; they are but the tinsel clinging to His robes of majesty, as He comes with crimson garments, glorious in His apparel, marching in the greatness of His strength, speaking righteousness mighty to save—Isa. 63. God can make a king or teacher or reformer as easily as He can make a sea or fashion a star in the heavens, but to fashion a Savior is far different. God must create Himself a Man. He must come down and be born of Mary — come forth from Mary's womb, that He might be a Savior. So the Gospel is this --- we sinners must come to God through "Mary's Son." Christ then will be in us, the hope of glory through time and eternity.

15 God gave us Himself in Christ, that is the distinct marvel of His salvation. "I and My Father are One" Jesus said. This is the divine score from which flows heavenly strains of music. And the Jews took up stones to stone Him, but they were unsuccessful. No power of man or Satan can destroy the indestructible. Christ is God's salvation. Through Him and Him alone He has the underhold on man and lifts him up to acceptable fellowship. And behold that Holy Thing that came from God, above the stars, that came into our humanity and wore it up to Calvary, then coming from the grave wore it on up the hill of Light from whence it came and toward which all the new creation moves. We say again, "Thanks be unto God for His Unspeakable Gift."

\* Genius: A man who shoots at something no one else can see — and hits it.

\* Difficulties are things that show What we are.

\* Pessimist: One who builds dungeons in the air.

\* It is the *energetic* who *condemn* themselves for laziness; the saints who suffer remorse for their sins.—

Wm. Lyon Phelps.

# The Grace Of Faith

George Mueller

I have lacked nothing—NOTHING! I have had my trials, and my empty purse, but my receipts have aggregated tens of thousands of dollars; while the work has gone on these fifty-one years. Then with regard to my pastoral work these same long years I have had great difficulties, great trials and perplexities. There will always be difficulties and problems, but God has sustained under every one of them and delivered me out of all my trials—and the work has gone on.

Now this is not as some have said because I am a man of great mental power or endowed with energy and perseverance—these are not the reasons. It is because I have confided in God, because I have sought God and He has cared for the institution which under His direction has one hundred and seventeen schools with masters and mistresses and other departments of various sorts. The difficulties of such an undertaking have been gigantic, but I read that they that put their trust in the Lord shall not be ashamed. Nearly twenty years ago a beloved brother from America came to see me and he expected to see me an old man, helpless and decrepit, bowed down with burdens and he wondered I did not look old. "How is this?" he said, "that you look so young under such a load as you are carrying?"

16

"My dear brother," I said, "**I have always rolled the burden on the Lord. I do not carry one-hundredth part of it. The burden comes to me, and I roll it back on Him. I do not carry the burden.**" And now, in my seventy-sixth year, I have physical strength and mental vigor for work as great as when I was a young man in the University, studying and preparing Latin orations. I am just as vigorous as at that time.

How comes this? Because, in the last half century of labor, I've been able, with the simplicity of a little child, to rely **upon God**. I have had my trials, but I have laid hold on God, and so it has come that I have been sustained. It is **not only permission, but positive command that He gives us to cast the burden upon Him**. Oh let us do it, my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ. "**Cast thy burden upon the Lord and He shall sustain thee.**" **Day by day I do it.** This morning again sixty matters in connection with the Church, of which I am pastor, I brought before the Lord, and thus it is day by day, and year by year; ten years, twenty years, thirty years, forty years. And now, my beloved brothers and



sisters, come with your burdens, the burdens of your business, your profession, your trials and difficulties, and you will find help.

Many persons suppose it is **only about money that I trust the Lord in Prayer. I do bring this money question before the Lord**, but it is only one out of many things I speak to God about, and **I find He helps**. Often I have **perplexity in finding persons of ability and fitness for the various posts** that I have to have supplied. Sometimes weeks and months pass, and day by day, day by day, I bring the matter before the Lord, and **invariably He helps**. It is so about the **conversion of persons — prayer, sooner or later, is turned into praise. After a while, God helps**. It is so about the needs of our work in sending our tracts and books, and missionary efforts. After a while God helps. We're never left, we're never confounded.

