

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the  
whole Counsel of GOD

Without Price Since 1910

'Loving His Appearing'

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**I** have set the  
Lord always  
before me:  
because he is  
at my right  
hand, I shall  
not be moved.  
PSALM 16:8.

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### GIFT FROM GOD



*RECEIVE MY INSTRUCTION, AND NOT SILVER; AND KNOWLEDGE RATHER THAN CHOICE GOLD. FOR WISDOM IS BETTER THAN RUBIES. PROV. 8: 10, 11.*

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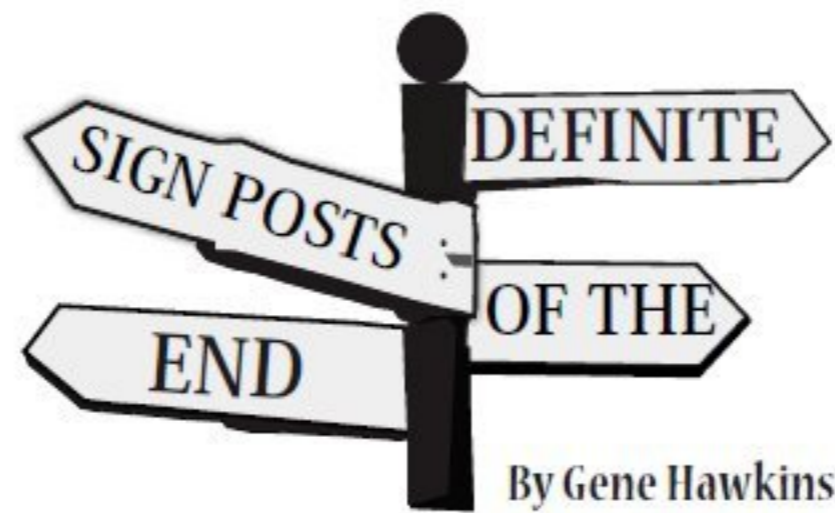
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Editor: Gene Hawkins



*“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.” II Tim. 3:1*

*“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matt. 24:37.....“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.....The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his (God’s) way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.” Gen. 6:5,11-13*

*“And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus:....And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.” Rev. 17:6, Rev. 18:24*

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**“....in the last days perilous (furious, fierce) times shall come,”**

shouts the scripture, but news media today could well announce **“Perilous Times Are Here.”** Terrorism seems to have a complete lock on the news today, be it the lead story on T.V. broadcasts, or the front page of the newspaper. Jesus plainly declared that the Day of His Coming would follow exactly the same pattern as the days of Noah, and one of the major attributes of that day was ferocity, and violence. Both Peter and Jude describe the men, of these last days, as **“brute (irrational, unreasonable) beasts,”** and the current terrorists actions around the globe surely bear that out. There are many, and varied, descriptions of them, but one of the major factors, in regard to their ungodliness, is that they deny **“..... the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”** Jude 4

ISIS, which is driven by the ungodly religion of Islam, continues to be the major destructive force in all the nations, and they clearly do deny **“..... the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”** They also reflect the fact **“that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every **imagination of the thoughts of his heart** was only evil continually.** Pres. Obama, as well as some other world leaders, reported in these pages last month,

seems reluctant to acknowledge the link between this ungodly religion and the terrible acts of brutality committed in the name of Islam. His view, in the wake of the Jordanian pilot being burned alive by ISIS, seemed to try and deflect attention away from Islam with these comments, given at the National Prayer Breakfast held on Feb. 5, 2015. "And lest we get on our high horse and think this is unique to some other place, remember that during the Crusades and the Inquisition, people committed terrible deeds in the name of Christ." These assertions seem to "excuse" such atrocities by indicting the acts of "Christians," during the Dark Ages. Scripture is very clear that God will excuse none of this brutality, and the judgment which followed the days of Noah, will once again be poured out, this time in the great tribulation, after Jesus takes His throne in heaven.

The acts to which Mr. Obama refers above, must be owned by Catholicism, for by their own admission, they were the only ones there. The record from Rev. 17 & 18, quoted above, lays the blame, for all the martyrdom during those Middle Ages, at the feet of The Catholic Church. She is the "...woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus:...", along with "the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth." The target at that time was the same as it is now,.... True Believers. The "martyrs of Jesus," refer especially to those who lived at a time closer to the period when He actually walked this earth. The early "prophets" or defenders of the True Word Of God, were among that number and then the all inclusive, "all that were slain upon the earth," is a reference to all those throughout the ages down to, and even beyond our day, who will be slain because they refused to bow to The Church.

Catholicism has boasted repeatedly that She is the only legitimate Church, because She is only one who can trace her roots back to Pentecost. Pope Benedict declared plainly, shortly after being elected Pope, that "Christ established here on earth only one Church. The other communities cannot be called Churches in the proper sense because they do not have the ability to trace their bishops back to 'Christ's original apostles,' and therefore their priestly ordinations are not valid." The "terrible deeds in the name of Christ," to which Mr. Obama referred, can only be owned by Catholicism as they targeted true believers who refused to bow to the Church, rather than Jesus, and the texts above clearly indicate that God will, in no wise, allow such atrocities to go

unpunished, be they inflicted by ISIS or The False Church.

More recently, headlines from Newsmax declare: **“Egypt Bombs Islamic State Targets in Libya After 21 Egyptians Beheaded.”** The report in this article indicates that these bombings were in response to ISIS beheading “a group of Egyptian Christians.” It is rather apparent that The Egyptians have no trouble at all in associating these atrocious acts with Islam, and their retaliation was indeed swift, as they bombed targets in Libya because “Libya is where the Islamic State group has built up its strongest presence outside Syria and Iraq.” These victims were identified as “Coptic Christians.” Coptic means “Egyptian,” and they claim an association with John Mark as their tie to Christianity. This is the same John Mark who wrote the Gospel of Mark, beautifully portraying Jesus as the Perfect Servant. According to “gotquestions.org,” “when the Coptics were under the rule of the Roman Empire, they suffered severe persecution and death for their steadfast faith and beliefs in Christ while refusing to worship emperors.” This means that they would have been included in the Catholic Crusades and Inquisitions described in Foxes Book of Martyrs. Present day Coptics are reportedly members of either The Orthodox Church, The Catholic Church, or of The Protestant Churches. Those killed by ISIS were undoubtedly Catholic, as they gathered at the “Virgin Mary Church” in el-Aour.” The key to this attack is found in Rev. 17:14. “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings:...” “These,” are a reference to the ten kings, of verse 12, who bear the characteristics of the modern day terrorist groups “..which have received no kingdom as yet;..” Catholicism is perceived as the representative of “Christianity” around the world. She has promoted herself as being the representative of Christ, and thus an attack against “Christians,” would be a direct attack against The Lamb. ISIS also released a video of these beheadings entitled “A Message Signed With Blood to The Nation of the Cross.” This is none other than a reference to the Cross of The Lamb and an open denial of “..the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

We simply do not know if these “Coptic Christians,” were indeed true born again believers. Scripture is very plain that there are such believers in The Catholic Church for God strongly exhorts “....Come out of her, **my people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” The urgency

here is due to the total destruction of this ungodly Catholic System which will be completely annihilated, as detailed in Rev. 17-18.

