

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole Counsel of GOD

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'Loving his Appearing'

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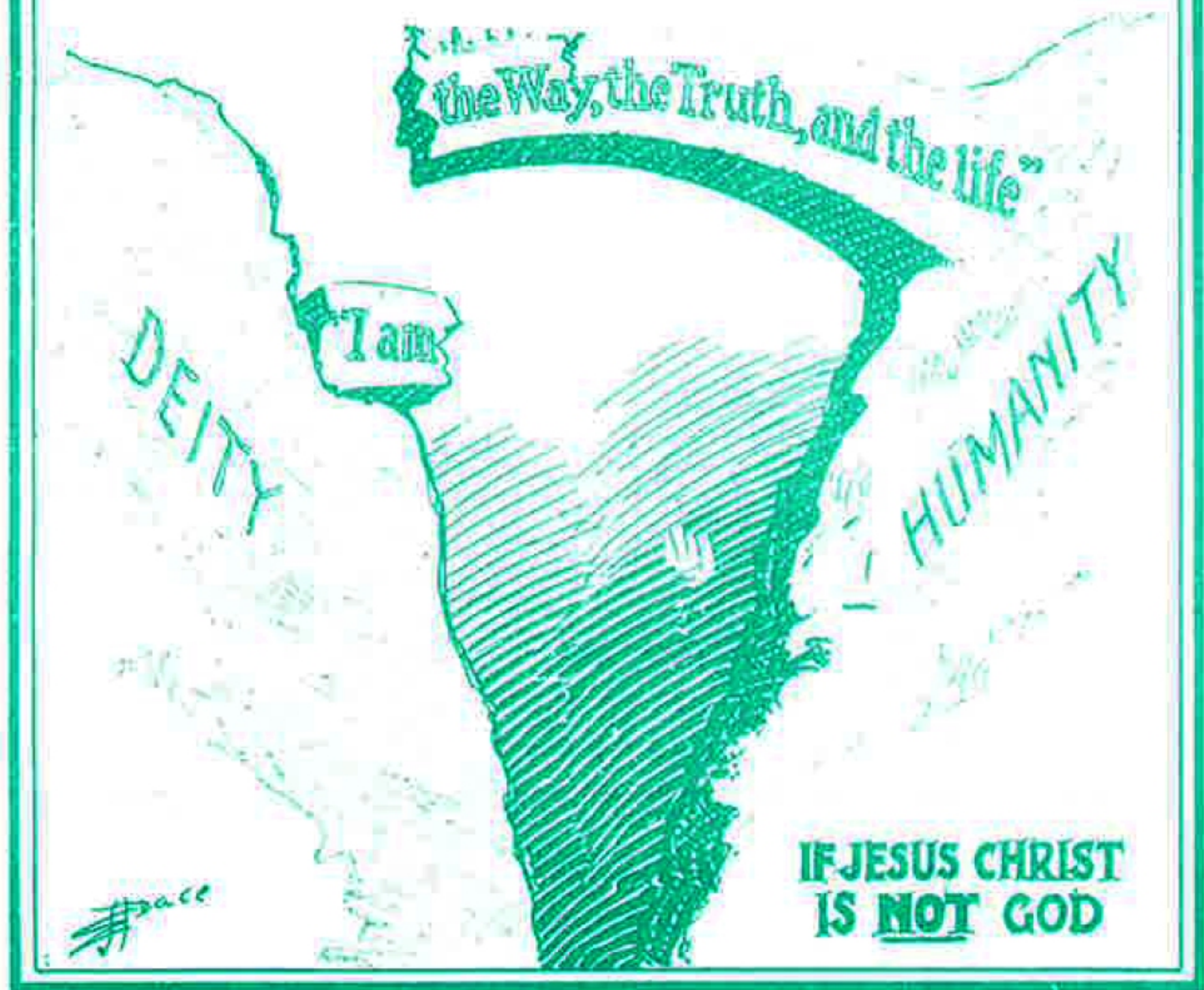
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NUMBER 3



But now, O Lord,
thou art our father;
we are the clay,
and thou our
potter; and we all
are the work
of thy hand.
ISAIAH 64:8.

A BRIDGE BROKEN AT ONE END



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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. “ For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.” Matt. 24:4

“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.” II John 1:7

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” II Tim. 3:1 & 13

“And there came one of the seven angels ... saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication,... So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, ... And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” Rev. 17:1-5

3

Jesus and others prophesied that the day in which we live would bring forth an overall atmosphere of deception, one of the major weapons in Satan’s arsenal. He clearly emphasized the fact that, “... there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders;...” indicating that such deception would become so intense, “... that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” Matt. 24:24 Satan has always been the great counterfeiter. Since there is a True Christ, there will indeed be a false, or “antichrist.” Jesus is also the True Prophet, but Satan will bring forth his counterfeit, known as “the false prophet.” There is also a True Church. Her counterpart is known as “the false church,” which is described above as the “mother of harlots.” She is an imposter, and her evaluation, both by herself and The Righteous Judge, is found in Rev. 18:7 “How much she

hath glorified **herself**, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.” Rev. 18:7 “I am no widow...” means that she has claimed Jesus as her husband, but that is her assessment.... not His.

4 Most Bible scholars have long taught that the Catholic Church is the infamous harlot of Rev. 17&18. Over the past few years, some are now insisting that such a distinction must now belong to Islam, and more specifically ISIS, due to the rapid growth and tremendous impact that this ungodly religion is having on nations throughout the world. However, that simply cannot be, for this false religion can come nowhere near meeting all the credentials which Catholicism must own in claiming the place of this purple and scarlet clad woman. ISIS does not produce a counterfeit of Christians, The True Followers of Christ. ISIS does not even recognize the Existence of this Anointed One, while Catholicism claims His Name, but they place Mary on a pedestal above Him declaring “Hail Mary, Mother of God.” John announces Jesus as “(...the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth,” (John 1:14) but the rosary plainly proclaims: “Hail **Mary**, full of grace....” A brief look at the names of many Catholic Churches gives credence to the clear domination of Mary in Catholic teaching. The “Lady” in “Our Lady of Lourdes,... Sorrows,... Peace,... The Presentation,” and “The Queen of the Holy Rosary,” are all references to Mary rather than The Son Of God. Students of Catholicism are taught that Mary was sinless, yet scripture is very clear that, though she was indeed a virgin, the law designated her as “unclean,” for forty days following the birth of Jesus. Lev. 12:2-4, Lk. 2:22 She also “...rejoiced in God my Saviour,” indicating that she too needed a Savior just as any other mortal born into this world. Lk. 1:47 Catholicism literally robs Christ of His unique glory!

Pope Benedict likewise displaced Jesus, declaring that “Catholicism provides the only true path to salvation,” indicating clearly that salvation comes through the Catholic Church rather than through Jesus Christ. He also declared in the same address in his early tenure as Pope that “Christ established here on earth only one Church. Other communities (outside of Catholic) cannot be called ‘churches’ because they do not have apostolic succession. They do not recognize the primacy of the pope – a

defect that harmed them.” All of this has long been a profound part of Catholic Catechism, but Pope Benedict is probably the first to verbalize it in such unequivocal terms.