**Do not, however, expect to attain full faith at once**. All such things as jumping into full exercise of faith in such things I discountenance. I do not believe in it, I do not believe in it, I do **NOT** believe in it, and I wish you to plainly understand I do not believe in it. All such things go on in a natural way. The **little I did obtain I did not obtain all at once**. All this I say particularly, because letters come to me full of questions from those who seek to have their faith strengthened. Begin over again, staying your soul on the Word of God, and you will find an increase of your faith as you exercise it.

One thing more, "Oh I never will have the gift of faith, Mr. Mueller has." That is a mistake, a gross error. This is the same kind of faith that all Christians have had. It is the same sort of faith that all God's children may obtain — the same kind that Simon Peter had — and that all the worthies of faith had. My faith has been developed by exercise, but all faith is the same, the only difference is in the degree, mine may be more exercised by use.

What little faith I have is the grace of faith, not the gift. But he that has the grace of faith always has it accompanied by love, rendered charity. The gift of faith is able to command, may even command devils. The *grace* of faith has to do with the written Word of the Lord. At first I was only able to trust the Lord for ten dollars; then for a hundred, then for a thousand and finally for as much as I needed. You may commence the same way, and your faith will increase, I assure you.

(Reprint 1943)

# REFLECTIONS

## REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

*“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise:...” Matt. 1:18*

**M**any may remember the words of Walter Cronkite when he would say, of the time then present, “And that’s the way it is, on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of December 2015.” Likewise Paul Harvey would declare, “And that’s the rest of the story, on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of Dec.ember 2015.” Both of them meant, “I am giving you the up to date facts, and this is exactly the way it happened.” Matthew also states, “the actual, factual account,” of a most glorious event, which “... was on this wise...” Indeed, this is the way it happened.

God has used this same pattern a number of times in scripture, one of them being that He specifically instructed Aaron, “... On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them, The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:” Num. 6:23-25 “On this wise...” indicates very specific and factual detail rather than vague generality, and this portion describes the very intimate and personal manner in which God would bless Israel.

Matthew is likewise very specific as to the intricate details of Jesus’ birth, declaring that “... When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, **before they came together,**...” Some have tried to explain away the supernatural birth of Jesus by declaring that Mary was simply a young peasant girl “who got into trouble,” but scripture is very emphatic that she was a virgin. She was engaged to Joseph, as the custom was, but they had not become one in this manner. During that espousal, “... she was found with child **of the Holy Ghost.**” Luke is very emphatic in answering Mary’s question, “... How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” after the angel had specifically told her “... thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son,...” Luke 1:31,34 He then informed her that “...The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” V. 35 God could not plant that “holy thing” in any vessel but that of a virgin. The “Heavenly Seed”

will not be confused with any other.

The angel had appeared unto Mary, and now it is Joseph's turn because "... Joseph her husband, being a just man,..." and greatly concerned for her welfare, "... was minded to put her away privily." Secrecy in this matter is not God's Plan, for He wanted the whole world to witness this supernatural phenomenon, which only God could accomplish. Therefore "... the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." Jesus would be the promised Son of David, who would fulfill the Davidic Covenant and reign forever. He was also the Promised Redeemer, for "... she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." V. 20-21

Matthew continues to be rather emphatic in his specific account, "... on this wise,..." proclaiming that "... all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child,..." V. 22,23 God will go to great lengths to prove, beyond any shadow of doubt, the authenticity, accuracy, and specific fulfillment of His Word and it surely did happen "...on this wise..."

Matthew also reveals that Joseph discarded his natural reasoning, finally ignoring "what the neighbors might think," and "...did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and **he** called his name JESUS." V. 24-25

His earthly father officially named Him "Jesus," that Glorious Name which has come to mean salvation, for all the world.

