

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the whole counsel of GOD

Without Price Since 1910

'Loving His Appearing'

Volume 106

November 2016

Number 11



Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
PSALM 100:4.



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God dwells in a Thankful Heart

. . . a heart with room for others

MY THANK OFFERING

*Laid on Thine altar, O my Lord Divine,
Accept my gift this day for Jesus' sake.
I have no jewels to adorn Thy shrine,
No world-fam'd sacrifice to make.*

*And here I bring, within my trembling hands,
This will of mine - a thing that seemeth small;
Yet Thou alone canst understand how,
When I yield Thee this, I yield Thee all.*



"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.

Editor: Gene Hawkins



“Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:” Isa. 2:10-12

“**...in that day,**” is an expression used repeatedly throughout the scripture, especially in the context of end time prophecy, describing The Day of The Lord. Such a “Day” is in no wise a reference to the Sabbath or Sunday, as men sometimes suppose, when explaining passages such as Rev. 1:10. “I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.” John was caught in spirit to the very end of the Church Age to the time when Jesus was shortly to be crowned King of kings and Lord of lords, and will take over the affairs of the world which God had put into the hand of men in 606 B.C., when Nebuchadnezzar was placed in power as the first Gentile world ruler. The “... day of the LORD of hosts,...” thus announces that man’s day is over, and the entire universe is now under new management, with Jesus at the helm as the LORD of hosts.

Many references to the term, “... in that day...” are surely coming to light at this present hour. The proud “lofty” look of arrogance and self sufficiency is clearly demonstrated around our world today and is most assuredly manifest in both American Presidential candidates. Nebuchadnezzar learned a lesson or two about pride and arrogance after he had a dream with this message directly from God: “This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: **to the intent** that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.” Dan. 4:17

The current American election process is absolutely unprecedented, according to long time political observers. It is

the strangest election cycle which any have ever witnessed, and has become absolutely unpredictable. Though the above text from Daniel has been manifested many times throughout history in multiple places around the globe, it seems that the reference to the term, "basest of men" has taken center stage right before our very eyes, and without shame on the part of the participants. Polls, defining the UN-favorability of both candidates, are unprecedented. We are told that no previous candidate has won a Presidential election with the low numbers demonstrated by these polls. The consensus is that one is not voting FOR a particular candidate, but rather AGAINST the other one. It has also been pointed out that bumper stickers, which made very emphatic statements of ownership in previous contests, have been rarely displayed by either party during this election. It seems that no one wants to be identified with either one of these candidates. Loyalists from both parties have expressed the possibility that they will not even vote for their own candidate in the general election. Others have stated that while they will vote for their party's candidate, they will not endorse them. We wonder whom God will choose to win this contest of actually being known as "the basest among men," for Daniel declares plainly that He will give the kingdom "... to whomsoever he will..."

Scripture is very plain that Satan is "... **the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:" Eph 2:2 God also proclaims that "... **the god of this world** hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." II Cor. 4:4 Satan won that dominion from Adam after the fall, and it is his dominion and influence as a "god" that is seen in heaven and earth today. We have long dubbed the internet as being the modern day "tree of knowledge of good and evil." It is most assuredly a major part of Satan's domain and jurisdiction, since he is clearly named the "prince and power of the air." Daniel also is very emphatic in proclaiming this phenomenon of excessive knowledge during these last days. "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

Unprecedented knowledge in all major fields of endeavor has dramatically increased over the past few years. Technology,

both for good intent and bad, is unbelievable in our day. However, Satan seems to be having a real heyday proclaiming massive amounts of gross information on the internet. Terrorists use it to bring mass destruction on unsuspecting victims, publishing manuals on exactly how to do it. Knowledge in regard to nuclear warfare could well be one of the major reasons Jesus prophesied that, "... except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved:..." Matt. 24:22 One of the most recent manifestations of overwhelming knowledge being distributed on the internet occurred when Wikileaks dumped literally thousands of e-mails which had been "hacked" from political operatives. Russia has been accused of the "hacking," but that country has vigorously denied it. Some e-mails have indeed confirmed that Bernie Sanders' complaints about the Democratic Primary Process being "rigged" were legitimate. Others clearly indicate, according to some observers, that there has been clear media bias in reporting news which literally crucified some candidates and enhanced the image of others. Still others reveal what many have termed "collusion" between various state departments in order to protect a candidate. The Washington Post also published this headline: "Wikileaks emails appear to show Clinton spokeswoman joking about Catholics and evangelicals." That headline is followed by these excerpts. "Many of the most powerful elements of the conservative movement are all Catholics (many converts) from the [Supreme Court] and think tanks to the media and social groups, it's an amazing bastardization of the faith. They must be attracted to the systematic thought and severely backwards gender relations and must be totally unaware of Christian democracy." One respondent then wrote, "Their rich friends wouldn't understand if they became evangelicals." It is not hard to perceive that such statements are intended to address the problem of Christians resisting the ungodly practices of gay marriage and abortion. Later e-mails also specifically address contraception, stating that, "There needs to be a Catholic Spring, in which Catholics themselves demand the end of a middle ages dictatorship and the beginning of a little democracy and respect for gender equality in the Catholic Church."

