

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole Counsel of GOD

Without Price Since 1910

'Loving His Appearing'

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Let, I pray thee,
thy merciful
kindness be for
my comfort,
according to
thy word unto
thy servant.
PSALM 119:76.

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IT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN!



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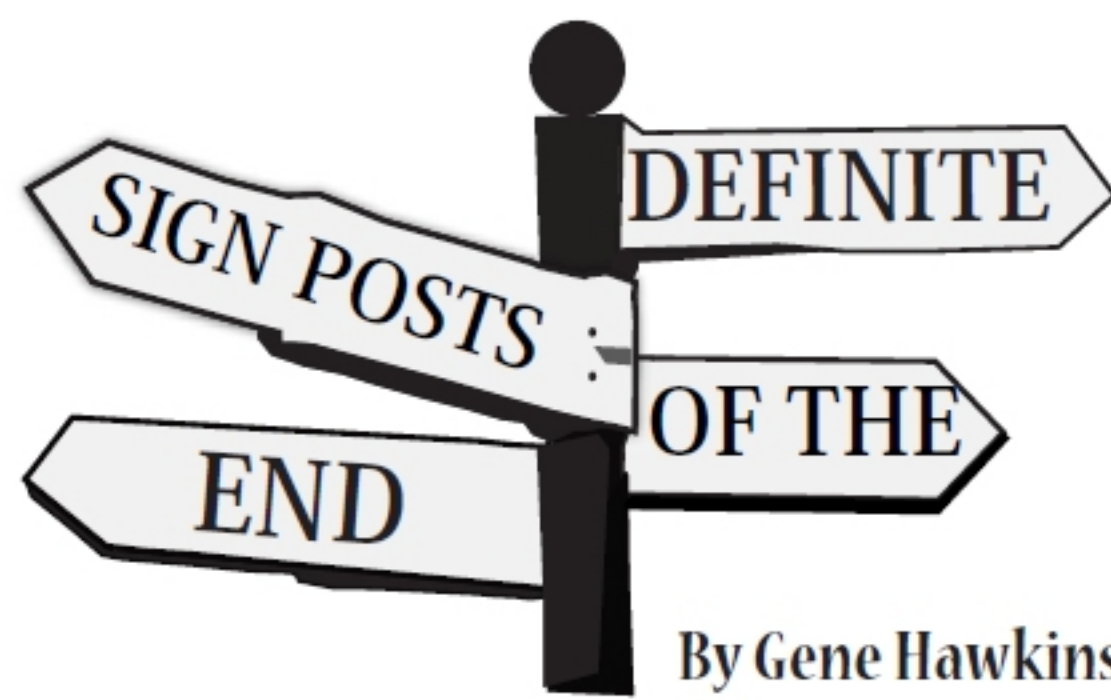
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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“Thus saith thy Lord the LORD, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again: But I will put it into the hand of them that afflict thee; which have said to thy soul, Bow down, that we may go over: and thou hast laid thy body as the ground, and as the street, to them that went over.” Isa 51:22

“And when he was come near, he beheld the city, (Jerusalem) and wept over it,...For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground,...because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.” Lk. 19:41-44

3 *“And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.” Lk. 21:20*

“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come....Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Mt. 24:42-44

The above messages from Isaiah, and the four gospels, give us a “before and after,” picture of Israel. The before portion graphically portrays a nation that has been forced to “bow down,” before the demands of the nations. This ongoing tendency, will then lead to the aftermath of destruction, pictured by Jerusalem’s total devastation, of which Jesus prophesied in Luke 19.

Israel has literally bowed down as a “doormat” for many nations, even before the beginning of Gentile Times in 606 B.C., and her current situation is no different, as she is expected to “go along,” with any agreement which may be made for her. This tiny nation is actually at the heart of the recent nuclear pact made between Iran and the P5+1 group, made up of Germany, The United States, Russia, China, France and Britain. Israel has voiced her complete disapproval of this covenant, as P.M. Netanyahu insisted quite some time ago, when he appeared before the U.S. congress that it would actually “pave the way,” for Iran to obtain a nuclear bomb. There are many conflicting reports which have emerged from the negotiations with Iran, including so-called

“side deals,” which have been made. One such agreement is interpreted by Republican Presidential Candidate Marco Rubio to mean that if Iranian nuclear sites are attacked, The U.S. would be forced to defend Iran, even against their own allies. Some Israelis also apparently agree for “The Blaze” also reported that Israeli Education Minister Naftali Bennett “...blasted world powers for including in the comprehensive agreement with Iran a provision that in essence suggests that they, including the U.S., might protect Iranian nuclear facilities from future external threats, including “sabotage.”

The debate rages on, as to whether this is true or not, but so-called “experts,” according to ‘PolitiFact,’ an organization which claims to be somewhat of a “watchdog,” to ensure that political claims are accurate, have told them that “...such interpretations are, at best, exaggerated. The aim of the provision, they said, is to protect nuclear materials from theft (say, if terrorists tried to steal Iranian assets) or from sabotage (with the intent of causing a hazardous-materials threat to health).” This article continues, specifically quoting Matthew Bunn, a professor at Harvard, and an expert on nuclear theft and terrorism, as saying that the agreement in question “...has nothing to do with helping Iran protect its nuclear facilities from a military attack” of the kind that Israel or Egypt might carry out, Bunn said. ‘It’s about protecting against thieves and terrorists who might want to steal nuclear material or sabotage a nuclear facility.’ Bunn called Rubio’s interpretation “absurd,” adding, “that by its plain language, the provision does not obligate any of the signatories, including the United States, to do anything in particular. Rather, it says the signatories are “prepared” to cooperate with Iran on these topics, with lots of wiggle room for all sides.”

4

Confusion would certainly be the operative word concerning this issue. Justin Logan, director of foreign policy studies at the libertarian Cato Institute, agreed that “this particular article in the agreement is not very well defined.” The explanation of “wiggle room,” is also a bit suspect and we are sure, according to scripture, that any forthcoming “adjustments” will certainly be at the expense of Israel. It is also quite probable that some confusion is truly orchestrated on purpose even as James concludes “For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.” Jas. 3:16 God is not the Author of confusion, thus we clearly know from whence it comes. The envy and strife, to which James alludes, are rampant in these closing days of the Church Age, as men will do anything, in their power, to obtain the

advantage they seek. Nations are determined to “lord” it over one another, if possible, and “...confusion and every evil work,” are indeed the result. This very condition, of upheaval and unrest, is depicted in Rev. 13, where unstable and chaotic waters, of the sea, represent the nations from whence the “beast” rises up “...having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.” Rev. 13:1 Those heads form the seven nation coalition at the beginning of the tribulation period. That regime is not in place, as of yet, nor do we know the names of the world powers which will participate, but it is quite evident from current events, that they are taking their places even now, for the very spirit of antichrist is rampant around the world.

