

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the whole Counsel of GOD

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'Loving His Appearing'

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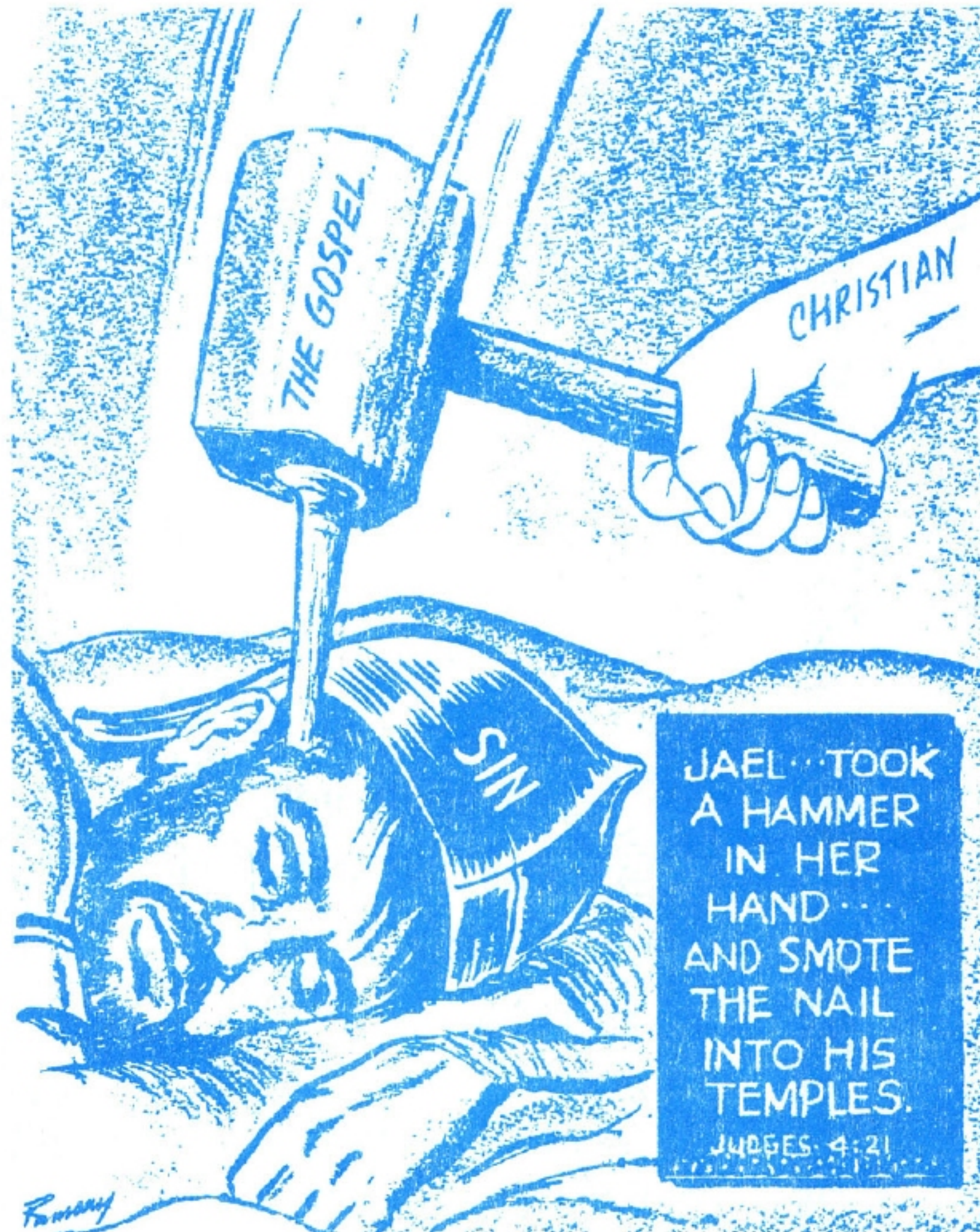


For by grace
are ye saved
through faith;
and that not of
yourselves: it is
the gift of God.
EPHESIANS 2:8.

Table of Contents

<u>Article</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Page</u>
Definite Sign Post of the End	Gene Hawkins	3
3 Musts in Jesus' Life.....	Mary M. Bodie	11
The Feasibility Study.....	Forrest Hintz	27
Isaiah (Book Study).....	Gene Hawkins	29
Songs of Time & Eternity.....	R. Hawkins.....	34

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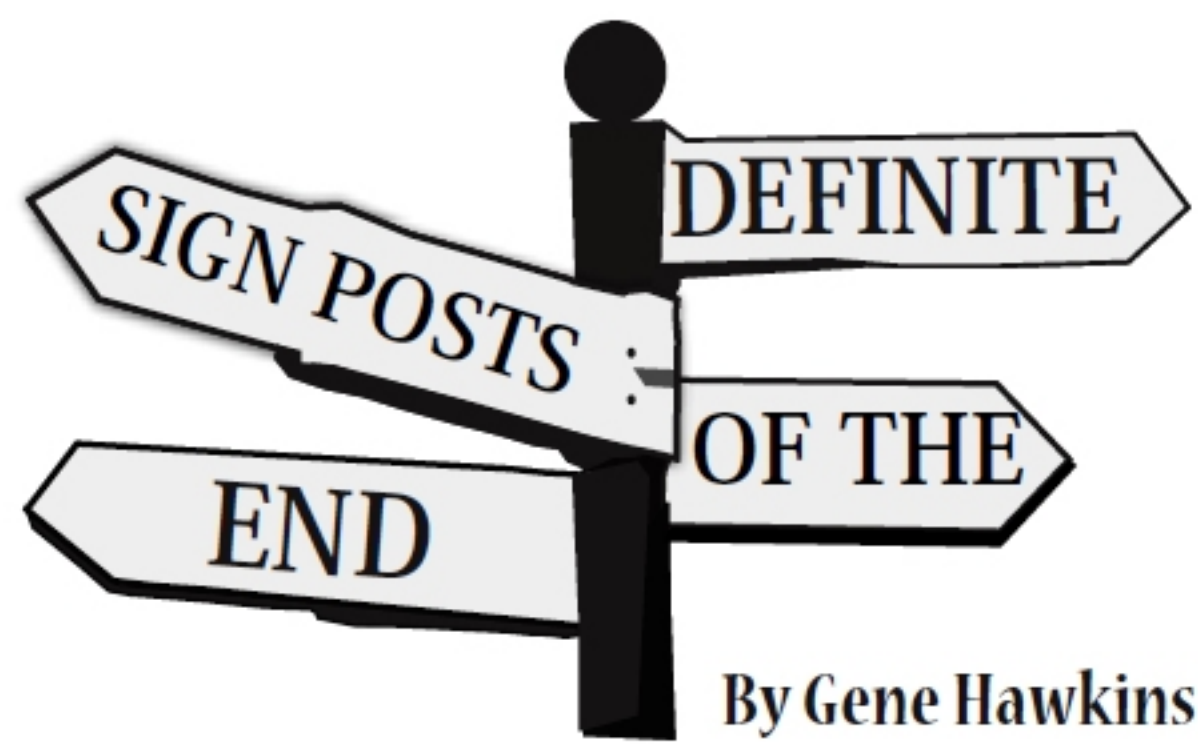
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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Acts 2:19 -21

“At the end of every seven years thou shalt make a release. And this is the manner of the release: Every creditor that lendeth ought unto his neighbour shall release it; he shall not exact it of his neighbour, or of his brother; because it is called the LORD’S release.” Deut. 15:1-2

