

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the  
whole counsel of GOD

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'Loving His Appearing'

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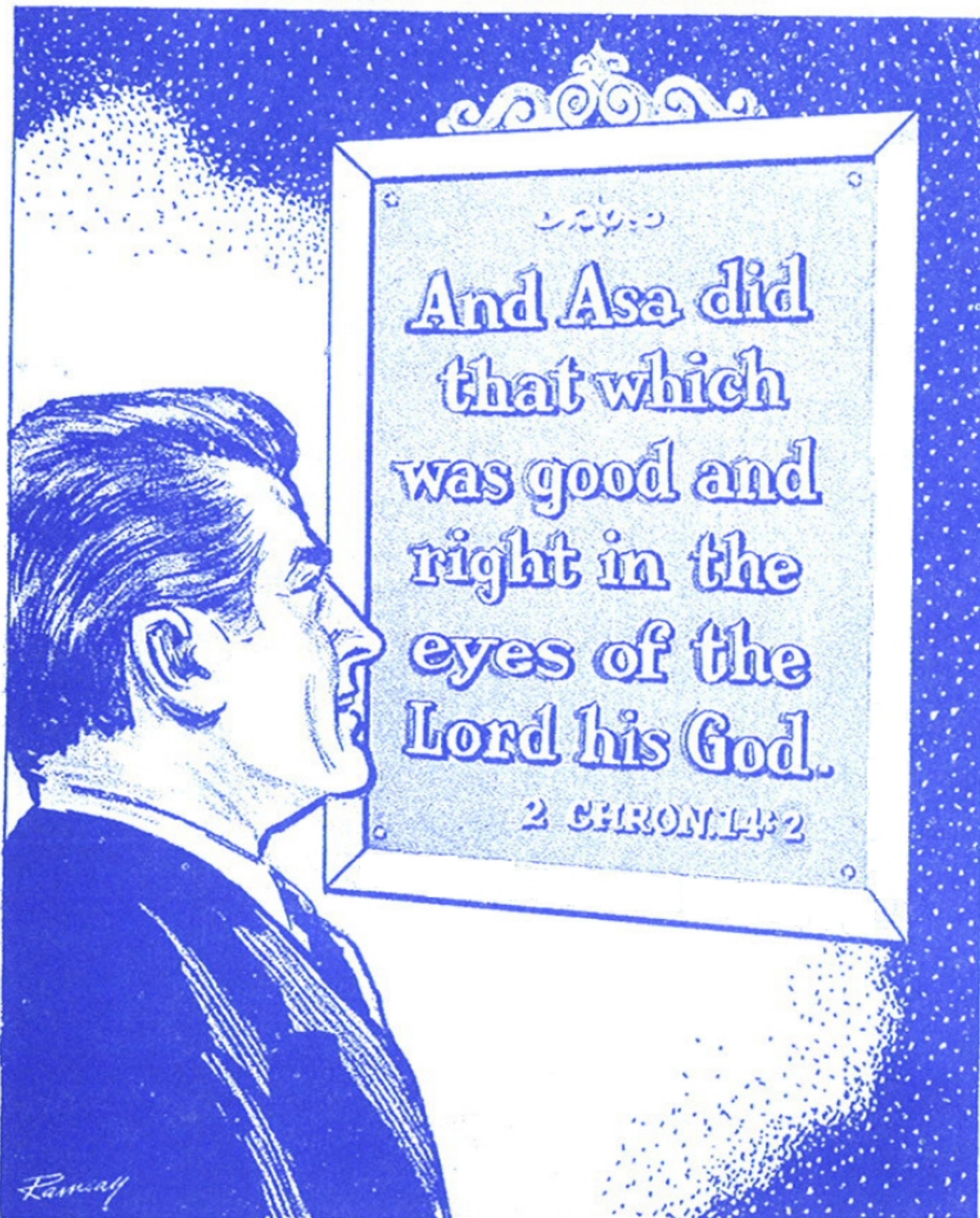
**S**ing, O heavens;  
and be joyful,  
O earth; and break  
forth into singing,  
O mountains: for  
the Lord hath  
comforted his  
people.

ISAIAH 49:13.