5

Such comments are a direct contradiction to the instruction given in God's Word, where Paul clearly admonished, even the carnal Corinthians to, "Watch ye, **stand fast in the faith**, quit you like men, be strong." I Cor. 16:13 God's Word never

declares that Christianity is to be a democracy, where men are allowed to pick and choose the tenets convenient for them. Paul rather instructs the Church at Thessalonica to strongly adhere to the principles of God's Word. "Therefore, brethren, **stand fast, and hold the traditions** which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle." II Thess. 2:15

These particular e-mails are simply another example of the same, "... **in that day...**" conditions which have been prophesied from ages past. Paul emphatically warned, "... that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;" I Tim. 4:1

Tweeting on the internet has also become an absolute science for a number of candidates and some of them have been extremely malicious and vicious. Many political advisers complain loudly that both parties should get back to outlining their policy agenda rather than engaging in total character assassination, which has seemingly become a refined art in all political parties around the entire world.

6 The overwhelming knowledge prophesied by Daniel is most assuredly predominant in our day. Just the knowledge contained in all this "e-mail dump" has been so overwhelming that some who have actually seen them report that it will take massive amounts of time to go through the literally thousands of pages. However, it is also rather interesting that in the same breath wherewith Daniel announced this knowledge, he also declared that "... many shall run to and fro,..." which is also an apt description of life around this entire world, especially in the political sense as nations literally try to position themselves in order to gain the upper hand. We must keep in mind that all these things have been written in view of "... that day..., " or "... the time of the end." It is not at all hard to describe many world leaders, who are already in power at this present time, as being "... the basest (lowest, debased) of men..." The leaders in N. Korea, Iran, Syria, Russia, and China could certainly claim that distinction given the way some have treated their own people, as well as the way many have tried to inflict their will on other nations. It is almost a certainty that some of these nations will be a part of that seven headed coalition of nations in the tribulation period, from whence the "basest" man of all time, the antichrist, will emerge. It is no accident that Daniel saw the four world

empires as “beasts,” because that description surely reflects their rebellious hearts and beastly conduct in the way they rule. Not only so, but these same world rulers today surely seem to be running “to and fro” in an effort to establish their own advantage.

The term “to and fro” is a seafaring term meaning “to push forth; (but used only figuratively) to lash, i.e. (the sea with oars) to row; mariner, rower, run to and fro.” What a great analogy of what world leaders are doing today on this troubled political sea which is literally raging in these last days. This is a figurative term, but consider this headline from Newmax. “U.S. warship possibly targeted by Yemen rebels for a third time.” The article then goes on to explain that “Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen may have launched missiles at U.S. Navy ships for the third time this week. U.S. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson appeared to confirm that assessment, telling reporters the vessels seemed ‘to have come under attack in the Red Sea, again from coastal defense cruise missiles fired from the coast of Yemen.’

The United States has supported a Saudi Arabia-led coalition against the Houthis over the past year with intelligence, weapons and midair refueling aircraft.”

There are indeed a great number of “rowers” running to and fro in this one conflict, and there are many more around the entire world. Both Russia and China have maneuvered themselves into positions in various parts of the globe, trying to gain dominance over every other power that would resist them. Recent conflicts in the South China Sea wherein China insisted that the U.S. was trying achieve a dominance that did not belong to her are just a few of the many conflicts between these two nations. Russia and the U.S. have also had their major conflicts over Syria, and “negotiations” between Iran and the U.S. over nuclear endeavors is well documented. All the nations of the world are surely running to and fro in a concerted effort to gain superiority, and we know from God’s Word that this pattern will only escalate further. Confrontations and skirmishes such as those outlined here will become much more intense and frequent as time goes on.

We cannot stop the horrendous behavior of political forces in this country or around the world, but neither will we give in to fear and panic. Our hope is in The Lord and His magnificent plan for us. Our opening text declares plainly that, “The lofty looks of

man shall be humbled,... and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty,... and he shall be brought low:" The key for us is that "... the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day." Bless God, that day is here, and King Jesus is on the very threshold of taking His throne. We must leave the judgment, and the correction, and the reprisals for pride, wickedness and rebellion to Him. Our hope is to be taken out of this world before the fullness of these judgments comes forth. We anxiously await that day when we too would witness that marvelous scene described by John when he was caught up to heaven in spirit on "The Lord's Day."

8 "After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold." Rev. 4: 1-4 This is the same One of which Isaiah spoke as, "...the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day." Some have criticized the interpretation of this scene as teaching that John would be a representative figure of earthly saints who would be in the throne room when Jesus is crowned King of kings and Lord of lords. There are those who insist that all of the Church is doomed to go into the tribulation period. However, we would emphasize what John actually saw, for the four living ones and 24 elders are present at Jesus' coronation, BEFORE the judgments of tribulation are poured out, and they clearly identify themselves as having been redeemed from the earth. "And when he had taken the book, the four beasts (living ones) and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on (over)

the earth.” Rev. 5:8-10

The four living ones and twenty four elders represent two sides of the same bridal company. The four living ones are associated with the “sea of glass,” or the Word of God. They were also “... full of eyes...” before and behind and within, meaning that they saw according to God’s Word the past, present, and future, a beautiful portrait of the priestly ministry conferred on God’s People. These also manifest that fourfold view of Christ Himself in their character.