3 **W**e have been extremely reluctant to enlarge upon the “*blood moons*” and “*the LORD’S release*,” or “*The Shemitah*,” as it is known in Jewish vernacular, in regard to **the coming of The Lord**, because both of them are repetitive, cyclical and, often very precise and predictable, as to their timing. Rabbi Jonathan Cahn has written a book entitled “The Mystery Of The Shemitah,” wherein he has recorded, with “pin point accuracy,” the judgments in the financial arena, which have come, both in Israel and the U.S., because men have failed to observe God’s decrees regarding economics. We would hasten to point out that all these events, such as 9/11, which did indeed occur at the precise times of the seven year cyclical “Shemitahs,” were recorded “**after the fact.**” Rabbi Cahn did not predict that they would come, and we would emphasize that such events of “judgment,” **did not** bring forth the coming of Jesus. Both the “blood moons,” and the “Shemitahs” are associated with “The Judgment Of God,” and both are rather precise in timing, as to their very nature. Thus they would be contrary to the scripture in announcing the coming of The Lord, for Jesus declared plainly, “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.” Matt. 25:13 Jesus’ summary of the last days in Matthew 24, also closes with the admonition “ Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have

watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour **as ye think not** the Son of man cometh.” Matt 24:42-44 Jesus likens Himself to such a Thief, and Paul likewise follows this same pattern. “But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.” I Thess. 5:1-2

There will come a day when certain events are either announced, or may be calculated, in exact days. Daniel declares plainly “...from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a **thousand two hundred and ninety days.**” Dan. 12:11 When the false prophet literally orchestrates a plan to take away the Jewish daily sacrifice, it will set in motion a number of events which will follow at very precise times. Daniel also informs us that the temple will be cleansed, meaning that the antichrist will be annihilated and the tribulation ended, 2300 days after the daily sacrifice is taken away. Dan. 8:11-14 John tells us that the two witnesses will be given exactly 1260 days to complete their ministry, which must, of necessity begin 30 days after the daily sacrifice is removed. “And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days,...” Rev. 11:3 Power is given to the antichrist for the last half of this seven year period, which also constitutes exactly 1260 days or 42 months. Rev. 11:2, 13:5 Daniel records it as “...a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.” Dan. 12:7 We are, however, at this present time, given no precise indication of Jesus arrival. It is therefore absolutely imperative that we always have our hearts in a daily state of readiness!

The aforementioned “blood moons,” are also very precise in their timing, and most assuredly announce judgment. There is no doubt that these phenomenons are associated with the Coming Of Jesus, but none of them specifically announce it for the reasons mentioned heretofore. Undoubtedly Rev. 6:12 is the ultimate fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy which Peter quoted in Acts 2. “And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and **the moon became as blood;**” This horrendous blood

moon,” will not come to pass until well after the first rank of the Church has been taken to glory. We simply do not know how many of these seals of judgment will be opened before the second rank is translated to glory, but Jesus promised the Philadelphia assembly; “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from (out of) the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” Rev. 3:10 We reiterate, once again, that we are not told WHEN He should come but simply to know “...I come quickly:...,” supporting the foregoing analogy of coming as “...a thief in the night.”

5 Both the “blood moons,” and “The Shemitah,” are most definitely a part of the “...times and seasons...” described by Paul, signifying atmospheres that are “ripe,” for the coming of The Lord. Jesus lists a host of such “times and seasons,” in Matt. 24 as He describes the conditions that are in existence, even at this present hour. Both Paul and Peter also speak of such seasons, listing the characteristics of these last days, which are becoming more intense and more frequent every day.

One such season unfolding rapidly before our very eyes is the hatred of Christianity. “Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.” Matt. 24:9 We had long looked upon this verse as applying almost exclusively to Israel, and it most assuredly does mean that this little nation will be forsaken by all nations, and completely isolated, but, in view of present happenings around this entire world, we must conclude that the latter part of this text must, of necessity, include ALL the Israel of God, for “...ye shall be hated of all nations **for my name's sake.**” We hear daily reports of Christians being singled out, and persecuted, around the world, just because they are Christians, or “...for my name's sake.” Our own nation of America is no exception. Presidential hopeful, Hillary Clinton, made this statement in regard to Christians, as she promoted the ungodly practice of abortion. “The Blaze,” quoted her as saying: “Far too many women are denied access to reproductive health care and safe childbirth, and laws don't count for much if they're not enforced. Rights have to exist in practice — not just on paper,” Clinton said. “Laws have to be backed up with resources and political will,” she explained. “And deep-seated cultural

codes, **religious beliefs and structural biases have to be changed.** As I have said and as I believe, the advancement of the full participation of women and girls in every aspect of their societies is the great unfinished business of the 21st century and not just for women but for everyone — and not just in far away countries but right here in the United States.”

According to such ideas as these, Christians are the problem and must indeed be changed. The recent Supreme Court Decision legalizing gay marriage was also a direct “slap in the face,” to Christianity and many pastors quickly realized that failure to “comply with the law,” in performing such a marriage could have devastating consequences. We also recently attended a Church Tax Seminar and in our information is correct, True Believers and Publishers of the Gospel are in deep trouble. We were given instruction on how to amend Church by-laws in order to legally shield ourselves from prosecution, but were also informed that Pres. Obama has signed into law, restrictions by The IRS which directly affect The Church. There will be severe penalties leveled against those who fail to file certain IRS forms or who fail to file the PROPER form. Those penalties can be monetary, for the government is trying desperately to get its hands on the billions of dollars found in Churches, and we were warned that the size of the Church makes no difference. Mega-Churches, as well as those with only 25 members are all the same in the eyes of the IRS. We were also informed that the real objective is to CLOSE THE CHURCH, and the IRS has already closed thousands of them. It is also rather incredible that not one Muslim Mosque has been closed, the reason being that “the Muslims have their house in order with IRS, and The Church does not.”

We can only wonder, in view of the recent developments surrounding gay marriage, if the requirements for the The Church and The Muslim community are the same. Kim Davis was arrested and jailed because she refused to sign a gay marriage certificate, which was indeed in violation of federal law, due to the scriptural conviction of her own conscience. How can this be reconciled with the following press release from the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission? “PRESS RELEASE 5-29-13 EEOC Sues Star Transport, Inc. for Religious Discrimination Agency Charges Trucking Company Failed to Accommodate and Wrongfully Terminated Two Muslim Employees For Refusal to Deliver Alcohol Due to Religious Beliefs.

PEORIA, Ill. - Star Transport, Inc., a trucking company based in Morton,

Ill., violated federal law by failing to accommodate two employees because of their religion, Islam, and discharging them, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) charged in a lawsuit filed today.

The lawsuit alleged that Star Transport refused to provide two employees with an accommodation of their religious beliefs when it terminated their employment because they refused to deliver alcohol. According to EEOC District Director John P. Rowe, who supervised administrative investigation prior to filing the lawsuit, "Our investigation revealed that Star could have readily avoided assigning these employees to alcohol delivery without any undue hardship, but chose to force the issue despite the employees' Islamic religion."

