

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole Counsel of GOD

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In thee,
O Lord,
do I put my trust:
let me never be
put to confusion.
PSALM 71:1.

Table of Contents

<u>Article</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Page</u>
Definite Sign Post of the End	Gene Hawkins	3
Church of the Laodiceans	G.A. Haase.....	11
No Condemnation	Author Unknown.....	16
The Harvest is Coming.....	Ray Quintana	20
Isaiah (book section)	Gene Hawkins.....	28



If a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.

Matthew 18:12-13

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

Psalms 23:2

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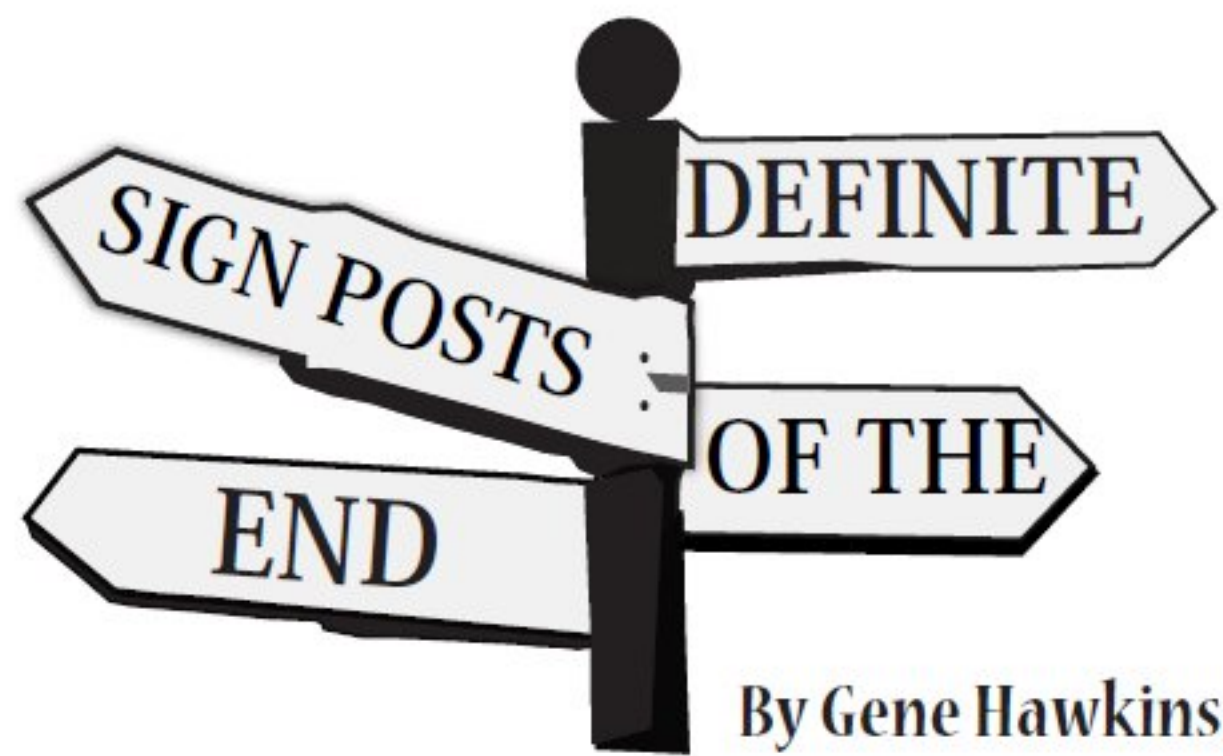
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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? (Age)...For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Mt 24:3-8

3

“And as he sat...Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?... For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows. Mk. 13:3-8

“And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?...And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. Lk. 21:7-11

It is extremely remarkable that the above “signs,” which are recorded by three different writers marking the end of this “world,” (age) bear a very striking resemblance to the purported “scientific” assessment on the effects of “global warming, or climate change,” upon our current global environment. A virtual multitude of reports, such as the following, often repeating exactly the same message, and which can be found on a host of “climate change” websites, and numerous other news sources, cite climate change as being **the cause** of disasters world-wide, and a number of them list various College Professors as their source of authority.

“Global warming is already having significant and harmful effects on our communities, our health, and our climate. Sea level rise is accelerating. The number of large wildfires is growing. Dangerous

heat waves are becoming more common. Extreme storm events are increasing in many areas. More severe droughts are occurring in others. Extreme heat, heavy downpours, and flooding will affect infrastructure, health, agriculture, forestry, transportation, air and water quality, and more. Climate change will also exacerbate a range of risks to the Great Lakes. Over 100 years ago, people worldwide began burning more coal and oil for homes, factories, and transportation. Burning these fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These added greenhouse gases have caused Earth to warm more quickly than it has in the past.

Scientists from around the world with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) tell us that during the past 100 years, the world's surface air temperature increased an average of 0.6° Celsius (1.1°F). This may not sound like very much change, but even one degree can affect the Earth. Hurricanes have changed in frequency and strength. There is evidence that the number of intense hurricanes has increased in the Atlantic since 1970. Scientists continue to study whether climate is the cause. Spruce bark beetles have boomed in Alaska thanks to 20 years of warm summers. The insects have chewed up 4 million acres of spruce trees. Less fresh water will be available. If the Quelccaya ice cap in Peru continues to melt at its current rate, it will be gone by 2100, leaving thousands of people who rely on it for drinking water and electricity without a source of either. Some diseases will spread, such as malaria carried by mosquitoes.

The untold – and terrifying – story behind the earthquake that devastated Nepal last Saturday morning begins with something that sounds quite benign. It's the ebb and flow of rainwater in the great river deltas of India and Bangladesh, and the pressure that puts on the grinding plates that make up the surface of the planet. Recently discovered, that causal factor is seen by a growing body of scientists as further proof that climate change can affect the underlying structure of the Earth. Because of this understanding, a series of life-threatening “extreme geological events” – earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis – is predicted by a group of eminent geologists and geophysicists including University College London's Bill McGuire, professor emeritus of Geophysical and Climate Hazards.”

There is absolutely no doubt that all these very destructive and catastrophic occurrences, directly prophesied by the Gospel Records quoted above, are being rapidly displayed around this entire planet, but can they be directly attributed to “global warming?” Other very prominent NASA Scientists have gone on record labeling the idea of “global warming,” as a sham, and they too produce factual scientific records to prove it. John Casey, is a

former White House space program advisor, consultant to NASA headquarters, and a space shuttle engineer. He was called before congress to testify on the cause of the space shuttle *Challenger* explosion and asserts that, **“according to NASA’s own data, the world has warmed .36 degrees Fahrenheit over the last 35 years** (they started measuring the data in 1979). This same report states that “We have not seen any global warming for 17 years.”

Mr. Casey also contradicts the idea that the oceans are getting warmer, causing a decrease in polar ice, and produces recent satellite images showing that the icecaps have not only not melted, but have actually expanded in size by 43% to 63%. Other news outlets such as “*The Globe*,” and “*Mail*,” also confirmed that “An area twice the size of Alaska — America's biggest state — was open water two years ago and is now covered in ice.”

