

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole Counsel of GOD

Without Price Since 1910

'Loving his Appearing'

Volume 103

January 2016

Number 1



For by me thy
days shall be
multiplied, and
the years of
thy life shall be
increased.
PROVERBS 9:11

Table of Contents

<u>Article</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Page</u>
Definite Sign Post of the End	Gene Hawkins	3
Defenders of the Faith	Morgan LeFay	11
Heavenly Dynamite.....	Dudley S. Bowden.....	17
Waiting for Him.....	A.S. Copley.....	20
Isaiah (book section).....	Gene Hawkins.....	32

A FOURTH IN THE MIDST



I SEE FOUR MEN LOOSE, WALKING IN THE MIDST OF THE FIRE, AND THEY HAVE NO 'HURT; AND THE FORM OF THE FOURTH IS LIKE THE SON OF GOD. DANIEL 3:25

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

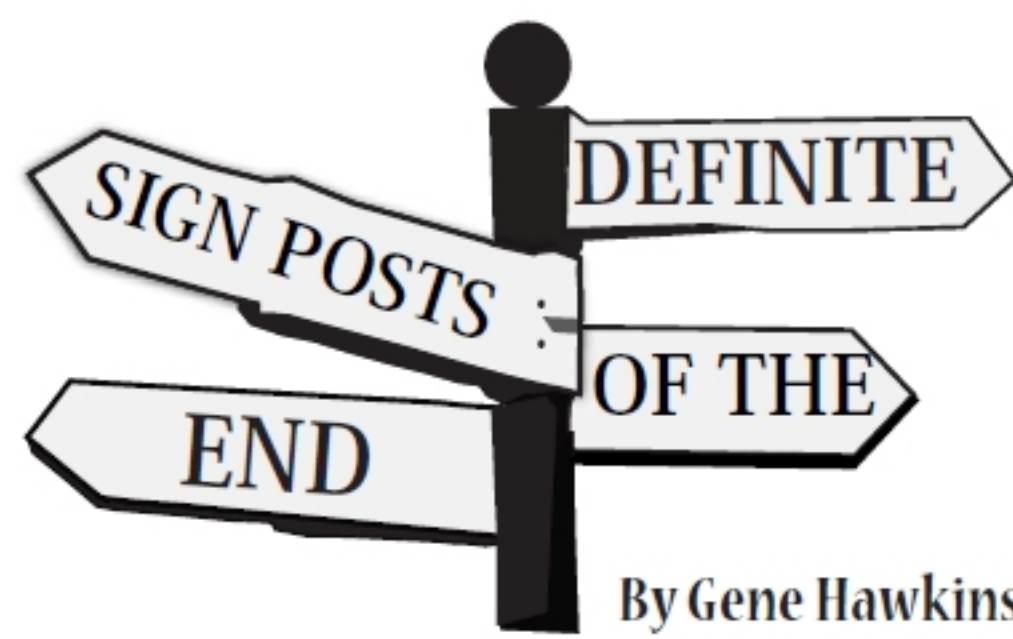
PERIODICALS postage is paid at Grandview, Missouri.

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

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

Web site: www.gracegod.org/ gracegod.com. Bible lessons and audio sermons are downloadable.

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



“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matt. 24:37

“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth,... And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth;... for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.” Gen. 6:5-8

“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet;... These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings:...” Rev. 7:12-14

3 **W**e are now living in the days like unto those of Noah! They are identified by wickedness, corruption, violence, and the unbelievable evil imaginations couched within the heart of wicked men. All these characteristics and many more, are abundantly manifest in our day and will get progressively worse as time marches on.

The recent terrorist attack in San Bernadino, Calif. literally touched off a firestorm of political issues from gun control, to terrorism, to immigration, to religious discrimination, and invasion of privacy. The shooting had not even stopped when some politicians were screaming for more gun control, insisting that more stringent laws would prevent such a massacre. Others assert that all we need to do is enforce gun laws which are presently on the books. Neither of these options would, in any way, eliminate the 12 pipe bombs found in the possession of the terrorists. It is abundantly clear that, in our day, such a weapon could be detonated regardless of whether guns were employed or not, and officials know full well that ISIS and other terrorist organizations have published instructions for making such bombs extremely accessible just by consulting the internet. Daniel’s prophecy surely comes to the fore in this matter. “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, **even to the time of the end:** many shall run to and fro, and **knowledge shall be increased.**” Dan. 12:4

The increase of knowledge in our day is astounding, and while there have been many wonderful discoveries very beneficial to mankind, it is also abundantly clear that, like the days of Noah "... every imagination of the thoughts...." of man's heart "... is only evil continually." The vast reservoir of technology is a tool used daily in facilitating evil. Experts are baffled by the very sophisticated encrypted technology used by terrorists to publish their evil messages, around the world, without even the slightest hint of detection. It is also no secret that terrorist groups like ISIL employ it to literally recruit and radicalize potential converts to Islam, around the world, as demonstrated by the San Bernadino couple. The worrisome difficulty here is that the husband, "Syed Rizwan Farook", was an American citizen. The Islamic state issued a statement following this carnage declaring that the two were "soldiers" who were "killed in the path of Allah."

We would repeat that the problem is not in the technology, or gun control, but rather in the evil imaginations which emanate from a wicked heart of unbelief, the essence of which, is a blatant denial of God! It is an ongoing battle as "These shall make war with the Lamb...."

4

Some were also extremely unwilling to label the San Bernadino incident "terrorism," choosing instead to consider the possibility of "work place violence," despite the fact that both terrorists were clad in body armor, and armed with assault rifles fully expecting armed retaliation. Ours is a day of "political correctness," and men will do everything in their power to maintain control of their own political agendas. However, if men are not willing to face reality and truth, God can do nothing to deliver them. This is the sad state of the entire world. Men simply will not recognize the Authority of God, and insist on solving world problems on their own, but "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion." Psa. 2:4-6 God's King Jesus, is coming to set up His Kingdom, and when He is enthroned, all rulers of this earth will be ruling in usurpation. They will not willingly lay down their arms, and He will take that which belongs to Him by force, pouring out "... his wrath..." of the tribulation and vexing "... them in his sore displeasure," because of their continuing unbelief.