7 Absolutely no such consideration was afforded Kim Davis, and yet defenders of the Muslim cause declare that there is no discrimination whatsoever. We are persuaded that this is simply one more example of the persecution "...for my name's sake..." and it is most assuredly a glaring sign of the days surrounding the coming of Jesus. John makes this very definitive declaration. "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." I John 4:2-3 The Apostle here tells us that the "...spirit of antichrist..." was in the world at the time then present. We know that such a spirit is growing more rampant in this world daily, for we see the characteristics of it manifest in both the denial and hatred toward those who would follow Christ. The spirit of antichrist is that which "...confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh..." meaning a denial of the fact that Jesus came in a human body to offering Himself on the Cross in order that all men might be saved. We have long known that Catholicism has denied that redemption, proclaiming that salvation is through Mary. "Hail Mary mother of God..." exalts a mere mortal above Christ Himself and gives her superiority of Jesus, The Only Redeemer of this world. Catholic priests are said to have power to forgive sins, a feat of which only Christ can accomplish because He came "... in the flesh..." to save sinners. This same ungodly hierarchy has also become exceeding wealthy, charging men a supreme price for proclaiming that they can provide absolution from their sins, setting their own price in the process, and completely ignoring the

fact that all sin, for all time, has already been paid by the blood of Jesus on the Cross of Calvary, and such a clear conscience is absolutely free for the asking! Peter said well, even in the midst of horrendous judgment, “...**whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**”

The Pope has also taken center stage in recent days as he visited America and was treated as no less than a deity. It is rather amazing also that this man, representative of The False Church so steeped in the spirit of antichrist, united himself with the Muslim kingdom, which is of exactly the same spirit. It is rather interesting that these two major “religions” of these last days are on such common ground. Islam completely denies the existence of this Christ or “Anointed” of God which “...came in the flesh...,” but directly targets His followers around the world, openly executing them, as once again, Jesus said “...ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.” Former Pope’s have also made clear that they will discriminate against their own people, to accommodate Muslims. Pope Frances shocked the multitudes when he spoke at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York. “NEW YORK 8 — During a speech at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City on Thursday night, the Roman Catholic pontiff known as Francis offered prayers for his Muslim “brothers and sisters” on the Islamic Feast of Sacrifice following word of a deadly stampede during the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

I would like to express two sentiments for my Muslim brothers and sisters,” he began. “First, I send my greetings as they celebrate the Feast of Sacrifice [Eid al-Adha]. I would have my greeting to have been warmer. My sentiments are closeness.”

“I am close to them in the face of tragedy, the tragedy they suffered in Mecca,” Francis continued. “In this moment, I give assurances in their prayers. I unite myself with you all in prayer to Almighty God, all merciful.”

Most of the reports which we heard from various news sources simply lauded this very “gentle and soft spoken man,” to the skies, but as noted above, scripture presents a very different view and many, who know The Scriptures, have criticized the fact that Catholicism does embrace the Muslim religion. “The Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 841, reads, ‘The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims ... together with us they adore the one, merciful God,’” According to Catholic teaching, one need only “acknowledge the Creator,” but James begs to differ. “Thou believest that there is one God;

thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.” Jas. 2:19 Furthermore, John is very emphatic that men must acknowledge The Son Of God, Christ Jesus. “Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that **confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:**” I John 4:2 Jesus also unequivocally stated, “...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by **me.**” John 14:6 Peter, once again, phrases it so well. “Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is **none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**” Acts 4:10-12 This same Jesus, This “Christ,” or “Anointed” of God is, in fact, denied by both Catholicism and Islam, and though we surely know that many Catholic individuals have believed on Christ, and are saved, this overall doctrine of Catholicism denies The Glorious Redemptive Work of Jesus on the Cross of Calvary!

9

The fact of the matter, in all this, is that *The Church is in deep trouble*, and all these things, plus so many more, certainly contribute to the “perilous times,” of which Paul warned in II Tim. 3. Paul also exhorted us: Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God...Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.” Rom. 13:1-6 We must comply with the laws of the land, except when those laws conflict with God’s Word. It must also be understood, that even then, if one chooses to disobey the law of the land, he may have to bear the consequences. The three Hebrew children in Daniel rightfully refused to bow before the king, rather than God, and suffered the consequence of the burning fiery furnace. Daniel refused to cease his prayer unto God of heaven, in order to obey the king’s decree, and was cast into the lion’s den. Joseph refused to bow to the demands of Potiphar’s wife and was imprisoned for such a stand of righteousness. We can only wonder if we are very quickly coming to the point where we too must tell these authorities, “...We ought to obey God rather than men.” Acts 5:29

The good news is that God defended all those who chose to take their stand, but let the record show that the disciples were indeed beaten because they did, in fact violate the law. We are taking steps to comply with the demands of the IRS. Grace and Glory has already had the experience of losing our tax exemption because the IRS insisted that the form we filed did not have “the right signature,” on it, but they refused to tell me what signature that was. We went through the long pains-taking, and expensive, process to regain our exemption, so we do know first-hand the reality of the battle with IRS forms. We are much concerned with the fact that we do not always know what forms are required, and that giving tax exempt funds to those in need, may actually be a violation of the IRS code if the proper form is not filed. We were emphatically informed at this recent tax seminar that “ignorance is no excuse,” for not complying with the law. Thus we will make every effort to “put our house in order,” but know full well that only God will be able to defend us in this matter. We would close this rather weighty message with these glorious words. “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: **because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**” I John 4:4 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” Luke 21:28 Once again, let us not focus our attention on judgment, which will indeed, be poured out upon this world. Let us rather leave that to “...the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;” (II Tim. 4:1) and simply believe God for ***DELIVERANCE OUT OF THIS WORLD!***

10

“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” I Thess 4:17

Three Musts In Jesus' Life

Mary M. Bodie

“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Heb. 10:4-7.

11 **T**his is the first **must** in the life of Christ — the **must** of the incarnation. He had to come into the world in this manner. It was written that it should be so done. Oh, what a stoop the Son of God took when He condescended to become a man. God prepared a body for His Son. Messiah's body was prepared in the womb of the virgin. Glory to God for Bethlehem! It had to come first. There would have been no Calvary without Bethlehem. Jesus had to be born of a virgin and God chose, and prepared, the virgin, then prepared The Body of His Son. He did not take on Him the nature of angels, but the seed of man. Someone said to me that the devil believes. (he was arguing slightly against a doctrinal point which we emphasize). But the devil has nothing to believe, as to salvation. Atonement was not made for the devil, or the angels; but for mankind.

I was impressed, after my conversation with that young man, with the lightness of men's thoughts of Calvary, and the need of atonement. They do not fathom the depths of man's need, nor the depths of the sacrifice made on Calvary. They do not fathom the majesty and immensity of Him who took upon Himself our mortal body that He might die. God could not die for our sins. He Must incarnate Himself in flesh so that He could pour out His life and make atonement for sin. It was a “must-be” that God's Beloved Son took on Him the nature of man. Otherwise there was no hope for humanity. Regardless of all the character building, mortality and philosophy one hears nowadays, there is not one iota of hope for man's salvation without Calvary. That must be. Yet alas, how few that realize the absolute necessity of Bethlehem and the body prepared for the Son. God was not satisfied with the sacrifice of bulls and goats. That was only a shadow of the reality which was to come in the promised way. For a certain time, God allowed

the shadows and types; but they only pointed on to the death of His Beloved Son. The thousands of slain animals, the rivers of blood that flowed during the Mosaic Economy, were only shadows of the great reality of the cross. The fact of Calvary is a mountain-peak in the history of the world and man. It was not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sin. God had no pleasure in them, except that they were reminding Him of the substitutionary death of His Son. He passed over the sins of His people in anticipation of Calvary. He looked down the centuries and saw that Holy Man hanging on the cross, a Ransom for humanity's offenses. His blood was an effectual cleanser, even in its anticipation. We say the types were satisfactory until the due time came for the reality of Christ's death on the cross.

"Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume. of the book it is written of Me) to do Thy will, O God." This is the Spirit in David speaking of Christ. Do you not see the wonder of it? David spoke out the heart utterance of Christ, centuries before Bethlehem or Calvary had been realized. This too was in anticipation. David was not talking of himself; but the Holy Spirit moved him. The Son of God had to come into the world to fulfill the Word of God. Isaiah wrote centuries before His advent, "Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His name Immanuel" — God with us." God was manifested upon the earth when Jesus Christ walked here in human flesh. And He is still walking in the world, in His Church. Surely it is wonderful!

12

The Must of Gethsemane

Here is another **must** in the life of Christ — the **must** of Gethsemane. The Son of God had to go this way too. He must enter the virgin's womb. The one was simply preparatory to the other. "Though He were a Son yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered." Heb. 5:8.