God's Word is also very clear that all these terrorist organizations which war against "The Lamb" will, in no wise, prevail because ".....the Lamb shall overcome them:..." Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also God will intervene and pour out His tribulation judgment on the present wickedness, corruption, and brutality around this entire earth ball today.

Meanwhile, amidst all the chaos caused by ISIS which has claimed center stage around the globe, other world problems, prophesied by scripture, rapidly continue. The opening citation of this feature, declaring the "perilous times," that prevail in these last days, continues with great detail, many of which, can most assuredly be applied to all the governments of our day, "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers,....unholy,....trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, ....Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:...." II Tim. 3:2-5

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All these characteristics are clearly evident in men who truly do love power and will do anything to either obtain or retain it. They literally covet such positions and their pride, arrogant, and boastful, self serving attitudes are, in no wise hidden. Lies and false accusations are commonplace today, as is evidenced by the ISIS tactic of trying to drive a wedge between Jordan and The U.S. declaring that an American hostage had been killed by the Jordanian bombing raid of an ISIS target, following the execution of their pilot. The Jordanians quickly countered that accusation citing the fact that, the man had been burned alive at least a month before the video was released, even while they were "negotiating" his release. It is also now known that ISIS executed the American hostage long before the Jordanian retaliatory strike was made.

Trust among the nations is truly a fleeting luxury today and even supposedly strong ties with certain allies hangs very much in the balance. Israel has always been God's barometer for this world and she is most assuredly in the news today. P.M. Netanyahu has been invited to speak before a joint session of congress, much to the chagrin of the Obama administration, which has concluded that protocol was not followed in that invitation. Strained

relations between these two allies have been strained for some time, mainly because of Israel's refusal to capitulate on American demands to relinquish their land to the Palestinians. Now charges and counter charges are made, as each faction argues for their own rightness in regard to the Prime Minister's appearance. One thing is very sure: Mr. Netanyahu's fears are not unfounded. Iran is well on their way to obtaining a nuclear weapon and Israel will be the prime target. Though Iran insists that her efforts are purely for domestic power, no nation on earth believes such a lie, and truces, agreements, and even sanctions against this ungodly nation have proven absolutely useless. Israel has long fought for their right to exist as a nation, and we do not doubt that such a vigilant fight will continue. We do long for the day when they will lay down their arms, and bow at the Feet of their Messiah, but scripture is very plain, declaring that that day will not come until both that nation and the world, have endured a time of great tribulation and misery. Until then all the defining elements of these last days recorded in the above verses will continue unabated.

7 We do rejoice, on the authority of God's Word, in the hope that we could be translated out of this chaotic world at any moment. For that reason, it is imperative that we do not get "caught up," in trying to reform any segment of this world, be it moral, political, or religious. Jude is very clear in his exhortation that we can, and must, attend to our own personal lives, **first**, in these very chaotic last days. We cannot fall into step with this world, trying to become like unto them, but must rather be willing to separate from the ungodly practices which are so widely accepted even by the "Christian" community, oftentimes in the name of love. Jude rather strongly admonishes, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." Jude 20-23 "Building up yourselves...." Means that we must give top priority to our own lives and that priority means that we must go the limit in building up our own faith which means a strong and dedicated adherence to God's Word, for "...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom. 10:17 "Praying in the Holy Ghost," simply means that we are praying for truth,

for "...he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26 Jesus also promises that ".....when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." John 16:13 The Holy Ghost will guide us today into "all truth:.... and he will shew you things to come." Those "things to come," are a reference to present day circumstance such as those things that are so graphically portrayed above, and they are signs that Jesus is even at the door.

Jude further instructs us to keep ourselves "in the love of God," and to look "for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." This does not mean that we need to "persuade" God to love us, or try and conduct ourselves in a manner that would make us "lovable," but rather that we open ourselves up and allow Him to pour out such love upon us by being occupied with Him rather than all the tremendous distractions of this world. Likewise, we must pursue the avenue of His mercy or grace, rather than trying desperately to impress Him with our own works, thinking that we can do something whereby we "deserve" such attention, thereby making God "indebted" to us. We must know by experience that God owes us nothing, but Divine Grace has given us all thing in Christ Jesus. Such grace is ours, free for the taking, if we will only reach out and claim it. 8

Finally, after addressing our own needs first, in order that we be prepared, and have something to give to others, our end-time preacher urges us: "...of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." This verse plainly indicates that we cannot "give in," to the ungodly practices of the flesh being promoted today, but must try and persuade "some," that is individuals, warning them against the fire of judgment which is coming.

Peter likewise warns us of the atmosphere facing us in these last days. "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. II Pet. 3:3-4 There are those, even among Christians, who love to quote verses like "there is no new thing under the



sun,” (Eccl. 1:9) in an effort to prove that “all things continue as they were from the creation.” They loudly protest the coming of Jesus “in our day,” and would discount the foregoing reports as having nothing to do with His eminent return.

We cannot be dissuaded by such unbelief! Our mantra today must be Rom. 13:11. “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.” Paul further warns us to stand steadfastly against the temptation to succumb to the passive sleepy condition of the over-all Church which pervades our world today. “Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; (Christians, for only Christians sleep. Sinners are DEAD in trespasses and sins!) but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken 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, (of the tribulation) but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,....” I Thess. 5:6 -9 If we would claim our place in reigning with Christ, the day must come when we, as an individual, truly believe that Jesus will come and translate us out of this world to meet Him in the air. Some people are already consumed with that hope, and God’s Word plainly declares that their lives are purified by it. “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” I John 3:3

9



## The Rock

There is One amid all changes, Who,  
Stands fast, ever fast,  
Christ abides.

He covers future, present, and the past,  
Christ abides.

Decay and change in all creation vast,  
Yea Christ abides through every stormy blast  
The Rock of Ages hoary, First and Last.