5 There is also a great discrepancy as to how many scientists actually agree with global warming. A number of its proponents declare that 97% of them subscribe to that idea but “*The Wall Street Journal*” has gone on record stating that “The assertion that 97% of scientists believe that climate change is a man-made, urgent problem is a fiction.” Other reports declare that a mere 1% of scientists believe that human activity is causing most of the climate change. There is also the record of a petition being signed by more than 31,000 scientists stating that “there is no convincing scientific evidence that human release of . . . carbon dioxide, methane, or other greenhouse gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere and disruption of the Earth's climate.”

And then we have the reports from people actually living in areas that are supposed to manifest the effects of global warming. Newsmax published the following. “Don’t talk about global warming to residents of Nuuk, Greenland’s capital city, where record cold is keeping the city still buried in snow, climate change skeptic Steven Goddard writes. Normally by this date, around 20 percent of Greenland is melting, the Real Science blogger contends. This year the area of melt is less than 2 percent – the latest start to a melt season on record, he writes, noting Temperatures have plummeted over the past decades. Northeast Greenland also saw the coldest May on record since measurements started back in 1949, while the island as a whole is colder than normal the Daily Caller reports, citing Danish Meteorological Institute data. Greenland has gained half a trillion tons of snow and ice since September. Goddard writes.”

Other critics of “climate change,” especially those who

do not believe that human activity is responsible for it, point to the fact that there has been the same temperature rise on Pluto, Mars, and Jupiter, as has been recorded on earth; and man, with his greenhouse gases, has not been there! Once again there is a controversy as to why this is happening and some scientists, such as Mr. Casey, adamantly assert that the common denominator for all these planets is the sun. Other “expert scientists,” completely disregard that notion as simple nonsense.

The Pope has also chimed in on the climate debate for, according “The Guardian,” and other news sources, “Pope Francis will this week call for changes in lifestyles and energy consumption to avert the “unprecedented destruction of the ecosystem” before the end of this century, according to a leaked draft of a papal encyclical. In a document released by an Italian magazine on Monday, the pontiff will warn that failure to act would have “grave consequences for all of us”.

Thus, amidst all this diametrically opposed “scientific evidence” we would pose the question: “Who is right?” Answer: God’s Word!

Jesus began His discourse regarding the end times with the warning, “...Take heed that no man deceive you.” Matt. 24:4 Deception, which is the prophesied order for our day, is designed to create confusion and chaos, and is being used politically, religiously, socially, and in all other sectors of life, to bring people into bondage. It is one of Satan’s tools to keep them from knowing Truth, and while men argue incessantly over issues such as global warming, The Word Of God has long ago foretold the exact specifics regarding the destructive forces of our day.

It is also rather interesting that Jesus’ prophecy of “kingdom and against kingdom,” followed by the effects of “climate change,” described above, were the exact agenda of the recent G7 summit held in Germany. Interestingly enough, Russia, was “barred from the summit,” because of her Ukraine aggression, but Nigeria and Iraqi leaders were invited to attend due primarily to the threat of Jihadists insurgencies into their respective countries. Such wars and “rumours of wars,” were on the G7 agenda, but “climate change,” clearly took center stage. ABC News published this account. “At a luxury retreat nestled in the picture perfect Bavarian Alps, the leaders of the most powerful countries also tackled threats to global security posed by Islamist extremism and risks to the global economy from Greece. The leaders

stressed that ‘deep cuts in the global greenhouse gas emissions’ were required with ‘a decarbonisation of the global economy over the course of this century.’ The aim was to send a clear signal to push other nations taking part in December’s United Nations meeting in Paris to commit to reducing dangerous greenhouse gas emissions, which threaten to melt ice caps and glaciers, raise sea levels and bring more violent storms and floods. The G7 also reaffirmed the goal **of limiting global warming in the 21st century to 2 degrees Celsius** from pre-industrial levels, first agreed at a 2009 UN climate summit in Copenhagen. ‘Urgent and concrete action is needed to address climate change,’ the G7 leader said in a final statement after a two day summit in Germany. We emphasize that deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions are required with a decarbonisation of the global economy over the course of this century.’”

7 We are reminded here of God’s challenge in Isaiah 44:7. “And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? And the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them.” These words are actually a challenge directed toward those who would try to predict, and bring to pass, the things that only He can do. He says, in essence, “Who can stand in My Place, and set things in order for the ancient people?” These words could well be directed toward those who insist that they have the ability of **“limiting global warming in the 21st century to 2 degrees Celsius.”** God says “...Who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it,...” meaning “who can stand in my place and accomplish the things that only I can do.” He further challenges them to declare “...the things that are coming and shall come, let them shew unto them.” This hearkens back to those, of Isaiah 41 who were likewise exhorted to “Produce your cause,...” for they too must learn the lesson “...that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.” V. 20-21 Thus God commands, “Let them bring them forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come. Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together. Behold, ye are of nothing, and your work of nought: an abomination is he that chooseth you.” It is God who reveals that those who are so presumptuous as to assume they have the power to bring forth their predictions are indeed

claiming the place of a god.

This is the very spirit of antichrist, whose desire is defined in II Thess. 2:4 “Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God,... shewing himself that he is God.”

Leaders around this world are doing everything in their power to gain such control, and scripture is very plain that there will be a coalition of 7 nations which will form a one-world government. Issues such as global warming and other challenging problems such as terrorism and nuclear warfare, which are front and center today, will unite them into a common cause. Out of this coalition of nations will emerge the antichrist and we are certain that the groundwork is being laid for establishing absolute control, even over individual lives.

Despite any attempt to eliminate, or even slow, “global warming,” The Word of God is very clear that all the effects listed at the beginning of this article will both increase and intensify. Revelation 6,8,11, & 16, record severe earthquakes, all being clear signs of God’s displeasure and judgment. The climax will come when Jerusalem suffers a severe quake according to Rev. 11:8-13 and **a tenth part** of the city will fall. An even greater one is found in Rev. 16:18-19 causing Babylon to be divided into **three parts**. 8

Despite any individual or national effort to try and “cool the world’s temperature, Rev. 16:9 is absolutely emphatic that “global warming” in all its fullness, is on the way, for men will be “...scorched with great heat,...” This same portion continues with the fact that they will, in no wise, be repentant when these “plagues” strike for they “...blasphemed the name of God,...” However, we do learn that they must finally succumb to the fact that it is God “...**which hath power over these plagues:** and they repented not to give him glory.”

The subject of oil is also addressed, for Rev. 6:6 commands, “...see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.” Thus there will be no decline in the use of oil, as is proposed by the G7 summit, for that commodity will be in great demand to fuel, and lubricate, the war machines of the tribulation period, while the wine, will be used of necessity due to polluted water, perhaps from nuclear fallout.