5 Israel is, once again, at the very heart of all this activity, and their history with Iran is by no means new. Iran is the old “Persian Empire,” just as Iraq occupies exactly the same place as Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon. The rhetoric coming out of present day Iran hearkens back to exactly the same language emanating from Persia, when “wicked Haman,” vowed to destroy the Jews during the time of Esther. “And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people... and their laws are diverse from all people;... If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed:...” Esther 3:8-9 It is no secret that Former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad repeatedly called for Israel “to be wiped off the map, that the Middle East would be better off without the existence of the Zionist regime.” According to a report by the A.P. in Aug. 2013, just days before his inauguration, his successor, “Hassan Rohani was likewise reported to have called “Israel an 'old wound' that should be removed.” The Iranians vigorously denied such a claim, and published a “clarification,” of how his remarks were taken out of context, but P.M. Netanyahu’s office declared “We are standing 100% by our [earlier] statement regarding Rohani. We knew the Iranians would hurry to deny it, but we are not retracting our statement.”

Amazingly, this same message, of seeking Israel’s demise, was clearly manifest, even **during** the current nuclear negotiations with Iran. NBC News published the following headline: **“Iran Foreign Minister: We Believe We Are ‘Very Close’ to Nuke Deal.”** Apparently the “Times of Israel,” picked up this same story but noted that the Foreign Minister, Javad Zarif, had also said “The Netanyahu regime should be annihilated.” Though

Zarif tried to deny it NBC commends their reporter, Ann Curry, saying that she “deserves full marks for bringing up the issue, and refusing to let Zarif dodge the question.” They also adamantly affirm that, despite the denial, Curry “elicits an admission that Iran does want to annihilate Israel, the state of the Jewish people and the site of the world’s largest concentration of Jews.”

Haman’s proposal, and the subsequent actions taken by the Persian government, to destroy God’s Chosen People, is typical of the end-time goal of the antichrist. The glorious victory experienced by Mordecai, Esther, and all the Jews of that day, is also gloriously typical of Israel’s complete victory over their enemies during the tribulation. Our opening text from Isaiah also confirms that “...the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again: But I will put it **into the hand of them that afflict thee**; which have said to thy soul, Bow down, that we may go over:” God will severely punish those nations who are so actively pursuing Israel’s demise and their day of “bowing down,” prostrate before them, will indeed be over. However, that day has not arrived yet, and we know from God’s Word that much suffering is still on the horizon for this people.

The “perilous, (dangerous, fierce) times” of the last days described in II Tim. 3, which signal Jesus’ Return, will escalate, both for Israel and the world. Paul declares plainly that “...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. II Tim. 3:13 This current debacle, over the nuclear agreement with Iran, is once again, fraught with deception which has gendered great confusion and debate. Newsmax quoted three Jewish lawmakers, Reps. Steve Israel, Nita Lowey, and Ted Deutch, as saying that they “...are opposed to the deal struck last month between Iran and the group of nations called the P5+1, which includes the United States. All three lawmakers said they have **concerns with the deal over security issues**. Deutch argued the deal could lead to increased terrorism at the hands of Hamas and Hezbollah. Too many issues I have long raised as essential to any nuclear deal with Iran are not adequately addressed in this agreement. There are different predictions about what will happen if Congress rejects this deal. But the consequences of approving it aren't up for debate. Opening Iran up to foreign investment, increasing its oil exports, and unfreezing over \$100 billion in assets means more money for Hamas for building terror tunnels in Gaza, more weapons for Hezbollah in Lebanon, more slaughter in Syria, and more violence worldwide.”

This account continues declaring that “Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu joins them in their opposition to the agreement with Iran. ‘Israel is not bound by this deal with Iran, and Israel is not bound by this deal with Iran because Iran continues to seek our destruction,’ Netanyahu said last month. ‘We will always defend ourselves’.”

Contrariwise, “Reuters” conveyed Pres. Obama’s stand with this headline: **“Obama: Rejecting Iran deal would lead to Mideast war.”**

7 These conflicting points of view, as to what will bring about “war,” are one clear demonstration that, the day of “...wars and rumours of wars,...” which Jesus foretold in Matt. 24:6, is here. We full well know that war, and all the other troublous, and perilous times prophesied by God’s Word are unavoidable, and all of them loudly announce the coming of Jesus. He very specifically said “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 Paul likewise describes these “things,” or characteristics of the end time, using the term, “times and seasons,” which suggests rapid and volatile change. “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

Ours is most assuredly a day which is becoming more and more steeped in darkness, and there is another prophesied “season” which has captured center stage of the news today, literally sickening a great many Christians who cannot believe that such a thing could happen in this country. The Apostle Paul describes such a season with words like “...men shall be lovers of their own selves,...proud, blasphemers,...Without natural affection,...incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,... lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;” II Tim. 3:1-4 All of these terms, and perhaps more in this list, could be used to define the recent actions of Planned Parenthood, which has been accused of aborting babies, and then selling their organs. Some have reportedly seen the videos of such a practice even though Planned Parenthood has vigorously denied it, and according to a headline in The Wall Street Journal, is gaining “...Some Traction in Fight Over Antiabortion Group’s Videos.”

It is surely no coincidence that one of the last, and major, indictments against Jerusalem, before being taken captive by

Babylon was that King "...Manasseh shed **innocent blood** very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another;..." II Kings 21:16 "Surely at the commandment of the LORD came this upon Judah, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did; And also for the **innocent blood** that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with **innocent blood**; which the LORD would not pardon." II Kings 24:3-4 Josiah was one of only seven "good kings," in Judah, and though he made many reforms throughout the land, trying to "undo" the damage done by Manasseh, scripture is very plain that God would not pardon this shedding of innocent blood. Pro-abortion advocates try to justify their cause by using such terminology as a baby being only "a mass of tissue," and the debate over when life begins will probably never end. However, it is not up to man to decide this issue and we are absolutely confident that abortion would constitute the practice of "shedding innocent blood." It is quite evident that if "organs" are in place, life must, of necessity, be present. If that assessment is true, and God is the same, yesterday, today, and forever, His judgment will not be far behind. 8

There are many, in our day, which seem to be pre-occupied with such judgment, and scripture is quite plain that it is eminent. There are also the scoffers who deny that God even exists, let alone the fact that He is interested in the affairs of this earth ball. It is imperative for us, who are looking for Jesus to come, that we do not become overly concerned with judgment being poured out. Though we know it is an absolute fact, our attention should rather be on Paul's exhortation to Timothy in the midst of all these perilous times. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;" II Tim. 3:12,14 The proponents of gay marriage, abortion, and many other ungodly practices are indeed persecutors and "...despisers of those that are good,..." (V.3) but we must be neither distracted nor dissuaded by their rhetoric. It is vital to our own spiritual well-being that we too continue "...in the things which thou hast learned...knowing of whom thou hast learned them." This means continue in Paul's gospel, and in view of these last days, his admonitions to the Thessalonians must also become our mantra. Paul does warn them of the coming "sudden destruction," but his emphasis rests on looking

up for deliverance out of this world. “But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 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, **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. 5:7-11

Grace and Mercy

Abraham: Mercy holds the knife from the heart of Isaac,
Grace provides the lamb in the thicket.

Mercy **runs** to forgive the prodigal son,
Grace throws a party with a robe, a ring, and a fatted calf.
Mercy bandages up the wounds of the man,
beaten by the robbers.

Grace covers the cost of his full recovery.
Mercy hears the cry of the thief on the cross,
Grace promises paradise that very day.

Mercy pays the penalty for our sin at the cross,
Grace provides the righteousness of Christ in its place.

Mercy converts Saul on the road to Damascus,
Grace calls him to be the great apostle Paul.

Mercy saves John Newton from a life of debauchery,
Grace allows him to write the greatest hymn,
that has ever been written.