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### A PLAQUE WORTH HANGING



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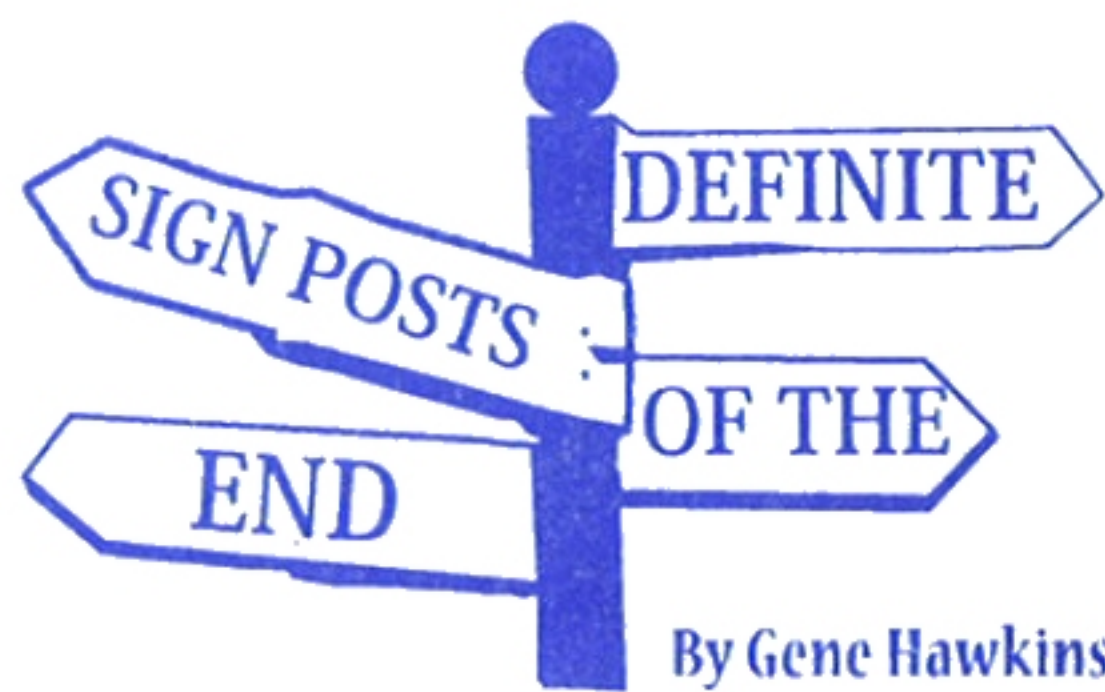
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Editor: Gene Hawkins



*“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.” Mk. 13:8*

The truth of these words sprang to the minds of many who came to the Labor Day meetings held here in Grandview. While earthquakes may be “the norm” in places like California, they seem to be a bit foreign to Missouri. The epicenter of this one, on Sept. 3, 2016 and measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale, was located in Oklahoma, but tremors were felt not only in Missouri, but also in Kansas, Nevada, Florida, and Arkansas. Since then, there have been numerous aftershocks of less magnitude; some occurring more than 5.5 miles deep into the earth.

Jesus declared “... that there shall be earthquakes in divers places...” and then designated them as a part of “... the beginnings of sorrows.” The word “sorrows” refers to the labor pains of a woman in childbirth. Isaiah enlarges on this analogy, asking these questions: “Who hath heard such a thing?... Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once?... Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD:... ” Isa. 66:8-9 The answer to this riddle is that Israel, which is repeatedly identified with the earth, will be the “child” produced by these sorrows or birth pangs. She is designated “as the sand which is upon the sea shore;...” in the Abrahamic Covenant.” Gen. 22:17 She will be the primary recipient of the promise: “For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall **inherit the earth**. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be:... But the meek **shall inherit the earth**; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” Psa. 37:9-11 Israel will be clearly manifest as God’s Chosen Nation during the Millennium and even into eternity. These wicked nations shall most assuredly be cut off, but the fledgling nation of Israel shall be those who have learned the lessons of meekness and total dependence upon The Lord. Israel will “inherit the earth,” and “delight themselves in peace,” as

they become the dominant nation upon this earth throughout the millennium. Prior to that, **the earth** will undergo unprecedented upheaval, and the “child” that will be born is New Creation Israel, when they will finally accept their Messiah and be born again as a New Nation, brought to their knees by the tremendous sufferings they will endure.