The first day of tribulation has not come as yet, but unbelief and rebellion against God have been in evidence for quite some time. This current time period, known in scripture as “the beginning of sorrows,” will give way to the unprecedented devastation described in Revelation and other portions of God’s Word. The recent attack in San Bernadino was the worst terrorist attack since Sept. 11, 2001 when America “lost her innocence and naïveté” forcing her to realize that she could no longer be distinguished as a haven of safety in this modern world. It was a rude awakening that she too was now vulnerable to the wickedness of these last days. Currently the fear of the unknown, initiated on 9/11, has been replaced with tremendous concern about ISIS infiltrating this country by using the newly implemented Syrian Refugee Program. That ploy has already been confirmed in Austria, France, and Germany. Such concern over “legal entry” into this country is also well founded due to the fact, that the murderous wife in the San Bernadino killings was a radicalized Islamic jihadist from Pakistan. However, Tashfeen Malik entered this country legally by obtaining a “Fiancé Visa” and had been completely undetected as a terrorist. It is also noteworthy that the Boston Marathon bombers had also beat the system, even though American officials had been warned about them.

Our way of life has been completely changed since 2001, and recent news stories regarding even the possibility of a terror attack demonstrate the fact that men are gripped by fear in these last days. One school superintendent in the Los Angeles area just sixty miles from San Bernadino, decided to close the entire system for a day due to an e-mail bomb threat. Some ridiculed him for “overreacting,” but such things simply amplify the fact that the “perilous times,” prophesied by God’s Word, have become “the norm,” in our day and are here to stay.

San Bernadino also rekindled the great religion controversy noted above. Defenders of Islam insist that their Muslim religion has been hi-jacked, and precious few are even willing to admit that these terrorists get their incentive and motivation directly from the Quran, the central religious text of Islam. That religion is promoted as “peaceful,” despite the ungodly and violent demands of Sharia law, but some Islamists who have converted to Christianity argue that, the “holy book” of Islam most assuredly does contain specific portions demanding violent reprisals against

the “infidel” who will not bow to Allah.

Scripture is very clear, as noted in the December 2015 “Signposts” that, the modern day terrorist attacks are rooted in a religious war waged against “The Lamb.” “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings:...” Rev. 17:14 We would quickly point out that The Bible is also filled with promises of judgment against ungodly men, as is evidenced by the opening texts of this article. However, one great difference in the teachings of the Quran and God’s Word is summed up in Paul’s exhortation to the Romans. “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, **Vengeance is mine; I will repay**, saith the Lord.” Rom. 12:19 Never did God ordain that men should fight His battle and pour out vengeance on His enemies. He most assuredly has defended His Own People, and has used, and empowered them as His armies to that end, but so many of those battles include supernatural intervention. He “... fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.” Jud. 5:20 He guided the stone from the sling of an insignificant shepherd boy to fell a mighty giant of the Philistines, thus sending an entire army on the run. He used a very unlikely and untrained band of 300 men, armed only with trumpets, lamps, and pitchers, to defeat a large force of Midianites. Jud. 7 His supernatural power was gloriously demonstrated in the heat of that battle as “...the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow,...” Jud. 7:22 It was also the LORD Who “... went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.” II Kings 19:35 God’s decree still holds true today that, “**To me belongeth vengeance**, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time:...” Deut. 32:35

6

The current battle against ISIS is very much reminiscent of Elijah’s battle against the prophets of Baal, where he too exhorted the enemy to let their god fight his own battle even as God does. The prophet would probably be very much condemned by the politically correct crowd of our day, but God Himself both ordered the events of I Kings 18, and confirmed His approval of this godly man. It was God Who challenged these ungodly men to prove their case with a demonstration of supernatural power, and the prophets of Baal were unable to meet the test. Elijah mocked

“their religion” after their god did not answer them, exhorting them to “... Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.” I Kings 18:27 Those men were also driven by religious zeal to sacrifice themselves as “...they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.” V. 28 The spirit of antichrist, seen in these zealots, has now escalated to Islamic suicide bombers willing to sacrifice their very lives for the cause of Allah, but the Satanic spirit of destruction driving them remains unchanged from the time of Elijah.

God fought His Own battle in Elijah’s day as the prophet cried out, “Hear me, O LORD, hear me,... Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.” I Kings 18:37 -38

7 Leaders around the world have vowed to stop ISIS, but we have heard no head of state or any politician following the pattern of Elijah, crying out to The LORD for His Wisdom in dealing with this ungodly enemy. We rather conclude that men will fight their own battles, and trust their own power and might. CNN published this rather unlikely headline recently after the terrorist Islam State had downed a Russian airliner and later carried out the attack in France. “ISIS brings Putin, Obama together.” The well known points of contention between these two world leaders, has primarily been over Ukraine and Syrian Pres. Assad. Putin wanted him in power, Mr. Obama wanted him out. Inforwars.com also ran this headline. “OBAMA CONCEDES TO PUTIN AFTER NATO’S SUPPORT OF ISIS EXPOSED” The story following explains that, “The Obama administration is no longer publicly asking for “regime change” in Syria after multiple new reports revealed how NATO and its allies have spent years supporting Islamic jihadists to try and topple the Syrian president Bashar al-Assad.”

The CNN report continues: “Antalya, Turkey (CNN)—Russia pummeled ISIS sites in Syria Tuesday, including targeting the terror organization's self-proclaimed capital city of Raqqa and deploying dozens of cruise missiles. The assault was just the latest sign that the strained and at times hostile relationship between the U.S. and Russia might now be thawing as antagonism gives way to common interests.”

That common interest is, as indicated by these news

reports, ISIS; and France, The U.S., Russia, Iraq, Turkey, and Syria all have that same interest. ISIS is absolutely determined to assert its control over this entire area, and one of the major points of interest is oil.

The report from infowars.com quotes the leaders of Czechoslovakia and Iraq as they outline their own concerns about ISIS. “Czech Pres. Milos Zeman recently stated that, ‘Turkey is friendly to the Islamic State... and removes oil from Syria which finances the Islamic State.’ Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Abadi said nearly the exact same thing. ‘[Turkey] promised us that they would stop the entry of terrorists from Turkey into Syria and into Iraq. Also the stopping of the smuggling of petrol from Syria and Iraq and the financing of Daesh [the Arabic name for Islam State] in a general sense through this illegal trade.’ And Russia presented evidence of Turkey’s theft of oil from Syria using thousands of oil tankers operating on three major smuggling routes into Turkey.”

The opinion and conclusion of the CNN writers is that, “There is no easy military answer to the war on ISIS.” We would, in light of Scripture, very heartily agree with that assessment. 8 Though the “common interest” of all these world leaders is to destroy this ungodly terrorist regime, God’s Word is very plain that these ten kings, whom we most assuredly believe to be terrorist organizations like ISIS, Al-Qaeda, Hezbollah, The Palestinians, Hamas, and countless other Islamic factions operating almost unfettered in the Middle East, will remain till they are destroyed by The Lamb in the battle of Armageddon. However, none of the nations seem to know that, as they go about employing their own power and wisdom to banish ISIS from the face of the earth.