Scripture is very plain that the false church did not just suddenly emerge in these last days. The letters to the seven churches in Asia depict every condition which existed in the early Church at the time then present. Those letters are also prophetic of that which would transpire throughout the entire Church Age. The Catholic hierarchy, as witnessed by the statements above, has long boasted that no other Church can trace their roots back to the apostolic days of Pentecost, and they are absolutely right. Thus, devastating charges such as those leveled against the church at Thyatira, must be owned by Catholicism for she adamantly insists that none else were present. This letter defines the “roots,” of this false woman, and ISIS can claim existence nowhere near the longevity of Catholicism. Jesus’ letter to Thyatira is addressed to those who lived, **at the time then present** and, once again by her own admission and boast, Catholicism was the only one there. Neither ISIS nor any other religious entity, around the entire globe, can claim that distinction.

5

The assessment of the Judge in relation to Thyatira is certainly not all complimentary, but it is very definitive in pointing to those things wherein Catholicism does glory, even down to this present time. Make no mistake. Catholicism started in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost, where the Church was baptized into one body, but the lofty position of The Church, represented by Ephesus, soon deteriorated to the conditions reflected in The Judge’s assessment of those seven early Churches. Ephesus represents that exalted place from whence The Church fell because “thou hast left thy first love.” Rev. 2:4 Paul warned against many of the conditions which did indeed come to pass in those very early days of the Church Age when John wrote “... to the seven churches which are in Asia:...” Rev. 1:4 The chief apostle of The Church had heretofore called for the Ephesian elders and issued the following tearful entreaty: “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.” Acts

Paul's fear most assuredly came to fruition as Catholic doctrine began to bring forth "perverse things," contrary to the Scripture "... to draw away disciples after them." This is clearly what Jesus meant when He assailed the Church at Thyatira "... because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols." Jezebel means "non-cohabitant, unchaste," and she describes exactly the same woman seen in Rev. 18:7 who said, "...in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow." She is also the self proclaimed prophetess who seduces, and teaches fornication and idolatry. She claims Jesus but certainly does not garner attention toward Him. She rather exalts, Mary, the Pope, and countless "saints" that are displayed as idols within her walls.

6 The Judge does commend her for "works," the term being referenced three times in one verse. "I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first." Rev. 2:19 The word "service" is also a clear indication of works. Note, however that such works are termed "thy works," rather than My works. She is also commended for her "charity," another boast of Catholicism throughout the ages, and even in this present day she boasts of being the world's largest charity.

Both history, and Catholic insistence, clearly proves that Catholic influence became dominant in those early years after the Church Age began, both religiously and politically. Neither ISIS or any other "woman" can claim the political advantage and prestige of "...the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:" Rev. 17:1 Those waters refer to the nations of the world and while ISIS and Islam are certainly "making a splash," this ungodly, corrupt, and violent religion in no way has the reverence, influence, and place of ease among the nations, as does Catholicism. The word "sitteth" indicates a place of comfort and rest, reflecting a rather plush atmosphere of contentment and acceptance, among all the great waters, or nations of the world. This does not describe ISIS, and its religious Islamic motivation, which is feared, hated, despised and deemed despicable and dangerous by the nations. Catholic representatives, however, are greatly admired. Even John said "...when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration,"

prompting the angel to ask "...Wherefore didst thou marvel?" Rev. 17:6,7 ISIS will never gain such global admiration!

Contrariwise, Catholicism is no "Johnny-come-lately to putting her finger in the global political pie. Her influence on political affairs has been dominant from the very early days of the Church, and continues to build in the end of this Church Age. This is, once again, made manifest by the letter to Thyatira. The name means "odor of affliction," and that meaning began to be greatly fulfilled during the dark ages when Catholicism executed horrendous persecution against anyone who would dare resist her demands. This is the meaning of Rev.17:6 "And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus:..." The "... blood of the martyrs of Jesus,..." is singled out here, indicating those who lived closer to the time when Jesus had actually walked the earth, indeed, a reference to the dark ages and Spanish Inquisitions. None but Catholicism can take responsibility for those actions for she was the lone religious representative of that early day. Many historians mark the end of the Roman Empire in the West with the start of the middle or dark ages. The collapse of that political Western Roman corridor left a void that was quickly filled by the "papacy" which became the central authority in Western Europe, both religiously and politically. Many European countries, still in existence today, became strictly Catholic and became known as Charlemagne's empire which formed the basis of what became "The Holy Roman Empire."

Never has this Roman rule been surrendered. Catholic influence is manifest in every country around the entire globe, and again, neither ISIS or any other religion can even come close to it. Multiple countries have entertained and revered Pope's in modern history and all of them have had some influence on political affairs. The U.S. hosted Pope Francis recently and the response in this country was sickening to those who regard Jesus as the Head of His Own Body. The reports which we heard and saw on T.V. revered this mere man to the point of a god, whose plane just might be taking off for heaven. He was, and is, worshipped around the world as the "Holy Father," a title which no man can rightfully claim, except The Man Christ Jesus," whom Isaiah "... called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isa. 9:6 It is simply another stark

evidence that Catholicism does not magnify Jesus as the Redeemer and Head of The Church; and the nations as a whole are buying into it, as this “woman” continues her prestigious place of sitting upon the waters.

She also sits astride “...a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.” Rev. 17:3 This is the same beast which John saw “...rise up out of the sea,...” in Rev. 13:1, revealing an end time coalition of seven nations which will form a one-world government in direct rebellion against that of King Jesus. The fact that John saw “...a woman sit upon...” this beast indicates that she is in a place of power and influence, wielding the same political force in the end of this age as she did at the beginning. We simply do not know the identity of these seven nations but, given the political winds of our day, we can be quite certain that two of them will be China and Russia. We also know that John “...saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast,...” which will ultimately be reduced to one man --- the antichrist. It was not that long ago that we wondered how in the world godless nations such as China and Russia, could possibly be swayed by any religious pressure.

Some recent news reports may be a great indication that such a preposterous notion just might be coming to fruition. *The Kansas City Star* published a headline announcing a “Historic meeting ahead for Pope Francis, Russia Patriarch.” The following quotes are excerpts from *The Moscow Times*, over a number of days, in regard to that meeting.

“President Vladimir Putin met Francis in June 2015, in the Vatican, and Kirill is keen to follow his example..... Head of the Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch Kirill and Pope Francis met for the first time on Saturday in Havana, Cuba and the meeting concluded with the two men signing a joint declaration, the Interfax news agency reported.

After two hours of “open and fraternal talks,” Patriarch Kirill announced that the Russian Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church could now work together all over the world.

“We discussed quite a number of initiatives that we can work on together,” said Pope Francis, adding that he felt “the presence of the Holy Spirit” during the talks.

“Pope Francis Says Russia Is Needed to Solve World Problems. Pope Francis has said Russia plays a crucial role in solving the world's problems, a TASS news agency report said. “Without Russia, not one

of today's most pressing global problems can be solved," the pontiff was cited Tuesday as telling a TASS reporter aboard a flight to Cuba."

Dare we look for China, and other rebellious, Christ rejecting nations who will form this coalition, to begin seeking the counsel of Catholicism? One of the major points of concern, and mutual agreement between these two Church Leaders, was the great damage inflicted by ISIS and "... the need to defend persecuted Christians. We call on the world community to unite against violence and terrorism,..." Perhaps such common problems as these, will propel wicked men toward that which they perceive as solutions to their dilemmas. These powers are most assuredly trying to position themselves for a political take-over of the entire world, and there is no doubt that, if that path must go through the Vatican, they will be willing to pursue it, for scripture is very plain concerning the role of this infamous woman in end-time world affairs.