This infant nation must not be confused with the prophesied “man child,” of Isa 66:7. “**Before** she travailed, she brought forth; **before** her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.” This “man child” is a reference to the 144,000 of Rev. 12:5. This group is exclusively of Israel, and comprised of 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes, but they are part of the Church, the heavenly seed of Abraham. This man-child is caught up to heaven, “Before she travailed...” meaning that they arrive in heaven before Israel’s travail during the last 1260 days of tribulation known as the “time of Jacob’s trouble,” even begins. The aforementioned infant nation of Israel will not be born until **AFTER** the tribulation, and they will be chief among earth dwellers.

4 The term “beginnings of sorrows” indicates that the birth pangs start rather mild and sporadic, but as the birth draws near they become much more intense, and occur with far greater frequency. The entire earth has already begun to experience this pattern, as the prophesied multiplied signs which Jesus outlined appear before our very eyes both in the heavens and the earth.

Earthquakes have long been a striking sign of God’s displeasure and Presence. When Korah rose up in rebellion against Moses, the prophet brought forth this prophecy: “And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works;... If these men die the common death of all men,... then the LORD hath not sent me. But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up,... then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD. And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:” Num. 16:28-31

An earthquake also marked the crucifixion. “Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;” Matt. 27:50-51 Another followed three days later when He was raised from

the grave. "In the end of the sabbath,... came Mary Magdalene... to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake:..." Matt. 28:1 This would follow the current pattern of "tremors" occurring after the original quake, but once again reflect the glory and Presence of God. He likewise used an earthquake to free Paul and Silas from prison some time later. "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God:... And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed." Acts 16:25-26 The point here is that God uses earthquakes for His Own purposes and such phenomenon plainly indicate His Voice in these last days. These cataclysmic upheavals of the earth will follow exactly the same pattern described above by the birth pangs of a woman with child, until the ultimate destruction is inflicted as recorded in two special seismic events found in the final days of tribulation.

Rev. 6:5 foretells the fact that there will be an earthquake when Jesus opens the sixth seal of judgment; while Rev. 8:5 testifies of the same when the seventh seal is loosed. It is very likely that these are the same two major earthquakes intricately detailed in Rev. 11 & 16. There will be a severe quake centering around Jerusalem when the two witnesses are killed. "And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit... shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. (Jerusalem) And they of the people... and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, ... And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them,... because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them,... And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven... And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand:..." Rev. 11:7 Earthquakes have caused tremendous devastation down through the ages, but this one will cause a "... **tenth part** of the city..." of Jerusalem to collapse bringing a death toll of seven thousand. The next one will be even more severe, but its epicenter will be the great city of Babylon rather

than Jerusalem. “And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air;... And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, **such as was not since men were upon the earth**, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into **three parts**, and the **cities of the nations** fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.” Rev. 16:17-19

This city is Babylon the Great, which would in fact be Rome, the very epicenter of Catholicism. She is immediately identified as “...the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:” Rev. 17:1 A detailed description and definition of this infamous woman is found in Rev. 17-18, and as seen before in these pages, none but Catholicism can lay claim to her characteristics and “accomplishments,” many of which are found in these two chapters.

6 It is fitting that the devastation brought about by this “earthquake to end all earthquakes,” takes place in Rome, for Catholicism is the only religious entity which can boast of peddling her wares to every nation around the world. Thus, we read emphatically that “... the cities of the nations fell,...” as a result of this same event. If these nations would partake of her fornication, they will also in measure suffer from her judgment. Only a tenth part of Jerusalem fell, but here this city is even more devastated because it is divided into three parts. It is also stated that there has never been such an upheaval “...since men were upon the earth,” once again reinforcing the fact that all these birth pangs in the earth will steadily increase until the ultimate judgment is poured out.

The recent earthquake in Italy seems to put an exclamation point on this matter in regard to Rome. Evidently there is a fault line in this locale, because there was an earthquake in Amatrice, Italy on Aug. 24, 2016, and this area seems to have a history of these seismic shocks. The New York Times reported that “Towns in three regions – Umbria, Lazio and Marche – were devastated by the quake, which could be felt as far away as Bologna in the north and Naples in the south. Tremors were felt in Rome, nearly 100 miles southwest. At least 250 people have been killed and many more were injured. Pope Frances skipped the catechism lesson... and led pilgrims at St. Peter’s Square in praying for the victims... ‘I

cannot fail to express my heartfelt sorrow and spiritual closeness to all those present in the zones afflicted' ...."

