

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole Counsel of GOD

Without Price Since 1910

'Loving His Appearing'

Volume 105

May 2015

Number 5



Draw nigh
to God, and
he will draw
nigh to you.
JAMES 4:8.

Table of Contents

<u>Article</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Page</u>
Definite Sign Post of the End	Gene Hawkins	3
Religion Confederation.....	Jack Bannister.....	11
A Mothers Counsel.....	Albert J. Woehr	15
Still Waters	Elmer J. Larson.....	20
Modernism...A Deadly Disease.....	Jacob Gartenhaus.....	24
Isaiah (book section)	Gene Hawkins.....	27

HANDWRITING ON THE WALL



"GRACE & GLORY" (USPS#224-300 ISSN # 279-6996) is published monthly by Grace & Glory Gospel Society, 13011 Grandview Rd., P.O. Box 831, Grandview, Missouri 64030.

PERIODICALS postage is paid at Grandview, Missouri.

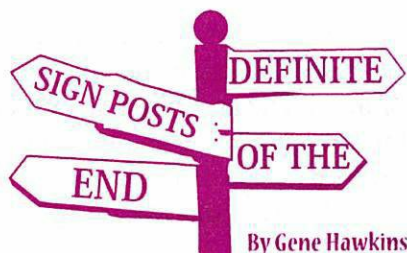
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to "Grace & Glory," P.O. Box 831, Grandview, Missouri 64030.

Telephone: 816-618-3306/ Print Shop: 816-322-2257 /E. mail: gjhawk1@msn.com

Web site: [www.gracegod.org.](http://www.gracegod.org/) / [gracegod.com.](http://gracegod.com) Bible lessons and audio sermons are downloadable.

GRACE & GLORY is published for the purpose of proclaiming God's Holy Word. We believe that the scriptures are inspired of God and were given to His holy apostles and prophets by the Holy Spirit. (II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21) GRACE & GLORY has had continuous publication without subscription price since 1910. We are able to continue this ministry by your kind financial support.

Editor: Gene Hawkins



“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.” Dan. 9:27

The major, over-all, term describing the events of the end time would be “intensity.” Jesus used the analogy of a woman in labor when He called the preliminary events of the tribulation, “the beginning of sorrows.” It means that the “birth pangs,” begin rather mild and far apart, but increase both in severity and frequency, as her time of delivery approaches. The various “pangs,” defining the upheaval of this entire world in the last days, follows exactly this same pattern. Daniel informs us that “knowledge **shall be increased,**” and we know today that with modern technology, much of that knowledge is extremely destructive, both in the private sector and in military weapons. We are further told that “...iniquity **shall abound,** the love of many shall **wax cold.**” Matt. 24:12 Paul plainly tells us also that “...evil men and seducers shall **wax worse and worse,** deceiving, and being deceived.” II Tim. 3:13 We are also informed that there shall “...come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition,” (II Thess. 2:3) meaning that the “defection from truth,” or apostasy, will give way to the full rebellion of humanity, resulting in the manifestation of the antichrist. The book of Revelation is also quite clear in showing that the judgments which God will pour out upon this world will occur sporadically but **increase** dramatically as this final week prophesied by Daniel 9:27 progresses.

This very familiar opening text from Daniel, is a direct prophecy of the covenant which Israel will sign with the man of sin. It too follows the same pattern as outlined above. Israel has a history of making “bad covenants,” but this one will top them

all. Isaiah describes it as a “covenant with death.” Isa. 28:15 According to verse 28 of this same chapter “...your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand;...,” for God will take matters into His Own Hands, and completely overturn Israel’s ill advised decision. However, Israel’s history, of entering into various agreements, is simply a prelude to this one.

We would recount that recent history, beginning with the “Camp David Accords,” brokered by Pres. Carter, between Egypt and Israel. An online encyclopedia known as “Wikipedia” concludes that, that agreement comprises two separate agreements: “A Framework for Peace in the Middle East” and “A Framework for the Conclusion of a Peace Treaty between Egypt and Israel.” A process was to be implemented guaranteeing the full autonomy of the people within a period of five years with the participation of Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians. Such an agreement, *however specifically excluded the fate of Jerusalem.*

4 History shows that nothing near “peace,” in that region was achieved, and the “land for peace” deals followed. Again, Wikipedia states that the concept of “Land for Peace is a totally new one in the history of the world. It was formulated for one specific purpose only, namely to persuade and pressure Israel to give up territories that it has administered since the Six-Day War of 1967. By its victory in that war, Israel wound up in possession of these territories. Contrary to what many are led to believe, the “West Bank,” had never been part of any Arab country. It was part of Palestine, a territorial unit that, by the Mandate of the League of Nations and in line with the Balfour Declaration, had been designated as a national home for the Jewish people. Thus, while the concept of “land for peace” is a brand-new one, the concept that to the victor belong the spoils is as old as history itself and had really never been questioned before the days of the Israel-Arab conflict.”

U.S. President Clinton tried to implement this “land for peace” initiative, proposing “a Palestinian state, comprising between 94–96% of the West Bank and the entire Gaza Strip. According to the Parameters, Israel would gain sovereignty over the Western Wall. The Palestinians would gain sovereignty and Israel would gain “symbolic ownership” over the rest of the Temple Mount. East Jerusalem and its Old City would be divided according to ethnic lines, with Israel gaining sovereignty over Jewish settlements, and the Palestinians gaining sovereignty over Arab neighborhoods.”

Thus Jerusalem, which was omitted in the “Camp David

Accords,” has now been thrust into the fray, and the seed, for a two state solution to obtain peace, has been planted. Once again an agreement was signed with “reservations” on the part of both parties and still peace has eluded this part of the world.

Next came “The Road Map,” set forth by the Bush administration, with this detail from Wikipedia. “The Roadmap for peace or ‘road map for peace’ was a plan to resolve the Israeli–Palestinian conflict proposed by the Quartet on the Middle East: the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations. The principles of the plan, originally drafted by U.S. Foreign Service Officer Donald Blome, were first outlined by U.S. President George W. Bush in a speech on 24 June 2002, in which he called for an independent Palestinian state living side by side with Israel in peace.”

Reservations prevailed on this agreement, following the same pattern as those which preceded it, and Israel especially “ruled out the division of Jerusalem and the Palestinian right of return and requested more than 100 changes to the Roadmap.” Not surprisingly, there has been no semblance of peace with this proposal.