This is that, of which Isaiah spoke. Men simply must learn that only God has the knowledge and power to both foretell and perform that which will come to pass. He could well pose

the following questions, to the world leaders of our day, as He did to Job. “Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?... Or who shut up the sea with doors, ...And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, **but no further**: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed? Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea?...Hast thou entered into the **treasures of the snow?** or hast thou seen the **treasures of the hail,** Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war? By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the **east wind upon the earth?** Who hath divided a watercourse **for the overflowing of waters,** or a way for the lightning of thunder; To cause it to **rain on the earth,**... Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew?... Out of whose womb **came the ice?** and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it?... Canst thou bind the sweet influences of **Pleiades,** or loose the bands of **Orion?** Canst thou bring forth **Mazzaroth in his season?** or canst thou guide **Arcturus** with his sons? Knowest thou the **ordinances of heaven?** canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth? ...Canst thou send **lightnings,** that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are?... Who can number the clouds in wisdom? or **who can stay the bottles of heaven,**...” Job 38:4-37

Job fell on his face in total repentance, when he realized the Majesty of God, but according to the text in Revelation 16, that will not be the result of the end time. Men today are determined to rid themselves of God and according to scripture, “...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” II Tim. 3:13

There is a much happier end awaiting those who are looking, not to improve this world, but rather to escape out of it. We need not be confused or deceived by all the loud contradictory voices of our day, but we can, and must, know the truth of God’s Word which will bring freedom rather than confusion and frustration. Paul said it so very clearly. “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. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness,... Ye are all the children of light,... Therefore let us not sleep, as do others;...For they that sleep sleep

in the night...But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." I Thess. 5:1-11



HE IS RISEN!

He is risen! He is risen
From the darkness of the tomb!
Though they set the seal upon it,
They have failed to seal His doom.
Jesus Christ, our King triumphant,
Hath defeated death's dark night-
Hath o'ercome the powers of darkness
By the power of His might.

He is risen! He is risen!
Oh, how joyous is the cry!
Praise Him, all ye hosts of heaven -
All ye that now dwell on high;
And ye saints of earth shout praises,
Let the song of triumph ring;
Earth and heaven join the chorus,
"Praise the Christ, the risen King!"

He is risen! He is risen!
And before now He has gone
To the right hand of the Father,
Who has welcomed home His Son.
He a mansion is preparing,
As He promised He would do,
For the faithful who will trust Him
And believe His promise true.

He is risen! He is risen
To the bright eternal land,
But will soon appear in glory
With the holy angel band;
All the ransomed then will praise Him
And in rapture gladly sing,
When they see Him in His beauty,
Jesus Christ the risen King.

THE CHURCH OF THE LAODICEANS

G.A. Haase

“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” Re 3:14-22

11

Every letter is primarily spoken to the angel of the Church; that is, the angel, messenger, or overseer is responsible for his flock as to its teaching and conduct. So the Head of the Church (universal) - Christ the chief Shepherd - writes directly to the undershepherds as is seen in the letters to the seven churches of Asia. Every individual assembly is seen exposed, in Revelation two and three. The name "Laodicea" means "just people." They have this name because of those in their midst who were truly born of the Spirit. These ones who were justified by faith possessed Divine life; while the rest at Laodicea only professed, but did not possess. The hot (the saved) and the cold (the unsaved) mixed together, making the whole lump lukewarm. Hence, we see here Christ's words to the unsaved verses 16-18, and to the saved verses 19-22.

The Lord here names Himself as "the faithful and true Witness," in contrast with Laodicea's unfaithful and false witness to the world. How true of the conditions today. He also calls Himself "the beginning of the creation of God." The word

"beginning," in the Authorized Version, should be translated "Chief" or "Head." Christ was not a created being, as some people teach. He is one of the Elohim. John says, "In the beginning the Word already was" -John 1:1. Christ was "the firstborn of all creation" - Colossians 1:15 Revised Version. This simply means that Jesus, as to His humanity, was the first one born of the Spirit. Romans 8:29 says, "That He might be the firstborn among many brethren" - the first of the new creation. As we stated, He was the Head of the creation of God. He is the Head of the creation which "was," in God's eyes, "before" the old creation. The old creation has had its day, and was finished when the last Adam took it down into death with Him at Calvary. God sees you either in the old creation, dead in sin; or alive forever in the new creation, of which Christ is the Head, Life, and Source.

"I know thy works" is said to each assembly. How searching are the eyes of Him with whom we have to do; nothing is hid from Him. The solemn words are heard, "I will spue thee out of My mouth." Most people think that this statement is spoken to Christians, but that is not the case. As we shall see in the reading, those who were to be spued out of His mouth were never a part of His Body. Christ here tastes to *see* if they are of Him; but the ones not being born of the Spirit are not His. "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ," that is the Spirit of sonship (of the Son), "he is none of His" - Romans 8:9.

Jesus says, "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou are wretched, and poor, and blind, and naked." If a man has much earthly substance, and yet does not possess Divine life (the new birth) he is very poor. Jesus says, "I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see." Please notice just exactly what Jesus is saying to these people. First: "Buy of Me gold" speaks of Divine life, which every believer receives at the new birth. Second: "White raiment" speaks of the imputed righteousness which is freely given to those who believe "on Him that justifieth the ungodly" -Romans 4:5. Third: "Anoint thine eyes with eyesalve" signifies the anointing of the Holy Spirit which is given to those who have become sons. As a subsequent experience,

the Spirit does truly anoint the eyes of our understanding, to make us see as He sees. Hallelujah! These three admonitions are the very least that any believer should have. They are Jesus' words to the unregenerate in the Laodicean condition.

Now He says to the believers amongst them, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." There are no Scriptures that teach that Christ commands unbelievers to "be zealous"; we, as His brethren, are exhorted to be zealous. Again, it is the sons of God whom the Lord chastens and rebukes - Hebrews 12:5-7. It is the saints today, who are fellowshiping with anything and everything, who are told to "repent." Paul says, "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Eph. 5:11 Again he says, "Have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty" II Cor. 4:2. It is the saints today, who are not walking in the Spirit in accordance with His Word, that need to repent --- change their mind, or direction, or attitude. Paul says, "I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. (fellowship)" I Cor. 5:11 Spiritual fornication is really what Paul is speaking about in that verse. The brethren whom we love in the Spirit, if they are willful in their sins which are above mentioned, then there can be no spiritual fellowship with them until they repent. I am not talking about the young convert who has not yet learned victory over sin in the flesh, Romans seven; but the child of God who deliberately walks contrary to the teaching he has received. Some have been on the road for years, yet still are babes as to their spiritual growth. This is quite a common disease today in all Christian circles.

Next, the gracious lampstand Examiner speaks of fellowship. Again this is said only to a believer. Christ cannot have fellowship with the unsaved. They first need relationship, then they can have fellowship with the Lord. There are also varying degrees in fellowship. Lot's fellowship with God was extremely limited, yet his relationship still stood. Abraham's fellowship with God was as intimate as one can expect to reach. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man (believer) hear My Voice, and open the door, I will come in to him (for fellowship), and will sup with him, and he with Me."