MMB.

# Treasures Of Darkness

Kathryn Devers

***“And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.” Isa. 45:3.***

**H**idden treasure is a valuable of great worth; something rare or precious. Who would even dare believe that darkness has treasures? Yet, when we consider the most precious gems, such as the diamond, etc, they are buried in the depths of the earth. Through much hard labor, they are brought forth, where they must be refined and become dazzling jewels of great price. Of course, it is not too difficult to believe that which can be seen —“Seeing is believing.” When we think of God, Who is Creator of heaven, earth and mankind, a God of Light, how then could He bring treasure out of darkness?

First we must consider the great story of redemption, which was planned by God before the foundation of the world. It was the sin of the first man, Adam, that brought ruin to the entire human race. Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”—Rom. 5:12.

Man was left in a helpless, depraved, condition; eternal darkness loomed before him with, no way out. But his extremity was God’s opportunity. The Lord Jesus Christ, and His condescension, was the only remedy for sin. "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." II Cor. 5:21. As He went to the cross, being suspended between heaven and earth, it was a time of darkness. God in His holiness could not look upon the sin that was manifested there, thus it was necessary for Him to turn His back upon His only Son, as He was made sin for all mankind.

With the eye of faith, Jesus beheld treasures of splendor. He believed God's Word, that by His death He would bring many sons to glory. Therefore, with great courage, He was enabled to face the ignominious death of the cross, despising the shame, because of the joy that was set before Him, knowing that many sons would share in His glory and wealth for a long eternity. As

these treasures were manifested in the life of the Son of God, at Calvary, we can see in the Word of God, how they have been, and are being, reproduced in the lives of those that believe. No wonder the Apostle Paul exclaimed, "O the depths of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!" Rom. 11:33

Let us consider a few Bible characters, where precious treasures were found in their lives in hours of darkness. Abraham was a hero of faith. "He believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness." God called him from Ur of the Chaldees to go into the land of Canaan. A land of promise, not only to him, but to his seed. A son was promised to him, but Sarah his wife was barren. Therefore, all was absolutely depending on God to fulfill His Word concerning his seed. A period of twenty five years elapsed, Abraham being one hundred years old, Sarah ninety. Impossibility loomed before them, yet Abraham staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and a son was born. "For in Isaac shall thy seed be called."

11

One day he was called upon to offer his son for a burnt offering, Isaac being a type of Christ. He gave immediate response to the voice of God and obeyed. This must have been an hour of darkness to this man of faith. Death was on the scene, which meant separation. Nevertheless, "By faith, when he was tried, offered up Isaac, his only son. Of whom it was said, that in Isaac shall thy seed be called; accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from whence also he received him in a figure." Heb. 11:18-19 We must agree there was a gem of faith reflecting its beauty in his life during this time of darkness. Who but God could appreciate and honor such faith?

David was a man after God's own heart. Many wonderful things are recorded concerning him. He loved God dearly, his praises continually filled him, but a few times, through weakness of the flesh, he failed God. In II Samuel 24:10-14 he sinned greatly against the Lord by numbering the people. His heart smote him after he had sinned, fellowship with God was severed, but by confessing his wrong, the consequences were left with God. Chastisement was the penalty. A choice of three things was given him. V. 14. Was this not a time of perplexity and misery in his life? Only God could

see faith and courage hidden in the recess of his heart, for he said, "I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the Lord; for His mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man." Here is a lesson which can be profitable for us today. God does not expect us to stay down because of failures, but to use them as stepping stones, rising, above the things that overtake us, by faith, counting Christ as our victory, ever marching on, bearing fruit for the glory of God.

Job was a perfect and upright man, one that feared God and shunned evil. The refining fire of God came his way one day. The Lord allowed Satan to take control of all he had. "Only upon himself put not forth thine hand." Job 1:12 He was stripped of family, servants, oxen, asses, sheep, property and his own health. Words of discouragement were offered him for counsel, such as, "curse God and die." It was an outlook of despair, his uplook: as though God had forsaken him. Yet he said, "He knoweth the way that I take, when He bath tried me I shall come forth as gold..... Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." What is more precious than tried faith? This portrays to us an inward work, which God performs in the lives of those who believe His Word. He alone smells a sweet odor, which flows from a heart where implicit trust is found. Job's faith in God worked patience in his life during this time of trial. These were treasures of darkness and the results at the end paid double. The Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than the beginning. It pays to trust God whatever the circumstances may be. He is a good pay Master. 12

Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, is an outstanding character in the Word of God. It is recorded of her, that she sat at Jesus' feet learning of Him. Jesus said this was needful, that she had chosen the good part, which would not be taken from her. It was with great courage and patience that she maintained this place. She was upbraided by her own sister because of her position, but she was learning a secret of victory and faith that Martha knew nothing of. This was proved when a tragic happening occurred in their home. Lazarus their only brother was sick and died. They sent for Jesus, and when Martha heard that He was coming, she went with haste to meet Him. Unprepared in her heart, she greeted Him with murmuring and complaining — yet Jesus, in tenderness, endeavored to bring comfort to her broken heart. But Mary sat still in the house. Her attitude expresses

genuine faith, which affords perfect rest. Jesus calls for her. She rose hastily and went out to meet Him. "Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying unto Him, Lord, if thou hadst been here my brother had not died. When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, He wept also." Her deep love and implicit confidence in Him touched His tender heart of compassion. How could He fail to answer such faith? She knew death could not be in His presence. Resplendent rays of priceless treasure were manifested in her life, during this time of great sorrow. Certainly such faith is blind to impossibilities, dead to doubts, and dumb to discouragements. So Jesus came to the grave, of the one He loved and said, "Take ye away the stone. Martha saith unto Him, Lord by this time he stinketh; for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, said I not unto thee, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God." A stupendous miracle was wrought. "He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth! And he that was dead came forth." A little faith will cause the glory of God to be manifested. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." Let us learn to sit at His feet, earnestly desiring that intimate place of fellowship and see the faithfulness of God proved to us in the hours of darkness.

Joshua received a great commission from the Lord. He was to lead the children of Israel into the land of Canaan, which was their earthly inheritance. It was a land flowing with milk and honey, but was inhabited with enemies that were as giants in stature. This meant a battle must be fought before the wealth of the land could be possessed and enjoyed. Battles depict to us distress, darkness, death and sorrow, but the Lord said to Joshua, "Be strong and of a good courage for the Lord God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." He faced the difficulty with great valor and in the strength of the Lord and went up to possess the land. Again our attention is called to treasures of darkness, courage and faith to face the foe and become a mighty conqueror.