**"AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS SEASON!"**

GH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President's Day Weekend Convention

Living Waters Tabernacle

February 12-14, 2016

*Come join like-minded saints for a time of fellowship and encouragement in the things of eternity during this annual gathering in Denver, Colorado. Sermons, studies, and plenty of food will be provided throughout the weekend. You won't want to miss it - you'll be refreshed in the Lord!*

# Meditation Checkups

*Carson Richards*

*“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. And be at peace among yourselves.” I Thess. 5:12-13*

**W**hile reading I Thess. 4, I remembered Bible School days. It includes the "final checkup," as one has called it, before saints are perfected in spirit and soul and made ready to go up in that glorious new piece of workmanship, our redemption body. We were suddenly impressed with the little word "work" in the above text, and remembered that such little electrical contacts made by the all-wise Holy Spirit are to invite further research on all His high lines to the store-house of divine wisdom. I heeded Paul's advice to "meditate on these things." I was not disappointed therein with a gradual transition from the sordid scene of men in darkness to some pleasant and profitable reflection from the kingdom of Jesus Christ, the Light, the Love, the Lord. I decided to record a few mental notes which were sweet to the mouth. Nevertheless these may become bitter to the belly in a not too distant future, as was the case with the Apostle John in Revelation.

20

The Thessalonians, were "up-goers," and not at all inclined to stay in Adam number one's abode, of sin, slime and spiritual soot. Paul besought them "... to know them which labor over you... in the Lord... And to esteem them very highly for their work's sake...." Thus, some worthy spiritual leaders must have labored among the Thessalonians and had a work which was not of their making, but of the Lord's making. It seems that there can be no more important revelation in an age of too much religiousness which is "slammed" by the Apostle Paul who, termed it "This present evil age" (Gal. 1:4), than to know the Lord's work and His workers. When he wrote this letter, Paul was the number one worker and spiritual overseer for "the Lord's work" on earth. Only Thessalonian saints, whom I mean as a particular class of God's people, recognized Paul and His work then. They evidently did not see this part of the age of "blood, sweat and tears," which

condition did not start with bombs on Warsaw, but with a couple of relatives of ours, enjoying a little menu of vitamin-filled fruit in the Garden of Eden.

Therefore, the Thessalonians were expecting something, during their fleeting hours below, to fly above the seat in the heavenlies, already prepared by their Joshua and to receive their inheritance allotted in accordance with their battles of faith. Their eyes were in the heavenlies, so they could know those whom the Head had ordained and could recognize His workers down here. They were not concerned with Judaizers and works of sight, show and splendor, for these must have been in evidence then as now. Paul wrote of those who wanted to "make a fair show in the flesh." He commended Timothy saying, "He worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do." I Cor. 16:10 Some spiritually directed physical energy was being expended which was of God, in those days. However, we can see in Paul's writings that there was much work, even sweating, groaning and drudgery for a salvation which was not the product of the Head, the Lord Jesus Christ who directs the members of the Body, His Church, to do His work.

Yes, how simple, smooth and perfect must God's plan for service have been. Every member had a job marked out for him in the original purpose of God, for Paul wrote that "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Eph. 2:10 Since the New Man has his work mapped out already, our stay here on the training ground is short. It seems sad that everyone does not blend into his individual job. The word "work" is used a considerable number of times in Paul's epistles. They give the rules for the whole work of the Lord, the end of which is not to convert the world but to "build a bride" for our blessed Lord Jesus. The speedy Philippian racer, who desires to press toward the goal held before the Thessalonians, the out translation from among the Church, is exhorted to work out his own salvation. The ever pertinent Holy Spirit cuts off Mr. Legalist, who is already rolling up his sleeves to amaze the Heavenly "Probate Judge" with his whirlwind efforts to "win the prize," or salvation at last, with the next breath, declaring that

"It is **God which worketh in you** both to will and to do of His good pleasure." Phil. 2:12-13 Thank God for His careful, patient, loving operations in the saint as he yields.