The twenty four elders represent the kingly character of this same group, for the number 24 is a governmental number. It is also interesting that the four beasts (living ones) also display this same number in their character, for there were four of them each displaying “... six wings about him.” Ch. 4:8 We would note however that the kingly aspect of the 24 elders is especially emphasized by the fact that they sat upon thrones and had crowns on their heads.

This is our glorious hope today in the midst of the horrendous and chaotic times unfolding before us. Rather than allowing the enemy to put undue emphasis on all these present earthly difficulties, let us follow Paul and claim our crown even as he did. “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: 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. 4:6-8

A Psalm of Thanksgiving

**“O Give thanks unto the Lord,
For He is good:
For His mercy endureth
Forever!**

**Oh, that men would praise the Lord
For His goodness ;
For His wonderful works
To the children of men!”**

-Psalm 107:1. 8.

A REST REMAINS

Sermon at Camp

Meeting
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 message is about 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 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 may have found this rest and may be enjoying it. But I have a conviction that there are others 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 those many years in the wilderness. 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 through 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.

11

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 offenses, 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

12

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. 13

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 through 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 the Lord*, 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.

14 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)

* Some folk speak from experience; others, from experience, don't speak.

* We have heard it said, "No one can get rid of a temper by losing it."

* Many Christians want the privileges of Christianity without shouldering any of its responsibilities.

Power Brings Conflict

A. B. Simpson

“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.” II Cor. 4:8-10

There is a prevalent idea that the power of God in a human life should lift us above all trials and conflicts. The fact is, the power of God always brings a conflict and a struggle. One would have thought that on his great missionary journey to Rome, Paul would have been carried by some mighty providence above the power of storms and tempests and enemies. But on the contrary, it was one long, hard fight with persecuting Jews, with wild tempests, with venomous vipers and all the powers of earth and hell, and at last he was delivered, as it seemed, by the narrowest margin, and had to swim ashore at Malta on a piece of wreckage and barely escaped a watery grave:

Was that like a God of infinite power? Yes, just like Him. 15
And so Paul tells us that when he took the Lord Jesus Christ as the life of his body, a severe conflict immediately came; indeed, a conflict that never ended, a pressure that was persistent, but out of which he always emerged victorious through the strength of Jesus Christ.

Paul—A Model for Us

What a ceaseless, strenuous struggle! It is impossible to express in English the forcible language of the original. There are five pictures in succession. The first, the idea is that of crowding enemies pressing in from every side, and yet not crushing him, because the police of heaven cleared the way just wide enough for him to get through. The literal translation would be, "We are crowded on every side, but not crushed."

The second picture is that of one whose way seems utterly closed and yet who has pressed through; there is light enough to show him the next step. The Revised Version translates it, "perplexed, but not unto despair." Rotherham still more literally renders it, without a way, but not without a by-way."

The third figure is that of an enemy in hot pursuit, while the Divine Defender still stands by, and he is not left alone. Again we adopt the fine rendering of Rotherham, "Pursued, but not abandoned."

Full Overcoming

The fourth figure is still more vivid and dramatic. The enemy has overtaken him, and struck him, has knocked him down. But it is not a fatal blow; he is able to rise again. It might be translated, "Overthrown, but not overcome."

Once more the figure advances, and now it seems to be even death itself, "Always bearing about in the body, the dying of the Lord Jesus." But he does not die, for "the life of Jesus" now comes to his aid and he lives in the life of Another until his life work is done.

The reason so many are defeated is that they expect to have it all without a struggle; and when the conflict comes and the battle wages long, they become discouraged and surrender. God has nothing worth having that is easy. There are no cheap goods in
16 the heavenly market.

Our redemption cost all that God has to give, and everything worth having is expensive. Hard places are the very school of faith and character; and if we are to rise over mere human strength and prove the power of life divine in these mortal bodies, it must be through a process of conflict that may well be called the birth travail of a new life. It is the old figure of the bush that burned, but was not consumed, or of the vision in the house of the interpreter of the flame **that would not expire, notwithstanding the fact that the demon ceaselessly poured water on it, because in the background stood an angel ever pouring oil and keeping the flame aglow.**

Refuse To Be Overcome

No, suffering child of God, you cannot fail if only you dare to believe, to stand fast and refuse to be overcome. The process of receiving is by faith. "I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe and therefore speak." We can manifest the life of Christ only while we trust Him. It must be moment by moment and day by day; "For which cause we

faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." (II Cor. 4:16). It must be a habit of receiving, a constant dependence.

It is not one or two remarkable experiences of healing or blessing, but a lifelong drinking in of strength from Christ, even as does the plant continually by ten thousand rootlets. It is here that we must learn to maintain the habit of physical union with Christ and vital dependence upon His strength, breath by breath and step by step.