God is performing an inward work in the lives of His people today, as the word of His grace is believed. Because of the believer's exalted position in Christ, being seated together with Him in the heavenlies, we are engaged in a great spiritual battle. It is most necessary to war in the spirit, for we

have a foe to combat, which is Satan. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Therefore, we must fight the good fight of faith, to maintain this place. Often the enemy rages and the battle becomes fierce, but we too must be as one of David's mighty men, who, ".....arose and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword; and the Lord wrought a great victory that day." II Samuel 23:10. Let us learn to wield the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and treasures of darkness will be found in our lives. Thank God for present victory. For we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.

As good soldiers of the Lord, hardness. must be endured. II Tim. 2. This is where we are faced with divers temptations or trials. Though these are valley experiences, times of darkness, perplexities, discouragements, hours of despair, who would believe that treasures could be found under such circumstances? James admonishes us to, "Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." James 1:2,3. The joy of the Lord is a precious treasure, for it is our strength. Trials are the means of God refining His people, that only the righteousness of His Son shall be seen. The Christ life is perfected by the way of suffering. His life is reproduced in those that believe the Word and allow It to govern them.

We are running a strenuous race also, with a glorious prize in view. There are many hindrances and obstacles that mounted over to be a successful winner. We are told to lay aside every weight, that is, anything that would retard our spiritual progress. Yielding to the desires of the flesh, world and the devil, will hinder our running. So let us run with patience, yielding to the Word of God and cast not away our confidence, for it hath "great recompence of reward." Heb. 10:35

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\* When you are so devoted to doing right that you press straight on and disregard what men are saying about you, there is the triumph of the Christ Life.

# Humbled Before God

Paul N. Smith

*“Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah...and he reigned 52 years in Jerusalem.....and he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah did... But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction; for he went into the temple of the Lord to burn incense upon the altar of incense.” II Chron. 26*

The story of Uzziah is a familiar one in the Bible, as well as in real life in our time. He was just a teenager when he was given responsibility to rule the nation of Judah, and evidently he carried on as his father would have done. He fought against the Philistines, was held in esteem by the Ammonites and his name became famous throughout the world. He built up his armed forces, built towers and fortifications and had a high approval rating.

However, there was a wicked king reigning over the ten tribes, Jeroboam II, who began to influence Uzziah in a wrong way. Amos, a herdsman, heard the call of God to preach to Israel in Bethel, predicting the ten tribes' invasion by Assyria and their destruction. This didn't set well with Israel and when he preached to Judah, recounting their sins, he was not popular there either.

Here's my point: When Uzziah became strong, he became proud. He ceased to listen to the Word of the Lord and disregarded His principles. He took his strength to mean that he could do anything he desired which included his intruding into the priests' office and offering incense upon the altar in the holy place. No one but the anointed priests of Aaron's line could minister therein, but Uzziah put himself above all laws, even God's laws. Azariah the priest went in after him with 80 other priests of the Lord and when they withstood the king, he became very angry and proceeded to offer the incense. However, here is when God stepped in and settled the disturbance. Leprosy, a type of sin, appeared in the king's forehead, and "Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death." As a result of becoming a leper, Uzziah was banned from his home, his throne and lived out the rest of his days in a house separated from everyone he knew and loved.

God is able to abase anyone of us who has been infected

with leprosy of the head. When we get to thinking we are so powerful that we are above all laws, God can abase us in a hurry. Nebuchadnezzar, another ruler who had “head leprosy” was abased. James tells us: “God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble.” Jas.4:6 World leaders need to heed the Word of God and humble themselves under His almighty Hand. He can easily remove any ruler who has become a hindrance to His purposes. We Christians need to examine ourselves, to see if we “think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think” (Romans 12:3). When things go well, it is very easy to think that it is due to our own abilities and spirituality. It’s not easy on the flesh to be humbled, but that is the only way we will ever enjoy grace and more grace.

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### Towards The Goal

Forward at Thy bidding  
Not a touch of fear,  
Armoured in Thy Greatness  
Through the coming year,  
With our vision focused  
On the shining goal,  
And our hearts enraptured  
‘Neath Love’s blest control.

Forward where Thou leadest  
Through the flood or fire,  
Grant us faith that conquers,  
Love that will not tire,  
Grace that keeps us going  
When the path is veiled,  
And a spirit dauntless  
When earth’s springs have failed.

Forward, ever forward,  
Step by step with Thee,  
Love is ever planning  
All that’s best to be’  
Promises abounding,  
Cov’ring ev ‘ry need,  
This our pledge of triumph  
Whilst Thy Name we plead.

E.C.W.B.



## The World Diagnosed

"The world is 25,000 miles around and 8,000 miles through and as to its weight figures have staggered and fallen in attempting to express it, but the Apostle John had the thing summed up when he said, 'All that is in the world is the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life,' and anybody else who will make a careful survey will find that John's statement is correct. Of course, John's summary is in a spiritual sense and we have drawn this comparison only to show how a world so big has so little in it.

"The word world here must be understood for it stands for that whole order of things in the human race which is estranged from God, and which is hostile, both to Him and to His people. Its natural enmity and its inherent opposition to God are its essence. This is the world we are not to love. It is the things of the world, its lawlessness, its lust, its pride, that bring upon its devotees their trouble.

"As we read the reports of human doings in the press, we behold distress, degeneration in high places and low. The upper world concealing what the underworld is revealing. Lawlessness and lust, lies and license abounding.

"We behold sharks and shysters, human slavery and white slavery. Prostitution is found to be an institution and gambling the graft of gentlemen. Investigation is suppressed and moral laws are transgressed. Dirty divorce decrees and shameful society scandals are the startling facts filling many a life. It is against these things the apostle makes exhortation, "To love not the world, neither the things that are in the world."

"Our hearts go out in many an ache unto those who are trying to satisfy the longings of a human soul from a source less than God Himself. All are sin sick and some are sick of sin and for all the sin sick and those sick of sin there is remedy and deliverance in Christ."

Author Unknown

# REFLECTIONS

...From the Editor

*“Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.” Rom. 13:8*

Love is the theme of Paul’s message to the Church and the Lentire Christian experience. The apostle loudly proclaimed that we “...love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.” Jesus likewise answered the question “Master, which is the great commandment in the law?” with these words: “.....Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” Mt 22:36-39

The subject of Rom. 13 & 14 is submission and divine love, wherein we are instructed to be subject unto the higher powers and to control the liberty which we have in Christ, being motivated by Love. According to the above text the only debt we are to incur is to “love one another.” He then gives specific instruction as to how we are to conduct ourselves toward him.