Where is Elijah when you need him? The answer is that, he is indeed on the way! Elijah of the end time will be known as “the two witnesses.” They will have exactly the same type of ministry demonstrated by both Elijah and John the Baptist who “... shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, ... to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Luke 1:17 Like John, the ministry of the two witnesses will be preparatory to the return of Jesus as King, but the power bestowed upon them will be much more intense and destructive. “And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.... And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their

enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.” Re 11:3-7

Whether these two witnesses are two men or two groups of people, we are not told, but they will not execute judgment due to their own initiative as do the aforementioned jihadists. They will rather, like Elijah, be empowered with God’s Supernatural demonstration of power from heaven, once again asserting that “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”

9

Jesus very graphically outlines the overall atmosphere described throughout this article in Luke 21, but He very quickly exhorted: “... when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, (instability, disorder, confusion) be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.” V. 9 We, as Christians fully anticipating the soon coming of Jesus, must not be consumed with, nor controlled by, fear due to all the violence, wickedness, and horrendous upheaval of the perilous and dangerous times prophesied for these last days. John tells us that “... fear hath torment.” However, “... perfect love casteth out fear:...” I John 4:18 It is absolutely imperative that we fully embrace Jesus’ admonition here in Luke. “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 This is actually a direct reference to the days in which we are now living, the time of which The Master described in Matt. 24:8 as the “... **beginning** of sorrows.” Let us understand that this period is simply the very gateway to our deliverance out of this world. Thus, rejoicing, rather than fear, must control and motivate our lives. John also declares: “...He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.” I John 4:18-19 Verse 17 of this same chapter also loudly shouts that, rather than fear, love will give us “... boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.”

The apostle Paul likewise preaches boldness, in the day of judgment, a message of deliverance because of love. “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord,

the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” II Tim. 4:8 Love must be the key to our lives in these last days. It is not simply a casual “affection,” for Him Who died for us, but rather an intense longing for Jesus’ appearance whereby those “... that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation!” Heb. 9:28

LIFE’S BOOK

Life’s book is quickly filling,
Another year is flown;
A record of our service
Is on its pages shown.
Our victories and failures,
The moments spent in prayer;
The chances we’ve neglected,
All plainly written there.

10

Our years are quickly flying,
They are as passing showers;
And meanwhile in life’s garden
Are growing weeds and flowers.
Our every act is building,
A structure false or true;
Oh, let us then be faithful
In all we say and do.

The pages we are turning,
The record that we write,
Is forecast of the future,
Eternal day or night.
Let us our chances value,
By using every one;
And when shall come the -reck’ning,
Well’ hear our Lord’s “Well done!”

---Selected

Defenders of the Faith

Ethel Cooper

“Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.” Phil. 1:7

11 This was a very precious assembly at Philippi. There was not a doubt in Paul's heart as to their love for him; and the truth he had proclaimed to them, deepened their appreciation more than ever for him, now that he was in bonds. Philippi means, "lover of the race." They were not running on, thoughtless of the one who had given to them the word, but were one with him in his bonds, and in the confirmation of the Gospel. They stood firmly at all times in the defense of the truth. Paul said that there were some who preached Christ of envy and strife, hoping to add afflictions to his bonds; some of contention and not sincerely, some of good will and love, knowing that he was set for the defense of the Gospel. To have forsaken Paul at this crucial time, would have been taking sides with his opponents, who thought he rightfully deserved to be in bonds. These saints could have let down as many do, and the tension would have been eased for them. But as defenders of the faith, they stood firmly for this beloved messenger and the message he had brought to them out of a heart of unselfish sacrifice and love.

Oh, how his heart longed for these saints. He wanted to see them, and feel the warmth of their fellowship. No doubt there were times of loneliness and the feeling of separation crept over him; for he said, "I long after you all in the bowels (or deep yearning) in Jesus Christ." It was not a pleasant experience to be surrounded by four old musty prison walls, nor the thoughts of the angry mob that had railed against him, though he was innocent of all their lies. His only objective was to lift up Christ, and bring blessing down to others. It means a lot more to stand for the defense of the Gospel than most people think. There will be foes that will arise against you, both from within and without. Paul warned the saints at Ephesus that after his departure grievous wolves

would enter in among them, not sparing the flock. And also from their own midst would men arise; speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. He told them to watch, and remember, how he had warned them night and day with tears. Paul was a true shepherd. There is a vast difference between a shepherd and a wolf. A wolf will scatter and devour the sheep, while a shepherd seeks only the good of the flock; and seeks to keep them together under his watchful care continually. Paul was a real father, too. He said on one occasion, "You have many instructors; but few fathers." A father feels a deep responsibility for his children from their birth until they are matured and ready to care for themselves. An instructor can give good advice at times, and perhaps be helpful; but like James tells of the one who says to another, Be thou clothed and fed, without doing anything about trying to help him, his advice is not of much use. And we thank God for spiritual leaders who like Paul, have laid down their lives for the sheep, and have proved their love by providing and caring for them. They are often unappreciated by some and hated by others; but if they are faithful to their charge, when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, they will appear also with Him in glory. Thank God, our reward comes later. 12

The message and the messenger seems to go somewhat together. To reject one is to reject the other. Paul said to his son in the faith, Timothy, "Be not therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner, but be thou a partaker of the afflictions of the Gospel." II Tim. 1:8 A lot of folks like the glory and will go along just fine as long as it lasts, but when there is some shame or reproach to bear, they seem to vanish into thin air. Paul knew what it meant to be alone. He said on one occasion, that all those in Asia had forsaken him. There is a shame in cross-bearing. In Heb. 12:2, we read that even Christ endured the cross. He did not enjoy it; and despised the shame. Why did He bear it then? The Scripture tells us it was for the joy that was ahead.

We are defenseless, dependent creatures as to our own strength; but as we draw on the Lord and the strength of His might, we are mighty conquerors through Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. And even though, some of us are growing

old as to the natural, we feel as able to go against the enemy as Caleb, who had reached the ripe old age of eighty-five years. He felt plenty able to go against the foe and not only take what belonged to him, but to dislodge the enemy, so that others could go in and enjoy their inheritance. As overcomers, we run, we fight, stand and withstand against all the power of evil, looking constantly unto Jesus Who is the Author and the Finisher of our faith, knowing that He that hath begun a good work in us, will fulfill it until the day of Jesus Christ. We are marching onward, looking upward, living in the Spirit and watching for the coming of the Lord, Who will change these bodies of humiliation and fashion them like unto His own glorious body. We can say with Paul that we are set for the defense of this Gospel.