Mercy keeps us out of hell,
Grace takes us to Heaven.

Mercy withholds from us what we deserve,
Grace gives us what we do not deserve.

Sandy Baker

The Dynamite Of Weakness

A. S. Copley

“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” II Cor. 12:9

This chapter mentions several powerful paradoxes. Accordingly, it records a number of high points — "a man in Christ," the location of "paradise," "visions and revelations," the sufficiency of divine grace, God's strength and man's weakness. In Paul's day, the city of Corinth was considered the greatest and wealthiest city in the world. As the Greeks boasted in their learning, so some of the Corinthian saints still gloried in man's wisdom, which the Apostle repudiated in his first letter to them. I Cor. 1. When he wrote the second epistle, they were not yet divested of that folly. Therefore, in this epistle, he went to the utmost limit in his glorying. Concerning salvation, he said. "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world." Gal. 6:14. Concerning his walk and work he said, "I rather glory in my infirmities."

10

"Visions and revelations" greet our eyes at the threshold. Paul says, "I knew a man in Christ." What knowledge can be greater than that? **"A man in Christ"** is a rare object. It is not a babe in Christ, not simply a youth, but "a man," a fully developed saint, that he saw. What greater goal can be reached than a man in Christ? We may well yearn after such an experience. Paul beheld that full-grown fellow fourteen years before he wrote this letter. His modest wisdom forbade him telling it, lest the people might have become occupied with his visions instead of with Christ. Today many folk put their visions ahead of God's precious Word. How sad!

The man he saw "was caught up to the third heaven, caught up into paradise." Jesus said to the penitent thief on the cross, "this day shalt thou be with me in paradise"—Luke 23:43. He went that very day in His Spirit and preached to the spirits in prison (1 Pet. 3:19), which was located in **"the lower parts of the earth."** Eph. 4:9 **"Abraham's bosom"** was another expression for paradise. Lk. 16: 22. It was formerly upper sheol, or hades; but Jesus transferred it to heaven after His resurrection by taking its inhabitants to heaven with Him. Paradise now is in heaven. John also locates it in heaven—

Rev. 2:7. Therefore, the final destiny of the man in Christ, whom the Apostle saw, is the third heaven. "Whether in the body or out of the body," he did not know. If he was out of the body, it teaches us that the spirits of those who are saved go into the heavenly paradise at death. This agrees with Paul's words—"absent from the body and present with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:8) and his "desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better"—Phil. 1:23. If the man was in the body, it teaches us that the translated saints will land in the third heaven. This is a great comfort to all believers. Whether we die, or live for translation, our destiny is high heaven. Hallelujah! Well may we glory in this blessed hope.

Abundant Revelations. It is quite probable that Paul himself was that fortunate "man in Christ;" for immediately following he says, "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh—the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure"—V. 7. The man caught up to heaven heard unspeakable words in paradise, which is not lawful, or not permitted to utter. The common language in heaven does not fit in on earth, while we are in these fragile earthen vessels. Much of the conversations of believers here is unbecoming to our sanctified, Spirit-in-dwelt bodies. How very far different from that in the glory land. Let us heed Peter's exhortation — **"Be ye holy in all manner of conversation"** I Pet. 1:15.

The Apostle Paul wrote many great and wonderful things, marvelous and staggering truths, some of them "hard to be understood;" but when he was caught away to heaven, he heard and saw more marvelous things which have never been spoken or written on earth. The phrase, "abundance of revelations," declares this fact. Tho we reach the acme of Christian experience down here, we shall have dipped our feet only into the edge of the glory of God. So unutterably glorious were those overwhelming revelations, that Paul would have been exalted above measure if the Lord had not interfered. Should it be thought strange if any of us be lifted up because we see things that are new and surpassingly great? God is kind to cut us back, let us be defeated in our efforts and let harsh words be spoken to us and jostling experiences come our way. No one can stand uninterrupted prosperity. If we had unhindered growth and victory and prosperity, we would go to seed—every one of us.

Therefore, a **thorn** bush was planted in Paul's garden. It was a messenger of the devil. The Greek says, "A messenger, Satan, or an angel adversary." The Revised Version margin calls the thorn a stake, as if a fence paling, or palisade was stabbing him in the side. God gave His dear servant that stabbing thorn to keep him humble. Now we need not theorize as to what constituted the thorn; for the Apostle informs us that it was his "**infirmities**," after the Lord had termed it his "weakness." Note that he names five piercing jabs in connection with the thorn — "**infirmities, reproaches, necessities, persecutions and distresses**." V. 10.

Those infirmities were not voluntary failures in Paul's life. He was not overcome by "**sin in the flesh**." He did not fail, and call in a physician, if the flu struck him. He did not call on some rich brother to pay off his automobile account. He did not have the weakness of leaning on the flesh in any sense. But he was too poor to own a conveyance; hence he was necessitated to walk. He was compelled to accept a basket ride down by a wall, because God did not deliver him from his enemy miraculously-2 Cor. 11:33. He made tents for a living while preaching the Gospel of abounding grace, because there was no evangelistic committee to finance his campaign. He owned no home; hence he was compelled to room and board with others. The big fellows reproached Paul because he had nothing, and called him a fool because he refused a stipulated salary for preaching the Gospel. He was imprisoned for announcing the truth that makes men free. He was in prison for two years in Caesarea. He was behind the bars twice in Rome; but he instituted no lawsuit to deliver him; neither did any of his friends deliver him.

12

"**For this thing...**" he writes, "**...I besought the Lord thrice, that it** (his infirmity) **might depart from me.** And He said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee**; for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Three times he prayed, appealing to the goodness of the Father, to the intercession of the Son his elder Brother, and to the mighty power of the Holy Ghost the Comforter. How could the triune God refuse to deliver him? Ah, some better thing was prepared for him. Consider the answer—"My grace is sufficient." Grace is intimated in Gen. 1:2, fore-shadowed in Gen. 3:15 and declared in Gen. 6:8 — "**Noah found grace** in the eyes of the Lord." Thru-out the Old Testament, grace is manifested in spite of the law. Then John exclaims, "**Grace and truth came thru Jesus Christ**." John 1. "**By grace are ye saved...**" shouts

the Apostle Paul. Eph. 2:8 James the Apostle declares, "**He giveth MORE grace.**" James 4:6. Paul comes along and announces that "God is able to make **ALL GRACE abound** toward you"-2 Cor. 9:8. But Jehovah leaps over the wall and shouts aloud, "**MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THEE,**" for time and eternity.

Strong men do not think that they need those words. The self-reliant, smile proudly at them. The self-righteous spurn them. The psychologist boasts in his adroitness. Grace is too modest and retiring for any of that class. But for 1900 years, the poor and needy have flung themselves upon those precious words and have risen to high honors in Christ Jesus. That message of grace is particularly for a special people. It is for the weak, the helpless, the good-for-nothings, and arenots. But who wants to be in either of those classes? It is humiliating to be infirm or helpless. All of us wish to be strong; and strong folk are ashamed of weak folk. And we are ashamed because we are weak. Human strength appeals to the natural man. Unconsciously we look up to strong people and compliment them for their gifts and wisdom and adroitness.