Freedom in Christ is a glorious and liberating benefit and blessing for us, but it does carry two major responsibilities. Paul declared first of all that “...all things are lawful for me, but I **will not be brought under the power of any.**” I Cor. 6:12 He further warned “For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for **an occasion to the flesh**, but by love serve one another.” Gal. 5:13 He meant that he would not allow any outside influence or substance to impair or control him, and literally push him into the bondage of the flesh. The alternative, which brings us to our second responsibility, is that we must “by love serve one another.” Such service must not be a simple convenience for us but carries a very specific warning, showing that we are in fact responsible for our brother. “But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.” I Cor. 8:9 Our “father in the faith,” further took the lead for controlling such liberty by boldly announcing “But when ye sin so against the brethren, and **wound their weak conscience**, ye sin against Christ. Wherefore, if meat make my

brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.” I Cor. 8:12 Whether we always realize it or not, others are watching our lives, and we must be aware of the fact that our actions do have an influence on them. It is up to us, as to what influence that will be. Jesus was very emphatic in His words concerning offending “these little ones,” meaning those who are so very easily influenced by others. “And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.” Mk. 9:42

The grace message teaches plainly that our actions are not to be motivated by fear of consequence. That was the message of the law, and scripture is very plain that “...the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did;...” Heb. 7:19 The better hope here is the hope in Christ and His Matchless love. There are sixteen characteristics of that love recorded in I Cor. 13, and they are summed up with “Charity never faileth:...” V. 8 So let us ““Owe no man any thing, but to love one another:...”

GH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MAJOR BLUNDER** in the Feb. 2015 Issue. Page 23 was inadvertently inserted twice thus omitting page 22. (O’ the wonderful world of computers, bringing trouble at the click of a mouse.) We would extend our deepest apology to Bro. Ray Quintana, and others, who may have been affected by this glaring mistake. We are printing the corrected version of ‘Jesus’ Cause Love! In this issue. Hopefully we have discovered a system whereby we can ensure that a fiasco, such as this, will not occur in the future.

### **LADIES RETREAT**

May 1-3, 2015

Carbondale, Kansas

For more information please call

Brenda Hawkins 816-765-7607

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

June Hawkins is available at 816-618-3306

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

# Jesus' Cause, Love!

Ray Quintana

*“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That He would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.” Eph 3:14-19*

**P**aul prayed that we would know the love of God in Christ and to be filled with all the fullness of God. Love is the greatest subject we could ever conceive, and without it, we are empty. The entire brokenness and heart ache that Paul felt was because of the love of God. We too have the opportunity to know that kind of love in our own lives. 20

If we would examine a mother's, or a father's, love in the natural, it is so similar to God's love, but yet so different. It is so different that it fills us with wonder and praise, just to ponder it. God's love has a depth and a breadth and a length and a height that is beyond comprehension in its glory. Yet we can know the love of God.

Leviticus tells us of five Levitical offerings, given to Moses, which describe the cause for which Jesus came. Five is the number of Divine Grace. It took those five offerings to fully describe and to portray what Jesus did on the cross and to fully exhibit the wonder of redemption which He brought forth. One of those offerings was the peace offering.

“And he shall lay his hand upon the head of his offering, and kill it at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about. And he shall offer of the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire unto the Lord; The fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards.” Lev. 3:2-3. God always received the fat from all of the offerings. Only He could appreciate the inward zeal, and energy, that Christ had or the motivation that He had in giving Himself unto His Father. Such motivation had to be Divine Love, even as Jesus cried out “I do always those things that please Him.” John 8:29

God is love, and He is motivated by it even as we read, “God so loved the world that He gave.....” John 3:16.

When we are saved, the life of Christ is planted within our hearts, and if God is love then we have His love in us which must grow. Love is like a fire that can never be put out? The devil can't do it because God created that fire. “Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it.” Song 8:7.

The requirements in Leviticus, forbid eating either fat or blood. Four of the five offerings were blood offerings. All of them had specific laws which accompanied them, for God left nothing to chance. The peace offering is a fellowship offering telling us of feasting with God on the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. Notice what man received. “And the priest shall burn the fat upon the altar: but the breast shall be Aaron's and his sons.” Le 7:31. The breast is symbolic of the affection or the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is love. It is beautifully illustrated by John at the last supper as he leaned his head on Jesus' breast. Some saints enter into the very love and affection of Christ and others are, at best, held at arm's length.

That night when Jesus announced that someone would betray Him, the disciples looked on one another and said, “is it I?” Finally Peter said to John, who was leaning on Jesus breast, “ask Him who is it?” Some people enter into the very affections of Christ, which gives them a liberty with Him, like John, which others do not have. They understand the love of God. John was not afraid he would be reprimanded. He understood the love of Jesus. We too must enter into the very love and affection of Christ, knowing that we have the right to go in unto Him; knowing that we are not going to be reprimanded for taking liberties with Him. That is partaking of the breast of the Lord Jesus Christ in this peace offering.

The offering priest also received “the right shoulder;” which speaks of strength. Lev. 7:32 The Apostle Paul said, “when I am weak then I am strong.” He was taking the shoulder of Christ, leaning upon that shoulder of ever present strength. It is experimental; it is not something that we just talk about, but we rather live and move in its power. We understand it because we have experienced it. The strength of Christ is when my own is gone and I am still standing. That is partaking of the shoulder of the Lord Jesus. But all believers do not come into that place.

There is a parable in Luke 10 which beautifully pictures the peace offering aspect of Jesus' redemption. "And Jesus answering said a certain man went down;...." V. 30 This man, representing Adam, went down from Jerusalem which means, the foundation of peace, where we want to be. Adam was in the beautiful Garden of Eden, but it was not long until he was evicted from that Garden. This certain man in Luke went from Jerusalem down to Jericho, which means fragrant. It is the fragrance of the world from man's point of view, not from God's. So destruction awaited him as he went, exactly as it was with Adam. He fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment. The thief is Satan himself who stripped Adam of the human righteousness he had in the Garden of Eden.

The biggest thing in the universe besides God's love is sin. We all had it and we all served it from the out-broken to the religious kinds of sin. As big as sin is, compared to God's love, it is like a speck of debris in the ocean. Paul said, "where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:" God's love swallowed up sin. This certain man, was wounded, and they departed, leaving him half dead. That is true of all humanity. Every one of us was under the sentence of death from the moment we were born into this world.