How is your fellowship, dear believer? Is it consistent? If not, why not? There is nothing that pleases the Lord more than His children, young men, and fathers having fellowship with Him. Do not let anything interfere, distract, or hinder you from getting alone with Jesus. He waits patiently for you to interrupt Him. Fellowship with God is

the only way to grow. In His precious Word and on your knees is the way of steady growth.

"To him that overcometh." Overcometh what? Overcometh this subtle Laodicean condition - "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power" of a new birth. Paul adds, "From such turn away" - II Timothy 3:5.

"Will I grant to sit with Me in My throne." Have you learned to sit down here, and be instructed of Him? If so, you will overcome this condition and will sit with Him hereafter.

"He that hath an ear." In Matthew, Jesus mentioned the "ears" (plural); here, He uses the singular. The Gospel declared by Matthew pertained primarily to the kingdom upon earth, chiefly to the Jew; hence, the natural ears are mentioned.

In Revelation He is speaking of the heavenly people, the Church, who have a spiritual ear that has been given and placed within their hearts. Let us be like the Levites and have our right ear anointed to hear. Can you say like Isaiah, "The Lord God hath opened mine ear" - our "ear" opened only to the things of the Spirit? - Isaiah 50:5.

The overcomers of Laodicea are the connecting link between the Church and God's dealings again with Israel; they are the third and last rank to be translated. The ones who will be taken to Heaven after this rank's translation will have to be martyred during the reign of anti-Christ. The rank of over-comers from Laodicea answer to the five wise virgins of Matthew twenty-five, who received the invitation to the marriage supper at "midnight"; that is, during the darkest hour of "Jacob's trouble," "the tribulation." They are not the Bride as some would say; they are "guests" at the wedding - Revelation 19:9. They also answer to the 144,000 of Revelation seven and fourteen. "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father's Name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder:

and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God" - Rev. 14:1-5. They are the "man child" of Revelation twelve. The remnant of her seed is the woman in the wilderness who is represented by the five foolish virgins who did not make it to the supper. These virgins will constitute the nucleus of the earthly kingdom.

Let us take Christ for our all, and overcome, practically, this evil religious age of Laodiceanism. Let us not be found napping but - "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" - Ephesians 6:18. Let us not be like the multitudes who are paving the way for "the son of perdition." II Thess. 2:3. "But let us, who are of the day, be sober." I Thess. 5:8

We are well able to overcome this condition, for the Lord has made full provision for every believer to "walk in the Spirit." There is no excuse for our lax state. Let us now, each of us, take a long look at our standing in Christ - perfect, entire, finished, absolute, irrevocable; and then, by faith in His strength, bring our state up to our standing. Do not get discouraged. The race is almost over. Look to Jesus, for He is coming soon. "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown - Revelation 3:11.

(Reprint. Bro. Haase is from Australia)



No Condemnation

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” Ro 8:1-4

These four verses are one complete compound sentence, which cannot be divided. This great sentence is a judicial statement. It begins with God's provision, and ends with man's experience. The "no condemnation" of verse one, is not dependent upon a man's walk, but upon God's grace. The clause, "who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit," does not belong with verse one but with verse four. Some translators inserted it there because they did not understand the apostle's meaning, as is the case with every superficial reader at first sight. That clause with verse one is an intrusion; for verse two must connect directly with verse one. Observe three laws in these verses. The third one named (verse 3) is the Ten Commandments. It could not save man. It could not keep man from doing wrong, or make him do right. It condemned him to death, but could not remedy his condition. Therefore, Christ Jesus became a sin offering and died in our stead, and thus "condemned sin in the flesh." The redemption that Jesus wrought was "the law of the Spirit of life." That was set over against "the law of sin and death." The one law overpowered the other, annulling it and putting it out of business, by executing guilty man through the death of a Substitute. All of that was on God's side. We had nothing to do with it. It becomes us to believe and accept it as from God's Merciful Hand. It is interesting to note that the Greek word rendered "condemnation" (kattakrīma) occurs only here and in Romans 5:16,18. As in this case so in Romans five, it

is used judicially, referring to God's sovereign act in our behalf, independent of our counsel or consent. "The judgment was by one (Adam) to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offenses unto justification.

Therefore, as by the offense of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one, (Christ) the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's (Adam's) disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of One (Jesus Christ) shall many be made righteous." Romans 5:16-19. All of that, was sovereignly planned, and provided for, in the supreme judiciary of Heaven. "There is therefore NOW no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." In other words, no condemnation rests upon the new creation, because it is holy; and "sin in the flesh" was condemned in the death of Christ. He that believes shall not come into the judgment of the ungodly, because he has passed out of death into life - even eternal life, which cannot be condemned.

Then follows the logical result - "that the righteousness of the law might be FULFILLED IN US, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit." If a believer fails "of the grace of God" (Hebrews 12:15), the Lord chastises and corrects him --- not as an alien, a worldling, but as a child. As to his standing, there is no condemnation; for he was justified freely once for all, from all the past and from all the future also. His state, of course, depends upon his walk. If he walks after the flesh, spiritual death ensues; that is, his fellowship with God is broken temporarily. His sense of God's Presence is dimmed and chilled for the time being; but when he yields to the Spirit, who never forsakes him, "life and peace consciously abound.

"If we (who are saved) confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" - I John 1:9.

(Author Unknown)

REFLECTIONS

REFLECTIONS

...From the Editor

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32

Freedom! What a wonderful word, as we commemorate the deliverance, salvation, freedom, and independence of this country, from the oppressive government of England over two hundred years ago. Countries around the world are searching for this most elusive blessing today, but sadly the entire world is being plunged into absolute bondage and chaos because they do not follow the plan of this glorious text. Only “truth,” can make men free, and the sad fact is that men are becoming more and more adept at rejecting it.

Paul shouts this same message of freedom asserting that “...we are saved by hope:...” Rom. 8:24 All our hope today is dependent on the Truth of God’s Word, and, once again, such hope literally brings salvation, deliverance and freedom. The apostle also informs us that “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.” I Cor. 15:19 The context of these words lies in the fact that some were denying the truth of resurrection, and because of it, this chief apostle to the Church lists seven major things, in vs. 13-19, that **would be true**, and plunge the whole world into hopelessness, if there be no resurrection. 1. “...if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:” The resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee, the basis, for “...the full assurance of hope...” found in God’s Word. Heb. 6:11-12 2. “...if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain,...” All the glorious provisions of redemption would be worthless, or empty, if Jesus remained in the grave. 3. “...your faith is also vain,...” This statement is so important, and so applicable to every part of our lives, that Paul reiterates it at least three times in this chapter. (V. 2, 14,17) 4. His own reputation is also at stake for if the truth of resurrection does not prevail, “...we are found false witnesses of God;...” or we have told lies in the Name of God. 5. “And if Christ be not raised, ...ye are yet in your sins,” or there would be no hope of deliverance from sin and all its consequences. That deliverance is three fold. We are set free from the **guilt of sin** the moment we believe. We are currently being delivered from the

power of sin as is set forth in Rom. 6,7, & 8. Finally we shall be set free from the very **presence of sin**, as God will take us completely out of this world. This brings us to the 6th point, for if there be no resurrection, “Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.” There is no hope for those who have already succumbed to death. Then comes the overall summation, in this scenario of hopelessness. 7. “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.” Many Christians may enjoy their life, IN CHRIST, today, but if that hope ends with the grave, they will be plunged into hopelessness as they near the day of departure from this world. However, “...hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?” Bless God, faith is still alive because of the resurrection, and reaches out for the fact that “the best is yet to come,” as Paul loudly proclaims in the very next verse. “But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.” V. 20 All the negative consequences of a “non-resurrection” listed above are nullified, and the “full assurance of hope,” promised by the full complement of God’s Word is ours for the taking!