Perhaps This Year

It may be that during this year we shall see the King in His beauty, caught up to meet Him, the longing of our hearts fulfilled at last! Is it too much to desire that when we see our Wonderful Lord in His glory, when trials, toils, and sacrifices are all at an end, is it too much to desire that He would say something like this: "Thy love to Me was wonderful?" II Sam. 1:26 It will make all seem as nothing to hear such words from the Saviour, and to hear Him say to the one who has sought to be faithful to Him at all costs, "Well done. You were never popular on earth, and no one knew much about you. The life you lived to My glory in your quiet sphere of duty seemed to be wasted, and your sacrifice and denial, worthless in the estimation of those who knew it, but your love to Me was wonderful. Men said you made mistakes, and were narrow minded, and did not catch the spirit of the age. They thought you were a fanatic and called you so. Men crucified you as they crucified Me. But, Oh: Your love to Me was wonderful. Well done!"

Selected

A TRUE STORY

DURING my military service in India, in those stirring times of mutiny and murder, I had in my regiment a little bugler who was too weak and delicate for the life he had to lead; but he was born in the regiment, his father had been killed in action, and then his mother drooped and died. After his mother died his life was made miserable by the scoffing sneers and ribald jokes of the men, whose butt he was.

When little Willie Holt was fourteen years old, the regiment was bivouacking some miles from camp for rifle practice. I had intended leaving the lad behind, but my sergeant-major begged hard to "take him along." "There is mischief in the air, Colonel," he said; "and, rough as they treat the lad, his pluck and his patience tell on 'em; for the boy is a saint, sir; he is, indeed." I had a rough lot of recruits just then. Before we had been out a fortnight several acts of insubordination had been brought to my notice, and I had pledged to make an example of the very next offense by having the culprit flogged. One night targets were thrown down and otherwise mutilated. On investigation, the act was traced to occupants of the very tent where Willie Holt was camped.

In vain I appealed to them to produce the man, and at last I said: "If any one of you who slept in number four tent last night will come forward and take his punishment like a man, the rest will get off free; but if not, there remains no alternative but to punish you all, each in turn to receive ten strokes of the cat." For the space of a couple of minutes, dead silence followed; then, from the midst of the prisoners, where his slight form had been completely hidden, Willie Holt came forward. "Colonel," said he, "you have passed your word that if any one of those who slept in number four tent last night comes forward to take his punishment, the rest shall get off free. I am ready sir; please, may I take it now?"

For a moment I was speechless, so utterly was I taken by surprise; then, in a fury of anger and disgust, I turned upon the prisoners: "Is there no man among you worthy of the name? Are you all cowards enough to let this lad suffer for your sins? For that he is guiltless you know as well as I." But sullen and silent they stood, with never a word. Then I turned to the boy, whose pleading eyes were fixed on me, and never in all my life have I found myself so painfully situated. I knew my word

must stand, and the lad knew it, too, as he repeated, "I am ready, sir." Sick at heart, I gave the order, and he was led away for punishment. Bravely he stood with bared back, as one, two, three strokes descended. At the fourth a faint moan escaped his white lips; but ere the fifth fell a hoarse cry burst from the crowd of prisoners who had been forced to witness the scene, and with one bound Jim Sykes — the black sheep of the regiment — seized the cat, as with choking utterance he shouted: "Stop it, Colonel, stop it, and tie me up instead! He never did it, but I did:" and with convulsed and anguished face he flung his arms around the boy. Fainting, and almost speechless, Willie lifted his eyes to the man's face and smiled -- such a smile! "No, Jim," he whispered, "you are safe now, the Colonel's word will stand." Then his head fell forward—he had fainted.

The next day I visited the hospital tent where the boy lay dying. The shock had been too much for his feeble strength. He lay propped up on the pillows; and at his side half kneeling, half crouching, was Jim Sykes. I saw the drops of sweat standing on his brow as he muttered brokenly: "Why did ye do it lad? Why did ye do it?" "Because I wanted to take it for you, Jim," Willie's weak voice answered tenderly. "I thought it might help you to understand why Christ died for you." "Christ died for me?" the man repeated.

"Yes, He died for you because He loved you. I love you, Jim, but Christ loves you much more. I only suffered for one sin, but Christ took the punishment for all the sins you have ever committed. The penalty was death, Jim, and Christ died for you." "Christ has naught to do with such as me lad; I'm one of the bad uns; you ought to know." "But He died to save bad ones," answered Willie. "After you have sinned against Him He loves you so much that He came all the way from Heaven, and suffered and died in your place, and now He is calling you. He wants to cleanse you from every stain of sin and make you fit for His presence. He wants you to live with Him in glory. He was wounded for your transgressions. He was bruised for your iniquities, the chastisement of your peace was upon Him. How can you resist such love as that? "He says: 'He that heareth My Word and believeth on Him that sent Me hath everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but is passed from death unto life. Won't you receive Him now?"

The lad's voice failed him, but he laid his hand gently on the man's bowed head. After a little while we saw a strange light in his dying eyes, and with a happy cry he flung out his hands as if in welcome. Then gradually the weak arms dropped; the light faded from the shining eyes; and his spirit passed over from earth to heaven.

—Selected.

(Reprint 1947)

Thou Art Everything To Me

*Jesus, Thou art more to me
Than I could have dreamed of Thee —
Thou art ransom and release
Thou art life and joy and peace,
Hope of endless life to be —
Thou art ev'rything to me!*

*Strength when all my strength is gone,
Mighty Arm to lean upon,
Comradeship along the way,
Guidance, lest my feet should stray —
Ev'rything I find in Thee,
Thou art ev'rything to me!*

*Present help to lift and share
Burdens I could never bear,
Cheering pain and sorrow's night
With Thy never-failing light —
Life were nothing without Thee,
Thou art ev'rything to me!*

*Thinking of the days to be —
What lies hidden there from me —
Courage might forsake my heart
Did I think from "Thee apart —
But I'm not afraid with Thee
Who art ev'rything to me.*

Heavenly DYNAMITE

Dudley S. Bowden

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” Rom. 1:16

"The Gospel of Christ is the Dynamite of God" — such is the force of the Greek word for power. Dynamite is dynamite wherever and whenever you may have it. The Gospel of Christ is everlasting. It does not change. Dynamite is always highly explosive. You have to know something about it for yourself before you can be a fit person to use it. Its use produces extraordinary results.

The Gospel preached by the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven produces sensational results — dynamite always does, and can do no other! The Lord Jesus preached the Gospel and the people were amazed, and wanted to know what new doctrine it was. The Epicurian and Stoic philosophers at Athens made a similar demand to Paul. The Scribes and Pharisees were compelled to own that they had seen strange things, even the world being turned upside down! The impact upon ordinary people was stupendous. Thousands were born again. Men of all nations and creeds were regenerated. Champions of antichrists became the Firebrands of the Lord Jesus Christ. These new creatures received supernatural power from heaven — even the filling with the Holy Ghost with signs following. Hallelujah! Diseased bodies too were made completely whole in the almighty name of Jesus. Great and mighty things happened when the Gospel was preached with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven. Similar things will continue to happen when men of God, filled with Holy Ghost, preach the Gospel of the Grace and Glory of God today, with a mighty anointing of the Holy Ghost. The unction of the Holy Ghost and that alone will ensure this.