Embryo Of Golden Harvest

All this is but the earnest of something better by and by, the pledge of future glory. Therefore the Apostle adds, "We know that if the earthly house of this tent were taken down, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." The Apostle means that the life of Jesus in our bodies now is but the beginning and the pledge of that glorious life which is to come to us at the resurrection and the kingdom above. Just as the bulb you plant in autumn has in it the promise of the Easter lily, and the acorn is but an oak in miniature, and the seed carries in its bosom the embryo of the golden harvest, so the touch of Christ upon our bodies now carries with it the pledge and the very substance of all the glorious immortality which is to be ours in the **age to come**.

17

God Seeks Thy Praise

It is said that, once when Sir Michael Costa was having a rehearsal with a vast array of musicians and hundreds of voices, a man who played the piccolo far off in a remote corner said within himself, "In all this din, it matters not what I do," and he ceased to play.

Suddenly the great conductor stopped. Amid a great silence he cried aloud, "Where is the piccolo?" His quick ear had missed it.

The Lord listens for thy praise!

REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.” Psa. 100:4

Perhaps one of the most dominant concepts that men have had of God throughout the ages is that of asking or even demanding His favor because He is God. However, the Psalmist here instructs us to “... enter into his gates...” or into His Glorious Presence with thanksgiving. We have often indicated that a thankful heart is not simply an option for one who is seeking the fullness of God. One of the indictments against natural man is “... that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, **neither were thankful;...**” Rom. 1:21 We are further admonished repeatedly to “... give thanks unto the LORD;...” simply because He “... is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.” I Chron. 16:34, Psa. 107:1, Psa. 118:1

18 The entrance into God’s Presence, according to the opening text, is progressive. He would have us approach His gates motivated by a thankful heart, once again concentrating primarily on His Goodness. Sadly, some never get beyond the **gate** of His Presence, but God’s plan is for us to enter “... **into his courts with praise:...**” The word praise literally means “to shine, boast, praise, or celebrate,” and the target of such celebration or boasting must be God Himself. Psalm 150 also closes with this admonition: “Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD,...” indicating that praise and thanks be rendered for even the very breath of life given unto us. Entering His courts signifies going far beyond the gate of His provision for us. It is in these glorious courts that we discover yet more and more of the vast resources which have been afforded us due to the glorious redemption in Christ Jesus. There is simply no limit to the tremendous treasures we may discover in these fruitful courts.

The third level of this progression is being “... thankful unto him,” and once again the emphasis must be upon The LORD. God plainly informed Isaiah “... that there is none beside me. I

am the LORD, and there is none else... I am the LORD; and there is none else.” Isa. 45:6,18 We too learn by experience that God does stand alone in His provisions and benefits for our lives. Scripture is very clear that “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” Jas. 1:17 Thus our hearts must be thankful unto Him, not only for His matchless gifts, but everything He IS unto us.

Finally we are to “... bless his name,” and it becomes a great joy “to kneel; by implication to bless God (as an act of adoration).” The blessings we receive when we claim the Name of Jesus are limitless. Acts 4:12 emphatically decrees that “... there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved,” and such salvation is all inclusive. Every deliverance we experience throughout this life, in spirit, soul, or body, is directly because of that Glorious and Worthy Name. We should be absolutely beside ourselves in magnifying that Name of Jesus!

19

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Just a reminder to our readers who may be sight impaired. We do have an audio version of Grace and Glory available, read by Sis. Kathleen Tye. If you desire this monthly edition of the publication, please contact us by e-mail at gjhawk1@msn.com. You may also phone us at 816-618-3306. We would surely love to hear from you.

“And say ye, Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather us together, and deliver us from the heathen, that we may give thanks to thy holy name, and glory in thy praise.” I Chron. 16:35

I Know

Gene Hawkins

“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord,... Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, ... which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” II Tim. 1:8-12

20 There are probably no words more beautiful in any language than, “I know.” They are especially valuable in our day of total chaos and uncertainty, and our assurance of them is based upon The Word of God. We read a news article recently of a man complaining that there is no historical evidence of Jesus’ resurrection and that the scriptures record very few words concerning it. The writer then cited passages from the four gospels, even enumerating the words attributed to that actual event. He apparently overlooked the fact that resurrection is taught throughout the scripture, and that the Apostle Paul lists multiple firsthand accounts of those who saw Jesus, after He had been raised from the grave, in I Cor. 15. He must likewise have forgotten the above text which testifies that the resurrection is actually the basis of everything that we both have, and are, in this present world, for He, “... hath saved us,... not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus..., But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:” “V. 9-10 That is a testimony of the resurrection which not only benefitted Jesus, but impacts our own lives right down to this very day.

The great problem at this present time is that men simply do not want to believe The Word of God! We are absolutely confident that the Resurrection took place because The Word of God declares it so! Likewise, the grand assurance

of “I know,” is based on God’s infallible Word.