GH

YOUTH CAMPS

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The Harvest is Coming!

Ray Quintana

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. John 16:7.

This word expedient means; “it would be better for you; it would be good for you; it would be profitable for you,” that I go away. After all the miracles the disciples have seen, the mount of transfiguration, the 5,000 fed, the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, how can Jesus say, it is better that I go away. Jesus you are just getting started, and you want to go away? Imagine what went through the disciples minds. What will happen to us? I do not think that those men ever fully understood these words at that moment. What encompasses this statement that “it is expedient” that Jesus go away?

20

He said earlier, “the hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. 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 12:23, 24. When a seed is placed in the ground, it dies and produces a plant that produces many seeds like itself. Jesus was that Seed, because of His love for me. He died for me. The crops have been planted and the harvest has been yielding her fruit ever since, but the final harvest is coming.

Jesus said, “it is for your sakes, I must go away.” Jesus was preparing them all along. It was so the Holy Spirit would come and He will be in you. The work was to be done by the Holy Spirit inside the heart of man.

But all of this came to us at such a great price. Jesus sold all He had for us. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.” Matt. 13:44. We cannot comprehend, or even imagine, what Jesus had before He took those seven steps down in Philippians 2. There are seven parables in Mathew 13 and they are a beautiful

expression of what God is doing during this entire Church age and into the millennial period.

But notice these two; He located this treasure that was hid in a field. He went and sold all that He had to buy it. The treasure is Israel, and the field is the world. Jesus did in fact buy the world. Then, He is “like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls and He found one of great price.” A merchant man is not just going out for one pearl and throwing all the other pearls aside just for the one. But this tells us that He considered the one pearl of great price. It was so valuable that He was willing to sell all that He had and buy it. Notice He did not buy the ocean, or the sea, because the sea or the waters are likened unto wickedness, as expressed by Isaiah. “But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.” Isa. 57:20.

21 This is exactly what Jesus did, He came down and plucked us up out of the midst of the wickedness to take us all back to glory soon. The pearl of great price is the bride of Christ. She justifies selling “all that He had,” to purchase her. All of the rest of the pearls, that He surely found, are significant of the rest of the Church. Today we cannot comprehend the fullness of what that means. Jesus sold His identity, His reputation, and His glory, in order to come into this world, to buy both the treasure in the field, which is Israel, and to buy the pearl of great price. He sold all and He did it willingly. He was not forced.

The creator became the Created. He became a man having to depend upon God. Jesus was given a Body when He stepped off His throne and took those seven steps down. What was that body for? It was for sacrifice. He came in the likeness of sinful man to sacrifice Himself for us; the guilty.

Jesus never gave in to Satan, in the Garden of Gethsemane, but the fight was so intense scripture says, that in “...there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.” Luke 22:43 Jesus knew what it was to believe God in the greatest weakness.

He committed everything unto the Father; and this is where we find the strength that He obtained, committing it unto God. Then, at the cross, where Jesus experienced the greatest

of weaknesses, He never complained to His Father. If I could paraphrase it this way, He said, “O my Father, when I look to the grievousness of these sufferings, and the infirmity of this human nature which I have assumed, I could be content to wish, that, if it be possible, let this bitter death, which awaits me, pass from me, and by thee be removed: But, when I cast my eye to thy holy decree, and the necessity of man’s redemption, I do willingly submit myself to thy will: let it not be, as human nature could be content to wish, but as thy Divine Will has decreed.”

The cross of weakness, however, also paved the way for the greatest victory that the world will ever know. The only way that Jesus could overcome all enemies and be triumphant over this arch enemy was to give in to the ultimate weakness of death. Now, through the resurrection of Christ, we can have the seed of life. This same Seed, which God has planted within our hearts, is growing in you and me,. The harvest is coming and, “it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” Jesus conquered through weakness not through strength. How is it that we are to be strong in the Lord?

22

The moment we are saved, we are not strong in the Lord. It is something that must be developed. “When I am weak, then am I strong”. We can say it this way: when I am weak in myself then I am strong in the Lord. But there is a process through which we learn this by experience. Jesus Himself sets the example through weakness and not through strength. This same pattern must be repeated in our lives if we are going to learn the practicality of what it means to be strong in the Lord. We must come to the point that our lives are so surrendered unto Christ that we will live only because the resurrection power of the Holy Ghost sustains, and lifts us up.

“I know thy works.” Rev. 3:8. This is the highest record of commendation and approval, because these are the words of Jesus, as the Judge, walking amidst the candlesticks. So he says, “I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for **thou hast a little strength**, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.” Thou hast a little

strength. This statement is not optional if we are going to be a full overcomer and gain that glorious first place with Christ. It is imperative that we come to the place where **thou hast a little strength**.

It is only as we discover our own weakness that we know and experience that we are strong in the Lord. We wonder about the things that we go through today, but God is orchestrating them to bring us to this place of dependence upon Him. Thou hast a little strength gives rise to the next two, and hast kept my word. That doesn't mean we keep the law, to the best of our ability, but you kept my word. The word, keep means to guard it. These are saints who put their confidence in God's Word rather than their own ability. They learned the power of The Word, that Jesus demonstrated, when He told Satan it is written. We must learn exactly that same confidence.

23

They took this Word and they knew It was real; It was Living; and Powerful. They didn't need to do anything to defend It. All they needed to do was stand for It and claim It for themselves. They governed their lives by the power of this message. You have "...kept my word." Next we read: "...thou hast not denied my name." Think of the other Churches that did deny His Name, because they took other headships rather than that of Christ. But these people here knew the power of the Name of Christ; they submitted to It; they were identified with that Name. They gave Christ the place of headship in their lives.

They knew that in themselves they were absolutely nothing. This is the company which wins first place known as the bride of the Lamb, Who conquered through weakness. Jesus surrendered and submitted unto the ultimate weakness of humanity which is death.