Without Gethsemane, there would have been no Calvary. The sweating like unto blood, the agony of soul was necessary. The power was yet in Christ's hands to withdraw from the cross. He could yet have refused the bitter cup which He must drink to make atonement. He must yield to the uttermost degradation, be willing to pay the uttermost farthing, for man's uttermost redemption. His surrender was necessary. His willingness must be guaranteed beforehand. He must be

the Ram of sacrifice, the Lamb led to the slaughter, not the unwilling victim forced to the gallows.

Yes, we say, Gethsemane was necessary. There was no turning back after that garden scene. He said, "Yes" to His Father's will there, even though it led to the darkness of death, the grave and hell" It was "Amen, Father, Not my will, but thine be done." That was Gethsemane, the oil-press, the agony, the crushing of the Son of Man: but Oh, that was victory! It prepared for all that followed. He was ready. Come on men! Come on Satan! Come on hell and death and demons! Come! I am ready. The battle is over. The victory is won!"

And we too must enter Gethsemane. It is there we fight our battles and either win, or lose. It is there we are confronted with two ways, and we must choose. God did not force Christ. We too must say, "Thy will be done." There will come these crisis moments to all the sons of God. We too learn obedience by the things which we suffer. And the more terrific the battle, the greater the triumph. The more we are pressed out of measure, the more power we have for the way that lies before. We all have our Gethsemanes, and we conquer or lose.

The Must of Calvary

"Thinkest thou not that I cannot pray to my Father and He shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?" Matt. 26:53.

As soon as Jesus was willing for Calvary, immediately the soldiers were at the garden to take Him. They could not come until He had said Yes, to His Father. He could have called a myriad of angels to fight for Him if He had not willed to go the way of the cross. No men, nor devils, could take Him until the time that He decreed. Peter did not need to fight for Him. The battle was over. He might have stood by in the garden and watched with Him and prayed while He was travailing in Spirit; but the battle is over now. Peter did not understand. Oh, how many lose a great place because they are not spiritual enough to discern. They sleep when they ought to pray and fight the good fight of faith. They arise to fight the carnal battle, the one they are not called to fight.

The soldiers came with swords to take a Lamb. They came to bind One who was already bound to the horns of the altar. He was the willing Victim, needing no coercing, or binding. Ah, they did not know what they were doing, nor realize Whom they were leading to slaughter. Man's need of atonement was far from their thoughts.

"And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; him they compelled to bear His cross." Matt. 27:32. But they did not compel Jesus to bear His cross. He was willing because it was His Father's will. The soldiers saw He was fainting and weak and they lifted it upon Simon's shoulders. How wonderful: We too may have the chance of bearing the cross. It is after Jesus we may take it up and follow on in the pathway of victory. Oh, what a privilege! Let others refuse the way of the cross, we will not. We esteem it a high and holy privilege to go all the way. Calvary must come, even as Gethsemane followed in the way of Bethlehem. It took all three **musts** to make atonement.

14

"And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull, they gave Him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when He had tasted thereof, He would not drink." Matt. 27:33,34. They took Him, the Lamb, to Golgotha — a ruin, a place which expresses humanity. That is, we were a ruin.

They put this inscription over His head — "This Is Jesus The King Of The Jews." Is that not wonderful? They acknowledged Him as King even though they did not believe He was that; but God made them do Him this honor. He was crucified between two thieves. He was made sin for us, though He knew no sin. And those that passed by wagged their heads, saying, "Thou that destroyest the temple and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross." What do you think His Father was feeling about that railing? And the fools are still wagging their empty heads. Apparently wise men are unable to understand the thoughts of God. They supposed that they had Him proven a liar, because He had said, "Destroy this temple and I will build it in three days;" but He meant the temple of His body. Calvary was the means to that end. How ignorant and foolish men are. And they are still criticizing Him, thinking He cannot fulfill His Word. Foolish, empty heads, is God's verdict upon them. The

man that believes God is the weighty man, the wise man.

"Likewise also the chief priests mocking Him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He be the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now, if He will have Him; for He said, I am the Son of God. The thieves also, which were crucified with Him, cast the same in His teeth." Matt. 27:41-44 Yes, that is the way the religious fellows combined with the Roman soldiers to mock Him. If He would have saved Himself, He could not have saved others. Oh friends, He saved others by denying Himself, by pouring out His life, allowing men to nail Him to the cross. If He would have come down from the cross He never could have saved anybody. The different expressions of unbelief heard around the cross are the thoughts of men's hearts today. Folk think they are wise in giving vent to what they think are clever speeches; but they are simply vapid and foolish. I have heard them say almost the identical words about saints who were trusting Christ for healing. "Well, we will see what God will do? We will believe when He heals them;" but such folk never do believe. When the sick ones recover, the critics say, "There was nothing wrong with them. They just imagined that they were sick."

"And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani; that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Matt. 27:46 That is what He drew back from, that moment when God was going to forsake Him. That is why He had to fight the battle alone in Gethsemane and say, Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me. Because He knew His Father's face would be turned away from Him; and the thought was so terrible that He could not bear it. But on the cross, it came, and He entered into the darkness, into the terror of it all. He suffered the darkness of eternal night for three hours on the cross He went down into the very heart of hell, into the very heart of the lake of fire, and suffered for three hours what men will suffer for eternity. And then they say, Oh, if we do not save ourselves now, we will have another chance. When folk talk in that manner, it is easily seen that they know little of the Christ who died for humanity. They have but a faint knowledge of Him whose Body as a Man was prepared in the womb of a virgin. They do not understand the

immensity of the redemption of our Lord Jesus Christ. They do not realize the holiness of God, nor man's un-holiness, or they could not talk of another chance for anyone who has rejected the one sacrifice for sin made by the death of that prepared body on Calvary.

"Jesus, when He had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost." Matt. 27:50 Matthew does not tell us what He said, but John repeats His Words, "It is finished," as the climax to His death. Finished by the Son of God who took on Him the seed of man that He might die. What can puny men do for their salvation when the work has been finished by the Master Workman? How foolish for anyone to attempt to add anything to that masterpiece of Christ — the redemption of mankind. What can anyone do after Calvary, after Christ exclaimed with a loud voice, It is finished? Nothing! Nothing!

"Behold the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom and the earth did quake and the rocks rent and the graves were opened and many bodies of the saints which slept arose and came out of their graves after His resurrection...." 16
Matt. 27:52-53

God set His seal of approval upon the work of His Son. That prepared Body was dead. The work for which It was fashioned was finished, and the proof was immediately forthcoming. Sin had shut the door of heaven, and veiled the face of God from man. The Son of God, dying in a prepared body of clay, opened it. All nature was moved when Christ died upon the cross.

The veil was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. God did that, as a sign that heaven was opened to man. Hallelujah! The **must** of Calvary opened heaven to mankind. Yes, that was just a sign of what the death of that prepared Body has accomplished. I like that! The veil was rent from the top to the bottom. No man could do that, or would dare to do it. God showed out what Calvary had accomplished. But men sewed up the rent which God had made. Poor man, blinded by Satan, may close up the opening, but they cannot close heaven to the poor folk that believe. Heaven is wide open to any sinner, anywhere, that cares to enter into the presence of God.

The **must** of Calvary opened graves also. The resurrection of believing humanity is assured by the death of

the Son of Man.

He opened heaven and graves. And now men may come and open their hearts to Him. He will come in and sup with them. What a victory we have because of Him, because of Calvary and His death and resurrection. What a victory because He was willing to die. We are sons of God. God is our Father, and we can love and trust Him. We can have Him as our healer. We can walk here in this world in victory trusting Him. He answers our prayers because His Son entered in the courts of heaven, and is representing us before His Father. We have the same favor as the Son of God because Christ is in us, and we need not fail, but may live a victorious life because His grace is sufficient for our every circumstance. All because of that prepared body, the **must** of Bethlehem, the **must** of Gethsemane, the **must** of Calvary. Hallelujah!