There are many examples of “I know” in scripture which would apply to every experience we might have, but in this article we would divide them into only three major categories, which are defined in II Cor. 1:10. “Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;” Our “past” is reflected in the assertion that God “delivered us from so great a death,” even as Paul relates his own personal past in V. 9. “But **we had** the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:” Verse 8 also invokes the past. “For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:” Every Christian can also claim that testimony simply by virtue of the new birth. All of us were under the sentence of death the day we were born into this world, and yet The “... God which raiseth the dead,” proved Himself to us personally. Many others likewise testify of past experiences wherein God has delivered them not only from the guilt of sin, but also from its power. They also know other great experiences of salvation because He has filled them with the power of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in new tongues, along with setting them free during times of sickness, financial troubles, and countless other dilemmas. The fact is that we have all had experiences from the past that can literally catapult us into the very fertile ground of faith for the purpose of believing God for our present difficulty.

“Who doth deliver,...” reveals the promise that He is engaged in setting us free at this present hour. Another solid scriptural fact is that, “... the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,” Tit. 2:11 This means that every time grace appears it brings glorious deliverance. Some of God’s people experience such deliverance over and over again, and as noted, such past experience actually produces a glorious “springboard” for present deliverance, whereby God “... doth deliver...” Our past literally gives us power and assurance for the present, and God specifically exhorted the children of Israel to follow this pattern numerous times.

When Israel was in great difficulty, God exhorted them to “... **remember** that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt,

and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.” Deut. 5:15 How many of our difficulties are also designed that we too might “... keep the sabbath day,...” or learn by experience that Jesus is our Rest? Did not Paul preach this same glorious message when he wrote: “But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, **that** we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:”? II Cor. 1:9

Deut. 7:18 likewise describes the glorious advantage of memory. “Thou shalt not be afraid of them: (enemy nations) but shalt **well remember** what the LORD thy God did unto Pharaoh, and unto all Egypt;” This same admonition instructing fearlessness must also be applied in our lives today because we too can remember the enemies which God has already conquered for us. We too can encourage ourselves with the fact that God has not changed His pattern. If He could do it then, He can most assuredly do it now, for He has the history to prove it.

22 David also loudly proclaims the benefit of remembering what God has already accomplished, as he encourages himself in The LORD crying out, “I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings....Thou art the God that doest wonders:...” Psa. 77:11-14 He then “meditates” especially on God’s wondrous works in delivering his forefathers from Egypt. We too must draw on God’s past Faithfulness for our present deliverance, and safekeeping.

Job also understood the tremendous value of “I know.” “Behold now, I have ordered my cause; I know that I shall be justified.” Job 13:18 This assertion came in the midst of tremendous persecution from his “comforters.” He had no outward reason to make such a statement, for his body was literally decimated by disease. However, faith sprang to his defense and he cried out triumphantly “I know,” that God will completely exonerate me. He likewise looked into the future and made a preposterous declaration according to the standards of natural reasoning. “For **I know** that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: ... yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within

me.” Job 19:25-27 This was not fantasy or wishful thinking on the part of this man of faith. It is rather absolute confidence and assurance with which he speaks. Finally, after his trial was over, Job concluded, “I know that thou canst do everything and that no thought can be withholden from thee.” Job 42:2 We too can come to that same assuring knowledge as we are emboldened by the past to believe God for current experiences. Paul sets forth a powerful example of such faith when he cried out in the midst of being shipwrecked, “... sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.” Acts 27:25 It did come to pass exactly as God had said and our assurance also is based on what God hath said in His Word. We are assured of resurrection life and power coursing through our being today, because we have already experienced the victory whereby He has given us power over sinful deeds of the body in the past. “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. **Therefore**, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.” Rom. 8:11-13 23

We too can shout with Paul He “... doth deliver...” at this present time, because we can boldly testify as to how He has already set us free in times of physical difficulty, financial pressures, and spiritual battles in the past. We can then proclaim with all assurance that we know or “...trust that he will yet deliver us;” in the future. This is the message which Paul trumpeted in our opening text; “... I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” Paul had already proven Him in the past and now he knows that the future is absolutely safe in the Hands of God. The apostle also conveys this same unequivocal knowledge with this positive expression of “I know.” “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:” Phil. 1:6 This surely correlates with our experience today. There is no room for speculation in Paul’s confidence here. He knows beyond doubt that God will complete the work He has already begun in view of Jesus soon appearing. We too know that God has proven Himself in our own experience in the past and we too

can have this same confidence that He will finish that work which He has already begun. Our hope and knowledge in this matter is exactly the same as that of Job. "For I know that my redeemer liveth and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth...." The glorious inside information we have today is that we shall stand there with Him!

Our victory also, during these turbulent, often disappointing times, lies in what "I know." Paul again provides direction and assurance for us in his last message to Timothy. "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: 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. 4:6 The words "I know" are not used here, but Paul absolutely exudes confidence and assurance in his final "will and testament." This language here is far different from that which was used earlier in Paul's life when he wrote to the Philippians. He was confident in God's Word as noted previously, but he also knew that he was NOT ready to be offered. "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before," Phil. 3:12-13 This must be our testimony today. We must not deceive ourselves into thinking that we "have arrived." Rather our task is to continue to believe God and "follow after..." His Divine Plan for our lives, knowing, "...whom I have believed, and ... persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." We know not whether God will call us home by way of the grave or by translation, but we too can have the same assurance that Paul had before he ever left this earth, "I am ready ...I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness,..." He already knew beyond doubt that he had won the coveted Prize for which he sought! What a glorious comfort and advantage that we too can shout confidently "I know...."