Wikipedia also reports this earthquake in Central Italy explaining that "The central Apennines is one of the most seismically active areas in Italy." There is no doubt that this pattern of quakes in Italy will steadily increase until that final upheaval recorded above comes to pass. We also note that there is absolutely no hint of evidence that this recent quake in Italy had anything to do with man's efforts. So will it be when God brings His final judgments to pass.

Jesus said "... that there shall be earthquakes in **divers places,...**" and thus they will take place without fail around the globe, ever increasing until they finally culminate with those described above. Men in earthquake prone areas have learned to build their buildings to withstand these shifts deep in the earth by allowing them to contract and expand, or "bend without breaking," as needed. They have likewise built seawalls to try and keep areas below sea level from being devastated by high tides or hurricane winds which would bring destructive flood waters. However, men have found no way to **prevent** such seismic activity, nor the immeasurable power of the wind and sea. Federal officials in Oklahoma are now trying to determine a reason for the recent quakes in that region, and according to The Wichita Eagle, "state and federal regulators immediately ordered disposal wells to shut down or reduce volume of wastewater within a 725 – square mile area. That area was expanded on Tuesday to encompass 67 total wells in more than 1100 square miles." This is in response to a process whereby waste water is deliberately injected into wells in order to produce oil and natural gas. This same article published this conclusion: "Jeremy Boak, head of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, said it's possible that a large "pulse" of disposed wastewater is slowly moving deep underground and triggered the tremor along the new fault located near the town of Pawnee, farther east than most of the previous earthquake activity in Oklahoma."

It seems that men must always search for a reason for the calamities that befall them, and when mistakes are made it is surely prudent to address them. We full well know that God often uses even the mistakes of men to fulfill His purposes and like Mr. Boak says "it's possible that a large pulse of disposed wastewater" **may** have triggered this quake. The greater reality is that regardless

of what man-made forces may be at work to bring about these devastating phenomena, they are prophesied by God's Word and nothing will ever prevent them. God does not need the mistakes of humans to bring His Will for this world to pass. Men are so very convinced that if they can control the temperature of the world, they can stop erratic weather patterns which bring about floods, and in their opinion, cause earthquakes, drought, excessive snowfall, along with both extremely cold and extremely warm temperatures. The fact is that only God has ultimate control of all these elements and scripture is very plain that all these signs will precede the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Men must do what they can in order to "cope" with the tragedies that are descending upon them, but make no mistake, none will never be able to prevent all these end time signs, which are completely beyond their control.

8 The religious world seems to be very confident that they can bring peace and prosperity to a dying nation if they but follow God's admonition to Israel in II Chron. 7. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." V. 14 The time to implement this verse has long since passed. It applies to both Israel and the rest of the world. No nation on earth will be able to claim this promise and ward off the coming judgment of the tribulation, in view of end time prophecy.

The political world is also marching to the same drumbeat, as politicians trumpet the message; "Vote for me and I will make it all better." That message seems not to have resonated as polls, at least in America, indicate a largely negative perception of the two major candidates for president.

Calamity awaits both Israel and the entire world, and all the troubles announced in our opening text will follow the exact same path outlined for the earthquakes. All this devastation will increase and intensify. The wickedness of men will continue unabated as men turn more and more away from the Face of a Righteous God. Peace and tranquility will continue to be extremely elusive for the entire world. Paul wrote that, "... evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." II Tim. 3:13 That is the bad news. The good news is that we need not be a part of it. Jesus said long long



ago, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." John 17:16 He also prayed: "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil." John 17:15 That day of keeping (guarding from loss or injury) "them from the evil," is almost over. Real God-fearing Christians are feeling more and more out of place in this present ungodly world. We truly are no longer at home here, but we must continue to claim Jesus' prayer for ourselves in order to maintain our separation from Satanic ungodliness, despite the pressure we are under to compromise and accept the "new normal" standards of the world. There is another strain of Jesus' petition that is very soon to be realized. "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." John 17:24