Yes, a grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die. We can never imagine the depths, to which He went, in order to experience the sinfulness of sin. Then, think of the fullness of glory that Jesus sold, when he left the courts of His Father, and came down into this world. He gave everything up for you and me so that "That Grain Of Wheat" might fall into the ground and die, resulting in this resurrection power and newness of life

finding residence in you and me. It has come to the hearts of men and women. Oh what a wonder! The good news for Jesus and for you and me is that all His Glory, was not sold for eternity. Jesus experienced death, but that was only temporary. He experienced the horror of outer darkness, but it was only for a season. He experienced the frailty of humanity, but it was only for a little time. There were many other things that were just temporary. But can you imagine the love and the grace that Jesus had when He gave up everything for us. The Risen Christ will reign as God for 1,000 years, endowed with all the powers of God, and with the authority of God Himself. "Glorify me with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." John 17:5 God will answer that prayer. Here is the truth of it. Jesus will never again enjoy the equality with God that He once had. After the millennium is over, He will render the kingdom back up unto His Father, and be in subjection to Him for eternity. We can hardly imagine the depths of such love, but it was His love, for that the pearl of great price, that motivated Him to sell "...all that he had," in order to buy her freedom, and take her unto Himself. Jesus was willing to take that eternal step down for this company of the bride to whom He will be joined for eternity. We cannot even begin to comprehend the love that Jesus had for the likes of you and me?

24

There are many today who talk about the love of God, who are total strangers, to the God of love. Divine love is commonly regarded as a sort of good-natured indulgence or human emotion. Divine love is the basis of God's Word, and it is the Seed that grows within, by the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, until that harvest, which is soon to come, is complete.

Now the truth is, that our thoughts need to be formed and regulated by what is revealed in Scripture. There is such an urgent need to know the scriptures today, but there is an apparent ignorance which prevails, and low spirituality is now so sadly evident everywhere among professing Christians. How little of real love there is for God. One chief reason for this is because our hearts are so little occupied with His wondrous Love for us.

The better we are acquainted with His Love, Character, Fullness, and Blessedness, the more our hearts will be drawn out

in love to Him. Such a thing is accomplished by studying, and appropriating, His Word, which defines both the love for God and the Love of God. The Love of God is uninfluenced. By this I mean there was nothing to call forth such Love, nothing in creation to attract or prompt It. The love which one person has for another is because of something in them; such as the love a mother has for her child or that which a husband and wife share with each other; but the love of God is free, spontaneous, uncaused. The only reason why God loves any is found in His Own Sovereign Will. He is Love. He loved us before we had a particle of love for Him. Had God loved us in return for our love, then it would not be spontaneous on His part; but because He loved us when we were loveless, it is clear that His Love was uninfluenced. God's Love for humanity was entirely unmoved by anything in us.

25 What was there in me to attract the heart of God? Absolutely nothing! But, to the contrary, everything to repel Him, everything calculated to make Him loathe me. I was sinful, depraved, a mass of corruption, with no good thing in me. God Himself had no beginning, and His Love had no beginning. There may be many things in Scripture about God that we don't understand, but we believe them. Just believe! That is faith in His Love for me. As a little child we never understood many things that our parents did, but we knew we could run into their arms of protection, because we were totally confident of their love and protection.

Even before a seed is put into the ground to die the Divine Corn Of Wheat begins to show Its Living Power, and The True Christ is being manifested. The Christ of God, the Son of David, was simply a Man; and the great sympathies and the Love Of His Heart were with all mankind.

The grain of wheat, when it is put into the ground, dies, but does that mean that it ceases to be? Not at all. What is death? It is the resolution of anything, possessing life, into its primary elements. With us, it is the body parting from the soul. With a grain of wheat, it is the dissolving of the elements which made up the corn. Our divine Lord, when put into the earth, did not see corruption, but His Soul was parted from His Body for a while, and thus he died; and unless He had literally and actually

succumbed to the death state forever, He could not have given life to any of us. Christ's death preaches both Life and Love.

When I think of Jesus as The Perfect Son of God and Son Of Man; and the infinite glory which He laid aside; and of the unutterable pangs He bore, I ask: can we compute the value of the sacrifice He offered? God only knows the Love Of God that was manifested in the death of His Son. Can we possibly think that, there is all this planning and sacrifice of infinite love, and then an insignificant result? The corn of wheat, which fell into the ground and died, must bring forth much fruit. Oh beloved, great things are to come. Yes, courage, for all that are dispirited. Be brave, you soldiers of the Cross. It is the Victory Of Love which awaits your banner. Wait patiently, hopefully, suffer joyfully! There is no spiritual life for us except by dying into it. Have you a fine-spun righteousness? It must die. Have you any faith in yourself? It must die. However, through all this, the harvest is coming, and all the results of redemption, provided for spirit, soul, and body, will be gloriously realized!

26

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### **Things You Just Can't Do**

***Sow bad habits & reap good character.***

***Sow jealousy & hatred & reap love & friendship.***

***Sow dissipation, reap a healthy body.***

***Sow deception, reap confidence.***

***Sow cowardice, reap courage.***

***Sow neglect of the Bible, reap a well-guided life.***

## Fruit of the Spirit

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Against such there is no law.” Gal. 5:22,23. This Epistle was written to several churches in Asia Minor who had been bewitched by law-keeping and self-improvement. They had fallen from grace. Chaps. 3:1 and 5:4. It was written to deliver them from that heresy and bondage. The Apostle expresses seven contrasts to make the truth plain and prove his doctrine. Our text is the sixth of those contrasts. It is set over against "the works of the flesh," of which 17 are named in verses 19 to 21. He did not name the 9 items of the fruit of the Spirit to prove that those believers were filled with the Spirit at the moment of their conversion, but rather that they were not walking in the Spirit.

27 We should always remember, when reading the Epistles to the Churches and to individuals, that the people were saved by grace through faith, then afterwards filled, or anointed with the Spirit according to the 5 pattern experiences recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. Paul asked them whether they received the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith. He said nothing as to **when** they received the Spirit. Though they were filled with the Spirit, yet they were only babes in Christ, needing to be fed and taught and guided. Children of God in grace, anointed with the Spirit, may bear the fruit of the Spirit as children. They must grow in grace in order to bring forth fruit as adults. In John 15 we read of "fruit, more fruit and much fruit," which indicate growth. In this fifth chapter of Galatians, Paul teaches that spiritual fruit is not produced by keeping the law, or by self-improvement; or works of the flesh. The Holy Spirit operates through grace only, not through law. We must "live in the Spirit," "be led by the Spirit" and "walk in the Spirit" in order to bear "the fruit of the spirit." Now how can people produce the nine-phased "fruit of the Spirit" if they have not been filled with the Spirit Scripturally? Let the reader solve this problem. But be sure that you are not deceived. "The Spirit of the Truth" was sent by the Father to "guide us into ALL the Truth." Thus Jesus is fully glorified. John 16:13,14.