17

GOLDEN CALF

This seems a strange unholy age,
Where "Money" sits on the Throne;
To "grab and get" seems the slogan,
With "Money" the undertone.

In this Golden Calf age again we see
Biblical times recur:
With the Golden Idol on the Throne
Sitting smugly, with gaudy hauteur.

"To grab and to get"
while the "getting is good"--
It's a crazy wild steeplechase.
A Golden Calf smug on a Throne
Has shifting sand at its base.

—Caroline Converse

REFLECTIONS

REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

“And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,” Luke 9:51

Jesus’ action here reflects the deep commitment, which Jesus had, to the Will of His Father. Isaiah describes this same spirit as he says “...therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.” Isa. 50:7 That same attitude must prevail in God’s people today as we set our faces, both in direction and full dedication, to the Will of God.

Ruth demonstrates such character when she wholeheartedly committed to “blind faith” in following Naomi back to a land and people of which she actually knew very little at the time. “And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee:... thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die,...When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.” Ruth 1:16-18 The sequel proves that such steadfastness surely did work out well for Ruth.

Paul likewise admonishes us to set our faces toward the Ways of The Lord. “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” I Cor. 15:58 The word “stedfast” means “to sit, be sedentary, immovable, settled,” and bespeaks the fact that we must be resolute in that decision to commit ourselves to “the work of the Lord,” sitting down to a decided “rest,” showing forth the peace of God, even as Jesus “...set his face to go to Jerusalem,” even though He knew it meant great suffering and pain awaited Him. His single endeavor, and purpose, was to accomplish the Will Of His Father.

Stephen also sets forth the example, for us, of looking “steadfastly” unto the Lord even in the midst of the murderous stones being cast upon him. “But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,” Acts 7:55 However,

Acts 6:8-15 clearly demonstrates that Stephen had, long before, “set his face,” even as Jesus did, toward the ways of The Lord, even though it would incur the wrath of the “council” and bring about his own martyrdom.

19

The Psalmist warns us that the heart of Israel, “...was not right with him, neither were they stedfast in his covenant.” Psa. 78:37 There is no substitute for being steadfast in the glorious covenant of Divine Grace, which God has committed to us, and Peter also tells us that such steadfastness must be in “the faith,” the full complement of God’s Word. One major reason, for such commitment, is because we must resist the devil. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith,...” I Pet. 5:8-9 Satan would desperately love to destroy God’s people, but we are exhorted to use exactly the same weapon which Jesus employed, in Matt. 4, when He overcame this adversary with “It is written...” Furthermore, we may greatly rejoice that “...the God of all grace,... after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.” V. 10 The very sufferings, which were meant to destroy us, now become beneficial in settling, strengthening, and making us even more resolute, in pursuing His purposes for our lives.

James sums up these experiences of suffering and steadfastness exhorting: “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, **nothing wavering....**” Jas. 1:2-6

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“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord.” Jas 5:7

The Reluctant Sword

Carson Richards.

“And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” Rev. 19:15.

Everything is war now. People are rushed. What you do, do it quickly. If you are going to do anything, do it in a hurry. We have in the book of Leviticus, what God said He would do to Israel when they were going into Canaan, blessing if they would obey, and what He would do to them if they would not obey Him—blessing for obedience and cursing for disobedience. Those descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to whom He had given such wonderful promises were informed of the results of evil doing. He would bring the sword upon them, was one result. "And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste." Lev. 26:1-33. You know the history of that Scripture, how dramatically it was fulfilled. He allowed the sword to pursue them among the heathen. That is quite a statement. His people, called by His name and yet that is what would happen to them if they would not hearken to Him. Long before it would happen God said, I will, several hundred years before it happened. Not long before it happened, He said again in Jeremiah, I still will. To the remaining people in Jerusalem, I told you a long time ago I would do this, I have not changed my mind. Just before it happened, He warned them again. He told them in Jeremiah—

20

"Turn ye again, go not after other gods to serve them and I will do you no hurt. Yet you have not hearkened unto me, saith the Lord of Hosts. Because ye have not hearkened unto me, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the Lord of Hosts, I will bring them again this year. He says, I will bring this king from the north. People wonder that if the Jews are the chosen of God, how they could ever be killed and suffer as they are; how horrible it is. God said

He would. I will bring a sword. So He said, I will, and then again He says, I still will. God cannot lie. What He said He would do, He did. When Nebuchadrezzar came upon Israel, their young men were slain. The cause of the sword coming upon the earth is they did not understand what He is and does, and what He has done.

In Isaiah we read, "Surely He hath borne our griefs and our sicknesses, yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God." God smote His Son. Therefore, because they would not accept that wounding for them, the sword must come upon them. How can we call God cruel? Some of Israel thought Christ was smitten for His own sin. So those that go on and bear this Gospel are the ones smitten of the sword. God pierced His Son for man. The attitude of God to the nations is the attitude the nations take to God. There are prayers for peace, but God is looking upon the nations in regard to their attitude first of all to the Lord Jesus Christ and of His people Israel. Some nations obey not the Gospel. The sword must be wielded upon them. It is no wonder when we enter into the field of prophecy we have that Gospel given us. I believe God blesses the nations that send out the Gospel. He has blessed America more than any other nation. It was founded by Christians and the Gospel still has free course. You can hear the Gospel today and a good part of it is on the national hook up.

However, we are getting a little of the sword now. Some get a little sore at God when the sword comes on. Speaking of the persecution of the Jews, some say, "How can God allow it?" There is a cause, for He uses the sword reluctantly. In the army they do not take the weak, but the strength of the nation, the flower of the nation, to fight the battles. Some of us are not much good in the flesh. They use us for other jobs, to help in the hospitals, etc. God allows it. Who are we to say, No? Well, in the long run God won't have a people that have not obeyed His Son. As they yield to the mystery of iniquity, God turns away His face from them. I know we will not lose this war. As Sister Bodie said, No, the Allies cannot lose. Why? Because they have a little

more regard for His people. God is not regarding the big men in the army.

After this war I believe the nations are going to honor men and say, We won because of our military power, so there will be another war. I praise the Lord when the sword comes we can understand it. I have been impressed that this sword that is on us today is God's sword; but this is not the sword that He will bring on all nations. I think this is a little preliminary. God is going to do a big job of it. He will bring the nations around Palestine and cut them off. The job will be well done. That is going to happen, but I praise the Lord I won't be here. If God wants to wield a sword, who are we to say, No? It seems whatever way He is going to bring this sword in the end time, that He will use His people. Anyway it is God's sword. When God is going to chastise His people He will raise up a sword. Some time the sword is going to be used by the weak brethren of Israel to defeat the mighty. See Zechariah 12:8. He will use that weak remnant to defeat a mighty army. He uses people to chastise His people. He uses nations to chastise one another. He has all power. Remember, He uses people to speak His voice, to tell about His Son, to warn others. He does not speak from heaven, come down with some great sign, or great vision, but He uses His people. Sometimes we are surprised whom He does use. David was a mighty warrior and was actually in war. God will strengthen Israel for a natural warfare. Whatever they use, gas tanks, implements, etc., He is the one to give victory, but men take credit for their military genius. When one side is against another and are about equal, they would consume themselves if God did not intervene. He will use His people to wield His sword at the end with Christ.

It seems we have a new realization that there are going to be others with Him. The overcoming saints will be in that army. The army in heaven, the Church that has escaped the worst of the sword on earth will be coming back in power and strengthening the hands. It will be after it

is all over that they will really see Him in His glory and they will know He is with them. His sword will smite the nations and He will rule them with a rod of iron. I will be so glad when there will be no more flesh, I mean sinful flesh.