This brings us to the present conflicts in which Israel is involved. They are but “by-standers,” in the current negotiations, between the U.S. and Iran, regarding nuclear weapons, even though Israel would be the primary target if that nation were permitted to obtain one. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has vigorously lobbied the U.S. to intervene in trying to stop Iran’s nuclear endeavor, and has severely criticized the Pres., stating that the original agreement literally “paved the way,” for a bomb. Israel is, in no wise, an active participant in any agreement with Iran in this matter, but they will be most assuredly affected by it. It is for that reason that Mr. Obama, and P.M. Netanyahu finally did have a meeting on that subject, and according to Reuters “Israel is pleased at a compromise deal on Iran achieved between the United States Congress and the administration of President Barack Obama.” The Israeli Intelligence Minister Yuval Steinitz further stated that “the compromise bill would be “a very important element in preventing a bad deal”, or at least in improving the April 2 blueprint that world powers charted with Iran.” According to this same report, “The bill requires the Obama administration to send the text of any final agreement with Iran to Congress as soon as it is completed, and blocks Obama’s ability to waive many U.S. sanctions on Tehran while Congress reviews the deal. It allows a final vote on whether to

lift sanctions imposed by Congress in exchange for Iran dismantling its nuclear capabilities. It also requires that the White House send Congress regular, detailed reports on a range of issues including Iran's support for terrorism, ballistic missiles and nuclear program."

Whether this "deal" will ever be implemented, or not, is anyone's guess, because the ink was not "dried on the paper" before Iran accused the U.S. of lying about the "fact sheet," Pres. Obama had presented to the American people. "The Hill," reported "tweets," (further evidence of the prophetic "knowledge shall be increased") apparently from a speech of out of Iran, stating that "Iran's supreme leader slammed the United States, suggesting the White House is being dishonest about the terms of a framework deal on Tehran's nuclear program. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei cited a four-page fact sheet from the White House about the agreement as an example of negotiators "lying [and] breaching promises," in a tweet from his English language account. It is also reported that "Iranian officials have repeatedly said they want sanctions lifted immediately as part of a final deal. Khamenei also added that inspections that would place Iran under "special monitoring" aren't acceptable."

6 a dishonest, ungodly, Iranian regime, which has proved time and again that it will not abide by any agreement? Khamenei's own words practically guarantee that "inspectors," would absolutely not be given free access to all of the nuclear facilities and most are convinced that if the sanctions are lifted, they would not benefit the Iranian people. Such funds would rather be used to speed up their ability to obtain materials for a nuclear weapon and fund the multiple terror groups sponsored by Iran.

There are, in fact two major, and ill advised, agreements that Israel will make, which will mark their temporary demise. The first will be brokered by the false prophet, the second signed with the antichrist, as prophesied by Dan. 9:27. We are persuaded that both of these ungodly men are alive and well, in this world today, just waiting for their time to be revealed. Israel will bow to the demands of the false prophet for "...by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down." Dan. 8:11. Thirty days later they will sign the infamous covenant with the antichrist, as prophesied by our opening text.

We have often wondered how these things might be brought about, but the patterns of Israel entering into the covenants outlined above may provide the answer. It was specifically

noted in the Camp David accords that Jerusalem was selectively excluded from these agreements. Likewise, even though it was suggested during the “land for peace” proposal, and Ariel Sharon “ruled out the division of Jerusalem” in the “Roadmap,” agreement, Jerusalem now occupies center stage in any kind of peace process.

The political landscape and climate for Israel at this present time has completely changed. The major reason for the “rift” between Pres. Obama and P.M. Netanyahu, is the fact that the Israeli leader refuses to comply with American demands, not only to relinquish half of Jerusalem to the Palestinians, but also to reduce Israel to pre -1967 borders. All these issues were only “hinted at” in the previous agreements, now they have escalated into absolute demands! The question is, will Israel “cave” on these matters? What might induce them to become willing participants in such an agreement?

It is common knowledge now that the present American administration wanted Isaac Herzog to replace Benjamin Netanyahu as Prime Minister, the reason being that Mr. Herzog, even before the elections in Israel, made it very clear that he was not only “absolutely certain” he’d pursue a two-state solution. But argues that’s the only way to ensure the security of both Israel and the Palestinians.” Another headline from “The Atlantic,” and before the election when many were absolutely certain that Herzog would win, asks the question: “Can Isaac Herzog Steer Israel to the Left?”

This is the desire of the present American administration, as is seen in the following quote. “White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough has said that ‘President Barack Obama will not overlook the comments Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made in the closing days of his campaign that he had abandoned support of the two-state solution and approved of settlements in the contested territory in Jerusalem. We cannot simply pretend these comments were never made,’ McDonough said to a pro-Israeli group, J Street, which opposes some of Netanyahu’s Politico reported. ‘The United States will never stop working for a two-state solution and a lasting peace that Israelis and Palestinians so richly deserve,’ he said. He said of the settlements, ‘An occupation that has lasted more than 50 years must end.’”

The Huffington Post also published Mr. Obama’s firm intention to establish a two state Jerusalem when they reported the content of his phone call to P.M. Netanyahu after he had so

handily won the election. "President Barack Obama told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the United States is committed to a two-state solution during a phone call to congratulate Netanyahu after his party's victory in the Israeli elections. According to a White House readout of the call, Obama "reaffirmed the United States' long-standing commitment to a two-state solution that results in a secure Israel alongside a sovereign and viable Palestine."

This rhetoric here is almost verbatim to the reflected views of Mr. Herzog and now there is this report out of Israel. "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met secretly with opposition leader Isaac Herzog of the Zionist Union, according to an Israeli news report. The meeting took place a few days ago, Israeli journalist Ayala Hasson of Israel's Channel 1 reported Monday. No official coalition talks have been held between Netanyahu's rightist Likud Party and the center-left Zionist Union. Netanyahu told a senior Likud official in recent days that he has not ruled out forming a unity government, Haaretz reported, without naming the official. Channel 1 reported that Netanyahu and Herzog met several days ago without telling close aides. Likud and Zionist Union denied that such a meeting took place. It is believed that a unity government would signal to the United States and Europe that Israel is serious about a peace agreement with the Palestinians and would blunt Palestinian moves to bring Israel to the International Criminal Court."

8

We have no doubt that such a meeting took place, nor that Mr. Herzog may soon be a part of the Israeli coalition. We are also confident that Israel may very soon agree to, the two state demand, which will make Jerusalem the capital of the new Palestinian State. But, once again, what will be the incentive for Israel to enter into such a covenant? We have wondered for some time what it would take for present day Israel to give up the daily sacrifice. It has been reported, at various times, that the religious factions in Israel have been a real "thorn in the side," of a number of political leaders. Could the restoration of Israel's full complement of blood sacrifices be the key to allow this two state solution? We know that these religious freedoms must be restored before "the daily sacrifice" can be taken away as Daniel has prophesied. Could it be that the "religious right" in Israel would agree to political demands in exchange for complete control of the temple mount which had been suggested in previous agreements? We simply do not know the answers to these questions, but we do know, most assuredly, that the prophetic

scriptures will be fulfilled to the letter. Israel will agree to the daily sacrifice being taken away, and they will sign the infamous covenant of death with the antichrist. The political grounds of our day are becoming more fertile, every day, in preparation for these decrees.