Though we are most assuredly grieved by conditions around the world which demonstrate the violence and rebellion prophesied for these last days, we are surely intrigued when we see the various "pieces" fall into place. Since Jesus is coming as "a thief in the night," we may not witness the full formation of this 7 headed beast, which might be considered the mark of a pin-point time for His arrival, but it is quite certain that such a political monster is surely coming into view. 9

Rather than becoming obsessed with the politics of this world and depressed by the conditions surrounding us, let us rather heed Paul's admonition: "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. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. **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." I Thess. 5:2-6

There is only one thing from God to which an unpardoned sinner has a right, and that is the forgiveness of his sins; but that right is based upon the blood of Christ, shed for sinners, and not on any merit in the sinner himself.

Jesus Christ

W. J. Franklin

"All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made. He was in the world and the world was made by Him and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own and His own received Him not"—John 1:3,10,11.

Jesus Christ is the greatest marvel ever beheld by human eyes. The story of the incarnation, life and work of this man stirs our hearts more deeply than anything else that might be said, read or heard. In the above verses we see Him as the Creator, and then as Redeemer coming to His own and being rejected. Think for a moment of the Great Creator being born a Babe from the womb of one of His own creatures. He rested in the arms of one who was the work of His Own Hands, breathed the air that He had made, tread His own ground, was supported by substance to which He Himself had given being. He was the Creator of the very men He came to save. He was the light of the world, but enjoyed the sunlight.

10 He was the water of life, but said, "I thirst." He was the bread of life, but hungered. He was the Greatest Man who ever lived, yet He fellowshiped the poor and needy. In all His grandeur and resplendent glory, He has a deep, intense, earnest longing for the fellowship of His lowly people.

View for a moment the inconsistency of His own people and things. "He was in the world and the world was made by Him and the world knew Him not." His own property did not recognize Him nor pay honour to its Master. Notice that He came to His own people and they received Him not—John 1 :11. Everything about this wonderful Man makes us marvel. His treatment from the world fills our hearts with painful sympathy. I love to sit and view Him as He walked around amidst all the elements of nature, with sickness sin and death on every hand, the unseen wicked thoughts of men exposed to His all-seeing eye, and with the rulers of the darkness on every hand, but He Himself going about His Father's business in a quiet, tranquil manner, undisturbed by foes or conditions. He was not moved by the threats of His enemies nor by the spirit of rejection that prevailed among the leaders of the people. To see Him thus,

moves us to love Him deeper. It moves our spirits to worship, our hearts to devotion, our minds to thinking of Him in a fuller way and our bodies to service.

As He stood for us amid a rejecting people, faithless love and alien pity, may we stand and boldly confess and witness for Him despite the suffering or pain it might bring to us.

Christ My All

What a blessed, blessed way—
Christ my Vict'ry night and day.
Satan is a conquered foe
When we learn, in Christ to grow.

What a blessed store of wealth—
Christ in me, my Strength and Health.
All my sicknesses and pain
Take their leave at Jesus' name.

What a blessed, blessed thought—
Christ in me His life hath wrought,
And this life is bound to win;
For I put full trust in Him.

What a blessed, sweet refrain—
Christ in me, eternal gain.
All of earth scenes fade away
As we near that glorious day.

What a great and thrilling story—
Christ in me the hope of glory.
All my doubts and fears have fled;
I believe, all He has said.

Ann DeGolia

A REST REMAINS

E. H. Eaton

"Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it"—Heb. 4:1. This morning I wish to speak of a very important feature in a Christian's life. Suppose an officer was sending a definite messenger on an errand for his country. Of course he would not send one, who had drooping hands and trembling knees. When the very strength of manhood would be required, he would select one who had the real look of rest in his face and who was capable of performing the task.

Likewise the Christian needs rest. He needs to learn the secret of entering into God's rest. This can never be done by self-effort. It can come only by putting our trust in the provision which God has made for us. We turn aside from what man has done and believe what God has done for us. This rest takes away the burden of self-effort, the feeling that I have got to do it. One man told me that Christ had consumed the "got to," and all I had to do was to let God "got to" for me. I began to
12 rest in the Lord's promises, and then my bones commenced to be fat. It was because I had heard a good report and believed it. I have seen the time when I came into service all tired out and exhausted, and almost in despair. I felt like throwing the whole business away. It is a good life, but I could not live it. Then I saw that Christ had done it all, provided a victorious life for me, and I entered into rest.

Now some of you may have found this rest and may be enjoying it. But I have a conviction that there are others here today who have not entered therein. I want to help those. And the Lord wants you, who have lost all self-confidence and who are walking in His strength, to pray for those who have not entered into rest. Let us pray that any who may be under legality, may see the full proof of the provision of grace and enter into it completely. Then they will be in a far better spiritual condition and render better service to God. Praise God for the rest that remains unshaken by surrounding conditions. There is a full measure of rest. There is a smile upon the faces of the people of God, who have entered into this rest, which never wears off.

"Unto us was the Gospel preached, as well as unto them;

but the Word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it"—V. 2. That lack of faith, of course, refers to Israel. They did not enter the land of Canaan because they failed to believe God's Word. He has made us a promise and when we step out upon it, He puts us into the land of rest. Because of their unbelief, Israel wandered in the wilderness for 38 years. It is the same today. Believers who do not believe in the rest which the Lord has provided also have a wandering experience. They are never at perfect peace, never satisfied, never certain.

"For we which have believed do enter that rest, even as He hath said, as I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest, although the works were finished from the foundation of the world"—V. 3. What a wonderful verse this is. Everything needed for the human race was provided from the beginning. Is that a small thing? Is it not something to which we can pin our faith? And thru the redemption there is in Christ, every spiritual need has been provided for. A perfect redemption offers to us a perfect salvation. It makes me take a long breath. I feel it to the depths of my soul; for the Captain of our salvation is on board and has control. God had sworn that those who did not believe, should not enter into His rest, because without faith it is impossible to please Him, and Where there is no faith there can be no rest. The children of Israel experienced much sorrow and suffering on account of their unbelief; and so do many saints today.

13

Rest Typified

"For He spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all His works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached, entered not in because of unbelief: again He limiteth a certain day, saying in David, Today, if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts; for if Jesus had given them rest, then would He not afterward have spoken of another day"—Vs. 4-8. The correct rendering for the word Jesus in verse 8 is Joshua. They both have the same meaning, salvation. If Joshua had given Israel the rest of which Paul here speaks, God would not have mentioned another rest. Their rest in the land of Canaan was only typical of the spiritual rest, which saints may now enjoy, and an earnest of the physical and national rest, which Israel will enjoy by and by.

"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of

God"—V. 9. That coming rest of course refers to the millennium. God's rest on the seventh day pointed forward to that time. The Jewish sabbath did the same. There is the seventh day rest; but there is also the eighth day consummation. We, who believe today, are children of the resurrection. We are not the children of the seventh day, but of the eighth day, which came after the sabbath. The millennium, the seventh dispensational day, will be a wonderful period of rest for the world; but the eighth day, the eternal age, will bring in the perfected and consummated rest.