"And by chance there came down a certain priest." V. 31 The priest is representative of the sacrifices of the law, which could, in no wise save or give this man life. All of those Old Testament sacrifices were never sufficient to save humanity, but they do point us to Christ at Calvary.

"And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side." V.32 The Levite represents the works of the law. The Levites carried the burden of the articles and did the menial tasks. These are the things in which people glory today, as being the religious works. The Levite had to pass by on the other side, for he also could not help this man or give him life.

"But a certain Samaritan;...." V.33. The Samaritan is Jesus Himself. You may recall His conversation with the woman at the well. She said to Him, "you know the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans." Jesus was that Samaritan who came unto His own and His own received Him not. He was despised and rejected, forsaken of men, and He was the only One that could

help. “So a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed,…” and, we would emphasize, “...came where he was.” V. 34. This is a picture of what Jesus did, for Jesus’ cause was love! He came where we were. He came down into this sinful world right along with us. What love! He did not avoid this man, but rather got right down in the dirt and the filth with him on that dusty road with all of the grime that was there. Jesus did exactly the same thing for us. Philippians 2 records seven steps downward that Jesus took, coming down from God, into the dust, in order to implement His Plan of redemption. Jesus went to him and bound up his wounds. There is only one way that that could be effectively accomplished. He had to settle the sin question first, by the shedding of blood for you and me in order to make peace by the blood of His cross. Jesus paid the debt that was against us, the debt that brought us into absolute death, He paid the price.

23 Then He bound up his wounds pouring in oil, symbolic of the Holy Ghost. It is the anointing power of the Spirit that separates us unto God. It is a separate experience, and despite what some say, we are not saved and filled at the same time. The oil was never poured onto anything that did not belong to God. We must be born again before God can fill us with the Power of the Holy Ghost. He then poured in wine, also symbolic of the power of the Holy Ghost, Who brings His intoxicating joy with Him, but He is not done yet, for this certain man is now ushered into an inn. This is real separation, where we are separated unto Christ for fellowship. It speaks of the full provision of the Apostle Paul’s Gospel message. This innkeeper points to none other than the Apostle Paul who was charged with giving forth this Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ for this entire age.

Then notice what Jesus said: “and on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.” V. 35. What a cause! Love! This is the full redemption, provided for us in Christ Jesus. Nothing to pay, nothing to buy, no debts for us to assume, He paid the full price of our full redemption spirit, soul, and body until He can present us holy and unblameable and unproveable before the Lord. That is the power of the message we preach. It is Jesus Christ’s cause, which is love. He brought us to the inn, and He took care of us, and He has committed us to the Gospel by

the Apostle Paul. This is where Christ takes care of us. He is in glory now, but we are entrusted to the innkeeper, and the Gospel of grace and glory.

It will also take the Holy Spirit, to fill us with this same love. We can never know the fullness Christ, and love of God in its fullest, without the Holy Ghost “.....because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.” Rom. 5:5

The basis for all this is found “In the body of his flesh through death,.....” Col 1:22 Redemption carried a tremendous price, and, as He said in Luke, whatever you spend more, I will repay it. Jesus paid for us on the cross of Calvary. Think of the love He has for you and me. He says; don’t think about demanding any payment from this man. God has already made full provision for us to have this complete redemption in Christ Jesus. “In the body of his flesh through death,...” (and here is the purpose for it all) “....to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:” Col 1:22. Some Christians accept the fact that they are no longer enemies of the cross, or an enemy of Christ, and God, but all Christians do not lay hold of the challenge, “if ye continue in the faith.” “The faith,” is the fullness of the Gospel: the fullness of the Word of God; the fullness of Christ; the breast and the shoulder; the love and strength of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. “If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul (the innkeeper) am made a minister;” Col 1:23. Jesus’ cause was the love which He had for us, even from before the foundation of the world.

24

Let the love of God swallow us up today. He loved me and gave Himself for me! We can know it. When we know this love, it is the greatest thing to come into our lives. Every experience, that we will ever have, is nothing compared to having the love of God fully possess our lives by the Holy Spirit. God loves me! God wants this to be a reality with us. Jesus’ cause is love. It is the love of God that seeks people. It is the love of God that brings us to repentance. It is the love of God that overwhelms us. Yes we need to preach about judgment; it is in the Word of God. But judgment never changes too many people. It is the Love of God that overwhelms them. It is the Love of God that is needed in the



Church. The Love of God will bring God's everlasting treasure to our lives.

Some would say, Lord, I would sit at your feet and hear what you have to say, and receive your words, and that's so wonderful. But I can't stop there, No, Lord, I have not asked according to the royalty of your promise. "Unto you who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that I ask or think, according to the power that worketh in me." It is impossible to express the full meaning of these words. You, Oh Lord, are able to do all things. Oh Lord, who can doubt the power of your love?

25 Lord Jesus lift me higher! Not at Your feet only would I sit, but I want to lean upon Your Breast. Oh, put me where John was, so I may lean my head upon Your Bosom. Let me not merely learn Your Truth, but may I feel Your Heart beat, and know Your Love to me. Then I would say, "No Lord, I have not asked according to the tenor of your promises. You have lifted me from Your Feet to Your Breast; now lift me higher, to Your Lips as Your Bride." Oh, "Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth, for His love is better than wine." "Oh Lord, let me give to You my love, but more importantly let me receive the present blessings of Your Love to me by the Holy Spirit. May I not only know it, and feel Your Heart beat, but receive it as my lips of prayer, meeting Your lips of blessing. Let my lips of thanksgiving touch Your lips of Love. I have Your promises where I can come to Your throne of grace and throw my arms around You, and say Jesus you are my joy. Your love is my love; Your presence is my heaven; Your character is my great example; I trust in You, and I love You! That is what my soul longs for!" Yes we can know the love of Christ which passes knowledge. It will take us to the heights but then we must prepare for a flight which is higher still. "Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors." Prov. 8:34.

\* Every step of faith not only takes us forward, but leaves a footprint behind for others, coming after us, to see.

\* We tire of the pleasure we take; but never of the pleasure we give.

\* God can say "I" all He wants to and not be conceited.

# Heart To Heart Talk

Annie J. Flint

The devil may wall you round,  
But he cannot roof you in.  
He may fetter your feet and tie your hands,  
And strive to hamper your soul with bands,  
As his way has ever been;  
But he cannot hide the face of your God  
And the Lord shall be your light,  
And your eyes and your thoughts can rise to the sky  
Where His clouds and His winds and birds go by,  
And His stars shine out at night.