13

When I am compelled to be absent from meeting because of illness in my body, especially if it is repeated, I feel ashamed. It seems to me that I am no testimony to divine healing. I wonder that the saints do not call for another shepherd. Men have reproached me for not having an assembly of several thousand. They do not know that many thousands read our literature. When we see how some workers prosper in numbers, have swell folk, so-called with them, influential and brilliant, I feel humiliated. Brainy, wealthy, gifted and strong folk seldom come my way. They have no use for me. I am too slow and timid. I am compelled to be content with "mean things." Paul exhorts, "**Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate,** (or mean things). Be not wise in your own conceits." Rom. 12:6. Sometimes I forget that "Jesus rejoiced in spirit, exulted exceedingly and leaped for joy and said, "I thank thee, O Father, LORD of heaven and earth, **that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent and hast revealed them unto babes:** even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight"— Luke 10:21. My flesh feels sorry that it is not strong and eloquent like that of others. Unconsciously, I am pitying myself.

Then the Comforter steps on the scene and shows me that I am one of the many whom God has chosen. Many of the big and the great are self-appointed or chosen by a bunch of other

fellows. I hear Him say thru Paul, and that with authority, "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that **NOT many** wise men after the flesh, **NOT many** mighty, **NOT many** noble are called (that implies that a few such are called): but **God hath chosen the foolish** things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the **weak things** of the world to confound the things which are mighty: and **base things** of the world and things which are **despised, hath God chosen**; yea and things **which are not** (that is, good-for-nothings), to bring to nought things that are—that no flesh should glory in His presence." I Cor. 1:26-29 Three times God is mentioned in this quotation; but not once is it said that God has chosen the wise or mighty or noble of the world.

Oh, marvel of marvels! Why should we worry? Whom has God chosen? That is the question. Paul said, "When I am weak, then am I strong." And God said that His strength (God's strength) is made perfect in our weakness. It follows then, that the weakest one is the strongest, and God's strength is made superlatively perfect in him that is superlatively weak. And logically, he that is not, or is good for nothing of himself, is **indispensable** to the Lord. Was not Jesus in that boat when He said, "**The Son can do nothing of (from) Himself**, but what He seeth the Father do?" and "**I can of mine own self do nothing?**" as I hear I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me"—John 5:19,30. Paul was in that class, calling himself "less than the least of all saints"—Eph. 3:8. Beloved do you wish to be indispensable to God? Let us join hands and do nothing and be nothing except as He enables us. Let us choose the perfect willingness to be nothing, that the power of Christ may be superlatively mighty through us.

Now we may understand why the Apostle was willing for the thorn to continue. We see why he said, "Mostly gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me," or cover me like a tent. Now we understand how he dare say, "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities." Pause and let that soak in. "I take pleasure in infirmities." Glory to God! I am weak. Glory to God! I had to walk to meeting today; the car was disabled. Glory to God! We had to eat dinner without meat and butter; funds were low. Hallelujah! I had to trust God for every sentence this morning. I was absolutely dependent upon Him. Praise

the Lord! Satan tries to tangle me in my preaching and hinder me from getting the right word to express my thoughts. I cannot think. I cannot even believe, unless the Lord helps me. Amen! Praise the Lord! Legality is fighting me from every angle and taking some folk away from our meeting. One of our strongest and most influential families has pulled out from us. We are cast on God more than ever. Hallelujah! Persecution is raging; but we take pleasure in it. I take pleasure in reproaches; for they are not as dangerous as formal "roaches." We are necessitated to make repairs on the church building, and do not know from whence the money will come. Hallelujah! God knows. We have another chance to prove Him. "When I am weak, then am I dynamited." When we have nothing in ourselves, in Christ we possess all things. "Poor, yet making many rich. Unknown, yet well known. Dying, and behold we live." Good-for-nothing, yet indispensable.

15 Beloved, we have yet to learn the secret of success. We are not yet willing to be different. We are afraid of the Pauline route. We are surrounded and overpowered with the great, the wise, the strong, the prosperous, the wealthy, the intellectual, the musical; the polished, the attractive and the sufficient. We pity our young folk that we have no attractions and inducements for them. We still have a little of Israel's itch, when they cried, "Nay, but we will have a king like the nations." Beloved, if God had wanted a strong, influential, eloquent fellow to do my work, He could have made me thus, or He could have called someone else thereto. He is not short of material. He is not behind time. The Lord wanted a people who would believe His Word simply, and not reason away its meaning. If He had wanted me to have great, talented and brilliant folk associated with me, He would have brought them in, and kept them with me.

Nay. He will have no glorying in the flesh. He will let us have no one to look up to with pride but Christ Jesus. "To this man will I look, saith the Lord — to him that is humble and of a contrite heart and that trembleth at my Word." May He enable us to take our place in the depth, in weakness, in nothingness, in helplessness, in utter dependence upon Himself. Let us not be sad because we are small and needy. Let us rejoice and be glad and shout for joy that we are not among the elite, the wise and prudent. Let us join Paul in glorying in infirmities and necessities that the

power of Christ may be seen. Let us remember that if we are superlatively nothing, then we are by God's decree and choice and superlatively indispensable. The most glorious privilege knocks at our door. We may be the advance guard of the crusaders of weakness and entire dependence upon the almightiness and all-sufficiency of the God of all grace. He will use us to prove what He said -- **"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."** Amen!

MY RESURRECTION BOUNTY

Oh! Give eternal glory to the Man of Calvary.
He's the Rock of Ages hoary; but He died for you and me.
Thru that blessed bleeding Lamb, saved by wondrous grace I am.
And with Him in realms celestial I shall surely be.

16

I find a life eternal in the Man from Joseph's tomb.
He ascended into Heaven to prepare for me a room.
Thru His intercession there, I can live above all care;
And be ready for translation to my glory Home.

I'm learning in the Christ, of resurrection here to move.
And the power and the vict'ry, of that life I daily prove.
By His buoyant joy within, Jesus keeps me 'bove all sin.
And His resurrection glory I shall share above.

I'm living in the heav'nlies where my Father seated me,
In the Man of the Ascension, whom from death He had set free.
I'm alive for evermore through His life my daily store;
And with Him on high I'll surely, reign eternally.

A.S. Copley

The History of a Jew

17 He was born in an obscure Village, the child of a peasant woman. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerant teacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He had nothing to do with this world except the Power of His Divine Manhood. While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies by one of His friends. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth --- His coat. When He was dead He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone. Today, He is the centerpiece of the human race and the Leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the planes that ever soared skyward, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings and dictators that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has the life of that solitary Jew, Jesus of Nazareth.

-Selected

* Christ is the antidote for human philosophy, Jewish legality, Oriental mysticism, carnal asceticism, and every other false religion. "I have Christ and need no more!"

* "Though dictators aspire to rule --- and do, yet in God's Hand remains the destiny of nations."

REFLECTIONS

. . . From the Editor

AN UPDATE OF THE BIBLE COLLEGE

***"Study to show thyself approved unto God,
A workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
Rightly dividing the Word of Truth."
I charge thee, therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus
Christ,
Who shall judge the living and the dead
At His appearing and Kingdom:
Preach the Word . . .
For the time will come when they will not endure sound
doctrine;
But after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves
teachers,
having itching ears;
And they shall turn away their ears from the truth,
And shall be turned unto fables."
(II Timothy 2:15; 4:1-4)***

18

There are no more important words for God's people in these last days. What we value highly tells a lot about our dedication to the Lord, and if we will be ready when Jesus comes.