We enjoy our rest in Christ now. He is our sabbath now. "For we which *have believed, do* enter into rest, as He said"—V. 3. And the rest, which we now enjoy, will be consummated when we receive our glorified bodies. The full provision for our salvation and rest was really accomplished on the morning after the sabbath, or the eighth day. Christ alone on the cross paid the full penalty for sin and transgression; for He cried, "*It is finished.*" He there and then dealt fully with all our sins and sin, putting them away forever. But for our complete justification, we depend upon the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, which occurred on the eighth day, the morning after the sabbath. I am glad that I am an eighth day subject. Christ died for our offences, and thus dealt with sin and the old creation; but He was raised again for our justification, and introduced a new creation, on the morning after the sabbath. On the morning of eternity, God will exclaim, "*Behold, I make all things NEW*" —Rev. 21:5.

Rest In Time Of Trouble

"*And straightway Jesus constrained His disciples to get into a ship* and to go before Him unto the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, *He went up into a mountain apart to pray;* and when the morning was come, He was there alone"—Matt. 14:22,23. Here is an illustration of the power of God's rest. The disciples' obedience to Jesus was "*the obedience of faith,*" which is a practical proof of having entered into His rest. They started, and headed for the place to which Jesus told them to go. That is the way. Keep your boat headed in the right direction, in strict obedience to the Master's Word. He does not lay on us any heavy burdens. He wants us only to keep the straight course. Jesus was not then with them; but He was up in the mountain praying for them. That is what He is doing for us, while He is absent from us.

After rowing awhile, the wind arose. It was a strong wind; but the disciples kept their stroke. The next watch the wind blew a little fiercer. The waves began to rise. No doubt they held a little council. Do you not think it would be wise for us to beat against the wind? But they said, We will keep our course. And the Lord was up in the mountain, watching *them*, and taking note of their obedience. Do you not think, if a storm arises in your life, a sorrow, or a disappointment, that God sees it and takes notice of your obedience to His Word? Your "*obedience of faith*" holds His attention and enlists His care. He could stop the storm; but why does He not do it? He means to test the rest into which you have entered, and prove to you His power and faithfulness in the tempest. Another watch went by, and the winds blew worse and worse and the waves rose higher and higher, until in the fourth watch, they were struggling and battling to keep on their way. They could not escape the storm; but they were keeping the boat headed in the direction which Jesus told them to go. In the very worst moment, when they had no more control over the situation, Jesus appeared, walking on the very winds and waves that were causing the trouble and distress. Oh, what if those disciples had compromised? It was perfectly logical for them to have said, Why not let us turn into a place of safety? But human logic must always give way to the faith of God. Had they turned aside, had they compromised, they would have missed the greatest experience that had come into their lives—Jesus walking calmly over their troubles and tribulation.

15

And He came just at the right time. I am so glad that Peter saw Him. A flame of faith leaped up in his heart, and he cried, "*Bid me come to thee upon the water.*" He believed that he was safe with Jesus anywhere. God's rest is practical. With Christ, we can rest in the midst of turbulence. Of course Peter did not sink as he stepped out upon the waves. He made just one little mistake; he got his eyes off the Lord upon the surging waters; then he began to go down. It was not a complete defeat; for at once he cried again, "*Lord, save me; I perish.*" Instantly, the Lord lifted him into the vessel, saying Wherefore didst thou doubt? Then He came into the boat, and Peter with Him. Then all their trials and struggles were over. I imagine that quite a praise meeting followed; then a stretching out of weary muscles and an enjoyment of peaceful sleep.

Yes, when the Master of the seas steps on board of our troubled bark, there is a great calm. Then also we reach our desired haven, the place to which He told us to go. What had they done? Only believed the guiding word of Jesus. What else can we do? They believed for victory in the darkest moment, and the victory came thru Christ's appearance on the scene. Let us not be uneasy because of conditions. He is greater than all conditions combined. Now if you will take with this Rom. 8:28 and believe it, you will enter into a wonderful victory that cannot be shaken. As long as you can say, I can do nothing more than keep my boat headed for Rom. 8:28—"We know that *all things work together for good to them that love God*, to them who are the called according to His purpose"—you will have a rest that cannot be disturbed and a victory complete. Things may seem to be going overboard; but the cry, Lord, help, will surely bring deliverance. When you row until your arms are like dishrags, then your Deliverer appears on the scene.

16 When I learned that God makes all things work together for good, then I beheld a reason for the troubled seas which surround me. I see a reason for sorrow and loss and disappointment. All these things are working for me while I am resting in the Lord. I used to fail sometimes. Oh, that grieved my soul and brought such pointed, cutting, painful sorrow to my heart; but God made even my failure to work with other things for my good. He remembers our frame, that we are dust. As a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth those who love Him. After awhile, He keeps us from failing Him. "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in Thee*" —Isa. 26:3. (Reprint 1927)

THE WAY

In the maze of pathways
In the labyrinth of life
We must find the straight and narrow
The way that leads to Christ.
All other roads are useless
They lead to bitter loss.
The beginning of God's highway
Is the Cross.

-- R. Eisenberg

The Night Watches

A. S. Copley

"WATCH therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."—Matt. 24:42. "Behold I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame"—Rev. 16:15. The tribulation period will be a time of night. "Shall not the day of the Lord be darkness and not light? even very dark and no brightness in it?"—Amos. 5:20. Hence, Jesus outlined His coming, as if in the different night watches. "And if He shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch and find them so, blessed are those servants"—Luke 12:38. According to our chart' on Revelation, He will come for the 144,000, the five wise virgins, in the second watch. And we suspect, for the five foolish virgins in the third watch—Matt. 25:11. Christ will be revealed to Israel in the fourth watch and overthrow anti-Christ, even as He came to the disciples, walking on the sea, "about the fourth watch of the night" and calmed the contrary winds. In the fourth, or morning watch, the Lord overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the sea—Ex. 14:24.

17

The bride group of church saints will be raptured before the night watches set in; that is, before the tribulation period begins. "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 the darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as do others; but let us watch and be sober"—1 Thess. 5:4-9. "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth"—Rev. 3:10.

The innumerable company (Rev. 7:9-17) will doubtless be caught away in the first watch; for we read that they "come out of great tribulation." Therefore, "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 (the wrath of the tribulation days), but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ"—1 Thess. 5:8,9.

REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” I Pet. 4:10

The word “**manifold**,” means “various in character:--divers, manifold.” Peter uses it to signify the various “folds” of divine grace inexhaustible grace, meaning that there is absolutely nothing we may experience, where the grace of God has no quarter. The term is used repeatedly throughout the Word of God in direct relation to the many experiences we may encounter.

Nehemiah emphatically asserts that, “... thou in thy **manifold mercies** forsookest them not in the wilderness:,...” meaning that despite Israel’s tremendous unbelief, idolatry, and rebellion, God still led them as “... the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day,... neither the pillar of fire by night,...” Neh. 9:19 We wonder how these people could forget or ignore the Presence of God among them when they witnessed this glorious power day and night but it was His mercy which “... forsookest them not in the wilderness. Nehemiah further reports that “... thou deliveredst them into the hand of their enemies, who vexed them:... when they cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and according to thy **manifold mercies** thou gavest them saviours,...” Neh. 9:27 This is a reference to the time of the Judges when the same pattern of failure and restoration was repeated over and over because of divine grace.

The psalmist exclaims “O LORD, how **manifold are thy works!** in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.” in Psa. 104:24 We too can attest to the varied works of power which God has demonstrated in our own behalf.