There is no hope for this world outside of Jesus! Regardless of the efforts of men, this entire planet is on a collision course with disaster. This date with destiny is beautifully illustrated by Paul's journey to Rome, which ended in shipwreck. His admonition not to depart from Crete was largely ignored by those in charge just as both religious and political leaders have ignored the message of the chief apostle to the Church during this age. Men of our day want no part of God's instruction for righteousness. Thus "...after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss." Acts 27:21 The apostle then prophesied that "...there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship." V. 22 Just as surely as there was literal shipwreck in Paul's day, so also this entire world will end in the disaster of the tribulation, and none shall be able to stop it. However, the last two verses of this chapter also illustrate the very hope for which Jesus prayed in John 17. "And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape. But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land: And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land." Acts 27:42-44 All escaped to land, fulfilling God's promise: "Fear not, Paul;... lo, God hath given thee all them that

sail with thee.” V. 24 God’s promise throughout this age has been “... that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Acts 2:21 God will honor His Word, but this passage portrays two distinct groups of people which eventually escaped to land. “... **they which could swim** should cast themselves first into the sea.....And **the rest**, some on boards.....broken pieces of the ship...” The swimmers represent those who are willing to simply believe God and cast themselves into the raging sea of adversity, thus putting total trust in Him to give the protection, strength, and stamina needed to reach the goal. These shall be the first transported to glory. “the rest...” who came on boards and broken pieces of the ship represent those whose confidence is still in the organized Church which claimed only bits and pieces of truth rather than “... all the counsel of God,...” which Paul offered in Acts 20:27. All those bits and pieces are emblematic of the fragmented condition that has existed in the Church from the beginning of the age. Consider Paul’s admonition to the Corinthians: “For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?” I Cor. 3:3 The Church at the end of the age is also rife with division and it will not be corrected. The reason is simple. Men have ignored Paul’s passionate plea. “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that ye all speak the same thing**, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” I Cor. 1:10

None can save the ship, as some today are valiantly trying to do, but let us be the “swimmers” who are willing to entrust ourselves to God Alone, in order that we too might arrive first in glory, thus claiming the promise given to the Church at Philadelphia. These elite brethren were given the assurance of an “open door” whereby they would be transported into the throne room before the tribulation even begins. “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from (out of) the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” Rev. 3:10

# The Footsteps Of

## The Flock

*Albert C. Astle*

*“Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest thy flock to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions? If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherds’ tents.” S. O. S. 1:7,8.*

The Shulamite's petition to Solomon is the result of her not staying long enough in his chambers (V. 4). Every child of God discovers this same loneliness when he fails to remain in Christ's chambers. Christ's chamber experiences might be likened to our school days. Once we started at kindergarten it was necessary to take each grade as it came in order to be properly trained for the next higher one. With sufficient education we were capable for the demands and responsibilities of life. Even so, it is the result of each chamber experience with Christ that we are able to successfully fight a good fight, finish our course and keep the faith. With the complete working of Christ in our lives we will know the joy of graduation day when Christ, the just Judge, will give us a crown of righteousness that will not fade. In the Lord's chambers, He teaches us, transforms us and prepares us to reign with Him. 11

The sunburn of verse six is the damage that comes to us when we become overly zealous and foolishly forsake the Lord's chambers. Like Esther, we must stay in the custody of the Holy Spirit, (God's "keeper of the women,") and submit to His treatments of oils, perfumes and spices. With adequate chamber preparation we will win the heart of our Bridegroom as well as be protected from the terrible rays of satanic "sons." Everything "under the sun" is vanity and vexation of spirit. Insufficient chamber preparation results in two disasters. One: Our lives defiled by the world. Two: A veil hiding Jesus from our eyes. We can talk with Him, as in our text, but cannot see Him because He has allowed our own failure to blind us. He is going to work this failure for our good. Jesus will not do this for every Christian, because so many content themselves in their kindergarten class. The overcoming Christian is keenly aware of

the Lord's absence and seeks Him. The overcomer's desire for an unbroken union with Jesus Himself draws forth the grace which will enable him to come back into an unveiled union with Jesus and even deeper relations than ever before.

Our text reveals three essential steps in overcoming which will meet the demands of love from our beloved Lord. The first is the force of our love for Jesus. "Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth." This soul love is the sounding board for every overcomer's earnest petition. It is the "greatest" of all our labors. This love is the love of God. This love is all-consuming. It is possessive and dominates our every emotion and desire and turns them Christ-ward. God's love in our hearts is contented only with Jesus. Any desire which will not thrill Jesus will be cast away by His great redeeming power. We reciprocate the great love wherewith we were loved.