"So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My Mouth: it shall not return unto Me void; but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it." Isa. 55:11.

REFLECTIONS

REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

“And of Benjamin he said, The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by him; and the LORD shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders.” Deut. 33:12

The blessing of Benjamin, “the son of my right hand,” is a glorious one and we too may lay claim to it, if we are willing to choose God’s ordained plan outlined in Rom. 8:17 “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.” Benjamin was the son of Jacob, his mother being Rachel who died after giving birth to him. His brother Joseph is the most complete type of Christ found in scripture, and especially portrays Him as the Son of suffering. Benjamin, on the other hand, speaks loudly of the resurrected Christ, sitting at the right hand of the Father.

Blessings beyond our imaginations are awaiting this choice company, which chooses to follow the above path of suffering, but the good news is that those benefits begin even now, the chief of which is, “... the LORD shall cover him all the day long....” What a glorious promise with which to start this new year in view of the tremendous danger, and chaos surrounding God’s people. We can be covered “... all the day long,...” and that means our entire “life day.” We may discover such safety because we too “... dwell between his shoulders.” Psalms 4:8 tells the same comforting story. “I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, **only** makest me dwell in safety.” It is the LORD Who literally creates such an atmosphere, regardless of the destructive climate permeating this present world. Psalm 34 likewise testifies that, “The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.” V. 15 We dwell in safety because the Eyes and Ears of the LORD are always at the ready. There is nothing that escapes Him, for His vigil is constant in covering us “...all the day long,” and He will never be taken unawares.

Many have discovered this tremendous path of safety. Hannah learned by experience that “He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.” I Sam. 2:9 She was a barren woman, and

had experienced horrendous persecution because of it, but God kept her regardless and she became the mother of one of the most influential shepherds in Israel's history. The word "keep" in this verse means "to hedge about (as with thorns), i.e. guard; to protect." The same hedge that keeps us in, even like unto a prisoner, keeps the enemy out! Jesus likewise prayed in John 17, "...keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me,..." V. 11 This text also portrays One Who will "keep" or "guard (from loss or injury, by keeping the eye upon." His eyes are constantly over the righteous throughout our entire life day, and Peter tells us that He knows how to protect His Own, while at the same time meting out judgment on the wicked. "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:" II Pet. 2:9

19 So let us accept the required cost of suffering, and take our places, as those who have claimed this choice position at the right hand of God, where we, like Benjamin, may discover the indescribable joy, peace, and safety of being covered "... all the day long,..." dwelling constantly in His strength "...between his shoulders."

GH

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LAST CALL FOR THE:

*President's Day Weekend Convention
Living Waters Tabernacle
February 12-14, 2016*

Come join like-minded saints for a time of fellowship and encouragement in the things of eternity during this annual gathering in Denver, Colorado. Sermons, studies, and plenty of food will be provided throughout the weekend. You won't want to miss it - you'll be refreshed in the Lord!

Please contact Sis. Polly O'Dorisio for further information on the services. Tel. 303-594-0933; e-mail: pollyodorisio@gmail.com

WAITING FOR HIM

A.S. Copley

“The chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of His preparation, and the fir trees shall be terribly shaken.” Nahum 2:3.

We may not know the duration of the days of our Lord's preparation for His return; but those days will have an end. Full preparation will be made. A waiting time follows the preparation. What a solemn and important period.

Noah was a long time building the ark; but he built it and finished it. "Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he" - Genesis 6:22. We refer to his day, because our Lord did so. Lk. 17:26 "As it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man." Noah did not know the exact day when the flood should come. Doubtless the great ship was completed, and he was waiting, waiting, waiting. Finally, God said to him, "For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and nights." The last of those seven days expired. The promised rain began to pour. Likewise, our waiting time will be over. Our Bridegroom will call us hence. Blessed hope!

There was a period of preparation for the overthrow of Nineveh. The Lord had to prepare His servant. At first, he was disobedient and ran away from duty. But God conquered him by means of a severe chastisement. Usually it is easier to proclaim grace, or mercy, than judgment. Nevertheless, Jonah yielded, and we hear him preaching the message that God bid him, even exclaiming, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown." Jon. 3:4 But when Jehovah made his message effective, and the city repented, the prophet became angry. Evidently he was not a grace preacher. He was displeased that God did not fulfill his prophecy. So if the nations today would heed the many warnings given to them

through God's servants by the Word, He would relent and pardon them, and the judgment would never come. But we know it will come. And we are only waiting for the trumpet to summons us home before the judgment begins, that we may "escape these things" that are coming upon the earth. Hallelujah for the hope, while only waiting.

At the first advent of Jesus, some were looking for redemption in Israel. Among them was Simeon, a tried and true saint of many years, to whom it was revealed by the Holy Spirit, "that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ." Lk. 2:26 It was a period of the Lord's preparation. Simeon was fully prepared and waiting. We read not of him doing anything but "waiting for the consolation of Israel." Doubtless he was occupying at his usual task; for "the Holy Ghost was upon him." Evidently he was proclaiming the soon advent of the Anointed One, relating the revelation he had received. He must have been praying also that others might be prepared to receive Him; but his chief business was to wait for the fulfillment of the promise. Only waiting, not knowing the precise day and hour. Our chief occupation now is to WAIT; not anxiously, but patiently; not indifferently, but rejoicing in hope. Only waiting. As surely as Simeon saw the Holy Babe in Its mother's arms, so shall we see and meet Him in the air. Only waiting.

Anna, a prophetess of the tribe of Aser, eighty-four years old, also was looking for the Messiah. Her faith in His advent in her time was evidently so keen, that it amounted to knowledge and assurance. Hence, she clung to life till He should arrive. She "served God with fastings and prayers night and day" - an illustration of how we may be occupied till He comes again. Forty-eight days after the birth of Jesus, Mary brought Him to the temple in Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. Anna "coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of Him to all them

that looked for redemption in Jerusalem." Lk. 2:38. She rejoiced with exceeding great joy. She had waited a long time, but not in vain. She assured her listeners, that that child was the Promised One, "the Consolation of Israel." Only waiting, was her chief concern and task. That prophetess was many years in being prepared for the greatest event up to that hour. We are waiting for the greatest of all events, the soon coming of our glorious Bridegroom. Only waiting.