Our hearts go out to Israel, and we have been admonished to "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee." Psa. 122:6 We know from scripture that such peace will not actually come until this delinquent nation has fallen on her face in order to fully embrace her Messiah. Thus to pray for the peace of Jerusalem means that we are praying earnestly that God's purposes for her will be fulfilled, even though it means the tremendous heart-ache of enduring the severe consequences of signing this covenant with death. The prophesied end for Israel is a shining one, and we would certainly be in absolute harmony with God, in praying to that end. However, the latter portion of the above text is a reference to our own attitude toward God's Beloved People, "...they shall prosper that love thee." We would certainly question the love for Israel that is represented by this country, and the world, as a whole. We would rejoice that God does look on our hearts, as individuals, and we can surely claim this promise of prosperity, even in the midst of the dire situations which prevail around us. 9

We, as Christians, who are looking steadfastly into the heavens for the return of our Beloved Savior, can be absolutely confident that His promises are "yea and amen," and that "...he that shall come will come and will not tarry." Heb. 10:37 Neither do we need to wait until we see Israel signing the aforementioned covenants. Some have seen the fact that the tribulation will not begin until 30 days after the daily sacrifice is taken away, and thus conclude that a person might have up to a "30 day grace period" to get ready. If Jesus is coming as a "thief" why would He give such an obvious pinpoint time of His arrival? It is for that reason we would conclude that Jesus could come BEFORE this daily sacrifice is removed. Thus we really need not base our lives on such signs, but rather heed the words of Jesus: "...in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt. 24:44 Paul likewise instructs us: "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; 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, 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. 5:6-11

Towards the Goal

Forward at Thy bidding,
Not a thought 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.

10

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.

Religion Confederation

Jack W. Bannister

“Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together.” Acts 4:25-27.

This is a direct quotation from Psalm 2, and shows us the partial fulfillment of that prophecy. Notice the groups who were arrayed against Christ in His first advent. First, the kings of the earth. Herod and Pontius Pilate were rulers designated by the Roman Government, which was the dominating force in the world at that time. They had heard of all the things which Jesus did and who He claimed to be, (viz. the Son of God) yet they did not believe in Him. Their words and actions bear this out beyond the shadow of a doubt. In Luke 23:6-12, we learn that Pilate and Herod, who were enemies beforehand, were made friends through their joint rejection of Jesus. Notice especially verse 12. This apparently took place in a very short period of time, and only because of Jesus. This shows how the national rulers banded together to reject Him. They represented Caesar, the world ruler.

11

The "rulers" in Acts 4:26 signifies "religious" leaders for they are mentioned separately from the "kings of the earth." There were many different religious groups in Jesus' time: Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians, Scribes, etc. A great deal of strife existed between these groups, as many citations in the Gospels show. Compare Acts 23:6-10; Mark 3:6; 12:13. These religious people claimed to know God as their Father, but Jesus, in John 8:44 shows us who their real father was. Read the whole chapter to get the connection. Jesus gives a scathing rebuke to these religious men in Matt. 23:23-33. The foregoing citations leave no doubt as to their true nature and unbelief in that they together rejected the Son of God. They were able to harmonize under these circumstances, whereas they had never been able to before.

In the rest of Psalm 2, we see that these words have a still future fulfillment also, because we see Jesus as King in verse 6, not as the crucified one as He was when He came the first time, Just as there was governmental and religious rejection at His

first advent, so we see that will also be true when He appears the second time. Those groups were apparently successful in putting Jesus down at His first advent, and God did not seem to do anything about it. But, as we see in verse 6 of Psalm 2, when similar groups attempt the same thing at His second appearing, God will "vex them in His sore displeasure." He will set His Son on the throne of world government. This proves the previous statement of future fulfillment as well as past.

12 We see these same groups, religious and political, graphically portrayed in symbol in Rev. 17 and 18. A woman, throughout Biblical Prophecy, symbolizes a religious body, sometimes good, sometimes bad. The Roman Catholic Church has always claimed to be the "Mother Church." Rev. 17:5 shows us God's view of her as the "Mother of Harlots and abominations of the earth." Who are the daughters? Answer—Protestantism. This has already been manifested over the last two decades or more in their imitating of her doctrine and practices. For example; the observing of Lent, infant baptism, lighting of candles, divinity titles such as Reverend, Bishop, etc., ecclesiastical robes, crosses on their buildings, ritualistic ceremony, just to name a few, and which are all completely unscriptural. Complete unity, of course, does not yet exist, but in recent weeks the call has gone out from the Vatican for an ecumenical counsel, to which the Protestant denominations will reportedly be invited. No doubt this is further progress toward the time when the "Mother" and her "daughters" will unite together and call for "peace and safety." I Thess. 5:3

Verses 1 and 2 of Rev. 17, show that this woman is a religious body, for the "kings of the earth have committed fornication with her", that is, church and state are seen hand in glove, just as was true when Jesus came the first time. Then in Rev. 18 and 19:1-3, we see the total, -eternal destruction of the woman because of her religious deception of the world. She is a "mystery" (Rev. 17:5) to the world because her acts of humanitarianism make her appear to be true. But she is no mystery to those who understand the Word of God. Bear in mind that we are not speaking of individuals who are saved, but of the people in these denominations who claim to be Christians, and have never been born again. Many of the true Christians will have been taken to heaven before most of these events transpire. The judgment of false religion is sure and certain, no matter what they may claim for themselves; not because we say so, but because God's Word emphatically declares that fact.

Morbis Sabbaticus

Author Unknown

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised). And let us consider one another to provoke to love and to good works; Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another. And so much the more as you see the day approaching." Heb. 10:23-25.

There is no more pertinent Scripture, of an exhortatory character, for our times than, the above. The meeting together of the saints evidences their fellowship. It is the outward sign of their profession of faith, and the place of their exhortation and encouragement of one another. It is always an ill sign when saints absent themselves from the meeting place if they are able to be there. They should let nothing hinder them; neither cares, pleasures nor laziness. But we see that even in Paul's day, the manner of some was to forsake the assembly room; and in our day, it is the more manifest. It is much to be regretted.

13

Sometime ago we read an amusing comment upon this subject. The saints absenting themselves from the meeting place, was termed a disease, called "Morbis Sabbaticus." It was said to have waded inroads upon the ranks of the Church, and was noted as a very strange ailment afflicting folks somewhat like spring fever, beginning with lassitude and a feeling of weakness. But the strangest part about it was that it effected folk only on meeting days. On each week day they appeared perfectly well; but on Sunday when they should be up preparing for meeting, they were unable to arise and make ready. Later they recovered. At the noon hour they were apparantly getting well rapidly and when dinner was ready they were entirely well. Then they went out for a drive, to the park for the fresh air, or sat around reading the Sunday paper and appeared in perfect health. After supper, the same symtoms of illness returned. That "all-gone" feeling; "no pep," etc. began to show up again. It lasted until about nine o'clock and then recovery was rapid. On Monday morning not a vestige of the terrible condition remained.

We say, the article was amusing, because it described so truly the tendency to let down in the matter of attendance at the assembling of the saints. It is very easy to begin, but not so easy to stop. The enemy is back of every such a lapse and we saints ought not to let him overcome us in such a fashion. Paul uses the hope of the coming of the Lord as the great incentive to meet oftener instead of fewer times. It is helpful, encouraging, stimulating and provocative of good works to come together. We hear the testimonies of our brothers and sisters, battles and victories, and we are strengthened on the one hand and comforted on the other. God is glorified. The Lord Jesus Christ is exalted and the saints edified. Let us get the victory more and more over this dread ailment, "Morbus Sabbaticus," and refuse to yield to the clamorings of the flesh—"and so much the more, as we see the day of the Lord approaching."