Poor self-directed worker who does his "daily dozen," but to no avail. God, Gracious and Loving, blesses him as frequently as He can, because He sees the life planted there as that of Christ, and He patiently endures the abundant activity not ordered by Him in view of the day the worker tires out and sees mother Grace, ready to take him up and "nourish and cherish" him. Oh, praise the Lord for His patience and perseverance in working in us. He must desire, as Paul wrote Timothy, to have "a vessel unto honour, sanctified and meet for the Master's use and prepared unto every good work." II Tim. 2:21

I believe the words just quoted give the secret, which really seems to be a secret, of the ministers who attain the place mentioned in our original Scripture in I Thessalonians 5. They are proved faithful, tried under fire, and no doubt given periods with no work for the Lord, that is, while God did His work of preparation. Paul had it, Timothy had it. The Lord Himself subjected Himself to His Father's training. Perhaps the consideration of the training for the "work" of the Lord gives us an insight into the reason for the esteem and love we should have for these workers. They did not just set out to "work for the Lord" and then reap abundantly in a short time. God set them out and men did not recognize them readily, but when they were ready for the job, The Father had it ready for them. Their work stood the bombardment of the enemy. It is God's work and God has a way of standing with those who learned to stand with Him, or more, **in** Him.

Paul was such. There was someone or some ones over the Thessalonians bearing the Godly stamp of approval. There must have been some of God's own work down through this age. There must be some now. God only can reveal to us His own choice lighthouses. Without Him, none would "know those over" us at His appointment. Thessalonian saints being a select company must have select officers. Special troops have officers of corresponding caliber. My cry when I really yielded to God was

to see as He sees, to see His own work. To get down to present day realities, I am convinced, God directed me to His best in leading me to Kansas City to Bible School. I came to realize it was His work, His servants there and that Grace and Glory was His paper. "Oh," someone says, "so that is God's only work." No, but Thessalonian saints have special officers and a special goal. I trust the reader gets my meaning on "specials." It isn't egotistical to label God's work as His, anymore than for Paul to say, "Be ye followers of me even as I follow Christ." God had prepared him! He could stand the test. When many of God's ministers see their place in God's work they will be ready for work and, we might predict, it will work. Thessalonian saints! These are the days to settle differences as nailed to the cross of Jesus and to have highest esteem for God's leaders over us. God demands it. We are leaving soon, you know.

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# In Tune With God

*Janis Drew*

**Jesus' heartbeat is our metronome. It is the rhythm of life. For all eternity, this "Beat goes on!" The more time we spend in God's Word, the more "in tune" we become. That is how He is able to synchronize the beat of our heart with His Own. That is "fine – tuning," for sure. It creates a sensitivity, where the Holy Spirit can lightly touch you, and you will be able to respond with the right manner, at the right time. It is an Harmony of Peace. We need to let this peace orchestrate our lives, and saturate us till it "oozes" out all over, and our "cup runneth over." This can stabilize us and keep us so level, that neither the enemy, or the world, or anything else, for that matter, can tip or tilt us in any fashion. We need "...the fulness of him that filleth all in all." Eph. 1:23**

# The Child

## Jesus

A.S. Copley

*“And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.” Luke 1:30-33.*

This is the greatest message ever carried from heaven to earth. It is the message of the angel Gabriel to Mary, the virgin of Nazareth. The first part has been fulfilled. The Promised One was born to Mary. His Name was Jesus. He was great and was called the Son of God. But what about the latter part of the angelic announcement? Has the Lord God failed of doing what was promised? Why is He not reigning over the house of Jacob now? Why is He not sitting on the throne of David? He has not received the Kingdom.

24

The first part of the prophecy was fulfilled at Christ's birth: the latter part will be fulfilled at His second advent. It would have immediately come to pass; but He was rejected. The prophets had foretold this. He received a cross instead of a throne. The house of Jacob did not want this man to reign over them. They put Him into the hands of the Gentiles. When Pilate reminded them of His Kingship, they answered, "We have no king, but Caesar." Then they demanded the release of Barabbas and the crucifixion of the Son of David their King. The awful choice with its terrible loss was made. After that, the mockery, the plaited crown, the purple robe, the frail reed, the marred face and form! Then we see Him on the tree; but on it is written these three words in three different languages --- "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." No hand could remove this inscription. Pilate *insisted* that it remain.

David's throne has been empty ever since; for He, who alone can fill it, was rejected. The King is no more wanted today, at the end of the age, than He was at the beginning. The world does not want David's Son to reign. He is a Jew.



And yet He is the world's hope. While the throne of David is empty, the world will groan. All the misery, disorder, sorrow and suffering; *all evil has its source*, in the fact that the Son of the woman, God's Son also, is rejected. Wars will continue; unrighteousness will rule; no permanent peace; no better world will be enjoyed until He is enthroned.