Be it remembered, that the Promised One was in their midst for nearly seven weeks, before Simeon and Anna knew about it. Of course the time is nearer than when we first believed. Likewise, our Lord will suddenly come and catch the Simeons and Annas away, and others will not be aware of it till the shouts of the first rank will reverberate in the blazing corridors on high. Oh, to be waiting - waiting for that glorious day. 22

PAUL'S TESTIMONY

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." II Timothy 4:6,7 For thirty years or more, the Apostle was in preparation for his departure to heaven. After walking in the light seriously, and running rapidly and hopefully for the Prize; after toiling arduously and suffering severely, he finally obtained the assurance that he was fully prepared. The Judge had passed upon his case. He had done the perfect will of God. Now he was only waiting. Writing this epistle was his last act upon the stage. Only waiting. He knew that he was going, though the exact day and hour were not revealed to him; at least he does not indicate them. They could not be far removed, for he said to Timothy, "Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me. Do thy diligence to come before winter." II Tim. 4:9,21. I am only waiting; but must see you before I go to be with my Lord.

Should we expect anything less? Should we not count on a full preparation for Christ's advent, since it is "the day of His preparation?" And should we not expect to have the Judge pass on us also, and assure us of being ready? James agrees with this, saying, "Behold, the Judge standeth before the door." Jas. 5:9. He is surely passing examination upon His people, and assigning them to their respective classes - a solemn truth, as one said a few years ago.

"The saints are finding their ranks." Paul was sure of the crown, which should be given to him by "the Lord, the righteous Judge." He had the assurance also that the crown should be given to "all them also that love His appearing;" for all should receive righteous judgment. The Judge knows who actually, with a whole heart, loves Christ's appearing more than they love anything else - more than any person, place, or prospect.

23

Some saints have such a fervent love for the Bridegroom to come, that they are cut loose from all else. Their chief concern is to be prepared, being fully persuaded that we are in "the day of His preparation." Their occupation is only waiting. All other things that they do are secondary. Like the roofer, half way up the ladder, who dropped a bunch of shingles the moment the dinner bell began to ring; they are ready for ascension at any moment. There is nothing to fix up; nothing to improve; no plan to carry out; no unfinished business; no wrongs to make right. Only waiting for one object --- waiting till He come. Many things may not be wrong, indeed they may be the perfect will of God at other times; but they cannot come in between us and the "blessed hope." This is just what the Apostle means about marriage, in I Cor. 7:27-35. He says, "But I spare you... the time is short... I would have you without carefulness... that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction."

How marvelous are Paul's words in II Tim. 4, cited above. He barely admits a space between his departure and Christ's coming, saying that a crown

is "laid up." Though he knew that the executioner's block was waiting for him, he was taken up with the fact of his Lord's return. That blessed hope took the sting out of the manner of his demise. He was only waiting. He had preached his last sermon. He had made his final evangelistic tour. He had given his last lesson of instruction. He was then writing his final letter, and was about to have his last visit with his dear son Timothy. Only waiting --- rejoicing over the seed sown, and the work wrought, in the power of the Spirit; rejoicing over a life spent in God's will, and rejoicing in hope of the glory of God to be revealed at the marriage supper of the Lamb, and his eternal union and reign with Christ. Only waiting.

The Thessalonian saints "turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for His Son from heaven." I Thess. 1:9,10. The spirit and motive of waiting for Jesus tempered their service, making it keen and living. Nothing more effectively purifies one's daily life, than the desire and hope of the coming of Jesus. I John 3:3 Perfect love controlled them. Their faith was that which worketh by love, inspired by the hope of Christ's return. Hence, the Apostle commended them for their "work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father." I Thess. 1:3. Waiting for the Lord to come was their chief concern, their chief occupation. It fired them to win sinners to Christ, and to build up younger believers. It mellowed them and kept down strife. It offset envy, criticism, and bitterness. Only waiting - not drowsily, not indifferently, not theoretically; but wide awake, fervently, really.

THE WAITING CHURCH

Who are only waiting today? The Philadelphia assembly, the brotherly love company. Rev. 3:7-12. He that is Holy and True, and has the key of David, has spoken. He exclaimed, "I know thy works" (they are works of faith). "Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut

it." This is not a door for service on earth; but heaven's door opened for a ready company, a company only waiting. It is not opened for everybody; hence, only a few comparatively are aware of it, or see that open door. Note that these words are addressed only to a certain class, which also proves that heaven's door is meant. "Thou hast a little strength," or power; that is, to overcome all things all obstacles. Thou hast strength to reign now, through abundance of grace; therefore, thou "hast kept My Word (even the Word of My patience), and hast not denied My Name," as many believers are doing. Hence, this Church is waiting, only waiting.

25 Consider it well, beloved. The Examiner, who walks amidst the seven golden candlesticks (Rev. 2:1), has already passed judgment upon this assembly, having found in it the above three sterling qualities - power, patience, and proclamation of the Bridegroom's Name. These have special reference to the coming of the Lord for His Church. They are essential qualifications for translation at the first trumpet blast. How plain and simple; and yet how positive, profound, and glorious. Because the Examiner, the righteous Judge, found these qualifications in Philadelphia, He has set before her the open door in heaven, and has announced it to her. Again I say that this is not for every believer; for some have not the three unique qualities, or characteristics. Therefore, the final word of the Holy and True One is --- "He that bath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." Let him note how differently the Spirit speaks to Pergamos from Ephesus, and how very differently to Philadelphia. Let him hear and consider all that the Spirit has said.

Only individuals who have the hearing ear, can see heaven's door open now, and receive this quickening and sustaining truth. Some talk glibly about Jesus' advent; but their lives prove that they are not in this Church. Their walk denies what they profess with the lips. The Judge cannot pronounce us brotherly love saints if we are not

holding the victory over our own self-life, if we are not full of love for our fellow-saint. Though he may not act saintly toward us, we must act saintly toward him by the love of Christ within us. We may not agree with him, nor even keep his company, but we must keep in the love of God. Our supreme task of only waiting demands such an attitude of heart. Suppose the trumpet should blow when you have a spasm of anger, what then? Loyalty to the truth may at times consume us with indignation (see Mk. 3:5) but we cannot afford to let the sun go down upon our wrath. Eph. 4:26 Brotherly-love folk always bear all the beautiful "fruit of the Spirit;" for Christ is their life and hope.