ITEMS FOR SALE

Many A. Christian

ONE CLOSET:

14

Designed for prayer, never used.

ONE BIBLE:

Nearly new, seldom used; bargain.

ONE CROSS:

Nearly new. I cannot bear it and keep up with the worldly crowd with whom I run.

ONE TALENT:

New, except for being slightly shopworn; has been laid up for years.

ONE SUIT OF ARMOR:

Seven pieces in all. For the original description, see Ephesians 6:13-18. All pieces in fine condition, never dented, not a scratch. However, it needs polishing badly.

ONE BADLY USED TESTIMONY:

The only thing for sale in poor condition. Buyer may be able to put back into a respectable state of repair with some effort.

ONE (LOST) OPPORTUNITY:

If found, will be included. However, no hope is held out at this time, as the owner believes it to be gone forever.

REASON FOR SELLING:

Owner being called home.

A Mother's Counsel

Albert J. Woehr

“THE WORDS OF KING LEMUEL, the prophecy that his mother taught him.” Prov. 31:1.

Listen to a king: he who is the head of the nation is about to speak. What important word is he about to utter? Out of his great storehouse of information what does he think that he should pass on to his fellowmen? Of all the things that he has learned, from teachers of renown, from schools of great reputation, and from the experience of a full life, the king speaks, plainly and clearly, out of a full and grateful heart as he remembers, above all the prophecy or declaration “...that his mother taught him.”

What a tribute to a good, great and grand, mother. Without a doubt she was a godly mother. The fact that she called her son Lemuel, which means "devoted or dedicated to God," reveals the trend of her thoughts. She felt, as she knew, that God's will was best for her beloved son's interests. A queen-mother teaching her son the lessons that were to help him tremendously when he became king and ruler of his people.

"What my son?..." V. 2. Realizing her important responsibility as the mother of a future king, she asked herself this question. Shall I tell you? What shall I teach you? Shall it be of life and death—that there are always two ways? That there is good and evil and that both have their rewards? That the choice of either lies with you? **"And what of the son of my womb?..."**—V. 2. Son of my affection, of my flesh and blood, shall I teach you that you may enjoy the benefits of the Lord? Know this, that you are **"the son of my vows?"**—V. 2; or the son of my promise unto God, that if He would give unto me a prince, a son, a man-child, that I would raise him up in the righteous way. Yea long before you were born did I dedicate you unto the Lord, and when God fulfilled my hopes and answered my prayers, and blessed me, I called you Lemuel. Now each time I call your name, I am reminded of my promise unto the Lord.

15

The desire to be fruitful was so strong that she, the queen of all the nation, humbled herself before God, vowing that if He would bless her, she would dedicate her fruit unto Him. What a contrast to the conditions of today in so many homes, where oft times, more or less, children are considered a burden instead of a blessing.

Something to accept, with great grumblings when all else fails. The queen was a wise woman. She knew God's way was the best way. She had settled the matter, had made her choice. Therefore, she surrendered herself, her all unto God. As always, a surrendered heart is full of desire to do something for the Lord. It is when the life is surrendered unto Him that He grants us the privilege of **becoming** fruitful in word, in thought, and in deed. With fruitfulness comes a grave responsibility. What will we do with the fruit? Will we lack in our surrender to the Lord? Will we become lifted up in our own estimation, considering the fruit as of our doing? Will we look down upon those who are not yet blessed as we are blessed? Will we be like Penninah with Hannah? I Sam. 1 Or will we be like Lemuel's queen-mother, nourishing the blessings in loving gratitude.

16 What shall she teach her princely son, so that he may be respected and loved by his people? First, what every man should learn at home: "Give **not thy strength unto women...**"—V. 3. This is her first heart-warning to her young son; to beware of those evil women that "lieth in wait, as for a prey." Walk not in the counsel of the ungodly. Give not your support, neither identify thyself to that which is evil. The way of the ungodly will destroy, or undo, you and cause the decay of your dynasty. Permit therefore yourself to refrain from becoming identified or associated with them. Rather "trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding."

Having warned her son of the snare of strange women she brings before his attention that which "is not for kings O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine nor for princes strong drink" V. 4. How well she knows that wine and strong drink is not kingly, "that wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Prov. 20: 1 It is not for kings "lest they drink and forget the law and pervert the judgment of the afflicted." V. 5. Or rather use not the truth for evil purposes. Remember my son, forget not my law. As a king you are to be an example. You need a clear head, so that the wrong judgment may not be upon the afflicted. The man whose trust is in God needs no false exhilaration.

The king's mother points out very definitely three things that he is to observe: beware of evil women, of wine and strong drink, and of forgetting God's Word or law. She felt

that if her son was diligent in heeding her warning he would be in a position to "open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction." V. 8. Perhaps he could save some from their tragedy. How well we can speak to the dumb today about their soul's salvation if our own skirts are clean. If we are clear-headed as to the truth of the Gospel and obedient in our daily living, we can confidently open our mouth before the throne of grace, and plead the cause of the "dumb" (those who cannot speak for themselves before God). We can plead the cause of the poor and the needy, and all of those who are not yet saved. Here, in the words of Lemuel's mother, is the exhortation to pray for all men everywhere, regardless of their condition. This is a New Testament occupation for all Christians: first of all "supplications, prayers, intercessions, be made for all men." II Tim. 2:1.

A good mother to want the best for her son. A wise mother, who will give good counsel, so that the best may be good for her son. Truly her children shall "rise up and call her blessed." How fortunate we are who have been raised by godly parents. Especially so, in having a Christian mother, with a spiritually rich and godly consecrated life, making profound impressions upon our lives, with her prayers, instructions and godly living. Through eternity we will never forget.

17

REST IN THE LORD

***Rest in the Lord, my soul;
Commit to Him thy way.
What to thy sight seems dark as night
To Him is bright as day.***

***Rest in the Lord, my soul;
He planned for thee thy life.
Brings fruit from rain, brings good from pain
And peace and joy from strife.***

***Rest in the Lord, my soul;
This fretting weakens thee,
Why not be still accept His will?
Thou shalt His glory see.***

REFLECTIONS

...From the Editor

“She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.” Prov. 31:21

18 **A** man’s home is often called “his castle,” but this chapter declares four times that it is “**her household**,” meaning that the home is her realm of expertise and responsibility. Jael is highly commended in Deborah’s song of victory because she was so faithful in that which had been committed to her trust. “Blessed above women shall Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite be, blessed shall she be above **women in the tent**.” Jud. 5:24 This high praise came after Jael had invited Sisera “... **into the tent**,...” and then “...took a **nail of the tent**, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground:...” Jud. 4:18,21 This woman used what was very familiar to her, and did exactly what was required of her, thus securing a tremendous victory of Israel and fulfilling the prophecy that “...the LORD shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.” Jud. 4:9 She followed the same path of faith as outlined above in regard to the virtuous woman as she was “not afraid of the snow...” of adversity “...**for her household**...” because she well knew that “**her household** are clothed with scarlet,” meaning that the godly woman of faith today knows full well that the protection from all the storms which would rage against “**her household**” are powerless against the protecting blood of The Lamb.