Lessons On Lazarus

A. S. Copley

"... Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep." John 11:11

Three facts are related in this chapter about Lazarus. These form a fine outline for an interesting study on Divine Healing and prayer, which we will consider.

First, Lazarus' Sickness. "Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha." Sickness is directly, or indirectly the result of sin. If Adam had never committed sin, his descendants would never have fallen sick. Sin is the mother of disease, even as Satan is the father of sin. Those three close friends of our Lord believed in divine healing, because they heard Him teach it and saw the miracles He performed. "Therefore, his sisters sent unto Him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick." The women had a powerful leverage upon Jesus. They knew that He loved their brother. So they bore down heavily upon that lever. Did He go at once and heal him?

"When Jesus heard that, He said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby." Some cases of sickness rather glorify the flesh, and are not for God's glory. Evidently Lazarus was not to blame for his illness. The devil gave him a blow without any cause in him; but God overruled it, so that Satan was worsted after all. Note that the recorder says expressly, "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus." V. 5. But the next verse sounds as if He did not love them. "When He had heard therefore that he was sick He abode two days still in the same place where He was." Perfect love sometimes delays its answer to prayer. A delayed answer is always freighted with greater blessing than an immediate reply. It occasions greater reasons for rejoicing in God.

Second, Lazarus Dead. After two days, the Lord said to His disciples, "Let us go into Judaea again." They demurred, because the Jews had sought to stone Him; but He had not forgotten the call to come and heal His dear friend Lazarus, and He had no fear of men. He purposed to move in His Father's holy will. Hence, the text — "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go that I may awake him out of sleep." But Lazarus had died in the meantime. Thus Jesus taught that the death of a believer is not death, but a sleep, which always looks forward to a morning. There was a victorious resurrection morning to Jesus' death

some days later. And on the basis of Christ's resurrection, every believer, who dies, will have a resurrection morning. God be praised!

And strange to say, Jesus was glad that His friend had died. He said, "I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent that ye may believe." Death could not come and sickness could not stay where Jesus was. They had believed on Him unto salvation; but faith should grow. They should believe more and more. As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met Him: but Mary sat still in the house. She was more patient than her sister. She knew better how to meet trial and disappointment. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died; but I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee." Observe that Jesus did not reprove Martha. He simply took advantage of the occasion to give her further knowledge. He did not blame Mary or Martha for their brother's illness and death. He turned the trial into triumph. He turned their deeper sorrow into higher joy.

26 Third, Lazarus Raised from the Dead. Jesus said wisely to Martha, "Thy brother shall rise again." Martha answered, saying, "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." She was taught that there would be a last day; but she did not believe that the last day had arrived. It seems very easy to postpone the fulfillment of prophecy. Men are wont to push the end of this age and the Coming of Jesus forward. Many are saying, "It will not come in our time." Then our Lord uttered a very new and wonderful truth. He said to her, "I AM the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die. Believest thou this?"

That fundamental fact predicted of Christ is a truth of which many saints are ignorant. This Gospel of John opens by announcing that Jesus Christ is the Word, and that Word is the light of men. Jesus declared Himself to be "the way, the truth and the life," yea, "the light of the world." Simeon called the baby Christ God's salvation. Luke 2 Even David, a thousand years before Christ came, said, "The Lord is my light and my salvation." It is great gain to us to learn these facts and then appropriate Christ in these respects in personal experience. For example, Paul said, It is no more I that live; "... but Christ liveth in me:..." Gal. 2:20. Christ not only saves me; but He is my salvation. He not only heals me when I am sick; but He is my life, my Physician. If I am overtaken with pain, or illness, I need not

phone the drug store to send some painkiller, or call a doctor. He says to me, "I AM the Lord thy Physician." And Jesus Christ becomes to" believers what they appropriate Him for.

Well, Martha was overwhelmed with the revelation. She exclaimed, "Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world." She seemed to forget that her brother was in the tomb. She got a new vision of her Lord's identity — even the Christ, the prophesied Son of God. She ran and called Mary, saying, "The Master is come and calleth for thee." Mary arose quickly and came to Him. When she saw Jesus, "she fell down at His feet, saying, unto Him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." She uttered those words in a different spirit from Martha. There was no complaint in her words. They were full of faith, which was also expressed by the fact that she did not run to the Lord until He called for her.