Paul also announces the glorious **manifold wisdom** of God in Eph. 3:10. “To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.” The “intent” here is a reference to the purpose of the mystery of Christ recorded in V. 9. The phrase “... by the church...” is better translated “through the church, and indicates that God is actually using us to display His wisdom to the principalities and powers! He proves His point to Satan

through us, just as He did in the life of Job.

But the significance of the word manifold is also used to describe another fact of life here on this earth. "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into **divers temptations;**" Jas. 1:2 Temptations too, are "varied in character," as God uses them to perfect every area of our lives. James continues this portion exhorting us to know "... that the trying of your faith worketh patience.... that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." Jas. 1:3-4

Peter shouts this same message, telling of the tremendous hope we have in Christ, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through **manifold temptations:**" I Pet. 1:6 Such manifold temptations merit the manifold wisdom, manifold power, and manifold grace, of God.

Finally Peter exhorts: "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." I Pet. 4:10 The "gift" is that glorious gift of "manifold grace," and when we receive it, and make it our own, we are then qualified, and have the ability, to dispense it to others. We literally become "stewards" or "caretakers," of grace which God never intended that we should hoard up only for ourselves. We have received "manifold grace," and we are also to dispense or "minister" that same grace unto the needy around us! Perhaps we should ask ourselves: "Am I truly receiving and then manifesting the **"manifold grace of God?"**"

GH

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Earthen Vessels

William Felicy

"For we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us." II Cor. 4:7

When Paul would make known the importance of the believer in this world, he expressed himself thus. The glorious and wonderful new creation that lives within this house of clay is considered and brought out by him as a treasure, a rich treasure, a glorious and wonderful treasure, created by God and sent from glory to live and rule in these earthen vessels. All believers have this treasure in earthen vessels. We ourselves are the earthen vessels.

20 God made a new creation to give forth the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Thank God for this treasure ! We did not have to go prospecting to get it, but it is shining as a light from God's person, imparted and brought forth by the Holy Spirit. The world's riches do not mean anything, for we possess something that came from heaven itself. The Lord has seemed to impress this in my mind that we are earthen vessels, containing a new life, and it is up to us to let it live and shine out in these evil days. Life is cheap in the eyes of man and the days are dark; but we are lit up with light from on high by the power of God, and we can shine forth to the glory of God. I am glad that God saw fit to put it into earthen vessels, "that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us," vessels made from the dust of the earth. Vessels alone could not glory, but God came along and filled these vessels that their excellency might be seen as coming from Him and not from man.

We have this treasure in earthen vessels that all boasting might be excluded. We might appear defeated, but we are not; for the Captain is coming forward to lead us forth into battle and we are strong in the power of God. We have this treasure in earthen vessels for an express purpose. Paul said, "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of Jesus Christ." Paul was an earthen vessel and God gave him a revelation on his way to Damascus. This afternoon I am able to preach because God filled an earthen vessel.

Paul said, "When I came unto you, I came not with excellency of speech, or wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. . . . And my speech and my preaching were not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power." I Cor. 2:1,4. God is glorified when an earthen vessel is speaking under the power of the Spirit, and people have to admit that it is God's own power. May we never get away from the simplicity of the power of the Holy Ghost and become formal and dry.

"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver,

but also of wood and of earth: and some to honor and some to dishonor." II Tim. 2:20. The great house is the house of God. Just previous to this, Paul was speaking of two men who had turned away from the faith saying that the resurrection of the dead had come already. Paul spoke in Corinthians of the man who built on this foundation "wood, hay and stubble." I believe he is speaking here of erroneous teaching, for the books to Timothy are teachings for ministers. Paul taught the young minister the importance of being a vessel that is separated from all error and apostasy, purging himself that he might be fit for the Master's house. It is that kind that God wants to use. He does not use any that would not honor Him, although there is such a thing as a vessel being set aside for a time that he might be taught some lesson.

"Sanctified" here means set apart for the Lord. God is preparing His people. In the Bible school, if Jesus tarries, some are being prepared for the glory and honor of God. They will build "gold and silver and precious stones."

The first step is being separated to God and His purpose. "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication, that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor." I Thess. 4:3-4. We are enabled to do this by the Holy Spirit. There is one great adversary, the devil, who goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour, and he does all he can to hinder the progress of the believer to win Christ as his Bridegroom, although he cannot take away the believer's eternal life. "To possess" means to get the mastery over his vessel. We read this, "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God"—Rom. 12:1,2. Paul said in another place, "I bring my body under, lest by any means, I myself should be a castaway," or disapproved. He had a battle, and that battle was fought in the Spirit against his own body.

We possess this treasure in earthen vessels, and the Lord would have us learn how to get the mastery over these vessels that they might be for the Master's use. The flesh wars against the spirit, but thank God, as we walk in the Spirit, we have the mastery over the flesh. I believe in holiness, but not in the old man for he is corrupt and has been put to death.

"But be filled with the Spirit." Eph. 5:18. Paul is speaking here to believers who have been filled with the Holy Spirit. He is speaking of a continual walking in the Spirit; for he says, "Be not drunk with wine wherein is excess." We are to drink continually of the Spirit and I believe the Lord would like to drink with His people. I was impressed with a statement in the Word of God the other day where it says that God had an

inheritance in the Ephesian saints. God wishes to drink of His inheritance. These earthen vessels have been filled with power and this new creation sings out, glorifying God, until He is satisfied. The Spirit-filled believer will be speaking to himself and to others in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. We are possessors of a treasure within us that sings glory to God and when we are filled with the Spirit, this wonderful new creation, anointed with the Spirit, sings a new song, a beautiful new song of praise unto God and it has no discords.

22 The disciples, after they had been filled with the Holy Spirit, proclaimed with boldness that faith in Jesus' name would justify the heathen. We are not told that they hid their light under a bushel, but that they went to prayer. Things take place when saints pray to God in the Spirit. The dear apostles, too, had this treasure in earthen vessels. When they prayed to the Lord He responded. They were all filled with the Spirit and spoke the Word of God with boldness. There come times in our lives when we are discouraged and dismayed at the trials, but we, too, go to the Lord in prayer in faith, knowing that He will care for the treasure in earthen vessels. Samuel's mother was discouraged and she went to the Lord and she obtained results. Sometimes, too, we see the barrenness of the old creation and we go to the Lord. Then we feel like we can run through a troop and jump over a wall. He gives encouragement to back up the Word and we are able to go into battle. He fills these earthen vessels with His own mighty power for His glory, that the excellency of the power might be of God and not of us.

The Glad Heart

He that rules now, shall as the sun,
But rule a little day.
Better to own the sway of Christ
And with Him rule alway.

The rust corrupts the sword of fame,
Dust dimming every crown,
And none may lift so high his name,
But time will tear it down.

The gladdest heart that ever beat
Is that which hath found rest
By yielding to the yoke of Christ
And leaning on His breast.

Mary M. Bodie

WHOM TO TRUST

"Blessed is the man that trusts in the Lord and whose hope the Lord is." Jer. 17:7.