He will wield the sword and will make an end of all flesh. He is coming back to make an end. God wants His people to realize that He does not want to wield the sword. Judgment is His strange work. He wants to get it over with. That is the reason He uses evil men to bring it about, because He hates to have to do it. When He brought judgment at the time of Noah, Paul said He condemned the world by the building of an ark. We gather from Genesis that Noah preached 120 years before God destroyed all the people but eight. In other words He is so reluctant, He gives His people a long time to heed His voice. He also gave a long time to His people to repent at the time of Jeremiah, for he had preached to Judah for 23 years. He aroused His prophets early to speak to the children to yield their hearts to Him and heed His voice. It was their attitude to Jeremiah's voice that caused Him to bring the sword. He always warns them. God told Ezekiel to speak to the people whether they would listen and heed, or not. God held the watchman responsible to tell the people. The watchman today is the Church, to warn the people of what is coming. The devil is against the Church and makes it hard to tell people and warn them.

I know there will be a peace, then sudden destruction. I do not know how long peace will last. It might be a few years, it may look like there will not be any more war. Maybe there will be war until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled, not that God would have it that way, but He has to have it that way. There is no lasting peace without Christ. I am thankful to believe in the One that never failed. He is the One that I am building my hope in.

(Reprint Jan. 1943)

GLORY THRU SUFFERING — LIFE THRU DEATH

I kept for nearly a year the flask-shaped cocoon of an emperor moth. It is very peculiar in its construction. A narrow opening is left in the neck of the flask, through which the perfect insect forces its way; so that a forsaken cocoon is as *entire* as one still tenanted, no rupture of the interlacing fiber having taken place. The great disproportion *between* the means of egress and the size of the imprisoned insect makes one wonder how the exit is ever accomplished at all - and it never is without great labor and difficulty. It is supposed that the pressure to which the moth's body is subjected in passing through a narrow opening is a provision of nature for forcing the juices into the vessels of the wings, these being less developed at the period of emerging from the chrysalis than they are in other insects.

I happened to witness the first efforts of my imprisoned moth to escape from its long confinement. During a whole forenoon, from time to time, I watched it patiently striving and struggling to get out. It never seemed able to get beyond a certain point, and at last my patience was exhausted. Very probably the confining fibers were drier and less elastic than if the cocoon had been left all winter on its native heather, as nature meant it to be. At all events I thought I was wiser, and more compassionate than its Maker, and I resolved to give it a helping hand. With the point of my scissors I stripped the confining threads to make the exit just a very little easier. And, lo! Immediately, and with perfect ease, out crawled my moth dragging a huge swollen body and little shrivelled wings. In vain I watched to see that marvelous process of expansion in which these silently and swiftly develop before one's eyes; and as I traced the exquisite spots and markings of divers colours which were all these in miniature, I longed to see these assume their due proportions and the creature to appear in all its perfect beauty as it is, in truth, one of the loveliest of its kind. But I looked in vain. My false tenderness had proved its ruin. It never was anything but a stunted abortion, crawling painfully through that brief life which it should have spent flying through the air on rainbow wings.

I have thought of it often, often, when watching with pitiful eyes those who were struggling with sorrow, suffering, and distress; and I would fain cut short the discipline and give deliverance. Shortsighted man! How know I that one of these pangs or groans could be spared? The farsighted perfect love that seeks the perfection of its object does not weakly shrink from present transient suffering. Our Father's love is too true to be weak. Because He loves His children, He chastises them that they may be partakers of His holiness. With this glorious end in view, He spares not for their crying.

THE UNRIGHTEOUS MAMMON

Author Unknown

¶ *And I say unto you, make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness, that when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations. He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much, and he that is unjust in that which is least is unjust also in much"—Luke 16.*

25 **I**n this little narrative of the unjust steward, the Lord has couched some deep and marvelous teaching on the artful use of money. He points out the fact, by illustration, that the wise of this world grasp at every opportunity within reach to further their interests. The case in point is of a man who had wasted his master's goods and is about to be discharged. He takes advantage of the time yet remaining, before his dismissal, to visit all the debtors of his master and remit part of their debt. They, of course were glad of the release, and quickly changed the amount of their bills. Thus the steward makes these men his friends. He buys their influence and good will with money which does not belong to him. And even the Lord of this unjust steward commends the wisdom he used. He has to admit it was a master-stroke of his steward—good to himself at his expense.

The Lord then adds, "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light." That is, the latter neglect or let slip the many opportunities which are all about them. As compared with the world, they make but slight use of the unrighteous mammon which has been entrusted to them. The former, without any scruples whatever, use every means in their power, to fill their coffers or advance their own interests, while the "children of light" seem blind or indifferent to their own advancement.

The unjust steward was not caught napping on his job. He was wide awake to his own concerns. And tho he apparently helped the debtors of his master, yet he did it because he expected a reward. He was making friends with "unrighteous mammon". He had respect unto the recompense which he saw in the future. He was wise to the occasion and made hay while the sun shone.

What Is The Lesson?

And the Lord tells us to follow his example, that is in regard to making friends with the "unrighteous mammon" which is committed to our charge—to buy up every opportunity to advance our eternal interests; for we too, must "work the works of Him that sent us while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work"—John 9:4.

Our time is limited is the inference. Our day will soon be past. The night will come and the opportunity to "lay up treasures in heaven", will be gone—treasures which we have accumulated through the well spent "mammon of unrighteousness." Observe that the Lord says of such a one that "he is faithful in that which is least." God esteems money as a very little trust, yet He insists that we will never be entrusted with great things unless we have been proved and found faithful in this slight responsibility. We are accountable to Him as stewards. The money belongs to Him. It has only been left in our charge for a little season, that we may use it wisely and enrich ourselves thereby forever. Then He asks us solemnly and searchingly, "If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon who will commit to your trust the true riches?" "O, yes, there is something more than Gold." The latter is not the "true riches," though through its wise use, we may be entrusted with the true and enduring substance; for the latter is only put into our hands after we have lavishly and hilariously dispensed the "unrighteous mammon." We thus come into possession of that which is our own. The heavenly things are ours. The gold belongs to "the Lord of all the earth;" for So He adds, "If ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?"

26

"Our own," or "the true riches,," is the Gospel of God's grace, the publishing of which is committed to us. Unless we use our money for God's glory, He cannot entrust us with the giving out of the Gospel.

"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." "I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities."

THE FEASIBILITY SURVEY

Forrest Hintz

Suppose our bureaucracy had been in full flower when Moses was slated to receive the Ten Commandments. It might have gone something like this:

Dear Boaz & Jachin Stonecutters: Mt. Sinai,

As you may know, Moses and a band of Israelites are presently wandering in the Wilderness near you. Although supplied with manna, they are becoming restive. You are hereby authorized to prepare two stone tablets which Moses will take to the top of Mt. Sinai for engraving.

Archangel Gabriel

Dear Archangel Gabriel: No. 3 Hereafter Drive,

Inasmuch as you did not specify the size of tablets, we have applied for a feasibility survey grant to determine the needs of Moses and the Israelites and will keep you informed.

Boaz & Jachin Stonecutters

(MEMO) TO: Boaz & Jachin Stonecutters,

Two years ago you began a feasibility study of the Israelites. What is current status?

Archangel Gabriel

Archangel Gabriel: No. 3 Hereafter Drive,

We regret the delay in reporting, due entirely to unforeseen difficulties; but here, in summary, is what happened.

Our survey grant application was denied by numerous agencies. Finally, the Council on Physical Fitness agreed that mountain climbing would come within their parameters and created the Office of Tablet Coordinator to handle our application.

We were granted \$147,000. Of this, \$141,634.21 was allotted for administrative costs and \$5,292.11 to recruit and train an Egyptian and two Chaldeans as required by the Fair Employment Practices Act. The balance, \$73.68, was for the actual survey.