The Grace & Glory Bible College has taken a different path in the last few years, partly due to the fact that we are not an accredited college and also there is less interest in a knowledge of the Bible, and fewer young people seem to be called to the ministry.

This does not mean that classes have been discontinued; there are still some who do want a knowledge of God's Word for their own lives and be able to tell others the truth. Our students are more mature

than previously, some middle age and older. The same is true here in Mountain Grove and also in Grandview, Missouri. Most young people, just out of high school, want to go to a college which is accredited and offers degrees. We cannot do that. Our only degree is found in the first verse quoted above -- an AUG degree -- "approved unto God." The trend today seems to be geared toward "making a living" or entering a profession.

Our Correspondence Courses are quite popular, and we are encouraged that couples are taking a class together, or an older person who cannot pick up roots and move to one of our schools. So, the Word is being spread and a few hungry hearts want to know what their loving Father has written to them in that precious book called The Bible.

19 If a young person feels the call of God on His life, we will do all in our power to see that he gets the knowledge necessary to preach the Gospel. We will see that he has a place to live while attending classes. We have two young men in the Mountain Grove area, who are both pastoring community churches and are taking courses to help them better minister to their people. Others attend for their own spiritual benefit and growth.—

(Reprint February 1998 – Paul N. Smith)

(Ed. Note:) We still have the Bible College in the Grandview area and are looking forward to a new school year beginning Sept. 21, 2015. We do not have a dormitory but there is reasonable housing available and we have found that God always supplies the needs of those who truly desire to know The Word of God.

Please Contact us at 816-618-3306, 816- 322-2257 or e-mail gjhawk1@msn.com

Love Beckons- *Part 7, The Final*

Ken Trujillo

“Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matt. 11:28-30

“YE SHALL FIND REST UNTO YOUR SOULS”

The first six portions of this series on “Love Beckons,” have been an exposition on Matt. 11:28-30. Verse 29 contains three “action verbs” describing our race toward “the winner’s circle,” which are TAKE, LEARN, and FIND. Part four of the series expounded on “**Take My Yoke,**” while the fifth enlarged on “**Learn Of Me.**” This final portion is dedicated to the ultimate treasured result of “taking and learning,” which is “**Finding!**”

There are many derivatives of this wonderful word, “find.” 20
The Hebrew word for it, is “*MASA*” and one of the most powerful applications means “**TO APPREHEND SO ONE MAY REACH TOWARD PERFECTION.**” Simply stated, it could be translated “**OBTAIN TO ATTAIN!**” Paul exhorted Timothy: “That the man of God *may be perfect*, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” II Tim 3:17 James likewise writes, “But let patience have her perfect work, that *ye may be perfect* and entire, wanting nothing.” Jas. 1:4, Discovering true “rest,” we find *DIVINE LIBERATION*, i.e. freedom from fear, anxiety, guilt, stress and distress, etc., for “...YE SHALL FIND REST unto your souls.” Dear saints, tremendous warfare is now taking place with un-relentless onslaughts by the enemy of our soul, as he battles to prevent us from finding this *precious rest*. I John 4:4, however, has the remedy “...because greater is He (Jesus – The Word) that is in you, than he that is in the world.” Spiritually speaking, this is a “daily work in progress.” As we grow in grace, and knowledge, feeding on His Word and calling out unto Him on bended knees, we can start out, every new day He gives us, as **MORE THAN A CONQUEROR THROUGH HIM THAT LOVED US!**

Jeremiah describes the wrath of God against Israel, and their lack of “this rest” because of it, but he also outlines

a plan whereby it may be restored. “*Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and YE SHALL FIND REST for your souls.*” Jer. 6:16, “...**STAND YE IN THE WAYS**...” cried Jeremiah, which speaks of ENDURANCE, when at the crossroads! We all have, and will continue to face, many crossroads, during our earthly journey, but God says “***TRUST ME – I’LL MAKE A WAY FOR YOU TO CROSSOVER!***”

Webster defines *trust* as “reliance upon integrity, strength, ability and surety, with a confident expectation.” We speak here of GOD’S INTEGRITY (the promise of His Word which was purified *SEVEN TIMES* before He spoke it), GOD’S STRENGTH (His exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward), GOD’S ABILITY (unto Him who can do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think) and GOD’S SURETY (keeping us from falling, and keeping THAT, which we commit to Him). What a “divine arsenal of support” we have at our disposal!

Stand ye in the ways, “...**AND SEE**...” God wants to dominate our vision! “We look NOT upon the things which are seen:...” II Cor. 4:18 The circumstances are temporal – a short duration – a season, but we look upon that which is not seen, that is, THE ETERNAL. Paul refers to this as God’s “... *eternal purpose* which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:” Eph. 3:11 As we endure the sufferings and, by faith rely upon His aforementioned integrity (His Promise), we will be glorified together WITH HIM as His Beloved Bride! Having “this glorious vision” of *God’s eternal purpose*, we won’t want to perish in the test, i.e. give up; recede; or turn back and look to other means. This “complete trust” becomes a sweet smelling savor, upward to God, a “sacrifice of surrender,” allowing Him to fight the battle that surrounds us - what a *CONFIDENT EXPECTATION!* Dear saints – how He desires VICTORY IN JESUS on our behalf! The song writer put it this way: “*And then I cried, ‘Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit.’ And somehow Jesus came and brought to me the VICTORY!*”

“...***ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS, WHERE IS THE GOOD WAY, AND WALK THEREIN***,...” It is imperative that we seek His Word for direction, His pathway “tried and true!” We are admonished to *lean not* upon our own understanding nor to direct our own steps (Prov. 3:5, Jer. 10:23), but we are to be followers

according to Paul's gospel as he followed Christ, as a pattern and example. Rom. 16:25, I Cor. 11:1 The New Testament message for the Church Age, is found II Tim 3:16-17. "ALL SCRIPTURE is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man [and woman] of God may be PERFECT, THOROUGHLY FURNISHED, UNTO ALL GOOD WORKS," that we might attain that *CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS* laid up for all them who love His appearing, winning Christ – *OUR PRIZE!*

"...YE SHALL FIND REST UNTO YOUR SOULS," promised Jesus, and the benefits of that rest are tremendous. The Hebrew root word for "rest" *raga*, has two incredible meanings. First, it signifies "a place of restraint when threatened." This *contronym*, that is, "two opposing thoughts meaning the same," implies to *be at repose or ease in the midst of being stirred!* This thought is portrayed in John 18:1-3, as Jesus crossed over the brook Cedron, with His disciples, just prior to Judas betrayal. 22 He was, in fact, on His journey to "a garden of suffering and fellowship with His Father." The brook-waters of Cedron, were murky and clouded because of "stirred-up sediment." Cedron means *TURPID*, a place of confusion and disturbance – a place of mourning! As we walk with God, we will encounter such a brook. My wife and I lost our son, Shannon, to suicide - I had to cross over this brook Cedron. Yet, in my state of bereavement, there was that "garden of fellowship in the suffering" that my Savior provided. Garden is "*GANAN*" in the Hebrew, meaning an intimate enclosure, a place of covering and defense, a protective guardianship that only our comforting Savior can bring to one in the midst of that kind of storm! There is that special garden "just for you" precious hearts as God allows you to cross the brook of Cedron along your journey. It's there that the fellowship of His sufferings is being worked and woven within that Bridal raiment – *THAT FINE LINEN, WHEREWITH WE ARE TO BE ARRAYED, JUST FOR HIM, OUR BELOVED!*

The second meaning of "rest" is also the same word used in Rev 4:8, wherein are described the "four beasts," or "living ones," The Bride of Christ. It is coupled with the word NOT, and proclaims that this special company as they "... REST NOT day and night, saying Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty." The Greek term for "REST NOT" is "*anapausis echo*" which means

“TO HAVE AND TO HOLD – NEVER TO BE SEPARATED!” I took an oath, a traditional natural wedding vow, when I married my wife which stated: *“I do take thee Peggy, to be my lawfully wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part!”* The spiritual essence of these words are found in Rev. 19:7 “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready.” May we hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; “His Divine Vow” to the Church of Philadelphia: *I do take thee, my Beloved Bride, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, forever and ever.* Nothing shall be able to separate us from the immutable Love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom 8:39 Praise His Holy Name!