But who will put Him on the throne? "The Lord God will give unto Him the throne of His Father David. He will set Him upon His holy hill of Zion." He will *give* Him the nations for His inheritance. The world waits that *glad day* when all pain and sorrow will be gone; tears will be wiped away, death will be held in abeyance. Happiness and peace will be manifested in the morning of joy that is just ahead. "Come, Lord Jesus, Come."

25

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## Because God Cared

Mary M. Bodie

Because God cared, a star shone bright  
And brought the wise men thru the night,  
While lonely shepherds heard a song  
That lingered in their hearts for long,  
And gave to them both hope and light.

Because God cared a Babe was born  
Within a stable, bleak and worn.  
The King of Jews in manger bared  
Was laid to sleep, because God cared—  
In Bethlehem at break of morn.

Because God cared, its robes of white  
Were changed to drabness and to night.  
He came to live, and love men too—  
The Kingly One and Royal Jew.  
In Him we have the Christmas light.

# ISAIAH 37

(Continued)

*“Then, Isaiah the son of Amoz sent unto Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Whereas thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria: This is the word which the LORD hath spoken concerning him; The virgin, the daughter of Zion, hath despised thee, and laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee.” V. 21-22*

These words of the LORD are “concerning him,” that is, Sennacherib, and they assure us that God has most assuredly taken his attack Personally, but note that “the virgin, the daughter of Zion, hath despised thee....” Israel as a nation, can in no wise claim this state of “virginity” at this time, but indeed they will when they finally bow to their Messiah. Then they too will enjoy this glorious superiority of having all these nations in contempt, who have despised, scorned, and shaken their heads at them throughout the ages of Gentile Times. One day all these nations will understand the message that God sent to Assyria. “If you reproach Israel, it is a direct insult against Me.” “Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel. By thy servants (Rabshakeh) hast thou reproached the **Lord**, and hast said, By the multitude of my chariots am I come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon; and I will cut down the tall cedars thereof, and the choice fir trees thereof: and I will enter into the height of his border, and the forest of his Carmel. I have digged, and drunk water; and with the sole of my feet have I dried up all the rivers of the besieged places. Hast thou not heard long ago, how I have done it; and of ancient times, that I have formed it? now have I brought it to pass, that thou shouldest be to lay waste defenced cities into ruinous heaps. Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded: they were as the grass of the field, and as the green herb, as the grass on the housetops, and as corn blasted before it be grown up.” V. 23-27 All this “pomp,” of which Sennacherib is accused, sounds much like things that only God can do. It is exactly the same

spirit which will prevail in the antichrist of the end time and has its origin in Satan himself. “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.” Isa. 14:14 All these boastful assertions by Sennacherib testify of the fact none could stand in his way, and for a time, that was absolutely true. They also outline the tremendous devastation which he intended against Jerusalem, and this glorious Promised Land of Israel, sounding very much like unto the claims from various nations today who think they are “entitled” to this ancient and valued land of Israel. They are indeed provoked by the very spirit of antichrist, which he will fully invoke during the tribulation period.

This next portion, however, is God’s answer to Sennacherib’s ungodly agenda. “But **I** know thy abode, and thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy rage against **me**. Because thy rage against **me**, and thy tumult, is come **up** into **mine ears**, therefore will **I** put **my hook** in thy nose, and **my bridle** in thy lips, and **I** will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest.” V. 28-29 The history recorded in the closing verses of this chapter confirms that this prophecy concerning Sennacherib did come to pass, and Judah never was taken captive, in any measure, by Assyria. That would not take place until Babylon conquered the entire world when Nebuchadnezzar came to power in 606 B.C.