THE STUDY WAS COMPLETED in two days. Within three months, the results had been correlated and initialed by each bureau chief. The Planning Commission was instructed to draw up a Master Plan.

They noted Moses is rather frail from his wanderings in the Wilderness, and suggested the tablets be made as small as possible. It was also noted that the pathway up Mt. Sinai

has an average slope of thirty degrees, and requested further study by the Permanent Study Group.

After exhaustive time and motion studies of Moses, the Permanent Study Group recommended building a road to the top of the mountain and that it include a series of switchbacks to lower the gradient to no more than fifteen degrees at any point.

THE FOLLOWING MASTER PLAN was drawn up:

(1) Two tablets of granite, 14 inches long, six inches wide, and one inch thick be prepared, and

(2) A road, 18 feet wide and 11.93 miles long, containing 29 switchbacks, be constructed to the top of the mountain. Included is an overview area near the Burning Bush.

The Board of Estimates and Review estimated total cost at approximately \$2,900,003.98. Of this, \$2,900,000 would be required for the road, and \$3.98 for the tablets.

Apparently, our Board Room was bugged. Speculators began buying the land along the proposed right of way. This will add to the estimate, as it may be necessary to institute condemnation proceedings. Also, several ecology groups have threatened to seek an injunction.

28

OUR SUBCONTRACTORS have proved arbitrary. They pointed out that Mt. Sinai is virtually solid stone, and that there are certain to be prolonged jurisdictional disputes between the Amalgamated Roadbuilders Union and the United Quarrymens Guild.

Both organizations have filed charges with the Labor Relations Board, but the Mediation and Conciliation Service is attempting to arbitrate the dispute.

All available information was fed to our computers. Present indications point to a possible cost overrun of \$2,100,000 which would raise the finished cost to \$5,000,003.98.

If you can obtain the necessary appropriations, we can begin work immediately. We anticipate completion within four years, although there are rumors of a congressional investigation.

Boaz & Jachin Stonecutters

(MEMO)TO: Boaz & Jachin Stonecutters,

Forget the whole thing. Last night, having been furnished sufficient manna, Moses hewed two stone tablets and went up the mountain. There, they were properly engraved; and he has returned to the Israelite camp.

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(Reprint Aug. 1973)**

ISAIAH 36

Gene Hawkins

“Now it came to pass in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah, that Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the defenced cities of Judah, and took them.” V. 1

29 **T**his thirty sixth chapter of Isaiah, forms a beautiful correlation with Zephaniah, for both of them predict the judgment, of this Chosen People, followed by their restoration. The subject, here in Isaiah, is the impending invasion of Sennacherib against Jerusalem. Assyria had already taken the ten tribes of Israel captive, as recorded in II Kings 18, and has now set her sights on Judah, assuming that She would conquer them in like manner. Sennacherib seems so confident of his success, and military prowess, that he just sends his Chief General Rabshakeh, rather than venture into the battle himself. Verse 2 of our present chapter asserts that “...the king of Assyria sent Rabshakeh from Lachish to Jerusalem unto king Hezekiah with a great army. And he stood by the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller's field.” That “conduit,” is beautifully symbolic of the blessing and life-giving Spirit, brought by Jesus Himself. He is the channel through which all God’s blessings flow, as Zephaniah loudly proclaims “The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing. I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden. Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame. At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD.” Zeph. 3:17-20 This is the “conduit” of blessing, where Rabshakeh stood, trying to block Israel’s path and deprive them of that which is rightfully theirs.

Zephaniah’s proclamation of “...at that time...” is prophetic of the time when the enemies of Israel will be judged,

while those who have been so scattered among the nations, will be gathered back again to their homeland in peace and joy. They will gather at “the conduit,” for a bountiful supply of refreshing blessing from on high, and those, like Rabshakeh, will not be able to “shut them off.”

The account in II Kings 18-19, also depicts this same pattern, as Judah is freed from Assyrian oppression, but Sennacherib went back to his own land, in disgrace, and perished at the hands of his own sons.

“Then came forth unto him Eliakim, Hilkiyah's son, which was over the house, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah, Asaph's son, the recorder.” V. 3 These three men are liaisons, sent forth, as representatives of Hezekiah, and the message imparted by Rabshakeh is, by no means edifying. “And Rabshakeh said unto them, Say ye now to Hezekiah, Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, What confidence is this wherein thou trustest? I say, sayest thou, (but they are but vain words) I have counsel and strength for war: now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me?” V. 4-5 We can only wonder, where or how, Sennacherib “the great king, the king of Assyria,” could conclude that Hezekiah was in rebellion, for II Kings 18:14-16 plainly outlines how Hezekiah had “apologized,” for offending him, though there is actually no evidence to support it. Hezekiah also volunteered to be put under tribute and even took treasure out of the house of the Lord to placate him. Such tactics could not buy the peace which Hezekiah sought, and the concessions and compromises which Israel has made in our day, have in no wise produced any better results.

30

Sennacherib continues his verbal assault on the King of Judah declaring that, “Lo, thou trustest in the staff of this broken reed, on Egypt; whereon if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all that trust in him.” V. 6 He was probably right in suggesting that the King of Egypt would turn on Judah and inflict damage rather than deliverance, even as is seen in present day Israel, but his next assertion was completely false. “But if thou say to me, We trust in the LORD our God: is it not he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken

away, and said to Judah and to Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar?" V. 7 Sennacherib here suggests that Hezekiah had led the Jews into idolatry, but he was actually among the seven godly kings who ruled over Judah, and must surely be considered one of the elite of that select band. He had in fact destroyed much of the idolatry implemented by his father, but then, and now, men simply do not care what lies they must tell in order to intimate others and gain their own political sway.

31 "Now therefore give pledges, I pray thee, to my master the king of Assyria, and I will give thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them." V. 8 Rabshakeh's next tactic is actually an invitation for Hezekiah to "give pledges," or declare war on Assyria. His offer is basically to supply weapons of war, or "two thousand horses," insinuating that the King of Judah could, in no wise, find men to use them. His insulting language simply implies that "even if you have all these implements of war, you are still no match for me and my army." His language becomes even more antagonistic as he asks, "How then wilt thou turn away the face of one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put thy trust on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen?" V. 9 This simply means that the least of one of my captains is sufficient to defeat you soundly. He further warns him against going to Egypt for help, and then comes the clincher of this tirade as he erroneously claims that his authority comes from The LORD.

"And am I now come up without the LORD against this land to destroy it? the LORD said unto me, Go up against this land, and destroy it." V. 10 This is another lie. The antichrist of the end time will most assuredly be given authority from the The LORD to reign for a full 1260 days, but just like Sennacherib, God will not give him permission to destroy Israel. Furthermore, He will destroy this despot for trying to do so.