The devil may wall you round  
And rob you of all things dear.  
He may bring his hardest and roughest stone  
And think to cage you and keep you alone,  
But he may not press too hard,  
For the Lord has planted a hedge inside  
And has made it strong and tall—  
And ever it's mounting, and keeps between  
A hedge of living and growing things green  
The trusting soul and Satan's wall.

The devil may wall you round,  
But the Lord's Hand covers you,  
For His hedge is a thick and thorny hedge,  
So the devil can find no ent'ring wedge,  
Neither get his finger through.  
He may circle about you all day long,  
But cannot work as he would;  
For the will of the Lord restrains his hand  
And he cannot pass the Lord's command.  
Thus his evil turns to good.

The devil may wall you round  
With his gray stones, row on row,  
But the green of the hedge is fresh and fair,  
And within its circle is space to spare  
And room for your soul to grow.  
Though the wall that shuts you so closely in  
May be hard and high and stout,  
Yet the Lord is Sun and the Lord is Dew,  
And His hedge is coolness and shade for you;  
For no wall can shut Him out.

# ISAIAH 28

Gene Hawkins

*“Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which are on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine!” V. 1*

Isaiah assails Ephraim in this chapter, and thus corresponds with Hosea, who does exactly the same thing using much of the same language. “Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone. Their drink is sour: they have committed whoredom continually: her rulers with shame do love, Give ye. The wind hath bound her up in her wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.” Hos. 4:17-19 Both Hosea and Isaiah testify of the idolatry which prevailed in Israel, which is likewise symbolic or typical of the Professing Church in Christendom today. Terms, like “idols” and “whoredom” express such unfaithfulness to The Lord, and “sour” drink, shows their wayward religiousness, presenting a direct contrast to the sweet wine of the Holy Spirit. The prophet further chides Ephraim for committing “whoredom,” accusing her “rulers” of basically demanding “Give ye,” meaning that “we will take what we want.” They shall be “ashamed because of their sacrifices,” because they, in no wise, magnify the sacrifice of Calvary.

Hosea further assaults this second son of Joseph with this scathing indictment; “And Ephraim (fruitful) is as an heifer that is taught, and loveth to tread out the corn; but I passed over upon her fair neck: I will make Ephraim to ride; Judah shall plow, and Jacob shall break his clods.” Hos. 10:11 These are terms of judgment, showing that Judah is not far behind the ten tribes of Israel, known as Ephraim, in being taken captive. Jacob is a reference to the entire nation, all twelve tribes, which are yet to “break his clods,” of judgment in the tribulation. “Her fair neck,” is actually a reference to her rebellion, which is also described in Deut. 32:15. “But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.”

Isaiah continues to describe this rebellious, drunken condition in the remainder of verse 1, poetically depicting Ephraim as one “whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which are on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine!” The beauty of spiritual things, with which she started, is fading fast because of her dwelling in “fat valleys,” of rebellion where she has been “overcome with wine!”

All of this is cause for judgment, and thus Isaiah prophesies; “Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, which as a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing, shall cast down to the earth with the hand.” V. 2 This “mighty and strong one,” is undoubtedly Assyria, for history reveals that Israel was trodden down of this nation and eventually taken into captivity. Thus, “The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, shall be trodden under feet.” V. 3

The following verse portrays Ephraim as a choice morsel which was very appealing to Assyria. “And the glorious beauty, which is on the head of the fat valley, shall be a fading flower, and as the hasty fruit before the summer; which when he that looketh upon it seeth, while it is yet in his hand he eateth it up.” V. 4 The “hasty fruit,” depicts the figs which ripened before the rest of the fruit. They were most sweet, tasty, and appealing, exactly as these ten tribes of Israel appeared to Assyria, just prior to the time they were besieged and “eaten up,”

Ephraim is the primary subject of these verses, but Judah is also included as “the residue of his people,” described in V. 5 “In that day shall the LORD of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people,” These words indicate what The Lord would like to be for this people, but according to verse 7, “they also have erred through wine,” meaning that Judah is on the verge of following exactly the same path of rebellion trod by Ephraim. The identity of this “residue,” is further confirmed by the reference to Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, in verse 14. Thus these next few verses also apply to Judah, who will eventually be taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar.

“And for a spirit of judgment to him that sitteth in

judgment, and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate.” V. 6 These words are a continuation of verse 5 wherein The Lord would be a crown of glory to them, but they will not afford Him that opportunity. He would also be “a spirit of judgment,” meaning that He would make their decisions and would thus strengthen them in their ability to “turn the battle to the gate,” or turn the enemy back to the gate from whence he had come. However, they, like Ephraim, “.....also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.” V. 7 The leaders are designated as the chief transgressors here, and bear a strong resemblance to the condition found in the Church today, where men have become drunken on the wine of religion, at the expense of the Word of God. Verse 8 bespeaks God’s opinion of this condition.

“For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.” What a horrible indictment of the religiousness which prevailed in both Israel and Judah, at the time then present, as well as the drunken stupor present in the Church today, and it is directly because “the priest and the prophet have erred **through strong drink**, ..... they are out of the way **through strong drink**; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.” God, however, does have the remedy if men would only listen to Him. “Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine?” The Church, exactly like God’s Chosen People of old, has forsaken the knowledge and doctrine of God’s Word, choosing instead the wine of religion. Thus they too “err in vision and stumble in judgment.” This verse continues with the answer to the question, “Whom shall he teach knowledge?” “them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:” V. 9-10 This is God’s required answer, for both Israel and The Church. He intends that His people should be weaned from the milk of the Word and become men of understanding, steadily adding “precept upon precept; line upon line,...” He has also given the

glorious power with which to do that, “For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.” V. 11 This is a direct reference to the power of the Holy Ghost, Who has been charged to “.....teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 14:26 Men, in that day, and this, have completely rejected that promise and those of Israel and Judah paid the price of captivity for it.

Isaiah continues with the glorious promise which will eventually come to this very select people announcing: “To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.” V. 12 It will be God’s Word which eventually brings this entire nation to that glorious state of peace in the millennium, but there should be great rejoicing in our hearts today because the same pattern prevails, even now, for those who would depend on the refreshing power of The Holy Ghost to usher us into His Glorious Rest.

Isaiah further assaults this nation, plainly telling them that God had supplied all the provisions necessary to prevent their current state, but they refused to accept them. “But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.” God was Faithful to present the message very meticulously, but that same message was also their undoing. Isaiah 55:11 declares plainly that My Word “...shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please,....” It means that The Word of God will ALWAYS have an effect. If men heed it, they will reap great benefit, but if not, the result will be to “fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.”