“And this shall be a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such as groweth of itself; and the second year that which springeth of the same: and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruit thereof.” V. 30 While God’s former address was to Sennacherib, the next few verses seem to be a specific message to Hezekiah, as this “sign” promising a harvest is directly related to Jerusalem. The next two years will bring forth that which “groweth of itself;...” This is undoubtedly because Jerusalem had been under siege for so long and the people had been unable to plant and harvest their crops. The third year, they were to sow, “and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruit thereof.” What a glorious prospect! They are now on resurrection ground where God’s Promise of prosperity ever abounds because of Jesus’ work of redemption. Further victory is promised for the besieged city, as “...the remnant that is escaped of the house of

Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward: For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this.” V. 31,32 While these promises were most assuredly directed to the inhabitants of Jerusalem at the time then present, they also proclaim blessing for the fledgling nation of Israel which will begin as only a very small remnant just prior to the millennium.

The closing verses of this chapter are a direct prophecy against the King of Assyria, and history shows that these events were fulfilled to the letter, but this message also proclaims the demise of the antichrist at the end of this age. “Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD.” V. 33,34 The record is clear that Assyria was not allowed to besiege Jerusalem again, for God clearly promised that “....I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.” V. 35 That same promise will prevail during the time of the antichrist, the difference being that this chosen city will, for a time, be overrun even as Jesus warned, “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:” Matt. 24:15-16

However, when the “last chapter,” of this chosen city is written, it will fully reveal that Jerusalem belongs to God, and it will most assuredly be prosperous and inhabited, indeed the center of all God’s operations on this earth. Though there are a host of groups trying to claim a piece of this choice piece of real estate, even at this present time, God will finally proclaim to all the world “.....that David my servant may have a light alway before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.” I Kings 11:36

God promised both deliverance for Jerusalem, and reprisal for Assyria, and those promises began to be fulfilled immediately as, “.....the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp

of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.” V. 36 God asserted in V. 7 that “....I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumour, and return to his own land;” The “rumor” was brought to light in verses 7-9 with the news out of Libnah and Ethiopia. The “blast” is a fitting description of the Assyrian army which was devastated, Supernaturally, in this present text. This monarch’s military machine has been completely decimated, and thus “.....Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.” V. 27 This is the same Nineveh which Jonah tried to avoid at all costs, because they were the avowed enemies of Israel and had done great damage to them as is evidenced in this chapter.

“And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Armenia: and Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead.” V. 38 Thus ends this chapter, with blessing for the Jews and devastation for their enemies, relating the same story as the prophet Haggai.

### Isaiah 38

“In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.” V. 1

This chapter of Isaiah corresponds with Zechariah, where Hezekiah is very much typical of the entire nation of Israel as they cry out to the Lord in the end time due to the tremendous hardship they shall endure, which will indeed produce the broken spirit before The Lord demonstrated here. Zechariah uses the term, “...in that day,...” repeatedly, in this chapter, to define the time in which these things will come to pass. “And it shall come to pass **in that day**, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in

bitterness for his firstborn.” V. 9-10 “That day...” will bring both judgment to the nations and glorious comfort to the “house of David,” but it will be because they have finally bowed their knee in true repentance to accept their Messiah. Zechariah further explains that, “**In that day** shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem,...And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart; The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart; All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart.” V. 11-14 The idea of “mourning apart,” is tremendously informative, for it means that this repentance, this mourning, directly for “... me whom they have pierced,...” is not for public display or to impress someone with so-called spirituality. It is rather deep heart-felt sorrow, manifested as though no one else were around, and it leads to the condition whereby God is now able to pour out His “spirit of grace and of supplications:...” upon the house of David. This same spirit is here displayed in Hezekiah, and likewise leads also to his healing. Note, however, that Hezekiah demonstrates exactly the same pattern recorded in Zechariah.

30

“In those days...” is a reference to the previous chapter when Jerusalem was besieged by Assyria. It is typical of “the last days,” when enemy nations will once again descend upon them, threatening their total demise even as Hezekiah was “sick unto death.” God also sent the prophet Isaiah to him with the message “...for thou shalt die, and not live.” “Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD,” V. 2 This is exactly the same scenario published in Zechariah, as the various groups of people “mourned apart.” Isaiah is likewise “isolated,” turning “his face toward the wall” for no one else was around. Israel will likewise cry out only unto Him, because all other resources have failed them.