Only waiting is the controlling attitude of Philadelphia believers. They are contemplating the unique meeting in the air, the marriage supper of the Lamb, and the glorious reign with the heavenly Bridegroom. Earth scenes, earth relationships, earth prospects, earth enterprises, all things of earth have lost their charms for them. Our activities are temporary and transitory --- all in view of the soon advent of our Bridegroom. Things that interest the majority of Christians are extremely uninteresting to bridal saints. We know only one Person in real fellowship, even our Lord Jesus Christ, and those who are of like precious faith. Only waiting, watching, worshipping, loving, and longing for His appearing. One word comforts us constantly --- "Behold, I come quickly." My Bridegroom utters those sweet words. I believe them with all my heart. Reader, do you?

Two injunctions prompt us powerfully. Jesus said, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come" -Matthew 24:42. "Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." Rev. 3:11. While waiting, we are watching and holding fast. This last hour of our Lord's Day of preparation, is the most supreme moment before the rapture. It is our highest privilege to wait,

and it should be our highest joy. In this waiting time, we are learning the deepest and sweetest patience. Our fellowship with Jesus increases; our love for Him abounds; we learn new secrets of rapture hope; our rest becomes more restful; our abiding more even; our joy more weighty and sublime; our intermittent service more simple and spiritual, because we have only to wait. Suffering, though it be more severe, loses its sting the sooner; for the reward will be the greater. We are only waiting. The weariness of waiting and the disappointment on account of His seeming delay, are swallowed up in occupation with the Bridegroom Himself. Do we wait in vain? NO! Shall we wait too long? NO! May we be disappointed? NEVER. How long shall we wait? TILL HE COMES. For "He that shall come WILL come, and will NOT tarry." Only waiting!

(Reprint 1964)

The Show Ground

We do not need to say one word
Nor blow our horn for higher place
What we are in our own heart—
Will always show upon our face.

When we're wise and kind and humble,
Laying hold of sovereign grace
Loving God with all our heart—
It will show upon our face.

As we're seeking good of others
Willing ourself to efface
Yielding to God all our heart—
It will show upon our face.

What we are and what we're doing
As we run this pilgrim race,
Moved by Spirit in our heart—
It will show upon our face.

Start The New Year Right

With God's Israel

George Meyer

“And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.” Isa 6:3

The God of Israel, in all His Three Persons, manifested Himself beginning with His ancient people.

God the Father, the Spring and Fountain of all life, created the universe by His infinite power, governs it by His wisdom and preserves it by His goodness. He reigns over the human race in righteousness and judgment, exercising a merciful forbearance and defends them by His protection. From Him alone proceeds every particle of wisdom, light, righteousness and power. Sincere truth claims Him for its Author. He manifested Himself in the moral, ceremonial, and judicial office of His laws in the Scriptures, beginning with His chosen people, Israel.

God the Son. By Whom “... all things were made and without Him was not anything made that was made,” (John 1:3) and is “... upholding all things by the Word of His power.” Heb. 1:3 “In Him was life and the life was the light of men.” John 1:4 Christ, the Savior, brings men from sin and death into “Newness of life.” He is the Giver of grace upon grace to the obedient and pious, the Fountain of life and eternity to the children of God. “To Him every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess.” He, the Messiah, “God manifest in the flesh,” has come in the office of grace in the Scriptures, beginning His ministry of salvation among His brethren, the Jews.

God the Holy Spirit. He is the brightness of the glory of God the Father, and of God the Son. It is clear in the testimony of Moses (Gen. 1:2) that the Spirit of God was expanded in the abyss, or chaos. It signifies not only that the beautiful state of the world, which we now see, owes its preservation to the power of the Spirit, but previously the Spirit of God was engaged in brooding over the confused mass. And the Spirit of God, being universally diffused, sustains and animates all things in heaven and in earth, and is united with God the Father and the Son in the exercise of Supreme power in the mission of prophets. Isa. 48:16 He bestows wisdom and the

spiritual gifts -- I Cor. 12:8. The Spirit of God is the Author and Seal of the regeneration of the soul in the image of God to an incorruptible life, and likewise the body into future immortality. And from the Spirit of God proceeds grace, truth, justification, power, sanctification, diversities of gifts and every other blessing that we can conceive. I Cor. 12:4. "He searcheth even the deep things of God." I Cor. 2:10. Briefly, the Spirit of God is the Divine bond by which the Redeemer efficaciously united God's children with Himself. In His Divine majesty, He was manifest, or poured out on the day of Pentecost in the primitive Church of the stock, of Israel at Jerusalem, beginning His Work of regeneration into "Newness of life" among God's Israel, the Jews.

God begins His plan always with Israel. According to the lineage of Bible chronology, the sons of Noah were Shem and Ham and Japheth. Gen. 9:18. At the birth of Ishmael and Isaac it was Isaac whom God placed in His plan first. He was the father of Jacob, or Israel. "And God said unto Abraham, In Isaac shall thy seed be called." Gen. 21:12. Again at the birth of Esau and Jacob, it was Jacob in God's plan first. "Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated." Rom. 9:13. Even so according to God's plan, the second son of Noah was Shem, the father or ancestor of the Jewish people. The Jews are therefore called the Semitic people. The third son of Noah was favoured of God with the privilege of being the father, or ancestor of Canaan. Canaan is the name Divinely conferred upon the holy land, Palestine, or Zion. The land which God had chosen, by Him promised and blessed as the cradle of His everlasting covenant with Abraham and with his spiritual and corporeal seed, to be their God and to give to them the land as an everlasting possession after Him. Gen. 17:4-8 And the first son of Noah was Japheth. Gen. 10:17 Upon him God bestowed the grace of being enlarged by dwelling in "... the tents of Shem..." Gen. 9:27, that is, in the spiritual tents of the Jews, the descendants of Shem by God's adoption. Thus, the people of Japheth, "being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among the natural branches of Israel." Rom. 11:17. "For salvation is of the Jews." John 4:22 Apostle Paul says, "Who are Israelites, to whom pertaineth the adoption and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the law and the service

of God and the promises. Whose are the fathers and to whom as concerning the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever." Rom. 9:4,5 Balaam, beholding God's chosen people Israel by a vision of God, exclaimed, "How goodly are thy tents O Jacob and thy tabernacles O Israel. Blessed is he that blesseth thee"—Num. 24:5-9. To follow God's leading, start the New Year right with God's Israel. Christ's brethren, the Jews, are in need of God's Gospel and His salvation.

(Reprint 1943)

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

We greet the friends that are distant,
Yet travel with us today
Those deep-trodden paths of goodness,
That years cannot change, or sway.

We greet the friends that are nearer—
Those of our own father-land,
With whom we share sweet communion
And the touch of a friendly hand.

We greet the friends we have cherished
And the new-found ones whose song
Has brightened the highway of living,
As we have journeyed along.

For each one, we hope this new year
Brings glimpse of the radiant Star
And sounds of the heav'nly chorus
To hearts whose doors stand ajar.