When Jesus saw Mary weeping, He also wept and groaned in spirit and was troubled. Critics also appeared on the scene, saying "Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?" They were far more blind to God's ways than the disciples. Again Jesus groaned, and said, "Take ye away the stone." The disciples must manifest their faith; Outspoken and unbelieving Martha exclaimed, "Lord, by this time, he stinketh; for he hath been dead four days." Then the Lord answered, "Said I not unto thee, that if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?" With that, they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me; and I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by, I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when He had thus spoken, He cried with a loud voice, LAZARUS, COME FORTH"

27

At His command of authority, Lazarus came forth with his grave clothes upon him. Then Jesus said, "Loose him and let him go." Many believed on Jesus because of that great miracle. Others found fault with Him and held a council against Him. Praise God for the rich lessons contained in this narrative. It pays to call on the Lord when we are afflicted. It pays to keep on praying and believing though He delay the answer. We may look for a greater miracle, the longer the delay and severer the test. Christ is sure to reveal Himself in a new and deeper fashion; for He never ceases to love His own. His deep love plans and seeks our highest good.

GIVE THANKS ... ANYWAY!

Richard C. Halverson

"I will offer to Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the Name of the Lord" Psalm 116:17

How does one offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving?

It means to thank God when one does not feel like it!

It means to thank God when there seems to be nothing for which to be thankful.

It means to thank God when circumstances are absolutely contrary to the giving of thanks!

It means to thank God with the will rather than the emotions.

It is to give God thanks for what He IS rather than what He gives!

THANK GOD FOR HIMSELF rather than His gifts! Thanking God just for obvious blessings and benefits and gifts is to miss life's choicest reasons for thankfulness.

28

In retrospect, haven't life's TRIALS brought the chiefest blessings - life's TESTINGS the greatest triumphs?

Thanking God whether circumstances are favorable or not, thanking Him when circumstances are UNfavorable - *this is* to recognize God for what He is.

Be thankful to God for the fact of His overruling goodness and providence in all things.

Be thankful to God for Himself - for His integrity, His faithfulness, His unfailing love!

Small the man who thanks God only for what God gives!

Blind the man who measures thankfulness by the benefits of God rather than the God who benefits!

Thanking God for Himself is the sacrifice of thanksgiving, because it is for God Himself alone - not for what He does or gives. It is the sacrifice of thanksgiving because it is more than emotional sentimentality. It is an action of the dedicated will.

Offer God the sacrifice of thanksgiving ... daily!

STRANGE SOUNDS FROM OUTER SPACE

Charles R. Burgard

I recently read a very informative and inspiring news article concerning a huge communications system in Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A. This electronic structure has a high antenna attested to be so strong that it can snatch a space whisper and turn it into a loud message. This device can lock into Intelsat 3, a commercial communications satellite hanging in orbit 22,300 miles above the Pacific Ocean. The antenna, taller than a ten-story building, can pull in the faint signals from the satellite and sort them into a telephone call or a color television program - all in a fraction of a second.

We are privileged indeed to share in the marvelous miracles of modern scientific achievement. My thoughts moved from the secular to the spiritual, as I pondered this news release.

Let's suppose the communication experts are positioned at their electronic consoles. Before them are the latest in technological equipment. Each man is highly proficient in the field of space communications, having applied himself in diligent research and dedicated study of the technical aspects of this unlimited subject. The antenna system, powered with solar sensors, scans space in quest of pertinent information.

One day, routinely searching the skies for its messages, the meter needle registers a stirring in the atmosphere. The control room becomes a hushed haven, as the skilled scientists adjust their receivers to the proper frequency. The antenna quickly points in the direction of the sounds. The scientists tune in to the strange sounds as they are amplified through the speaker system.

With crystal clear reception the scientists hear a strange moving in space. A commanding shout penetrates the universe; then a powerful, ear-piercing blast of a trumpet, followed by a thunderous stirring of the air currents. The scientists are puzzled by these strange sounds. They enquire among themselves as to its exact meaning. A call is quickly made on "the hot line" to governmental officials. The strange sounds are replayed to the officials of the land - they, too, are bewildered!

In a moment of time, something has taken place which

has never happened before in the history of the world. Throughout the world come reports of missing people. The presses of the world are operating at peak capacity. This is news indeed!

Yes, this clipping set my mind to serious thinking. This is more than a supposition, more than a daydream, and more than a figment of my imagination. One day this will become a reality. Its surety is settled by the faithfulness of God's promises. Its suddenness will find many asleep or caught up with the cares of this world's complacency.

Regardless of what you may think about the above facts, one remains: Jesus Christ IS coming again. The Lord promised His trouble-hearted disciples, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself ..." - John 14:2,3.

The Lord Jesus is faithful to His promise. Peter records this fact, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise ..." II Peter 3:9. The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of His Church: "Unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin
30 unto salvation" -Hebrews 9:28.

What about these strange sounds from outer space? Well, let's establish their meaning by turning to Paul's first letter to the believers at Thessalonica, chapter four, verses thirteen to eighteen. We read: *"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died, and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (precede) them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."*

The sounds are not space static. Rather, they are the sounds of the Son of God Himself descending from Heaven. The commanding

shout is that of Christ calling His own unto Himself. The trumpet of God summons the saints to this meeting in the air.

The rapture of the Church may occur any moment. Are you prepared for this glorious day? The Scriptural signs point to the nearness of His coming. Be ready to respond to the Saviour, the shout, and the sound of the trumpet of God!

(Reprinted from "The Prophetic News" 1970)

BRIDE OF THE LAMB

John Wright Follette

Bride of the Lamb, God spreads for thee

A needed feast divine.