This chapter begins by arraigning Judah because of her sin of trusting in other nations instead of trusting in God. Her sin was so great that it was written indelibly, even **"with a pen of iron and with the point of a diamond."** Such is the sinfulness of the sin of trusting in man, in God's sight. He exclaims to Judah, **"O my mountain in the field;"** because the land of Judah was among the nations as a mountain in a field. Judah was God's mountain, or dominion. Jesus said, **"The field is the world."** He also said to the Jews, **"Ye are the light of the world, the salt of the earth; a city set on a hill cannot be hid."** But the Lord punished Judah by the cruelty of the nations toward them, which they trusted. He said to Judah, **"I will give thy substance and all thy treasures to the spoil, and thy high places for sin throughout all thy borders; and thou thyself shalt discontinue from thine heritage that I gave thee; and I will cause thee to serve thine enemies."** Jer. 17:3 Such became the curse that fell upon God's people for trusting in man. So terrible was that wrong in His sight, that He declared to them, **"Ye have kindled a fire in mine anger that shall burn for an age."**

23

Sin is exceedingly sinful. God had to punish sin. He gave the law to His ancient people to bring sin out, to put it on exhibition through the incorrigible, ungovernable conduct of those who promised to obey it. Over against the heinousness of sin, the exceeding sinfulness of sin, which the law exposed; God set His matchless grace. As it is written, **"the law entered that the offense might abound; but where sin abounded (in putting Jesus to death), grace did super-abound."** Thus on the cross, grace was magnified to the uttermost.

Two Trusts Contrasted

"Thus saith the Lord, Cursed be the man that trusted in man and maketh flesh his arm." Judah's punishment in suffering from the hand of the nations was the proof of this statement. We cannot trust man and God

at the same time. I can stand on two legs, because God has made me so; but I cannot lean on two fellows at the same time. If I lean to the one on the left, I am leaning from the one on my right. If I lean on the one to my right, I am departing from the one on my left. If I lean on man, I am departing from the strong arm of Jehovah; and a curse is sure to follow. Now doubtless most of us have experienced something of the truthfulness of this verse. **"Cursed is the man that trusteth in man."** I tell you we cannot trust in man. Man is weak; man is uncertain; man is of short duration. Even Methuselah, who lived 969 years, died. It is written of him, **"And he died."** Every man died in the old creation. There were some new creation men that never died, but all men in the old creation died. Here is an illustration of the curse that falls on the man that trusts in man.

24 **"For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh;** but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited." The heath is a portion of open country. It is like the sage brush country of the west, which is not inhabited, a country grown up with shrubbery, a desert place where nothing useful grows. The man that trusts in man is like such a country. That is what God says. That is a part of the curse. Nothing but the shrubbery of worldliness and sin will grow there; nothing fruitful or useful will grow in such a life as that.

"Shall not see when good cometh." No, I was a good man when I went through that sage brush and I am sure none of those sage brushes saw me when I went through. With my Bible and song book I was going forth with this glorious gospel of the grace of God, going to California, Oregon and Washington, and that wilderness country never saw me. Well, just so, men do not see when good cometh. Let us see the practical setting of it. When men are trusting in man and God comes along, they fail to see Him. That is why people will not trust the Lord for healing until the physician gives them up. They lean on that fellow until they find out that he is a broken reed, and cannot help them, cannot heal; they find out that the hospitals, well meaning as they may be, are failures: hence they are glad to turn their eyes to

~~another source of strength and help, even to the Lord.~~

Why, here is the good. We have been in Kansas City for 15 years, praying for the sick, preaching this gospel of salvation and healing, in cottages and in tents and on street corners, and people by the thousands have heard it and turned a deaf ear. Do not think friends, that it is because they have not heard the truth. I tell you thousands of people in this city have heard the teaching of pure salvation and Divine healing and the gift of the Holy Spirit before any of these big tent meetings were held; but they turned away from it all. They did not see "good" in it. Satan blinded them; but God was getting things ready. He moves slowly and sows the seed and little by little the eyes of the people are opened and they are made hungry by their need, and there comes a mighty wave of Divine power. God moves sovereignly in these great meetings. Hence, people are getting blessed. Yet with all this, how slow people are to accept the good, when they do see. I heard Bro. D. say, that it was eight years from the time he first heard this gospel preached, till he and his wife came and accepted it.

"... but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited." Jer. 17:6

25

Yes, the parched places are bare and hot; the heart is hard, where nothing good grows. It is desert. There is no spiritual life. There are no spiritual inhabitants they really do not follow the Lord and love Him. They may have a form of religion, may be professing to be followers of Jesus Christ; but in reality, in experience, they are in a wilderness. "All flesh," the natural man, "is grass" to God. Yes, how many times people testify that they have been delivered from religious deserts, from dry countries where they were starving, having nothing to eat but bones and most of them were not Bible bones either. Oh, how sad, to be religious for years, having a dry profession, leaning on men, but getting no real food and bringing no glory to God.

Well, I am still reading about Bro. Cook's experience; for he came along this line. He has told us over and over how he suffered and what a fight he had to come to meeting. I thought when he started out to say that, that I usually have my fight after the meeting is over. Sometimes I come with a burning message. I can hardly wait until it is time to give it, being so heavily loaded up with the truth. Sometimes I am not quite

sure what to read: but I know—the Lord wants me to speak and He will give me something from His word. I have "the burden of the word of the Lord." Before I had the Holy Spirit, I never knew what the prophets meant when they had the burden of the word of the Lord; but since receiving my pentecost, I know what they meant. The word we speak brings healing. Then the devil gets after us, when we give out the word of God, or when we witness to what the Lord has done for us. But what do we care for that? It only lasts a little while.

26 There is another side to this matter. There are two striking words here—two words that describe every living man—cursed, *or* blessed. We have considered the one; let us consider the other. "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is." Here is our attitude to the present and to the future. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord. Put this down in your note book. Do not write it up here in your head, but in your heart. Let God write it there. Friends, it is just wonderful to me that, forty-five years ago before I began to preach, this scripture stood out like letters of fire before me. This was one of the scriptures that then spoke to my heart. I would read them over and over and they would burn like fire. They have had much to do in shaping my Christian life.

"Blessed is the man whose hope the Lord is." Some trust God for the present; but entertain alarms about the future. Real faith never borrows trouble. It reasons as David did, **"Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."** The Lord was his hope. Note the contents of such a hope —

"For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river." Not as a sage brush, not as a bunch of shrubbery. **"Tree planted,"** not springing up of its own accord, not out in the desert, not indigenous to the soil; but planted. God has to plant us in soil to which we were not indigenous. We are different from the world when we are born again. We are not of this world. Thank God! We are not planted in this world; we are planted in Christ, planted by the waters, even the fullness of the Spirit,

waters fresh, keeping our roots and branches fresh. Is not the word of God wonderful? There is so much in just a little portion of scripture. Trees planted by the water are ever green; because the roots receive moisture through the ground. Thus through the word the Spirit keeps us moist. **"That spreadeth out her roots by the river."** The roots of such a tree ramify the earth in every direction and receive nourishment and refreshment from the watered soil. O, this is alluvial ground, with such trees planted, in the soil. **"And shall not see when heat cometh."** That means, saints who are real saints, people that actually trust in the Lord, do not burn up in summer time. Yes it means more than that. They are not roasted out by the trial; they are not consumed by tribulations and hot conflicts with the devil. They do not see the heat of trial; because they see the Lord. We cannot successfully *see* more than one object at once; hence when we are looking at the Lord we are not seeing the heat. We may be sweating under the heat of the trial, or persecution; but by looking to the Lord, we are kept oblivious to it. Awrey said that he laughed and laughed when a man was beating him; because he was beating the wrong fellow. That is the way; the devil is after the wrong fellow, when he persecutes us. Laugh instead of cry. James said, "Rejoice when you fall into temptations."