12 The second step of overcoming is revealed in the next declaration: "Tell me where thou feedest, where thou makest thy flock to rest at noon." This is our desire for complete identification with Jesus Christ. Our only place of happiness is that of being "one with Him." We declare our allegiance to Him anywhere or in any danger. Complete identification may lead thru suffering and sorrow but it will be climaxed in the most holy wedding with our beloved Bridegroom and sharing all glory and dominion with Him.

The third step is revealed in these words; ". . . why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flock of thy companions?" Our desire is to be virtuous and true to Jesus. We do not care to be classed "as one that turneth aside." The Lord's "companions" are believers; that is, Christians, but those who have "turned aside." Turned aside is used to describe a harlot. Spiritual harlotry means to have a lord and head other than Jesus Christ. Paul gives the spiritual application of harlotry in 1 Cor. 6:15-20. He declares that every Christian is "joined to the Lord," and belongs to God. Also, he exclaims, "God forbid," to the practice of taking the members of Christ and making them the members of a harlot. How can we accept mere pictures, liturgies or figures about Christ? Oh, to see Him face to face, this is our burning conviction!

These three Christ-inspired appeals reach their mark—

the Beloved's heart! Jesus does not remove the veil, but is going to show us the way to take it down.. However, before any instructions, Jesus: has a wonderful treat for us. This treat is wrapped in this beautiful package: "If thou know not, O thou fairest among women." Let us look at verse fifteen in our Song. "Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold; thou art fair; thou hast dove's eyes." This treat is the mirror of God's Word. Jesus holds up the mirror and invites us to view our regeneration beauty. What beauty there is! We see holiness, graciousness, loveliness, glory, wisdom and acceptance by God (Eph. 1:4-7). Again, Jesus holds up the mirror and we behold our Spirit-filled and Spirit-anointed beauty. The Holy Spirit has given us eyes just for our Savior. Yes, our sight is affected by this Spirit-beauty. Like the dove, our eyes can see correctly only as we behold our Beloved.

Perhaps for a little while we could see only our black sunburn but now our eyes are opened to the beauty Christ has worked into our lives. Our beauty is not merely one of attraction but one of action as well. How can we fail? We are anxious for the Lord's instructions. "Go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock," is His first instruction. These footsteps are on the "paths of righteousness" our Great Shepherd is Feeding us in for His Name's sake. He "putteth forth his own sheep. He goeth before them, and the sheep follow Him for they know His voice." John 10:4 Our Shepherd has made the pathway so clear for us and encourages us to "... be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." Heb. 6:12 These "faithful and patient" sheep have journeyed across the pages of God's Word as well as trodden the paths that lead across our lives today. All who serve God faithfully and patiently have a "walk" which leads others to Christ. 13

Look at the admonition to "go forth," and to "follow." We are to have a practical life. Oh, how important it is to have a possession as well as a profession! Jesus does not force Himself upon us but instructs us, as in our text and provides the strength and wisdom to perform His instructions. Christ's redeeming power is not just so many words. His power literally frees us from the power of sin. Paul's epistles are

laden with admonitions requiring practical application.

Jesus has instructed us to follow. This word "follow," is wonderful. It means, "supplant," and is used to describe the manner in which Jacob became the heir of all the covenants and promises of God. When we follow, we are not just following an example. We are appropriating to our own lives every victory, truth and triumph of all the faithful sheep who have gone before us.

One member of our Shepherd-King's flock was the Apostle Paul. In fact, his footsteps might be called, Track Number One. He invites us to follow him, "I beseech you be ye followers of me"-1 Cor. 4:16. Paul's invitation is extended as he followed Christ. To follow Paul means that we are partaking of the mysteries of this age for ourselves. We literally become partakers of every truth committed to Paul's custody. These footsteps will bring us into the presence of Christ where He will lavish His loving care and preparation upon us. He will transform us from glory to glory as we look into His glorious

14 face.

Peter is a wonderful sheep. He also left some follow-worthy tracks for us. "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the suffering of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed." I Peter 5:1 How needful for us to follow these footprints---through the suffering and glory of Christ! To partake of the suffering of Christ means that we are triumphant over sin and all things through His sufferings on the cross. His death becomes our death. His resurrection becomes our resurrection.