That peace and gladness may enter
And love be a welcome guest.
Where'er you may be sojourning
We are wishing for you the best.

—Sent in.

HAVE FAITH TO ASK

Alexander the Great had a famous but poor philosopher in his court. Being pressed for money, this philosopher made application to his patron for relief, who commissioned him to draw whatever cash he needed from the treasury. The philosopher presented a request for the equivalent of fifty thousand dollars, but the treasurer refused to honor the draft until he consulted with his royal master, adding also, that he thought the amount exorbitant. Alexander replied, "Pay the money at once. The philosopher has done me a singular honor. By the largeness of his request he shows the idea he has conceived both of my wealth and munificence." We cannot honor God more than by believing what He says, and acting under that faith in all our requests at His Throne. "Ask and receive, that your joy may be full."
-From *George Muller, The Man of Faith*, by Frederick G. Warne.

31

ONCE FOR ALL

**Free from the law, O, happy condition,
Jesus hath bled, and there is remission,
Curs'd by the law and bruis'd by the fall,
Grace hath redeemed us once for all.**

**Now are we free, there's no condemnation,
Jesus provides a perfect salvation;
"Come unto Me," O, hear His sweet call,
Come, and He saves us once for all.**

**"Children of God," O glorious calling,
Surely His grace will keep us from falling;
Passing from death to life at His call,
Blessed salvation once for all.**

**Once for all, O, sinner receive it,
Once for all, O, brother, believe it;
Cling to the Cross, the burden will fall,
Christ hath redeem'd us once for all.**

ISAIAH 39

“At that time Merodachbaladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah: for he had heard that he had been sick, and was recovered.” V. 1

The saga of King Hezekiah continues. The actual time of events, recorded here, occurs well before Nebuchadnezzar would come to power as the ruler of the first Gentile World Power known as The Babylonish Empire. Multiple events, however, have already begun to bring that to pass. The assault by Assyria has been averted, but Hezekiah was very much aware of what had already happened to the ten tribes of Israel, which had been taken captive by the same nation about 8 years earlier. Scripture also predicted, and history has confirmed, that Babylon rather than Assyria, would become the dominant force, and that Judah would be taken captive by this same Babylon. Hezekiah's sickness and recovery, is typical of Israel's purification in the fires of the tribulation followed by her complete restoration.

32

This chapter forms a beautiful correlation with Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament. Both accounts predict judgment followed by the golden promise of blessing. Isaiah prophesies in verse 6: “Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD.” This is a direct prophecy of the 70 year captivity which Israel will endure, but Hezekiah, as noted in the previous chapter, is a beautiful type of her complete recovery in the last days. His personal “remaining days” were spent in “...peace and truth...” (V.8) just as the final chapter in Israel's life will be unprecedented blessing after the tribulation period is over.

Malachi follows this exact same glorious pattern. “For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” Mal. 4:1 These words are prophetic of the “...proud, yea, and all that do wickedly,...” that is, the nations who will be destroyed because of their maltreatment of Israel. Devastation will be complete for God's fire “...shall

leave them neither root nor branch.” The next verse, however is a special reference to the remnant of that day. “But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.” Mal. 4:2-3 Israel, though only a small remnant, will be a nation “...that fear my name...” after they accept Christ as their Messiah, “...the Sun of righteousness...” and then shall they go forth as a nation, “...to tread down the wicked:...” This beautiful story is told a number of times in scripture. The nations have punished Israel unmercifully, but God will use those , who have been so oppressed, as an instrument to punish the same ungodly aggressors, that afflicted them, and God asserts in His Own authoritative way, “...that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.”

33

“And Hezekiah was glad of them, and shewed them the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.” V. 2 This was a major error on Hezekiah’s part. II Kings 24 also reveals that he showed them all the glorious treasures of the temple, the same treasure which would be later be carried away by Nebuchadnezzar. Hezekiah would have been better served had he just testified of God’s miraculous healing power, for the consequences indeed proved to be great. His actions here, however, are very instructive, teaching us that it is often after great victories wherein we are the most vulnerable. Isaiah likewise reproved him for this error. “Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country unto me, even from Babylon. Then said he, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All that is in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them. Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of hosts: Behold, the days

come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.”

V. 3-7 “...that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day,...” is a reference to all the treasures in the house of the Lord, which had been preserved throughout Israel’s history. It is also very likely that Daniel, and the three Hebrew children, “...Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:...” were the fulfillment of this prophecy for they were of the “royal line,” or “...children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;...” and were made eunuchs.” Dan. 1:3,7

“Then said Hezekiah to Isaiah, Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. He said moreover, For there shall be peace and truth in my days.” V. 8 Thus ends this chapter, with glorious victory for Hezekiah but dark days ahead for Judah. The ten tribes of Israel had already been taken captive by Assyria around 740 B.C. Judah would follow about 66 years later in 606 B.C. when Nebuchadnezzar fulfilled the specific prophecies of this chapter.

34



INTERESTING FACTS ON THE PROPHET EZEKIEL

Ezekiel, “Strengthened by Jehovah,” was a priest and also a prophet. He was son of Buzi, “Contempt,” of the family of Zadok.

He was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar-- II Kings 24:14, eight years after Daniel and his three fellows. Ezekiel is expressive of the people Israel. Our first glimpse of him is by the river Chebar, meaning “great.”

Jeremiah and Daniel were contemporary with Ezekiel. They were all different in their dispositions, but in character were the same.

Ezekiel’s writings abound in figurative representation. He was carried to Babylon during the reign of Jehoiachin or Coniah, the second of those two kings of that transition period, 598 B. C., eight years after Daniel.



Our Corn Crib

"Buy The Truth, and Sell It Not"

Tracts

A Problem, Solution & Triumph	Freedom	Pauline Sanctification
Arrangement & End of Ages	Gifts of the Spirit	Pauls Superlatives
Attack against the Truth	Glossolalia	Phoebe
A Burning Truth	God- A Triunity	Preaching Another Jesus
A Growing Relationship	Gospel Records	Predestination
Caught up with Paul	Gospels, Acts & Epistles	Preparation of the Bride
Cherubim & Seraphim	Holy Spirit- Baptism & Anointing	Ranks in Resurrection
Chaste Virgin	How to Receive Holy Spirit	Resume of What we Teach
Comfort in Time of Sorrow	It is Finished	Salvation for the Body
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	

Music CD's

Wings of Faith - Live- '79 feat. Greg, Milita, Rick, Sue & Frank
 Tabernacle Choir Album- 1963- Beloved Grace & Glory Favorites

*All titles free of Charge. Call, Write, or e-mail your order



Except the Lord
build the house,
they labour in
vain that build it.

PSALM 127:1.