Thus Hezekiah “...said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.” V. 3 It may seem, by these words, that

Hezekiah was trying to “bargain” with God, insisting on his own righteousness and thus conveying the message “you owe me.” However, God apparently saw the desire of a true king who was also interested in his people, much like his father David in II Sam. 24:17, for God said to Isaiah, “Turn again, and tell Hezekiah **the captain of my people**, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD.” II Kings 20:5 It seems that God recognized this man as a godly leader, “the captain of my people,” who had indeed, “...walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight,” setting a practical example of godliness before them. Judah **needed** such a man at this time and God honored his request. Thus, Isaiah reports his own first-hand account of this matter as he says, “Then came the word of the LORD to Isaiah, saying, Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years. And I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria: and I will defend this city. And this shall be a sign unto thee from the LORD, that the LORD will do this thing that he hath spoken; Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down.” V. 4-8 These verses inform us that Hezekiah was a man like unto us, for he too experienced the fact that Satan often throws his darts in “bunches.” The city was besieged and he was in the midst of his own personal difficulty and battle, all at the same time. However, he also portrays the beauty of God’s care for His Own, and in the midst of all these troubles, He issues glorious promises of victory. God assures the king that Jerusalem will be delivered “out of the hand of the king of Assyria: and I will defend this city.” He further asserts that fifteen years shall be added to Hezekiah’s life and turns the sun back ten degrees to prove His point. The account in II Kings 20 reveals that all this would happen in three days, thus putting Hezekiah on resurrection ground.

The remainder of this chapter is from the, “memoirs” of Hezekiah, and is a record of his experience before he was healed. “The writing of Hezekiah king of Judah, when he had been sick, and was recovered of his sickness: I said in the cutting off of my days, I shall go to the gates of the grave: I am deprived of the residue of my years. I said, I shall not see the LORD, even the LORD, in the land of the living: I shall behold man no more with the inhabitants of the world.” V. 9-11 We can only wonder how long this man was sick before Isaiah came and told him that he would indeed die. This account was written after he was healed, but surely these words are not a record of his thoughts immediately following Isaiah’s announcement of healing. The message here seems to be that Hezekiah knew he was dying even before Isaiah told him. The terms used reflect complete hopelessness, and are in fact prophetic of the dark days which Israel will experience in the end time, before they finally turn to the Lord. Such words undoubtedly describe the most dismal days he had endured, but note Hezekiah’s knowledge, and acknowledgment, of God’s authority, which springs forth in the next verse. “Mine age is departed, and is removed from me as a shepherd's tent: I have cut off like a weaver my life: he will cut me off with pining sickness: from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me.” It is ultimately God who will make the decisions of life and death, and though Hezekiah is in such deep misery, his thoughts are exactly in harmony with scripture, for “There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war;” Eccl. 8:8 Israel, as a nation, will likewise learn that their future is determined by The Lord rather than themselves or the nations. Such control is also emphasized by the following words. “I reckoned till morning, that, as a lion, so will he break all my bones: from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me.” V. 13 We know that God must literally “break them in pieces,” in order to achieve the desired results and make them like unto “... a crane or a swallow, so did I chatter: I did mourn as a dove: mine eyes fail with looking upward: O LORD, I am oppressed; undertake for me.” V. 14 This is the same mourning of which



Zechariah speaks, but what troubles must Israel endure before such an end is achieved? Jesus' message in Matt. 24 indicates that the tribulation would become so severe that "... except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Matt. 24:22 Just as God did not allow the destruction of Hezekiah, neither will Israel endure affliction never to be seen again. In fact, these days will be shortened for the sake of the elect, the reason being that such an elect has learned the lessons of repentance and accepted their Messiah. We would also note that it is in the midst of great despair when Hezekiah's faith reached beyond his present circumstance, knowing that life and recovery are waiting in the wings. "What shall I say? he hath both spoken unto me, and himself hath done it: I shall go softly all my years in the bitterness of my soul. O Lord, by these things men live, and in all these things is the life of my spirit: so wilt thou recover me, and make me to live. Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back." V. 15-17 This is exactly the same glorious message that national Israel will learn when they finally accept the lowly Jesus of redemption; when they, at long last, look on Him Whom they have pierced and realize that He has taken away all their sins. It is the same message we know today, but this will be on a collective and national level, and we would emphasize that Hezekiah laid claim to these words while he was still in the midst of his difficulty. Likewise will Israel claim their safety in Christ while they are still in the throes of Jacob's troubles, and will be the woman protected in the wilderness for the 1260 day reign of the antichrist. Rev. 12:14