The first mention of “**her household**” is found in verse 15 of this chapter where “She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to **her household**, and a portion to her maidens.” This virtuous woman knows the order of her priorities. “**Her household**,” must come first and then she will give “a portion to her maidens,” that is, others close to her, who will, in due time, receive of her tremendous grace. This unique woman is one who “...riseth while it is yet night,...” who, like Jael, is no stranger to “night time experiences,” of adversity wherein the enemy would attack her. She knows that the remedy against such an assault is the “meat” of God’s Word, and she, not only has full access to it,

but has the ability to dispense it.

We are next told that “She looketh well to the ways of **her household**, and eateth not the bread of idleness.” V. 27 This verse follows the assertion that “She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.” V. 26 The “ministry” of this woman, is a glorious reflection of inward character. Her wisdom is indeed, the Wisdom of Christ, and because of such a renewed heart, she is able to “look well to the ways of **her household**.” She is prepared with full provision for her charge, and ready for any emergency that may arise.

We are greatly grieved today that the “stay at home Mom,” in our “modern career woman world,” is often looked down upon and considered, by some, to be a bit lazy and inferior, accomplishing very little, but the remainder of V. 27 tells us plainly that she “eateth not the bread of idleness.” Previous accounts of this woman credit her with making “...herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple...She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

Strength and honour are her clothing;...” V. 22-25 She is also a great woman of faith with her eyes on eternal blessing for “... she shall rejoice in time to come.”

19

Not only so but “Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.” V. 28 Our highest commendation also goes out today to all those “stay at home moms,” who, like Jael, may be “blessed...above **women in the tent**.”

GH

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Living Waters Tabernacle Youth Camp July 26-30, 2015

Youth Camp will be held at Highlands Camp and Retreat Center in Allenspark, CO, near Estes Park. Camp will begin with dinner Sunday night and will end with Thursday morning service. There will be Bible studies for all ages in the mornings, supervised recreation each afternoon, and Church services every evening.

For lodging and registration please contact Angie Siebert at (303) 906-6809 or Polly O’Dorisio at (303) 594-0933. Forms and additional information will be available at www.livingwaterstabernacle.com. We invite you to join your brothers and sisters in Christ for this annual gathering to give glory and honor to God and be strengthened and renewed by His Spirit.

Still Waters

A Meditation on the Twenty-Third Psalm

Elmer J. Larson

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.” Psalm 23:1-6.

King David could not build a temple, but he wrote a Psalm! Three temples, one after another, crumbled in the dust, but the Psalm lives today in the hearts of millions. Through three thousand years the twenty-third Psalm has been a source of inspiration. It is the Christian's great symphony, the theme of which is God's care for His own.

20 "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." Sorrow, drought, and depression may stalk the land; but "no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly." Or, as Paul has it, "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." God is the Source of all good things. If you lack them, it is because you have not appropriated them. The Israelites in the wilderness either gathered the manna or stepped on it. Many today are deliberately stepping on the promises of God. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

THE ABUNDANT LIFE

After announcing the theme, the writer gives us the three R's of the abundant life: Rest, Refreshment, and Restoration. First, "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures." Second, "He leadeth me beside the still waters." Third, "He restoreth my soul."

Strange that God should find it necessary to make us rest. Man is like a bow string. If he remains taut, he breaks. Rest and relaxation are essential. Many a man is in the sanitarium today, because he could not afford to take a rest. "Come ye yourselves apart ... and rest a while" is the Master's command when the cares of this world press heavily.

The second R is refreshment; for, without rest, refreshment is impossible. "He leadeth me beside the still waters." We are made to rest, but we are led to refreshment. The mad rush is for the non-essentials, and often for those things which actually harm us. We run to and fro expecting to find something just around the corner, only to be once again disillusioned. Substituting our plans for God's plans is not refreshing!

Restoration naturally follows rest and refreshment. "He restoreth my soul." First, He makes, then He leads, and then He restores. By a process of elimination we discover that only two things are necessary for physical life: food and water - pastures and still waters. But the great essential is soul health. "Man shall not live by bread alone." The soul, to live, must be restored. "Ye must be born again," Jesus said to Nicodemus. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." Our restoration, then, is in Christ.

THE RIGHT PATH

Not until we have mastered the three R's are we ready for the right path. And it is not easy, this way of salvation. "Enter ye in at the strait gate," said our Lord in speaking of the right path, "for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." But if I will, "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake." The way seems rough and precipitous, the scorners are many, weaklings will get in the way, fools will throw rocks, and there are many detours; but we have the blessed assurance that we are on the right road.

21

THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW

The scene changes. We have been enjoying the sun-kissed meadow and the calm crystal water; but now - the valley of the shadow. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." Life is not only green pastures and quiet waters. We must all go through the valley of the shadow, the vale of gloom. Sickness comes, the one by your side is taken away and the wound never quite heals. However, two things are true. This valley is but a shadow, it is not real. Life, is a tapestry; somber colors are necessary to bring out its beauty, and without sorrow there can be no joy. God is the Master-Weaver and "we know that all things work together for good to

them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Therefore, "I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." A living faith in a living God banishes fear, but this faith must often be kept alive by the rod of God.

THE BANQUET HALL OF GOD

The scene again changes. We are now taken to the banquet hall of God. "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." It not only satisfies my thirst, but overflows to others -and thus Life begins.

THE BANQUET TABLE OF GOD

The psalmist has shown us the green pastures, led us to the still waters, guided us to the right path, and taken us through the valley of the shadow of death unharmed. He has brought us to the banquet table of God, groaning under the weight of good things; and now he gives us a picture familiar to every Jewish heart - the Cities of Refuge - where one could flee to safety. But, instead of the blood avenger in pursuit, he exclaims, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the
22 Lord for ever." The way may become almost unbearable, and we may retreat; but to the rear are the two soldiers - Goodness and Mercy. All through life these twin guards follow us daily. "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" is God's word to us. And again, in the days of His flesh, He said, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

"And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." Compare this symphony of joy with Robert Ingersoll's dirge on life: "Life is a narrow vale between the cold and barren peaks of eternity. We strive in vain to look beyond the heights. We cry aloud, and the only answer is the echo of our wailing cry." What a contrast to our song, "I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." One is the vision of the mole, blind and earthy; the other is the far vision of the eagle soaring high above the crags of life.

- * Faith either removes mountains, or tunnels through them.
- * A hypocrite is like a pin - points one way and heads the other.
- * Some people count their blessings on their fingers, and their miseries on an adding machine.
- * Blessed are the irritations of life that bring the irrigations of God.