“My Yoke Is Easy”

23

*“...**MY YOKE**...”* The yoke or harness is a “guide,” leading and directing a team of oxen moving forward, enabling them to plow deep for an abundant rich harvest. Who is our “guide?” “Howbeit, when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, HE WILL GUIDE you into all truth...” John 16:13 “...yea, the deep things of God...” I Cor 2:10. Part Four of this series ascertained that the word, “yoke,” also means “joined with another.” The Greek word is *syzsugnymi* which signifies *“A UNION IN WEDLOCK.”* Thayer’s Greek Lexicon defines it as being “yoked together,” figuratively as *“CO-JOINED AS IN MARRIAGE.”* Seeking His Word as *buried treasure* before we walk out the door every morning is allowing Him to adorn us with this precious ornament. Being filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of “speaking in tongues, communicating that “Lovely Heavenly Language” to our Beloved Savior in praise and worship, the *enemy is put to flight!* Our adversary the devil, as a roaring lion is out to devour, to envelop our thoughts with the cares of this life and take our focus off THE PRIZE. The “Joy of the Holy Spirit,” arms us with the “whole armor of God,” making us fit to meet the challenges ahead in confidence and assurance, walking in footsteps of faith.

*“My Yoke **IS EASY**...”* “Easy,” in the Greek, is defined in two ways: *FIT FOR USE* and *VIRTUOUS*. Webster defines “fit”, as a noun, from an old Middle English word *POEM* meaning

“a work of heroic beauty and grace by its creator.” Eph 2:10 states; “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” “Workmanship” is also derived from the English word *POEM*. “Being Fit,” is being “*suited for circumstances, conditioned and trained for adversities – fit for battle!*” Coupled together within His yoke, and guided by the Holy Spirit, we become “more than a conqueror through Him that loved us – fit for battle – fit to finish our course – fit to rule and reign with our Beloved!”

The second definition of “easy” is “*VIRTUOUS*,” which is an adjective, and is described in four major ways: STRENGTH, ABILITY, WEALTH, & FORCE!

His Strength is the Perfect Solution for EVERY NEED! Our Lord was crucified in utter weakness – He was raised by the power of God. As we realize that “without Him we can do nothing.” We are, in fact, “helpless,” yet with Him, we can live by the same “Victorious Resurrection Power” that God imparted for His Beloved Son. Our Lord overcame the GREATEST FORCE EVER MARSHALLED AGAINST MORTAL MAN, **through the weakness of death as the Lamb of God!** He hung physically beaten, bloodied and helpless on the cross, but cried out: “IT IS FINISHED,” *TELEO – I Have Won!* The Anglo-Saxon word for *winner*, means “to endure and to finish.” This does not imply to win against another, as competing, but rather to *ENDURE TO THE END AS VICTOR!* The apostle Paul cried out of great misery, and need, to have his thorn removed. That request was denied, but not ignored, for Jesus spoke to him “...My strength is made perfect in weakness.” The phrase “IS MADE PERFECT” literally means “*TO CARRY ONE THROUGH – TO CARRY ONE COMPLETELY TO THE GOAL LINE!*” Realizing “our weakness and His strength” takes place as we surrender - *IN PRAYER!* Prayer is our “steering wheel,” as heaven’s checkered flag waves us onto the “winner’s circle,” or is prayer only a “spare tire” we use when we break down?

“ABILITY:” The Greek word is *ISCHUS*, which means “the ability to perform mightily.” Despite our failures, ***His Ability*** overrides our weaknesses and imperfections. The many portraits of the *Virtuous Woman* are found in Proverbs 31:10-31. Twenty-two verses are dedicated to her! Twenty Two is the number associated with *LIGHT*. “...Come hither, I will shew

thee the bride, the Lamb's wife...descending out of heaven from God,...and her LIGHT WAS...MOST PRECIOUS...CLEAR AS CRYSTAL;" Rev. 21:9-11

The commendation on the "abilities" of this virtuous woman in Proverbs 31, is wonderful, for we read that "She is not afraid of the snow for her household; for ALL her household are clothed with scarlet" (saved and kept by the power of the blood of the Lamb). The enemy's ferocious "blizzards of winter" had come against her, the times of heartache and the times crying out to God! At times she finds herself in a "F.O.G." – Fear, Obligation, and Guilt encompasses her. Guilt is one of the heaviest burdens that can weigh a woman down, that is, feeling that one has FAILED throughout one's journey. Past mistakes, perhaps, not being a good daughter, a good mother, a good wife or a good friend. Failure in terms of not feeling attractive, not being understood, failure amongst peers, failure in school or at work, and the list goes on and on!

Sarah, the wife of Abraham failed when, out of desperation, she enticed Abraham, her husband, to conceive a child through her handmaid Hagar. Up to that time she was not able to bear children. Through that surrogate bondswoman Hagar, Ishmael was born. After Isaac was born, Ishmael became their archenemy! That which is "born of the flesh," will ALWAYS BE AN ENEMY of that which is "born of the spirit." Throughout time, Israel has since been hated and afflicted by the descendants of Ishmael, who until this very day are obsessed with their destruction. That animosity will continue until God brings forth all the enemies of Israel together at the Battle of Armageddon, where "Israel Will Prevail," presenting another striking example of how *"utter failure has led to utmost victory."* Praise You Lord Jesus! We read in Gen 18:12 that "Sarah laughed within herself..." as she heard that she would conceive a son. This laugh is *sahaq* and means "rejoicing with overwhelming wonder." Isaac's name is *Yitschaq* "he laughs." Isaac rejoiced as Jehovah's Patriarch of Promise! Yes, Sarah had shortcomings, even as we, yet, God blessed her as a "Matriarch of Many Nations" and through her lineage came our Blessed Lord and Savior! My sweet precious sisters, *ye are the daughters of Sarah*, as Peter declared in I Pet 3:6. He goes on to admonish, to not be "afraid with any amazement!" In other words, when God allows the enemy to "come in like a flood," don't be overwhelmed

with alarm, fear or doubt, for you are also matriarchs of many promises as they are all FOR YOU, and if He be for you, who can be against you! “Who can lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth.” Rom 8:3, *HOW FAITHFUL IS OUR GOD?* II Cor. 4:8, “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed: we are perplexed, but not in despair: persecuted but not forsaken: cast down but not destroyed,” the Name of Jesus is as “healing ointment” poured forth on our behalf, dear saints!