"Then said Eliakim and Shebna and Joah unto Rabshakeh, Speak, I pray thee, unto thy servants in the Syrian language; for we understand it: and speak not to us in the Jews' language, in the ears of the people that are on the wall." Hezekiah's three representatives now identify themselves as servants, and request

that Rabshakeh would speak his volatile words in his own language rather than that of Jews, for they evidently did not their countrymen beset by fear. Rabshakeh refused to honor that request asking, “.....Hath my master sent me to thy master and to thee to speak these words? hath he not sent me to the men that sit upon the wall, that they may eat their own dung, and drink their own piss with you?” Intimidation, insult, and reproach was the plan from the beginning, and thus “Rabshakeh stood, and cried with a loud voice in the Jews' language, and said, Hear ye the words of the great king, the king of Assyria. Thus saith the king, Let not Hezekiah deceive you: for he shall not be able to deliver you. Neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, The LORD will surely deliver us: this city shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.” V. 13-15 Sennacherib’s message, through Rabshakeh, bespeaks the fact that he had no intention of negotiating with Hezekiah, but rather wanted to address the people directly, in order to destroy him in the eyes and the people. He would plant the idea in their minds that their leader was simply deceiving them with promises of The Lord’s deliverance, and that one who proclaimed such lies could not be trusted. His next “offer,” would be a very generous alternative for them. “Hearken not to Hezekiah: for thus saith the king of Assyria, Make an agreement with me by a present, and come out to me: and eat ye every one of his vine, and every one of his fig tree, and drink ye every one the waters of his own cistern; Until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread and vineyards. V. 16-17 Surrender and become my prisoners, and you will be rewarded with a pleasant life, far better than you have now, where you will dwell in peace and have your own possessions. I will also take you to a land just like the one you are leaving. Such things are in fact lies, but how many times have these tactics been used down through the ages to deceive men into trusting men rather than God? Rabshakeh’s next message is one of warning, against The God recommended by Hezekiah, and is thus a direct attack against God. “Beware lest Hezekiah persuade you, saying, The LORD will deliver us. Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered his

land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? Where are the gods of Hamath and Arphad? where are the gods of Sepharvaim? and have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? Who are they among all the gods of these lands, that have delivered their land out of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?" V. 18-20 The pattern here is not new. This man simply equated The God of Heaven, with all other gods, but God will not bow to such confusion. The record in II Kings 19 informs us that Hezekiah cried out unto The Lord when he heard these words and acknowledged that all this man said was absolutely true, proclaiming that, "Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations and their lands, And have cast their gods into the fire: **for they were no gods**, but the work of men's hands..... Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only." II Kings 19:17-19 However, Hezekiah also made the distinction between these false gods and the fact that "**thou art the LORD God, even thou only**," as he cried out for deliverance from the hand of this tyrant.

It is quite apparent from this next verse that the three emissaries, sent by Hezekiah, had been instructed not to issue any kind of response for "..... they held their peace, and answered him not a word: for the king's commandment was, saying, Answer him not." After that, they dutifully delivered Rabshakeh's message "... to Hezekiah with their clothes rent, and told him the words of Rabshakeh." Those rent clothes indeed reflect the attitude of repentance required, for the entire nation, in order that deliverance might come. Hezekiah responded exactly as he should have, falling on his face before The LORD and crying out for His deliverance. That glorious victory did come as noted previously, and it is once again prophetic of the tremendous blessing which shall be poured out upon this nation in the end time as prophesied by both Isaiah and Zephaniah.

Songs of Time & Eternity

R. Hawkins

Speaking to yourselves in psalms & hymns and spiritual songs, singing & making melody in your heart to the Lord"- Eph. 5:19

In 1965 *Grace & Glory* released its first album using a choir of Bible School students, teachers, and members of The Tabernacle Assembly. Rushing to a Kansas City recording studio after a Sunday night service in late December, they produced a jewel of a recording we transferred to cd several years ago which is still a popular item in "Our Corn Crib"- p. 35.

That album called, '*Songs with A Message*' could have been recorded in a cathedral. The studio production separated simple organ or piano accompaniments from a rich texture of voices and harmonies rising from singers demurely labeled in the liner notes as '*consecrated and spiritual*' - even though they sound professional & polished.

It is not however, the album I remember from my youth. My parent's record collection had one called '*Songs of Time & Eternity*' with a sundial and setting sun cover. It was the second and last album ever recorded by *Grace & Glory* and as we announce its release on cd, we travel back to 1972 looking for memories.

That starts with Martha Wainright, the heart & soul of the music that came out of the Tabernacle, along side the vision and resources utilized by the late Brother Paul Smith. As with the album from '65, Martha and Paul sing a duet on the '72 release that summarizes what so many Grace Saints have asked through the ages: "How long will it be?"

They are singing of the coming of the Lord, but it could have referred to the future memory of those singing on the record. It was 42 years ago, and if not for the timeline of Eugene and Sharon Malhiot's travels, it might not have been so easy to affix a year to the recording.

"It was definitely 1972," Sharon told me by phone. "We were moving back to Kansas City from Los Angeles and they were waiting on us at the studio. We were exhausted...in the car for almost a week with a one year old (Stuart) and we didn't even unpack. We went straight there & I remember how happy we were to see all the saints, and of course I remember I sang, "I believe in Miracles."

I started reading back issues from 1972 & what a blessing! Alice Mooneyhan's monthly column answered reader's doctrinal questions & Brother Smith answered letters from all over the United States, including one that caught my eye from a Indiana post office.

It was from a Kenneth W. Gregory and he wrote: "...a fellow

worker saw your February issue and showed it to me. We were deeply impressed in just a few minutes. It was noted that you add to your mailing list freely. I am enclosing an offering which I am sure you can use and I ask that you add my name to your mailing list."

I found missionary reports from China and South America. Notices for E.H. Hawkins Tucumcari camp meeting & one in Excelsior Springs by W.J. Franklin. There was a June Bible retreat by W.G. Evans & as always, the Tabernacle's annual Thanksgiving Convention. Just like we do now, they announced Bible school classes but their was something new in '72: a class in beginners Greek taught by the aforementioned W.J. Franklin.

I could go on and on, but alas December of 1972 & no mention of the album, but in January of 1973 this: LP RECORD ALBUM: *We have made another LP album... Some of the titles are: "Sweet, Sweet Spirit," "I'm longing for His Coming" and "I believe in Miracles."* We are offering these stereo albums at \$3.00 each, which will include wrapping

I was told by the son of the late owner of Studio 3, Don Warnock Jr., that 100 albums were pressed. Don carries on his father's trade and after 40 plus years he still remembered the sun dial image Brother Smith chose from the studio's catalog.

Also in the studio's green room that day was Kenny and Katie Park. They drove an 18 yr old Denise to the session to sing acapella in a trio of, "I think of God." She started taking lessons from Martha Wainright when she was 13 years old and still remembers Martha's attention to detail: "She stressed enunciation... 'hear your pitch in your head!' she would always say. She was a wonderful teacher and I loved to sing with her."

Our final memory comes from a 93 year old saint who did not remember the sessions, but told me this after I played her song, "City of Wonder" over the phone: "I don't remember singing that song, or much else these days, but I sure remember to look up because I am looking for the coming of the Lord!"

Her name is Alene McClain, and even after a couple of strokes over the last several years, her spirit today, as then, embodies what *Grace & Glory* has stood for over a century. Her song is track #7 on the cd and I will let a few lines finish this story:

*"Hallelujah the day is fast nearing..Hallelujah the dawn is appearing....
& the summons we soon shall be hearing...Come & enter thy HeavenlyHome."*

'Songs of Time & Eternity' is available in cd format by writing P.O. Box 831, Grandview, Mo. 64030 or gjhawk1@msn.com or by calling 816-618-3306. No need to send \$3.00...just keep us in your prayers.



Our Corn Crib

"Buy The Truth, and Sell It Not"

Tracts

A Problem, Solution & Triumph	Freedom	Pauline Sanctification
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Caught up with Paul	Gospels, Acts & Epistles	Preparation of the Bride
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Death, Hell & Lake of Fire	Jesus Heals Today	Scriptural Terms Defined
Destiny of the Wicked	Judgement Seat of Christ	Words on Eternal Security
Diamonds in the Rough	Law or Grace	The Adams Case
Dying Daily	Life Everlasting	The Two Adams
Earnest but Wrong	Light on the Law	The Sin Offering
Eternal Life	Living Ones	The Unforgiven Sin
Extra! Extra!	Made Sin for Us	This is That
Faith	Man Child- Rev. 12	Times of the Gentiles
Fear of the Lord	Mercy or Judgement	Tithing
First Day of the Week	New Birth	Water Baptism
Five Much Mores	Not Legislation, Revelation	Wheat and Tares
Five Consequences	Oneness of Christ	Why am I Not Healed

Books of the Bible

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

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