Adam's Choice (Reprint 1950)

If one wishes a concrete example of how Rome tampers with the Word of God, he has it in the following fantastic story of how God originally created, for Adam, a wife who was too frail to suit his fancy. We quote from the Romanist book, "Queen of Heaven" (By Maryan Gawalewicz) which is a volume highly prized by Catholics who can procure it:

"After the fall of the angels, God created the first man, Adam. A giant he was, so strong and mighty it meant nothing to him to grasp with his hands a large tree and tear it out with its roots, as if it were but a blade of grass.

"The Lord God decided to give him a companion. He breathed on the Paradise flowers, and from them, like a lily white and pure, like a scent light and charming, floated the wonderful form of the first woman, created of what Paradise possessed, most charming, most pure, most beautiful. The Lord God gave Adam a maiden of flowers.

"It grew lighter in Paradise when she passed by, because in the day time, all the stars came out to gaze at her; the air was sweeter because the earth shed fragrance."

23

But the book tells us that Adam was indifferent to this beautiful woman because *she* seemed too frail. He was a robust man and wanted a strong wife. God was disappointed and took the flower maiden to heaven, then created a more sturdy wife for Adam.

Are you wondering what became of the original beauty? We are told that God then set her apart for another purpose. He kept her to act the part as mother of His Son. In the fullness of time she would descend to earth and bear her child, Jesus. So the Romanist version is that Eve was made of clay and bone, but the Virgin Mary was created from Paradise flowers and it is from her that "the spirit of regeneration flows over the world."

MODERNISM . . . A DEADLY DISEASE

Jacob Gartenhaus

Much has been said and written about "modernism." Let us not make the mistake of thinking that this highly contagious disease is a new plague, a new epidemic, and thus look for new means of combating it. Modernism is not at all modern; it is as old as man. The first family was already infected by it. Read carefully the story of the fall of man and you have the whole story of modernism.

Our liberal theologians contend that whereas we live new in a "changed world," we must also change our conception of God and His dealings with man. We cannot accept the God of the Bible, for He is brutal in letting man sin and then condemning him to death and hell, and then commanding him to offer innocent animals, and finally even allowing the blood of His Son to be shed to atone for man's sins. Nor can we accept such miracles as the virgin birth, resurrection, etc. Such things are inconceivable to the modern mind.

24

Let us have a glance at the first modern theologian, his satanic majesty, the serpent. He saw man in his first happy state, innocent and sinless, with no evil thoughts 'or' desires in his mind. God provided man with all that was good for him. There was but one restriction: "Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"—Gen. 2:17. Man was quite satisfied; he had plenty of other fruit. But, Dr. Serpent could not endure to see harmony and happiness in this world. So this D. D., Ph. D. who was more subtle than any beast, an expert in the modern science of psychoanalysis, paid a visit to the woman. Why to the woman? Well, he looked upon her as the weaker sex and thus would be more easily persuaded. Or, perhaps he knew where to find her (in those days woman's place was in the home). At once he began to confuse her by showing her how unfair God was in forbidding them to eat of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. And when she tried to defend her God, declaring that it was just the fruit of one tree that was forbidden, and that He

did it for their own good, for eating of it meant death, the Rev. Dr. Serpent said, "Nonsense. You know you will not surely die!" "Life," he said, "was an established law of nature and according to science the laws of nature never change. Furthermore, God is a good God and He would not let any of His children die, just because they ate a bit of fruit." The sly serpent took advantage of a mistake Eve made, and used it to confuse and confound her. She misquoted God's words by adding to them her own words, "Neither shall ye touch it." That is one of the grave sins man sometimes commits. He will either leave out some of God's Word, or add to it some of his own words.

The Talmud tells that when the serpent and Eve were standing near the tree, admiring it, the serpent gave her a little push so that she unwittingly touched it. "Well," said the serpent, "you have touched it and did not die, you might as well eat of it." And she did, and gave some of it to Adam, thus bringing death not only to themselves, but to the world.

The sequel of that story is well known. The only thing they gained from eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was that their eyes were opened. And is not that what our modernist friends want: to "open our eyes"—to "enlighten" us with their blinding light? By so doing, they rob us of the precious promises which are ours through implicit faith in God's Word which is a "lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path."

25

Man was created in the image of God, with a pure body fit to be the temple of the soul. By his disobedience it became defiled, the object of lust and, losing his innocence, he became aware of his nakedness and wanted to hide it. Before man sinned there was no need to cover his body because to the pure all things are pure. Titus 1 :15.

Later we read that when the children of Israel became dissatisfied with the old fashioned conception of God they decided to make themselves an up-to-date god, a golden calf as the advanced modern Egyptians had. Moses, we read, saw them "naked," (see Exodus 32:25) a word which became synonymous with sin, shame, ignominy and filthiness.

It seems that the ancient Hebrews, up to the time of

the Maccabean victory, were usually modernists. They changed their gods with the "changing times;" new times—new gods, new doctrines, new songs. They did not want any supernatural, doctrinal, transcendental God; they wanted gods which they could perceive with their human senses. "Seeing is believing" was their motto, which is also the truism of our present day modernists. But the caveman had already believed in this kind of theology. So did the men of later generations; when they used to change their gods in accordance with the time and place, and according to the latest scientific discoveries.

The Hebrew prophets since Moses taught a different theology—a theology to which Christ bore witness and confirmed with His own blood. But the modern liberal does not believe it, because the natural, (i. e., the Adamic man) cannot understand the things of God. I Cor. 2:14 There are other things which the modernist does not understand, and yet they are true. Is not all science trying to discover and understand forces of nature which have previously not been understood?