# ISAIAH 33

*Gene Hawkins*

Isaiah 33 forms a beautiful correlation with Micah, for like unto this current chapter, that prophet also tells us of the complete restoration of Israel when their King is finally in His Rightful Place. Verse 17 of our current chapter declares plainly, “Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.” Micah likewise proclaims “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” Mic. 5:2

Verse 20 of our present chapter clearly shows the restoration of Jerusalem. “Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken.” Micah also proclaims a safe haven for this chosen people. “And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.” Mic. 4:3-4

All the above citations will be fulfilled in their entirety, but much trouble and adversity lies in wait for Israel before those glorious days arrive, as is seen in V. 1. “Woe to thee that spoilest, (ravage, destroy, waste) and thou wast not spoiled; and dealest treacherously, and they dealt not treacherously with thee! when thou shalt cease to spoil, thou shalt be spoiled; and when thou shalt make an end to deal treacherously, they shall deal treacherously with thee.” This is a message to those nations, who are gathering around Israel, even at this present day. This verse reads as though these enemies have apparently “gotten by” with their efforts to waste or destroy God’s People, for there seems to be no reprisal at all against them. Though they have dealt “treacherously” (covertly, deceitfully) against them, Israel has not responded in

kind to them. That pattern will be suddenly broken, for “when thou shalt make an end to deal treacherously, they shall deal treacherously with thee.” There will come a day of reckoning for these nations. When God has determined that Israel “has had enough,” then the tables will be turned and all these persecutors will receive their due. We note also that God will use Israel as one of His tools to accomplish it, for Isaiah clearly asserts that “they (Israel) shall deal treacherously with thee.”

“O LORD, be gracious unto us; we have waited for thee: be thou their arm every morning, our salvation also in the time of trouble.” V. 2 This is the attitude which must prevail in Israel to bring about the glorious victory outlined in V. 1. They must indeed recognize the God of all grace, in order that God may come to their aid and punish the enemies that surround them. The second part of this verse seems to reflect the prayer of Isaiah for the Jews, as he cries out for God to be “their arm,” or their strength. This entreaty will surely be answered during the tribulation period, and Israel seems to claim the promise for themselves, as they say “**our** salvation also in time of trouble,” which is most assuredly in reference to the great trouble of those devastating days of oppression. The victory they will enjoy is further described telling us that “At the noise (voice or sound) of the tumult the people fled; at the lifting up of thyself the nations were scattered.” V. 3 This undoubtedly refers to the great victory which Jerusalem gained over Sennacherib in the days of Hezekiah. Isaiah was the prophet at that time and writes this as having already happened. II Kings 19:35-36 records the story. “And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.” However, there is a beautiful prophetic message couched here, promising victory on a far greater scale than that which Israel claimed over Assyria. The nations of the end time will be “scattered” when the Lord lifts up himself against them, “And your spoil shall be gathered like the gathering of the caterpillar: as the running to and fro of locusts shall he run upon them.” V. 4 God’s devastating judgment against

these enemies will be swift, bringing severe desolation upon them just as caterpillars and locusts go forth in hordes leaving nothing but destruction in their wake.

All these acts of judgment also pave the way for Jesus to claim His Own throne, for “The LORD is exalted; for he dwelleth on high: he hath filled Zion with judgment and righteousness.” V. 5 This new King will march forth in complete control and victory during even those early days of tribulation, claiming the throne that was promised to Him from ages past. His reign shall be one of righteousness “And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure.” V. 6 This Divine Wisdom and Knowledge will bring forth “stability,” during a time of horrendous crisis and chaos, but that “stability” will be mostly a steady diet of unprecedented judgment upon the nations. However, note the change in this verse as He also brings forth “strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure.” This is in reference to the difference He will make between the nations and His Own People. Severe annihilation of these enemies becomes salvation for the Jews, the reason being that they have finally learned “the fear of the LORD,” as they submit to the complete rule of their Messiah, in unbridled surrender.

“Behold, their valiant ones shall cry without: the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly.” V. 7 While Israel has found a place of refuge during this very devastating time, the nations, ---- these “valiant ones shall cry without...” All their efforts and avenues of negotiation through their “ambassadors of peace,” shall indeed weep bitterly because nothing will work for them. “The highways lie waste, the wayfaring man ceaseth: he hath broken the covenant, he hath despised the cities, he regardeth no man.” V. 8 Much of this devastation and “waste,” can be attributed to the antichrist for “he hath broken the covenant,” (with Israel) and “despised the cities,..” ruling as an absolute despot regarding no man. Of course he regards no man, because he, himself, seeks to rule as God! Note also that this attitude sends destructive waves which reverberate throughout the whole world for “The earth mourneth and languisheth: Lebanon is ashamed and hewn down: Sharon is like a wilderness; and Bashan

and Carmel shake off their fruits.” V. 9 These prominent and historic places in Israel will become like a “wilderness,” under the rule of antichrist, but such will also affect the entire world bringing forth the universal, and total devastation described in the next few verses. The little word “Now,” which introduces this section, defines the “time” when the LORD will rise to take vengeance on the rebellious rule of the antichrist. “**Now...**” after the man of sin has come to power and implemented his policies of destruction against Israel, “... will I rise, saith the LORD; **now** will I be exalted; **now** will I lift up myself.” V. 10 The proof of His exaltation will be in scattering the enemy and establishing Himself as King of kings and Lord of lords, for the whole world to behold. His will be a ministry of severe judgment against those who have risen up against Him, as “Ye shall conceive chaff, ye shall bring forth stubble: your breath, as fire, shall devour you.

31 And the people shall be as the burnings of lime: as thorns cut up shall they be burned in the fire.” V. 11-12 Water was the element of destruction when God destroyed the earth during the time of Noah, but now all consuming fire will be employed and none will be able to resist it. However, as noted throughout all the dispensations, which consistently end in judgment, grace is most beautifully displayed, for this New Ruler sends out the following invitation: “Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might.” V. 13 “Ye that are far off,” are undoubtedly the nations which could be classed as “sheep nations,” who are yet willing to hear His voice and surrender their hearts to Him. Those “that are near,” would be Israel, and all of them are exhorted to “acknowledge my might.” All of them must realize the extraordinary and supernatural power which He will display in those very momentous days.

“The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?” V. 14 These “sinners,” along with “the hypocrites,” must undoubtedly include both the nations and Israel, all of whom will be gathered around Zion, or Jerusalem at that time. All of them, even as is manifest at this present time, want a piece of this ancient city, whether it be for prestige or simply a sign that they have succeeded

in becoming a conqueror. Jerusalem seems to be “the prize,” for them but in that day this “city of peace,” will be consumed with total fear sparked by the fires of destruction which will prevail. Jesus Himself warned “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, ..... Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:.....But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:...” Mt 24:15-20 This once sought after city will be a place to abandon when the antichrist comes to the height of his reign, for Jesus will assert His Authority, and judgment will be swift.

There is a way out, however, for “He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure. Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.” V. 15-17 Jesus is still the “way, the truth, and the life.” John 14:6 He is the only power for “He that walketh righteously,...speaketh uprightly;... despiseth the gain of oppressions, ....shaketh his hands from holding of bribes,...” and all these other manifestations of the flesh mentioned here. Such an one is rewarded with dwelling “on high,” and having a place of “defence,” (high fort, tower, refuge), with the “munitions of rocks,” (The Rock Christ Jesus) and it is all because “Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty.” The Path to safety is the same as it has always been, and Israel will experience it as a collective nation when they finally accept their Messiah.”