“**WEALTH:**” I Cor. 1:5-6 “In EVERYTHING, ye are ENRICHED by Him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge...” We may also be known today, “...as having nothing, yet possessing ALL THINGS.” II Cor. 6:10 *POSSESS* means “to hold fast and to hold firmly as to wear.” This is the message Jesus spoke to the Philadelphian Church. “Behold I come quickly: HOLD that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” “...*POSSESSING ALL THINGS,*” refers to claiming the “highest degree; the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Rich beyond measure! One of our precious Grace and Glory songs records this glorious refrain. *“O the wealth in Christ I see, freely offered unto me, it is mine, mine, mine, yes it’s mine! Freedom from all guilt and sin, I’ve a life that’s bound to win; it is mine, mine, mine, yes it’s mine! It is mine, mine, mine, yes it’s mine....Praise the Lord, I’m in the Royal Line! Christ enlightens me to see, all His wealth is now for me, It is mine, mine, mine, ALL IS MINE!”*

26

Finally the last attribute of virtuous is “**FORCE:**” Exodus 19:6, “And ye shall be unto Me, A KINGDOM of priests...” KINGDOM carries the same thought as the Hebrew word DOMINION: “A Governing or Reigning Force.” It comes from the root word *malak* meaning “to be made to rule as a King or Queen.” There are two other significant expressions of this word. The first concludes that “a single rulership holds sway. The second is a reference to “the opportunity, by way of qualifying, toward ownership or possession.” What an amazing FORCE with which this virtuous woman is arrayed within! Matthew 6:33 presents a beautiful pattern in claiming this opportunity, as I begin my day in prayer. “...seek ye *FIRST THE KINGDOM,*...” and it may be expressed as “Seek ye first and foremost the opportunity to possess God’s Best today! Allow that to be “Our First Love” and all these things will be added unto you AND all things will work together

for GOOD to them – Who Are The Called (the Divinely Selected; the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus!)” This is an INWARD CALLING! Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against Godly thoughts. His Direction and His Will should be our desire EVERY DAY. For the day He hath made is “just for you!” Could His Coming Be Today? “...for now is our salvation (with eternal glory) nearer than when we believed.” Rom 13:11; II Tim 2:10

“MY BURDEN IS LIGHT”

“That which He possesses is special to be borne.” His Burden is “the most precious of cargo” as He allows the trials and tests in our lives as “light, agile, quick and easy to bear in weight.” LIGHT in this context in Latin is described as *levare* meaning “to raise, hold up, to elevate as A LEVER.” His Burden is “quick”, that is to say, a light affliction BUT FOR A MOMENT. His Burden is “agile” enabling us physically and mentally as actively OPTOMISTIC, NIMBLE, and LIVELY, even in the “midst of a fiery furnace.” When King Nebuchadnezzar commanded the heat of the furnace to be “seven-times hotter” for the three Hebrew children, it was “HEAT PERFECTED” just for them and just perfectly fit for the Son of Man to join in fellowship, where not even “the smell of smoke” was upon them when they were released! His Burden, designed just for us, that is to say, the fiery trials and circumstances He allows to encompass us, is also HEAT PERFECTED just for us and for Him! He is THAT LEVER to lift and elevate us to endure hardness as good soldiers with “Eternal Glory Vision” – to be MADE READY! The light affliction He allows, but for a short appointed time, i.e., His Burden – His Most Precious Cargo To Be Borne, will PERFECT, ESTABLISH, STRENGTHEN and SETTLE us as overcomers - as more than conquerors, that we might come forth as “gold tried in the fire” brilliant as a “jasper stone reflecting His Glory” when He comes to gather His Jewels! To Crown Us as His Choice One – His Beloved Bride FOREVER! FOREVER! FOREVER! Dear Precious Saints of the High Calling, as this final seventh and concluding portion of this series comes to a close - HIS LOVE TRULY BECKONS!

The Lamb Slain

Mary M. Bodie

“And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” John 17:5

In the above chapter we hear the Voice of Him who was very Deity, in deed and in truth. "He, Who was in The Bosom Of The Father from a past eternity, and had come to earth on a special mission — that of redemption, is speaking. The Man that prayed thus that night previous, before going to the cross, was God before the world was made. Before there was sun, moon or stars He was with God," for He was God—Phil. 2.

"He was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world was here seen manifested"—Rev. 13:8. The Eternal Covenant made between Father and Son before the creation of the world or before mankind was now about to be sealed with His blood. The Eternal Son had offered himself to accomplish a work with issues so vast that as yet our minds can only faintly grasp them. The Covenant concerning this work and its Author have been written in eternal records, for the Son hath said, "Lo I am come. In the volume of the Book, it is written of Me—I delight to do Thy will, O God"—Ps. 40. These words are again found in Hebrews 10:7.

Colossians 1 :19,20, gives us a glimpse of the subject of the Covenant in which God's will was expressed. "For it was the good pleasure of the Father that in Him should all the fullness dwell and thru Him to reconcile all things unto Himself, having made peace thru the blood of the cross thru Him * * * whether things in the heavens or things on the earth." It appears that there was some conditions in heaven that necessitated changing which only the blood of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world could effect. The word, "reconcile" as used in above citation, signifies "to remove entirely by changing conditions in harmony with, or in view of having a holy place for Himself and His saints."

Thus the CROSS was decreed in the eternal counsels of Deity, even before the world was made and man created as the basis of reconciliation of everything in God's universe that needed

such. There are various hints in Scripture that our little earth ball was created in anticipation of carrying out of these purposes concerning the Son, hence He is said to be the Primeval Cause of all creation. "For in Him were all things created...all things have been created by Him and for Him." Col. 1 :16,17—Diaglott.

Therefore the Cross of Calvary upon which, "the Lamb slain from the foundation of earth" must die, was decreed in the eternal counsel of God. Potentially the Lamb was already slain from that moment and has formed the basis of all the dealings of God with the later created things in heaven and earth. These all came into being because of the Eternal Covenant between the Father and the Son. The principle of the vicarious sacrifice of the cross was wrought in the very foundations of the earth upon which it was enacted and life out of death was made to penetrate all the laws of nature in man, beasts, birds and the vegetable kingdom. It is the absolute law of increase in which God Himself shared. Without the death of the Lamb, God could not have become the Father of a multitude. We continually see this law in operation put to work by the eternal counsel of God concerning the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"—Rev. 13:8.

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## **THE VISITOR-A DREAM**

I suppose I must have been dreaming, but the whole thing was so vivid that it is difficult for me even now to believe that it was only a dream. I was giving a missionary address at some large church filled with a well dressed and cultured congregation. After describing my work and the pressing need for extension and development, I was moved to do what I had never done before, and what I had certainly no intention of doing when I began my address. I asked the people to give as though they were putting the money, not into an alms dish or missionary box, but into the hand of Christ Himself. I remained standing in the pulpit watching the effect of my appeal upon the people. One or two faces bore a smile half amused, half contemptuous. A portly business man in the middle of the church shrugged his shoulders



contemptuously. I almost expected to see him rise and walk out. Some of the children looked wonderingly into their mothers' faces, as if asking whether Jesus would really take up the collection.