26 Let us not be beguiled by the teachings of the sophisticated modernists, whose aim is to destroy the faith of our fathers. But let us earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Jude 3 For the assurance of our redemption rests only upon the Scripture promises, and the full conviction that, through the redemptive work of Christ alone, are we saved.

~~~~~  
*THE RICHER SACRIFICE*

*Not all the blood of beasts  
On Jewish altars slain  
Could give the guilty conscience peace,  
Or wash away the stain.  
But Christ, the heavenly Lamb,  
Takes all our sins away.  
A Sacrifice of nobler name  
And richer blood than they.*

Isaac Watts

# ISAIAH 30

Gene Hawkins

*“Woe to the rebellious children,.....” V. 1*

This chapter corresponds with Amos who, likewise, tells the story of Israel’s rebellion and subsequent restoration. This opening verse describes “the rebellious children.” Verse 9 goes even farther calling them “lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD:” The language in Amos is almost verbatim. “Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked:” Amos 2:4

Verse 10 of our present text, describing the actions of a rebellious people, “Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits,” is also strikingly similar to the message presented in Amos. “They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly.” Amos 5:10

Verses 15-33 conclude this chapter with an exhortation to call on The Lord for help, which will result in glorious millennial blessings. Amos also testifies of this same end result for the Jewish Nation. “In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this.” Amos. 9:11-12 These verses are just a sample of the tremendous blessing waiting for Israel, but the message here in Isaiah is that there is much turmoil ahead for them because the Jews have rejected and despised the Word of God, as is manifest from the outset of this chapter.

“Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:” V. 1 The rebellion, herein attributed to Israel, results in their seeking counsel, but it is not from The Lord. They desire a “covering,” of protection from their enemies, but it is, in no wise, that of God’s spirit, and the result of their actions just adds “sin to sin.” Rather than choosing God to be their Source of information and direction, they, “.....

walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt!" V. 2 This seems almost preposterous after what ancient Israel suffered in Egypt, but so declares the Word of God. Egypt has long been considered a type of the entire world, and these words simply illustrate the fact that this nation, even now, would trust more in the nations, which have treated them shamefully, rather than God. There is a severe consequence for pursuing that avenue of defense, and "Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion." V. 3 Could this not describe even the present day dilemma of Israel? They have indeed trusted their so-called friends and allies, but that path has produced nothing but confusion and they are oftentimes at a complete loss as to which direction they should go. Israel has seemingly sought out the help and counsel of the nations, "For his princes were at Zoan, (an ancient city of the Pharaohs) and his ambassadors came to Hanes. (another renowned city owned by the Pharaohs of Egypt) They were all ashamed of a people that could not profit them, nor be an help nor profit, but a shame, and also a reproach." V. 4,5 This would surely describe the path pursued by Israel today. Their "princes," and "ambassadors" actively seek out help from these renowned locations, even now, but those nations are proving to be as unprofitable to them as was Egypt of old, and "They were all ashamed of a people that could not profit them,...." This has been the story for Israel throughout the ages. Rather than being a direct help to Israel, many of these nations in whom they have trusted, have become an insult or reproach to them. However, they have not changed their intent insofar as such countries are concerned. The next verse informs us that this Jewish nation will also bow to "bribery," in order to fulfill their desire for help.

"The burden of the beasts of the south: into the land of trouble and anguish, from whence come the young and old lion, the viper and fiery flying serpent, they will carry their riches upon the shoulders of young asses, and their treasures upon the bunches of camels, to a people that shall not profit them." V. 6 The word "burden," means tribute, and it is being sent "into the land of trouble and anguish." It makes no difference that this is a land from whence the lion, viper, and fiery serpent, (all symbolic of Satanic forces) come, they are still sending "riches,"

or indeed a bribe to this land in order to obtain help for their cause. This literally happened in the days of Isaiah, but it is also taking place at this very hour, as Israel seems all too willing to literally sacrifice her "riches," even her land, for the prospect of peace. The "bribe," of that long ago day did not work as is recorded here, "For the Egyptians shall help in vain, and to no purpose: therefore have I cried concerning this, Their strength is to sit still." V. 7 Likewise, all the attempts being made today will not produce the desire of Israel, as all help shall surely be "in vain." The instruction given here "is to sit still," and it seems that sitting still, would be the strength for both Egypt and Israel. Such a cessation from her own works would be a lesson this nation is yet to learn, and Isaiah is next instructed to write the reason as to why she is in such a predicament.

"Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us." V. 8-11 The prophet was to write "it," in a book, meaning the message of verse 11 which is that the "Egyptians shall help in vain." That is a message that will endure "for the time to come for ever and ever," meaning that it most assuredly applies to the end time, wherein Israel must learn by experience the futility of putting their trust in man rather than God. Thus Isaiah gets to the root of the problem which is that they have completely rejected the messengers, or "seers," that God has sent to them. They, like the rest of the world, only want to hear "smooth things," even though that would be lies and deceit. They become even more belligerent in their attitudes demanding "Get you out of the way,.....cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us." Thus men today have also turned a deaf ear to any semblance of God's Word or even His Presence among them. There is a grave consequence for such an attitude, and the nations, as well as Israel, will reap that harvest of rejection and unbelief.

"Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon: Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach

ready to fall.....” V. 12-13 Four major “offenses,” are contained in this charge. First, they have despised “this word.” Secondly they “trust in oppression.” Third they trust in “perverseness.” Fourth, they “stay thereon.” God has emphasized repeatedly in these verses that they have completely despised or rejected the instruction of God’s Word, and would trust in the nations who oppress them rather than God. They are also extremely perverse to the ways of God, choosing instead to trust the wisdom of these same oppressive nations. Finally, they are willing to “stay thereon,” or simply continue with these rebellious ways without any thought of changing direction. God’s response is “Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant.” This “iniquity,” refers to all the indictments recorded in V. 12, and these will become a “gap,” or a breach to them separating them even further from God and His purposes for them. Their demise is also pictured as a “fall,” or pit of great devastation, and also a “high wall,” again representative of separation from their God. Isaiah further prophesies that all this will come “suddenly at an instant.” So often, things in our world seem to continue unabated, but when God is ready, such “status quo,” can change in a heart-beat.

The consequences of rebellion continue here, as “... he shall break it as the breaking of the potters' vessel that is broken in pieces; he shall not spare: so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water withal out of the pit.” V. 14 Such words describe the tremendous, and all inclusive, breaking which God will inflict upon Israel when He begins to bring forth the aforementioned judgments. It will be both brutal and crushing, but very necessary, to finally bring about the result prophesied next.

“For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.” V. 15 This will be the final end for Israel, but the last phrase tells us that it will be a time before it happens, for “ye would not.” They will surely experience the glorious rest and salvation expressed here, but it will only be “In returning,” unto Him. They must learn the lessons of quietness, and confidence in The Lord, in order to enjoy these glorious blessings, but alas “.....ye said, No; for we will flee