One day Jesus selected a small number from among the twelve disciples. He took this choice company up into a high mountain apart from the others. In this Place He was transfigured before them. Every overcomer is a member of a spiritual company of choice ones. Not all Christians are chosen for such a sacred and glorious scene. To each follower, who has learned to appropriate God's Word, Christ's visage is changed and he partakes of this glory revealed in Christ. Jesus ceases to be the ecclesiastical figure-head of the masses who

know Him only "after the flesh." He is the living, loving, leading Beloved—our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! Is it any wonder we cannot stand even so much as a veil between us? Oh, yes, we love to hear His voice; but also we must see His face and He must *see* ours.

John was also a wonderful sheep. Behold his footprints: "That Which was from the beginning, Which we have heard, Which we have seen with our eyes, Which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life." I John 1: 1-7. John's physical senses were blessed through his contact with Jesus. We, too, would appropriate such great blessing. Christ will bless us in our physical body when we are hearing, seeing and handling Him, the Word of Life. He will give us holy laughter, holy weeping, holy singing, holy shouting and even holy hands and feet to glorify Him. Glory to His Name!

"And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets"—Heb. 11: 32. All these footsteps lead us to the "shepherds' tents," where we are to "feed the kids." These "kids" are the same flock seen in John 21: 15-17. "Feed" them the Word of God. The important issue is where we feed them—"beside the shepherds' tents." Who are these shepherds? They are the pastors and ministers of God's people all through this age who have taught Paul's gospel of grace and glory. Many have come and gone but God always has others in training to take over when one must go on home to heaven.

These shepherds' tents are the houses of worship and truth, regardless of what their appearance or location may be. It is in these tents of truth that each child of God will find Christ in the measure set forth in our Song of Songs. By following, that is, partaking of the footsteps of those who have patiently and faithfully gone before we will come into the unveiled presence of our Beloved Lord.

Never plan your life away from the shepherd's tent of truth. Many know the great realities of Christ as the result of abiding at the tent of truth and choosing that good part of learning from Jesus Himself. It is so sad that many more do not know reality and joy

in Jesus. You will never recognize the tents of truth if you are looking for beauty, quantity or great men. The tents of truth have one central attraction—the Beloved Christ Jesus, God's Son! Those saints who are inside are growing into bridal perfection and beauty. Christ will feast on the fellowship and heart-melodies flowing from our lives. If you must go where there is no shepherd's tent of truth, wait on the Lord and He may use you to pitch a tent or lead someone else to pitch one and lead many lonely, longing ones to the truth.

Oh beloved, the tent door is open! The Spirit invites you in—here He is! Our Beloved Savior! The veil is gone and the fellowship is once more that lovely union of "face to face" with Him. Let us rejoice in Him who loves us so. His love has drawn us to Him! We revel in this "good part" which shall never be taken from us. "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together." Amen!

*(Reprint 1959)*

16

### WE SHALL SEE HIM

It may be in the gloaming  
When the light is *growing* dim,  
We will look above the shadows  
And our eyes shall see Him.

While the hours are passing slowly  
And the door is left ajar,  
We may look above the mountains  
And behold His shining Star.

Or it may be in the twilight  
As we rest when work is done.  
He'll show Himself all glorious,  
And we'll rise above the sun.

Author Unknown



# The Robin and The Sparrow

*"I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon  
the house top." Psa. 102:7*

A brother in his testimony recently related the following episode which he witnessed: A robin and a sparrow were in his lawn seeking food. The robin sat still with his ear turned to one side, listening intently. Suddenly, he ran quickly to a certain place, where he heard the noise of a bug, or saw a worm, and picked up his dinner and flew away in triumph. The sparrow had been running around aimlessly. He had no leading, heard no sound. If he obtained anything to eat, it was an accident. The brother said, "Some Christians are like the robin. They have learned by waiting and listening, where their spiritual food is to be found, and they go there and get it. The sparrow represents another class of believers, who run here and there; maybe they get a nibble but more likely not. They may not even recognize the Truth when they hear it."

17

Then a sister gave the following account. "In our back yard, we have a bowl where the birds may come and drink and bathe. The robins come one at a time and take possession. They splash around vigorously in the water, partly immersed in its depths. The sparrows swoop near enough to get the overflow from the splashing of the robin. The latter may well represent the overcoming Christians, who are immersed in the Spirit of God. The sparrows figure believers who are content with a splash of truth, or of the power of the Spirit now and then from the overflow of full-fledged saints. The one class bathe and dive, like the robin, in hilarious enjoyment of the rivers of living water, while the others never even get their feet wet."