"But her leaf shall be green." The leaf, that is the profession of the one that trusts the Lord, shall be green. The leaf is an indication of life; but it is not the fruit. The leaf beautifies the tree; it bedecks the tree; it speaks of good, productive soil; it intimates the rivers of water by which the tree is planted. It speaks of the rain that descends; we have a living testimony about the Holy Spirit. It speaks of resurrection; the Spirit quickens our mortal body. Her leaf shall not wither. Our testimony never loses its unction; our profession is not in word only, but in power. Well, if the Lord *sees* to it that the leaves of the trees shall not wither; how much more will He keep our profession from withering. You see our profession and conduct, as well as our unconscious movements, may speak of the leaf, what we are seen to be as Christians. **"Her leaf shall be green and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit."** Glory to God! Not only will our leaf not wither, but we will not be

careful in the year of drought, that is, when there is a spiritual drought, when other churches are losing out, growing cold, becoming worldly; we go right on and are never influenced by it. We do not cease our ardor for God. Blessed be God! And he that trusts in the Lord shall never cease yielding the fruit of the Spirit. It is like the apple trees and peach trees and pear trees, grape vines and blackberry bushes. If the devil would let them alone, they would always yield fruit. They were made for that purpose. Those poor inanimate bushes or trees have no power in themselves to throw off the devil; but we have the mighty God dwelling in us to enable us to thwart the schemes of the devil and resist his power; so that we may never cease from yielding fruit. Is it not wonderful, friends? This is the way God sees us—always fruitful as we trust in Him. Others may not see us that way; but He does. Is that not comforting? What a conclusion! God sees us ever green - and fruitful. He beholds us walking up and down, out and in, on the street, at our business, day after day, laden with the precious fruit of the Spirit, the offspring of resurrection life.

28

(Reprint 1934 Author Unknown)

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**“And a certain woman, named Lydia, heard us; whose heart the Lord opened, so that she attended unto the things which were spoken of by Paul.”** Acts 16:14. The things spoken of by Paul necessitate a revelation. Lydia heard his words; but the Lord had to perform an operation ere she could understand them. **He opened her heart**, so that she could understand the marvels of the gospel which Paul preached. This is a continuous work of the Holy Spirit. There must be developments of revelation according to the measure of the growth of believers. We do not see all the truth at conversion. The revelation of Paul's epistles unfolds as we are able to bear it. How sad that some put their own puny limit to that unfolding.

Mary M. Bodie

The next portion of our text seems to indicate that ignorance could have been the problem for such idolatry. "Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?" V. 21 The question is "have you not known God?" There is, in fact, no excuse for such a thing because God has not left Himself without witness. The problem is that men do not WANT to know Him. Paul is very clear that creation is the witness of God for all men. Isaiah declares here, "Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?" Paul likewise asserts: "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:" Rom. 1:19-20 Isaiah's poetic style again comes to the fore as he further instructs these nations that "It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity. Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble." V. 22-24 His message is quite clear. These nations are not permanent fixtures in the earth as they seem to imagine. They will come to naught, and they are absolutely nothing in comparison to the Majesty of God. He then asks the question, in view of their idolatrous likenesses of Him, "To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth." V. 25-26 This portion simply reinforces the fact that God left creation as a proof of His Own Existence, but men are doing everything in their power to deny such creation. The simple fact is that if they rid themselves of creation, they also, in their own minds, erase the existence of God.

Neither is going to happen, for creation will not disappear, and God is most assuredly Eternal. The fact that God, "...bringeth out their host by number,..." is in reality a declaration of war against these nations. The word "host" means "a mass of persons especially organized for war, an army," and it can surely apply even to the "host" of heavenly elements which God has used to "fight" against man, but it especially speaks of the massive armies The LORD will bring with Him when He engages Satan and the nations. Jesus is actually the subject of this narrative and He will show forth "the greatness of his might," and "not one faileth," for He will most assuredly conquer with a margin!

30 The closing message of this chapter is especially for Israel and they are asked, "Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God?" V. 27 The question still seems to be in regard to the aforementioned idolatry, of which "Jacob" has been repeatedly guilty. God continues to ask, do you really think that your idolatrous ways were hidden from Me? Did you think that there would be no judgment for refusing to acknowledge God? Could it be that thou "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding." Apparently Israel did forget the Greatness and Majesty of The Creator described above. Evidently they did not recognize that He neither faints nor grows weary. We learn these glorious lessons in our own experience today and glory in them, but Israel, as a nation, is yet to discover these facts by experience. They surely will learn the fullness of them, during the time of Jacob's trouble, but at the present time they are most assuredly, not giving Him the opportunity to prove that "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." V. 29-31 The good news is that Israel will eventually forsake their idolatrous ways and learn all these lessons experimentally. They will "faint," during the awful 1260 day reign of the antichrist, known also as the time of Jacob's trouble, wherein they will be preserved in the wilderness. All natural strength and resources

will have been exhausted, but He will “renew their strength,” in Him and “they shall mount up with wings of eagles,” even unto to the loftiest heights, as they assume their own place as head of the nations. However, they must first learn “to wait,” upon the LORD. The word means “to bind together (perhaps by twisting),” and speaks of one who is literally bound unto Him by the “twisting,” even excruciating experiences of the tribulation, as they actually become one with Him, and His glorious purposes for their lives.

This same time of trouble, depicted by the sickness of Hezekiah, in chapter 39 of this book, will give way to the glorious kingdom blessings described in our current text. We would note also that Matthew is very careful to record these same glorious kingdom blessings, wherein Israel is regarded as being exalted and leading the nations in righteousness. “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matt. 28:18-20

31

## Chapter 41

This present text of Isaiah corresponds with the Gospel of Mark, wherein the “unfaithful servant,” Mark, beautifully writes the profile of the Perfect Servant, Jesus. Acts 15:36-38 records the fact that John Mark “...went not with them to the work,” but this same man was used marvelously to detail the life of The Son of Man as He “...came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Mk. 19:45 Mark’s gospel is filled with words relevant to a slave, such as straightway, anon, forthwith (immediately), all of them emphasizing a servant’s immediate response to His Master. The works of Jesus are emphasized in this Gospel, rather than His Words, and all but two chapters begin with continuing words of action such as “And, Then, or After.” There is no record of Jesus’ birth in Mark, neither is there a genealogy given, because such details are not in harmony with the information pertinent to a slave. All these things combine to show the Perfect Servant Heart, and works, of Jesus.

Isaiah 41 reveals that that same heart will be perpetuated,

and manifest in Israel as a nation. "But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend." V. 8 This will be the glorious role of Israel, after they have accepted their Promised Messiah, for they too will become His servants ministering faithfully throughout the millennial period.

There is also a beautiful correlation between the gospels of Matthew and Mark, just as there is between Isaiah 40 & 41. Both Isaiah 40, and Matthew, present Christ and His Kingdom. Mark depicts Him as the Perfect Servant accomplishing God's purposes, on this earth. This current chapter of Isaiah likewise shows that the entire nation will manifest that same spirit of servitude during their Messiah's Millennial reign, as they minister to the nations.