upon horses; therefore shall ye flee: and, We will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift." V.16 The horses represent the strength and weaponry of the world and at this present time, Israel is convinced that they are indeed able to fight their own battles if they are just given the arms to do it. God however informs them that surely they can flee, and they may be swift, but those who pursue you will also be swift. So it is in our world today. The subject for most of the nations is nuclear weapons. We know that Israel does have them, but so do many of their enemies. Their present day nemesis, Iran, is making great strides in also achieving this end. That trend will continue, and rather than establishing security, "One thousand shall flee at the rebuke of one; at the rebuke of five shall ye flee: till ye be left as a beacon upon the top of a mountain, and as an ensign on an hill." V. 17 What a contrast to God's promise when this same nation marched into the land of Canaan. "One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you." Josh. 23:10 Deut. 32:30 issues the same glorious promise. "How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?" Those tables have been turned here in our text for now Israel is suffering the consequence of "rebuke" from their enemies, the reason being that God has "sold them." They are thus left **isolated** as "... a beacon (a single pole or a mast) upon the top of a mountain, and as an ensign on an hill." Praise God, this condition is only temporary as is indicated by God's next decree.

31

"And therefore (because this state of isolation must be realized) will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him." V. 18 This was the essence of the promise to them in V. 15. They must wait or find their rest in Him to finally experience His salvation. The LORD will "wait," until they will finally be ready for Him to "be gracious unto you." He will then be exalted in their eyes, but they must first learn to "wait for him." Isaiah explains earlier in this book that this glorious state comes only after they become, "...a nation scattered and peeled." Isa. 18:2,7 When they reach that point whereby they can truly wait upon Him, the blessings will begin to flow. "For

the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee.” Today Israel does not really “dwell” in Zion. Jerusalem is a city divided, with multiple factions clamoring for a piece of it. There will, however, come a day when “the people,” Israel, shall own complete dominance of that city. The day of weeping will be over and divine grace will be freely enjoyed as God will speedily answer the cries of His Own Chosen Nation. This will be a glorious reality, but the same pattern which we have seen repeatedly emerges in the following verse.

32 “And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers:” V. 20 The “bread of adversity,” is a reference to all those circumstances which have caused this Jewish Nation to be “scattered and peeled,” thus bringing them to their knees in total dependence upon Him. They must be willing to hear the counsel of their “teachers,” whom they had removed into a corner, so that “...thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. Ye shall defile (pollute) also the covering of thy graven images of silver, and the ornament of thy molten images of gold: thou shalt cast them away as a menstruous cloth; thou shalt say unto it, Get thee hence.” V. 21,22 That voice “behind thee,” shows forth God’s protection, indicating that none can take them by surprise. It is also a Voice of instruction, exhorting them to give up their idolatrous ways, which led to all this pain and sorrow in the first place. When all these are put away, leaving only the Voice of The Lord to direct them, “Then shall he give the rain of thy seed, that thou shalt sow the ground withal; and bread of the increase of the earth, and it shall be fat and plenteous: in that day shall thy cattle feed in large pastures. The oxen likewise and the young asses that ear the ground shall eat clean provender, which hath been winnowed with the shovel and with the fan.” V. 23,24 Even the animals will be treated with tender loving care as they partake of grain that has been meticulously cleaned with “shovel and fan,” rather than with that which would be winnowed with large and harsh machinery. Such glorious blessings for Israel, are a direct result of God’s relentless judgment upon the nations. “And



there shall be upon every high mountain, (large nations) and upon every high hill, (smaller kingdoms) rivers and streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.” V. 25 These enemies also receive “waters,” but they are of judgment and slaughter, rather than blessing, and bespeaks the devastation of Armageddon. They are also the victims of blistering heat, even in the night seasons. “Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.” V.26 This is nothing more than retribution for the maltreatment of His Own Chosen People. It reminds us of the judgments poured out in Rev.16:9. “And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.” The purpose of all this, according to Isaiah, is that “the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.” The nations must be punished and neutralized in order that Israel should be blessed, and so it will transpire.

God’s Anger is further demonstrated as “Behold, the name of the LORD cometh from far, burning with his anger, and the burden thereof is heavy: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire: And his breath, as an overflowing stream, shall reach to the midst of the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of vanity: and there shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing them to err.” V. 27-28 God’s indignation will be all consuming and “shall reach to the midst of the neck,” that is, the rebellious necks of the nations. He will indeed put a “bridle” in their jaws letting them know that He does have the power to control and force them to do His bidding. However, the message to Israel will be just the opposite for “Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the mighty One of Israel.” V. 29 The pattern has not changed. Judgment on the nations produces glorious benefit, blessing and joy for Israel, as they come victoriously “into the mountain of the LORD,” Jerusalem. Notice also that The LORD Himself takes an active part in such blessing as “...the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of

his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.” Peter portrayed this scenario well when he wrote “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:” II Pet. 2:9 He can indeed bless on the one hand, but pour out severe judgment on the other, even at the same time. Scripture plainly declares that the last 1260 days of the tribulation will carry with it horrendous devastation for this world, but Israel shall be protected, even as a “woman,” hidden and preserved in the wilderness. Rev. 12:14-17

34 God’s assault on these nations continues, “For through the voice of the LORD shall the Assyrian be beaten down, which smote with a rod.” Assyria was the direct target of this devastation, here in Isaiah, but she is actually symbolic of all the end time nations who will use the rod of oppression against Israel in the end time. The “voice,” or Word of the Lord against them, shall be all universal, for “...in every place where the grounded staff shall pass, which the LORD shall lay upon him, it shall be with tabrets and harps: and in battles of shaking will he fight with it.” V. 32 The little word “it,” which closes this verse, is a reference to the aforementioned “grounded staff,” of The Word Of God.” Isaiah concludes that He will “fight with it,” but these words also include the pronouncement of blessing upon Israel. The “tabrets and harps,” bespeak songs of victory and joy for Israel, in the midst of the devastating calamities which will, at the same time, befall the nations.

Total annihilation of these nations is depicted by Tophet. “For Tophet is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.” Tophet was a place of cremation or burning. We read here that it had been “ordained of old,” even directly prepared “for the king,” that is, the king of Assyria. This heated place of devastation is none other than Armageddon which has been prepared for these rebellious nations. Thus this chapter, corresponding with Amos, closes with God’s unrestrained wrath inflicted on those who have been so very free with pouring out their own wrath against Israel.

\* The eagle that soars in the upper air does not worry about crossing the river.

# Our Corn Crib



A Problem, Solution & Triumph  
 Arrangement & End of Ages  
 Attack against the Truth  
 A Burning Truth  
 A Growing Relationship  
 Caught up with Paul  
 Cherubim & Seraphim  
 Chaste Virgin  
 Comfort in Time of Sorrow  
 Death, Hell & Lake of Fire  
 Destiny of the Wicked  
 Diamonds in the Rough  
 Dying Daily  
 Earnest but Wrong  
 Eternal Life  
 Extra! Extra!  
 Fact of Tongues  
 Faith  
 Fear of the Lord  
 First Day of the Week  
 Five Much Mores  
 Five Consequences

Freedom  
 Gifts of the Spirit  
 Glossolalia  
 God- A Triunity  
 Gospel Records  
 Gospels, Acts & Epistles  
 Holy Spirit- Baptism & Anointing  
 How to Receive Holy Spirit  
 It is Finished  
 Jesus Heals Today  
 Judgement Seat of Christ  
 Law or Grace  
 Life Everlasting  
 Light on the Law  
 Living Ones  
 Made Sin for Us  
 Man Child- Rev. 12  
 Mercy or Judgement  
 New Birth  
 Not Legislation, Revelation  
 Oneness of Christ

Pauline Sanctification  
 Pauls Superlatives  
 Phoebe  
 Preaching Another Jesus  
 Predestination  
 Preparation of the Bride  
 Ranks in Resurrection  
 Resume of What we Teach  
 Salvation for the Body  
 Scriptural Terms Defined  
 Words on Eternal Security  
 The Adams Case  
 The Two Adams  
 The Sin Offering  
 The Unforgiven Sin  
 This is That  
 Times of the Gentiles  
 Tithing  
 Water Baptism  
 Wheat and Tares  
 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                            | Phillippians    |                       |
| Ezra       | Matthew                              | Colossians      |                       |

## Music CD's

*Wings of Faith- LIVE* \*79- feat. Greg, Milita, Rick, Sue & Frank  
*Tabernacle Choir Album- 1963-* Beloved Grace & Glory favorites.

\* All titles free of charge. Call, write, or e-mail your order.

# grace & glory

P.O. Box 831  
Grandview, Missouri 64030

Periodicals Postage Paid At  
Grandview, Missouri 64030