Hezekiah's ode of despair continues as he proclaims that, "...the grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth." V. 18 These words loudly proclaim the thought that there is no victory if Israel goes down into oblivion, and that absolutely will not happen. Life is the answer, for them and the world, not total destruction as some seem to indicate. The psalmist further asserts that, "The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father

to the children shall make known thy truth.” V. 19 “The father...” is Hezekiah who would, as intimated earlier, “make known thy truth,...” to the children, that is, the children of Israel. This new born, and living nation, which God envisioned from the beginning, will, like unto Hezekiah, proclaim truth throughout the Millennium, for “The LORD was ready to save me: therefore we will sing my songs to the stringed instruments all the days of our life in the house of the LORD.” V. 20

The remainder of this chapter records the specifics of Hezekiah’s healing, and verse 21 loudly preaches redemption. “For Isaiah had said, Let them take a lump of figs, and lay it for a plaister (to soften by rubbing or pressure; hence, medicinally, to apply as an emollient) upon the boil, and he shall recover.” The word “lump” means “to press together; a cake of pressed figs.” It bespeaks Christ who was intensively “pressed,” or bruised for us, even as we read in Isa. 53:5, “...he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” We know there was no merit in the figs, but faith in the work of redemption at Calvary provided glorious healing for Hezekiah and will do the same for us today. Israel shall likewise be healed because of this same glorious work of redemption. Verse 22, the closing verse of this chapter, is a reference to the narrative described in II Kings 20, to which we alluded earlier. “Hezekiah also had said, What is the sign that I shall go up to the house of the LORD?” God offered such a sign to Hezekiah who requested that the sun should go backward by ten degrees and according to II Kings 20:11 “...he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz.” This is undoubtedly just a small demonstration of the miraculous power which God will unleash when He delivers His People during those dark days of tribulation.

34

- \* God can say “I” all He wants to and not be conceited.
- \* Do not try to cross the stream till you get to it, for there may be a bridge over it.
- \* Living the Christian life is like driving a car—you cannot look one way and go another.



# Our Corn Crib

*"Buy The Truth, and Sell It Not"*

## Tracts

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Arrangement & End of Ages	Gifts of the Spirit	Pauls Superlatives
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A Burning Truth	God- A Triunity	Preaching Another Jesus
A Growing Relationship	Gospel Records	Predestination
Caught up with Paul	Gospels, Acts & Epistles	Preparation of the Bride
Cherubim & Seraphim	Holy Spirit- Baptism & Anointing	Ranks in Resurrection
Chaste Virgin	How to Receive Holy Spirit	Resume of What we Teach
Comfort in Time of Sorrow	It is Finished	Salvation for the Body
Death, Hell & Lake of Fire	Jesus Heals Today	Scriptural Terms Defined
Destiny of the Wicked	Judgement Seat of Christ	Words on Eternal Security
Diamonds in the Rough	Law or Grace	The Adams Case
Dying Daily	Life Everlasting	The Two Adams
Earnest but Wrong	Light on the Law	The Sin Offering
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

## Books of the Bible

Genesis	Esther	Luke	1, 2 Thessalonians
Exodus	Job	John	1, 2 Timothy
Leviticus	Ecclesiastes	The Acts	Philemon
Numbers	Song of Solomon-A.S.Copley	Romans	Hebrews, James, Titus
Joshua	Paul's Gospel in S.O.S.-A.Mooneyhan	1, 2 Corinthians	2nd John
Judges	Isaiah	Galatians	Jude
Ruth	Prophets-Joel, Nahum, Hab, Malachi	Ephesians	Revelation
1, 2 Samuel	Zechariah	Philippians	
Ezra	Matthew	Colossians	

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**T**hanks be unto  
**GOD**  
for his  
unspeakable gift.  
II CORINTHIANS 9:15.