By the time this transformation takes place in Israel, Jesus will have taken His throne (at the beginning of the tribulation period) and the latter part of V. 17 will surely occupy their vision, as “they shall behold the land that is very far off.” Even while they are still in throes of tremendous devastation, they will be able to see that “restoring the kingdom unto Israel,” is just around the proverbial corner, but the news is not so sweet for the enemies of Israel.



“Thine heart shall meditate terror. Where is the scribe? where is the receiver? where is he that counted the towers?” V. 18 The enemies of Israel will “meditate,” the terror which surrounds them and wonder at the ineffectiveness of “the scribe,” or the “wise of this world” which plotted the strategies for the great advances of the antichrist and his ungodly regime. They failed in their mission as “the receiver,” to collect from all the endeavors of this false king and they failed to count “the towers,” of defense intended to shield them from the wrath of The Lamb and His armies. Israel is the beneficiary of all this failure as they are promised that “Thou shalt not see a fierce people, a people of a deeper speech than thou canst perceive; of a stammering tongue, that thou canst not understand.” V. 19 The people to whom He refers are those who have been so ignorant of the real paths to victory. They had assumed that all their ferocity would accomplish their purpose, even as is seen in our world today. They did not know God’s way, which is that “...God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;” I Cor. 1:27 Neither can such a people understand “a deeper speech,” for they reject the way of understanding the deep things of God, and the fact that they are not a people “of a stammering tongue, that thou canst not understand,” seems to be a reference to Isa. 28:11. “For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.” We know that this is a reference to being filled with the Holy Ghost and this “fierce people,” these nations, would not submit to any of these ways of God and therefore, they can, in no wise, understand those things which will transpire beginning with the impending restoration of the Jews.

“Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken. But there the glorious LORD will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams; wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby. For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.” V. 20-22

All these are elements of the end time restoration of Israel. The “solemnities,” of V. 20 refer to the solemn feasts they observed throughout their history and they will once again practice them in the millennium. Jerusalem will be in stark contrast to the battleground it has become today and when it is restored, it will be forever, because “not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed.” There will be no one laying claim to this city and trying to divide it any more. The “cords,” of God’s Ownership, will not be broken, and there will be no “galley with oars,” or enemy ships sailing close by to threaten the peaceful existence of this beloved city. The “glorious LORD” and invincible King has now assumed total control, even as Micah also prophesied, because “the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.” V. 22 All this glorious victory prevails because The Messiah has appeared and this chosen nation has enthusiastically claimed Him as her own.

This chapter closes with the full assurance that no enemy will ever be able to attack the inhabitants of Zion again. “Thy tacklings are loosed; they could not well strengthen their mast, they could not spread the sail: then is the prey of a great spoil divided; the lame take the prey.” Not only so, but “...the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.” There will be no attack from without, and because of the redemption of Jesus, complete healing will be poured out upon these inhabitants of Zion directly because their iniquities have been forgiven. Zechariah beautifully sums it up this way. “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.” Zech. 12:10

\* **“He is no fool who parts with that which he cannot keep to get what he shall not lose.”**

\* **God gives us great promises, but He does not date them.**



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

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| 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       |

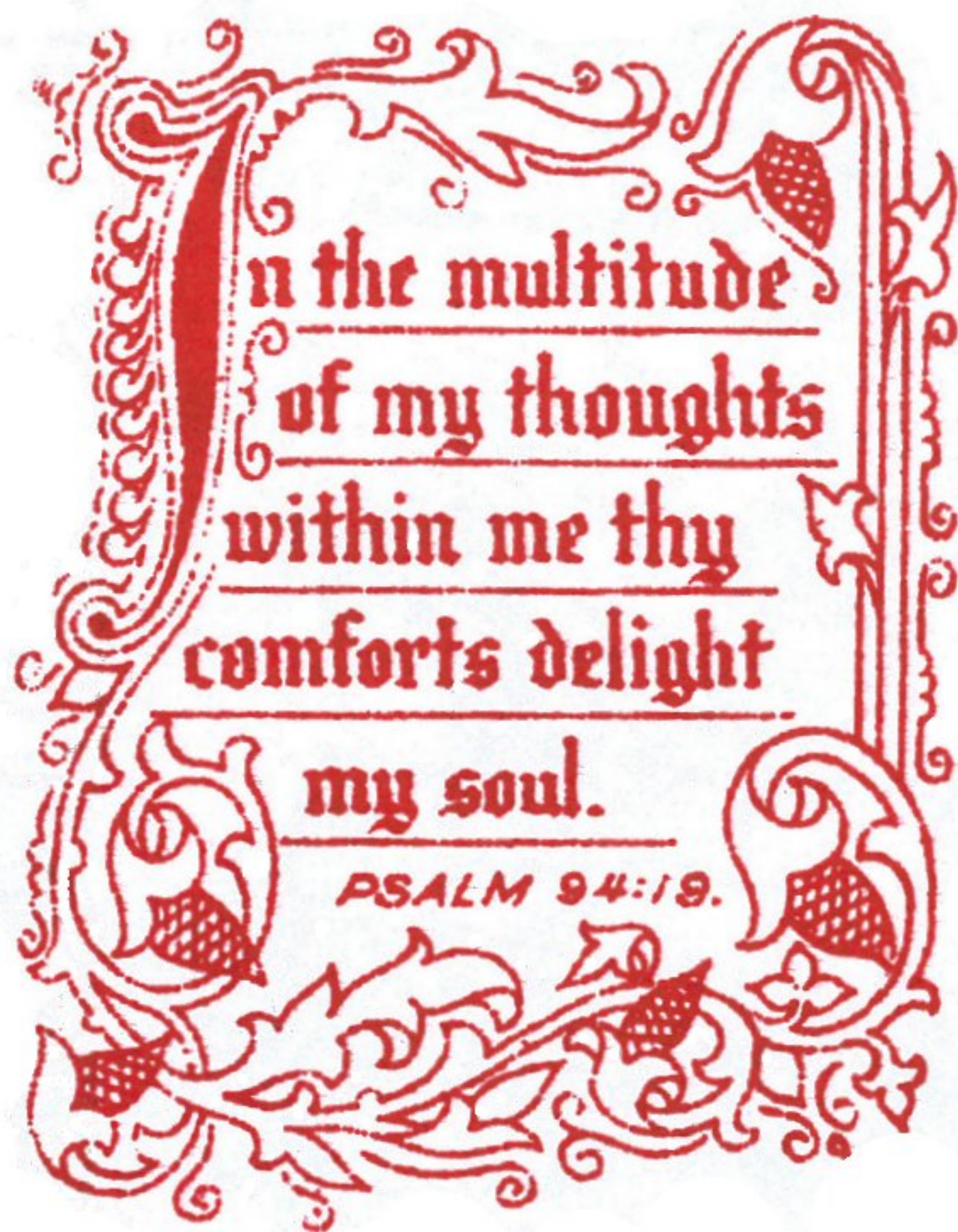
## Books of the Bible

|             |                                     |                  |                       |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 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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In the multitude

of my thoughts

within me thy

comforts delight

my soul.

PSALM 94:19.