Because that is true, Isaiah exhorts, “Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem.” Once again, the leaders are assailed for the deplorable conditions that exist. It is they who have scorned the Word of God to bring about the next awful accusation against them. “Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we

have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves.” V. 15 This covenant is exactly the same as that made with the antichrist, recorded by Daniel. “And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week:....” Dan. 9:27 It was supposed to be a covenant of protection; “the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us...” However, lies, are the reality, as “we have made lies our refuge,” and the demise of this nation is absolutely assured except for God’s immediate promise in the following verse. “Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.” V. 16 God’s alternative has always been Christ. Peter likewise declares this glorious truth, as he quotes this verse in reference to His exaltation. “....Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.” That apostle to the circumcision goes on to declare that the same Stone “....which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,” I Pet. 2:6-7 This verse means that Christ was made Head of the Church as well as Israel’s Messiah, Whom they will eventually accept.

However, that glorious day will be preceded by judgment both upon the nations and Israel. “Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.” V. 17 The Righteous Judge will indeed bring forth righteous judgment against those who have been so abusive to Israel, showing up their lies for exactly what they are. He will also deliver Israel from their ill advised covenant with the antichrist, as noted in the first part of V. 18. “And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand;....” The overall agreements of this covenant of death will be nullified but, great conflict is still ahead for them because they will most assuredly endure the tremendous devastation known as the “time of Jacob’s trouble,” (Jer. 30:7) reflected in the closing words of this verse; “when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.” They are promised that “From the time that it (that infamous covenant) goeth forth

it shall take you: for morning by morning shall it pass over, by day and by night: and it shall be a vexation only to understand the report.” V. 19 That is, it will be very hard for Israel to understand what is happening to them, because they will have been so duped and blinded by the enemy.

Isaiah’s poetic style resurfaces with this analogy of Israel’s plight. “For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it: and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it.” It means that Israel had indeed “made her bed with the antichrist, but signing that covenant has come nowhere near the comfort and protection she had sought. Even in our day, the leaders of Israel are extremely frustrated with the lack of results which come from multiple compromises and agreements with the nations, whereby promises to them are routinely broken. The sad fact is that the pain and anxiety they are experiencing in the political climate today, is but a small foretaste of what they will experience when they finally enter into that prophesied “covenant with death.” 32

The good news is that help is on the way, “For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act” V. 21 The reference to Perazim hearkens back to II Sam. 5:20-25 where The Lord enabled David to twice defeat the Philistines, the religionists of that day like unto Ephraim of our present chapter. It was indeed The LORD who fought those battles and He promises the same victory for those in the end time. Isaiah calls it “his strange work,” meaning that God’s judgment is His “strange work.” It reveals the fact that He will use the antichrist and the nations to punish Israel, but will also, in turn, punish those “tools,” which He has used, to bring His Own People to their knees. No wonder it is called His “strange work!”

“Now therefore be ye not mockers, lest your bands be made strong: for I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth.” V. 22 The little word “therefore,” is a reference to God’s “strange work” of V. 21, and because of it, these people are instructed not be



“mockers,” or doubters of God’s ability, lest their “bands,” or bondage to the nations, be increased. Isaiah declares that he has “heard from the Lord God of hosts,” and a “consumption,” or complete destruction, will encompass the whole earth. This is most assuredly a direct prophecy of the end time events foretold by Jesus wherein we read “except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved:..” Matt. 24:22 The people are thus exhorted to “Give ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech.” V. 23 God’s Counsel has always been to “hearken,” unto His Word, even as Jesus repeatedly instructed the seven Churches in Rev. 2-3. “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith.....” God asserts that His Words are not empty threats, and that He does have a definite plan in mind as emphasized by the following analogy which closes this chapter. “Doth the plowman plow all day to sow? doth he open and break the clods of his ground? When he hath made plain the face thereof, doth he not cast abroad the fitches, and scatter the cummin, and cast in the principal wheat and the appointed barley and the rie in their place?” V. 24-25

This parable describes a farmer who takes every precaution that he might bring forth a bountiful and protected harvest. He does not plow, and break up the ground, in vain, but rather for the purpose of sowing it. There is also the added preparation for the seed sown, for “doth he not cast abroad the fitches, and scatter the cummin,...?” These herbs are of the “parsley family,” and they are used for making aromatic seed. It shows the tremendously meticulous manner in which God also pays attention to detail in order to bring forth a most valuable crop. He does indeed “plow,” in order to break up the “rebellious ground,” as noted previously in Hos. 10:11. However, He also assures that the sweet aromatic Seed of Christ is added, and just as much care is taken when the harvest begins. “For the fitches are not threshed with a threshing instrument, neither is a cart wheel turned about upon the cummin; but the fitches are beaten out with a staff, and the cummin with a rod. Bread corn is bruised; because he will not ever be threshing it, nor break it with the wheel of his cart, nor bruise it with his horsemen.” V. 27-28 He does not use the very “heavy,”

potentially destructive equipment of a “cart,” to thresh out the grain, even though that might produce a much quicker, less time consuming result. He rather uses the smaller “staff” and “rod,” because He must protect and preserve the grain.

God has given all this instruction to the caretaker of the natural ground. “For his God doth instruct him to discretion, and doth teach him.” V. 26 It is God Who teaches the “plowman,” and he is the only one in all His creation with whom the Great Creator has shared this knowledge of sowing seed. Man has been indeed highly favored in this regard, but God implements this same knowledge in bringing forth His Own precious harvest. Israel and Judah are the subjects in this chapter and, as taught by this analogy, He will attend to the most minute detail in “plowing” and “threshing,” this Chosen People. He will not suffer them to be damaged beyond measure, even though His tools will be the nations of the end time. His control is absolute, and will not suffer these instruments to go any further, than what is necessary to achieve optimum results. Isaiah’s final word is that “This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.” V. 29 Not only is the counsel “wonderful,” that is, miraculous, separate, and distinguished from all others, it is also “excellent in working,” meaning that it exceeds all else when actually put into practice. The entire nation of Israel will reflect such counsel and excellence when God finally produces His “harvest” of redemption in them.

34



\* When people take advantage of God’s grace to consume it upon their own lusts, they pay a high price for their miss-use and abuse of grace.

\* White-washing the pump will not purify the water; neither will reformation cleanse the heart from sin.

\* Many men pronounced fools by financiers, are laying up fortunes in heaven that others might envy.



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