And then—and then—but how can I describe what I saw then? At the back of the Church stood the ushers with the plates. But they made no move towards the pews. At first I thought my remark must have offended them, and that they were refusing to take the collection. But then I saw, moving slowly along the pews at the back of the far aisle, a Figure clothed in some soft flowing robe. His Face was turned from me, but my soul knew its Lord. A great hush fell upon the people, and in the stillness I could hear Him say as He went from pew to pew, "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold. Them also I must bring." The Voice was low and tender, yet there was no sadness in it. It was the voice of one whose warfare is accomplished. As men heard it they bowed their heads and covered their faces. The only faces I could see in all the building were those of children here and there. As He passed from pew to pew, some kept their heads bowed and made no sign. Others placed their purses in His Hand, turning away their faces. A little child looked trustfully in His eyes, holding out her penny, and saying, "Please take my penny, dear Lord Jesus." The Saviour stooped and kissed her on the forehead. In one of the pews a young woman touched the outstretched hand of Jesus, whispering, "I give myself." So He passed along the top of the aisle ; and then, as He turned to go down the other side, I saw His Face for the first time. Then I, too, fell on my knees and covered my face crying in my heart, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." What happened as He went through the rest of the church I know not, nor how long the time was. When at length I uncovered my eyes He was standing beside the Altar, on which He laid the gifts. A moment later He turned and looked upon the people with their faces still hidden from Him. Then with upraised hands He blessed us all: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto me of the least of these My children, ye have done it unto Me." And so He passed from us. And bye-and-bye I awoke — and, lo - it was all a dream. Yet, was it a dream?

Picked up.



# ISAIAH 35

Gene Hawkins

*“And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.” V. 8*

31 The promises of this chapter are marvelous as they outline “the way of holiness,” awaiting Israel. It is the same message put forth by Habakkuk, which is the 35<sup>th</sup> book of the Bible and corresponds with this chapter. Herein the prophet announces: “For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” Hab. 2:14 Such glorious blessing is also declared in Ch. 3:12,13. “Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, even for salvation with thine anointed; thou woundedst the head out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Selah.” Habakkuk continues this same glorious theme in the next chapter declaring “Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.” Hab 3:18-19

All these are mighty promises of blessing for Israel, but Habakkuk, like unto Isaiah, is primarily concerned with the manifestation of God's holiness, as noted in chapter 1. “Art thou not from everlasting, O LORD my God, mine Holy One?....” Hab. 1:12 Similar language is found in chapters two and three. “But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.... God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.” Hab. 2:20 & 3:3

Thus Isaiah begins the glorious outlook for Israel, but it is based on their renewed relationship with a Holy God. “The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.” Israel, as a nation, looks longingly for this glorious state today, and some look at the great scientific strides they have made in various technologies to implement it. However, the productivity of the desert, brought about by the limited “water treatments,” implemented today,



is nothing in comparison with the massive changes that God will make for them when they finally turn to Him. Verse two asserts that “It shall blossom **abundantly**, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.” Men today can, in no wise, trumpet the success that God will bring forth here with “joy and singing,” as they finally “see the glory of the LORD,” and His excellent works in their behalf. He has accomplished the impossible on an unimaginable scale, but as Isaiah, Habakkuk, and other prophets all proclaim, God must do an astounding work IN this people before those natural blessings in a parched desert can come to pass. The mandatory path for Israel, and pattern for ourselves, follows immediately.

“Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.” V. 3 Those hands must be strengthened in The Lord, and indeed they will be, after Israel has been reduced to nothingness in order to bring them to repentance. They will know first hand the “feeble knees” of weakness, that they might discover the strength found only in their Messiah. God’s message to them will be plain at that time and they will be more than ready to hear it, for all other help will have forsaken them. “Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.” V. 4 The basis, or reason for this most pertinent message is found in Habakkuk’s message. “Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, even for salvation with thine anointed; thou woundedst the head out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Selah.” It means that God has devastated the enemies of Israel who have tried repeatedly, and incessantly, to annihilate them. When they finally develop that “weak kneed” condition, long enough to fall on their faces before Him, they will hear, loud and clear, this message which will completely eliminate their fears of destruction. They will see “first hand,” the “recompence” of God vehemently poured out upon their enemies, and those glorious blessing continue.

“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.” V. 5 These blind eyes actually reflect the overall condition of national Israel during this entire Church



Age as Paul explains in Rom. 11:25 “For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.” Both the eyes and ears of Israel shall be opened when “the fullness of the Gentiles,” that is this present Church Age, is completed. “Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.” V. 6 These are none other than the Millennial blessings which will follow, for the entire world, when the Nation of Israel is in her rightful place and Jesus has gained full control over the affairs of men ruling as King of kings and Lord of lords. The lame limbs, especially of Israel, will be loosed, and the mute tongue of unbelief and rebellion, set free to proclaim the message of God’s salvation to all the nations. The “waters....and streams in the desert will be both spiritual and natural for the abundant blessings of both, will be fully manifest.

33

“And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.” This glorious new condition, for the aforementioned desert, will include a complete reversal of the damage done heretofore. The “parched ground,” which, as we are told here, was “in the habitation of dragons,” that is, under the Satanic powers of destruction, shall now become fruitful because this arch foe will be bound for 1,000 years. Rev. 20:2 Israel, as a nation, will finally discover the same well which Jesus unveiled before the woman of Samaria in John 4:14.

This unprecedented restoration continues as “....an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.” V. 8 This is a beautiful description of Israel as a New Creation In Christ Jesus! This will be a way of life in the millennium! Their “way” will be a “highway of holiness,” because of the new birth and their practical walk in the power of it. We also notice those things which will be missing, for “the unclean shall not pass over it.” It is the same today. “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” John 3:6 Though the flesh will still be present in that day, Satan will be bound and unable to “stir it up.” Thus, the holiness of God, through



the new life of Christ given unto men, will rule supreme, and “the unclean,” the Adamic nature with which all men are born, “shall not pass over it.” The “it” here is a reference to that same holy highway, and “it shall be for those,” that is, those who have experienced God’s holiness. Furthermore, “the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.” Wayfaring men signifies those who would “walk along, to and fro, or to wander,” with no real purpose or direction. These are restricted from this “highway of holiness,” and these are further designated as “fools.” That word means “silly,” and seems to reflect the image of Israel heretofore. “Ephraim also is like a silly dove without heart: they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria.” Hos. 7:11 Israel will yet go to the nations for help, and that is absolutely foolish in the eyes of God. Therefore, under God’s new order, such attitudes will not be permitted, for those fools, “shall not err therein, again, they shall not enter in to this grand highway.

No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there:” V. 9 The prophet is still enlarging on the “highway of holiness,” and as noted above, again emphasizes, in rather poetic language that Satan, the lion, and all his host, have been ousted from the millennial economy. It will truly be a day of utopia, when all those satanic beasts will not be found for only “the redeemed shall walk,” in that glorious superhighway “of holiness.” “And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” V. 10 Israel will finally learn the lesson that they are truly the “ransomed of the LORD,” a ransom which was paid at Calvary. We understand that such a price included the entire world, but it will be Israel, especially, who “come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads....” This people, which has been “scattered and peeled,” will at last accept their Messiah and claim their own beloved city, which, even at this present hour, is in turmoil. Their songs will be those of redemption and restoration, and we know, from other accounts in scripture, that they will most assuredly lead the rest of the nations, in gaining access unto the “highway of holiness” which they have finally discovered by experience.





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