There shalt thou find immortal Bread

And there, immortal Wine.

There shalt thou find, though veiled from sense,

His Presence strong and sweet.

Thy loving Lord thus deigns to come,

Thy hungry heart to meet.

He hides Himself within the feast,

So with it thou shalt take

His very Life, thine own to be.

Eat then, for His dear sake.

The wine shall be His blood for thee,

His sacrifice divine.

In faith then, drink ye all of it,

This is no common wine.

Thus, lowly heart, we eat His flesh,

Thus do we drink His blood.

The loving Christ is Bread indeed-

His cup, a healing flood.

ISAIAH 45

(Concluded)

That total domination, by Israel over these nations continues, asserting that, "They shall be ashamed, and also confounded, all of them: they shall go to confusion together that are makers of idols." V. 16 Israel has had their share of association with idols down through the ages, but these words apply especially to the nations which had erroneously assumed that Israel would bow down to them forever. It is quite true that God did exalt these Gentile Nations over Israel during Gentile Times, but that time is soon to be over, despite the message these Gentiles may have gotten from their lying "idols." God declares emphatically that "...Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end." V. 17 The humiliation for Israel will be complete and the correlation with Romans, as Paul describes the future of Israel, is remarkable at this juncture. "And so all Israel shall be saved: as
32 it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins." Rom. 11:26-27 Such salvation is by no means arbitrary, but rather, directly because they have finally accepted Their Messiah, and this glorious message of restoration continues as God once again reiterates His Role as The Creator.

"For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else." V. 18 The little word "For" in this verse connects it with V. 17, and describes exactly how "Israel shall be saved..." This portion beautifully describes the natural creation recorded in Gen. 1:1-2 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep..." Our current verse, here in Isaiah, tells us that God did not create the world "without form and void,..." He specifically "...formed the earth and made it;...established it,...created it not in vain,...formed it

to be inhabited:..." However, due to the fall of Satan, and the universal upheaval which ensued, God re-created the heavens and the earth according to the pattern in Genesis. This account should quiet the critic who insists that the Bible cannot be true because the world is far older than the supposed 6,000 years, indicated by Genesis 1-2, which indeed it is. The fact is that all the prehistoric discoveries men have made were a part of the FIRST creation of the earth, and that means God could have created them millions or even billions of years ago. We would ask our own question. How old is Satan? If one can answer that, he can determine how old the earth is for Satan was a part of God's first creation.

This same pattern applies to Israel. He did not create them in vain but they, like the world, had a "sick spell," whereby God had to re-create them IN CHRIST JESUS. They too will ultimately be the creation which He intended, thus His message directly to them: "I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right." V. 19 He does declare that which is Right, True, and Factual, 33 and it is right for Israel to occupy first place among the nations. That means that this little, insignificant nation will now lead their former oppressors in the ways of righteousness. They will now literally lead them out of idolatry.

"Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save. Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me." Israel has learned this message of salvation in actual experience, and now they are exhorted to "Assemble yourselves....draw near together...." This would have been the admonition following the Babylonish Captivity, after the Jews had been freed by Cyrus, but it is especially indicative of the end time when this nation will convince those of the millennium to forsake praying "...unto a god that cannot save." God says, "bring them near, let them

take counsel together..." to understand this God Who has spoken these things from the beginning. They must convey the message that "...there is no God else beside me..." This was God's purpose from ages past, in making Israel, "...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

Isaiah further exhorts, "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." V. 22 The message is the same for both Israel and "all the ends of the earth:..." God is God and none can compare with Him. He is the Saviour, both of His Own Chosen People and all these Nations, and all men must recognize His Sovereignty.

"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." V. 23 This attribute of God is true of all The Word of God according to Isa. 55:11 for we read that "...it shall not return unto me void..." However, God makes a very specific point here, proclaiming that "...every
34 knee shall bow,..." whether willingly or unwillingly. It will be a forced submission during the tribulation period, but there will come that day when men will truly acknowledge His Glorious Plan of Redemption, and "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. In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory." V. 24,25 Israel will first learn these glorious lessons even through the horrendous experience of the tribulation period, but they will also comfort the nations, as a "kingdom of priests," instructing all men of that day; "...in the LORD have I righteousness and strength:..." Paul likewise answers "And so all Israel shall be saved:...There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and...turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins...For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance." Rom. 11:26-29

Thus ends this chapter, with the assurance that Israel shall most assuredly occupy that prime place for which God has created them.

We are, once again obligated to publish this annual report of ownership and circulation- per compliance with The United States Postal Service.

13. Publication Title		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below	
Grace and Glory		10-01-2016	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
National & International publication of Christian Literature			
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		1700	1700
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mail including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®		
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))			
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	1302	1262
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	22	21
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	56	58
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	70	75
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		1450	1418
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		1450	1418
g. Copies not Distributed (See instructions to Publishers #4 (page 43))		125	115
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		1575	1531
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)			

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

Herefore I
will give
thanks unto thee,

O Lord,
among the heathen,
and I will sing
praises unto
thy name.

II SAMUEL 22:50.