32 Thus we come to the first verse of this chapter, initiating the story of how this glorious scenario, in regard to Israel, will come to pass. "Keep silence before me, O islands; and let the people renew their strength: let them come near; then let them speak; let us come near together to judgment." V. 1 It is the nations who must now "keep silence," for they are no longer in power. The "times of the gentiles," have ended, and Israel, that is, "the people," have renewed their strength, to the point that they are now "in charge." They will have "come near," unto Him, and will now be qualified to "speak." Because of such an approach, it is their voice which will be heard, and this small infant nation will determine the "judgment," or decisions that are to be made. The emphasis of this portion must be on the fact that God says, "Keep silence before ME,..." meaning that it is God Who has determined all these things, both for the nations and for Israel. It is He, "Who raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings? **he** gave them as the dust to his sword, and as driven stubble to **his** bow." V. 2 Israel is now that "righteous man," because they have finally accepted the righteousness of Christ, as they bowed at His Foot. Because of that, the nations must bow before him, that is Israel, this righteous man, and they now rule over the kings of the earth, as God's leaders throughout the New Kingdom of Christ. Furthermore, "He pursued them, and passed safely; even by the way that he had not gone with his feet." V. 3 Israel will, by this time, will have pursued her enemies, having "passed safely," through all the pitfalls of the dark days of the tribulation known as the time of Jacob's trouble. Though



Satan, and his henchman, the antichrist and false prophet, had tried to annihilate them, they have been miraculously preserved, "...even by the way that he had not gone with his feet." This simply implies that God "carried them," when they were not able to navigate on their own two feet during this most devastating time, fulfilling the promise that "...the woman,..." Israel, "... were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, **from the face of the serpent.**" Rev. 12:14

These glorious blessings of God continue for this nation, with the question as to Who may claim responsibility for it. "Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he." V. 4 This is none other than a description of Christ Himself even as John proclaimed in Rev. 1:8. "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." He will, indeed, now reign as God Almighty for one thousand years, and the nations must abide by it. "The isles saw it, and feared; the ends of the earth were afraid, drew near, and came." The nations were reduced to ashes because of the horrific judgments poured out upon them in the great tribulation and thus Isaiah's prophecy of chapter 45:23-24 is most graphically fulfilled. "I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. Surely, shall one say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed." Paul likewise asserts, that "...it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." Rom. 14:11 These words surely include Israel, but these next few verses describe the attitude of dependence which will lead them to the fulfillment of their role as God's servants. "They helped every one his neighbour; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage. So the carpenter encouraged the goldsmith, and he that smootheth with the hammer him that smote the anvil, saying, It is ready for the soldering: and he fastened it with nails, that it should not be moved." V. 6-7 This nation will now be in harmony, not only with God, but with themselves, and they will become the "builders," which He intended. They will truly become His

faithful servants and the reference to the materials used by the “goldsmith, along with the “nails,” bespeaks the deity of Christ, The Nail, Who will be the Central Theme of God’s building in that day.

34 “But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend. Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away.” V. 8-9 These verses are further evidence that God will make good on His promise to this nation. Isaiah proclaims clearly; “Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.” Isa 43:5-7 Thus Israel will be gathered back to their land in order to accomplish the full purpose and promise of God which He gave forth shortly after that had been delivered out of Egypt. “And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.” Ex. 19:6 This nation was chosen long ago to be “...a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation...” It has become quite clear that this will be the fulfillment of the “great commission,” found in Matthew, when this faithful nation will finally “...teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost;” Matt. 28:19 God never did “cast thee away,” and this chapter continues with His glorious promise to them.

(Continued from this point in the April issue)

\* ***If I am legal, (a law keeper) I am looking for righteousness. If I am standing in grace, I know that I am made the righteousness of God in Christ and I am looking for glory.***

\* ***The glory of youth, which all men seek, is promised to the saints of God — “Thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”***

\* ***“Faith in Christ is not optional with man, but obligatory.”***



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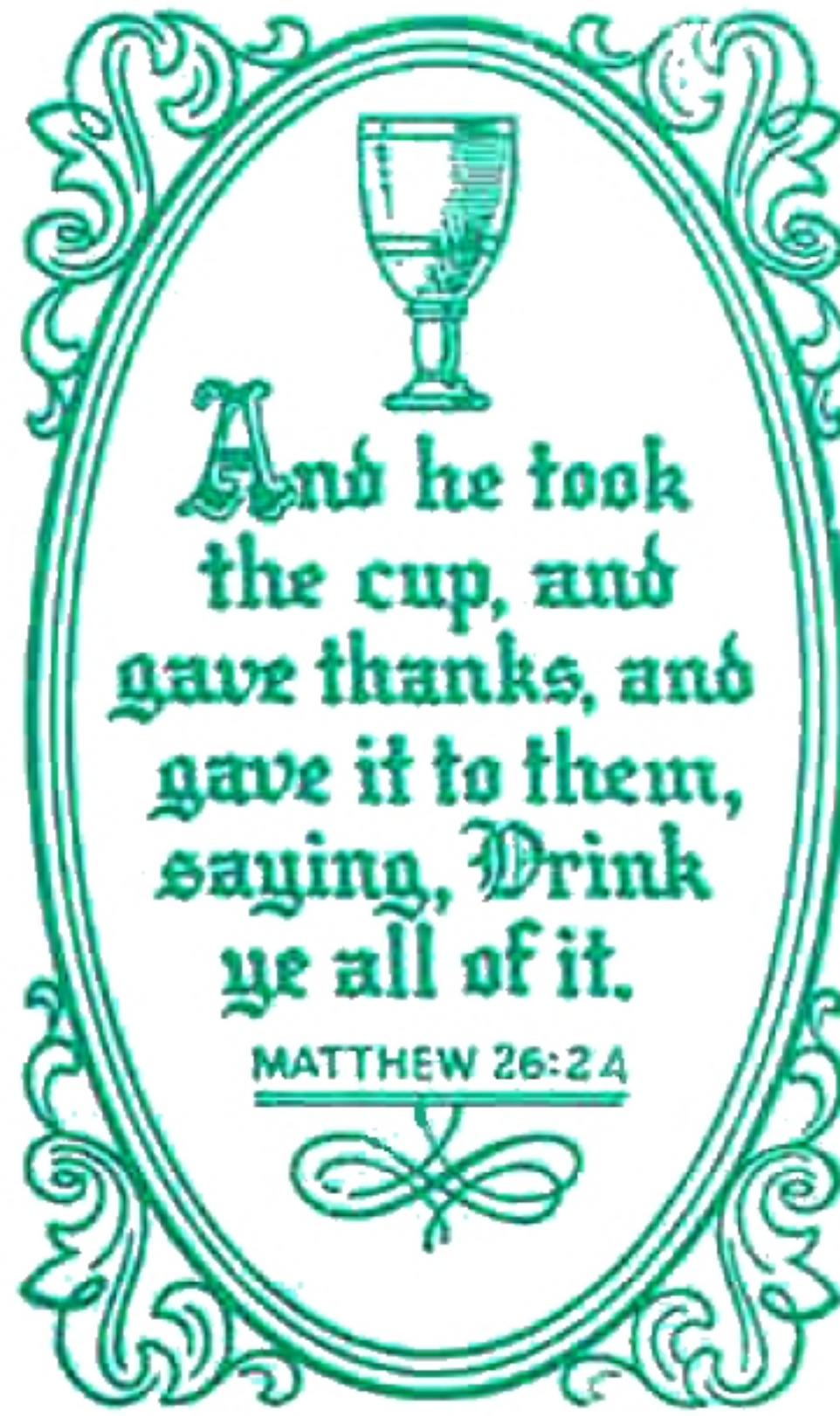
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