Author Unknown

**"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."**

**M.k. 16:17-18**

# REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

*“O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.” Psa. 34:8*

A “taste,” indicates something that is brief. It simply serves as an introduction to something greater. It also signifies that which is only temporary. The Heb. 6:4-6 has long been a major obstacle for many believers because they suppose that the devastating items of condemnation apply to Christians, and thus conclude that a saved person can be lost. Note however Paul’s exact wording beginning with V. 4. “For it is impossible for those....” The Apostle then defines “those” from this point to the beginning of verse 6. There are 6 major negatives ascribed to “those” and Paul concludes that if they exist, then “... It is impossible to renew them again to repentance...” This emphatically means that if these words refer to a Christian and he should “... fall away...” and lose his salvation, it is impossible for him to be saved again.

18

Bless God! These attributes do not apply to believers! The word “taste” is used twice in these verses describing those who “have tasted the heavenly gift... And have tasted the good word of God...” It means that these “tasted,” but they did not swallow. It was only a temporary encounter with Christ and The Word of God, and thus that message never did become a part of them in order to bring forth the new birth. This same scenario is set forth by the fact that Jesus “...by the grace of God should taste death for every man.” Heb. 2:9 The same temporary element is shown, for death simply could not hold Him, and He was raised from the grave three days later.

Taste also implies that which is very brief, as when Jesus was offered vinegar while He was on the cross, “...and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.” Mt 27:34

Our opening text indicates that a taste can lead to even greater participation of the “taster.” Just “...taste and see...” or prove to yourself that “... the LORD is good...” This brief encounter with Him can lead to proving for ourselves the blessing of “... the man that trusteth in him.” Peter likewise instructs us in the world of taste. “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that

the Lord is gracious.” I Pet. 2:2-3 All believers truly do “taste” of the matchless grace of God when they are born again, but that taste must follow the pattern of opening the path to even greater joys and victories of Divine Grace. Such a taste gives rise to entering His Presence “... coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,” V. 4 The result is that “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” V. 5 Our “taste” has now opened up an entirely new and comprehensive avenue of unsearchable wealth and riches in Christ Jesus.

There is also another example of temporary taste which we must experience, and though it may be extremely adverse, for the time, this too is invaluable for our lives . “And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.” Rev. 10:9 We will enjoy the “sweetness of revelation,” but when God works this message in our lives, it will most assuredly produce an unpalatable experience. However, this taste also ends in great victory for it is only after John took the little book and “... ate it up,...” accepting the accompanying bitter experience, that he was now prepared to “...prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.” Let us also “...taste and see that the LORD is...” both good and gracious, and then we too will have the ability to bring great blessing to others.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

*Both the CDs and DVDs of the Labor Day Meetings are now available and ready for distribution. This is one of those meetings where you really had to be there to get the full effect of the “love feast” which God poured out upon us. However, we are confident that you will be greatly blessed by just listening to, and watching these special services.*

*Orders may be sent to Gospel Fellowship, P.O. Box 141 Grandview, Missouri 64030 or by calling us at 816-618-3306. You may also e-mail us at [gihawk1@msn.com](mailto:gihawk1@msn.com) Just be sure and include your mailing address.*

# Spiritual Heart Murmurs

*Victoria M. Moots, DO*

*“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,” Heb 12:1*

This verse admonishes us to run with patience the race that is set before us. Prior to engaging in competitive sports, there is need of a physical to examine the heart; in particular, to check for murmurs which could indicate a heart problem.

Today we are going to have a sports physical to see if we are able to run the race without fainting. I am going to discuss physical heart murmurs so you can understand spiritual murmurs. What is a murmur, what causes it and what does it mean?

20 There are 4 valves in the heart. They open to allow blood to flow out and then close to keep it from flowing backwards when the heart is at rest between beats. If the blood is flowing freely, and the valves working properly, no sound is heard from the valves. But when a valve does not open or close properly it causes turbulence of flow and a murmur can be heard with a stethoscope.

A murmur can indicate an underlying heart problem so a doctor listens for murmurs during an exam. A murmur heard on the outside can indicate a problem on the inside. This is true spiritually as well as physically. (“out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.”) Lk. 6:45 What is inside your heart will be manifest on the outside.

So what exactly is a murmur? According to the dictionary, a murmur is a low indistinct sound; a mumbled or muttered complaint; an abnormal sound in the heart. A murmur in the heart is caused by something that is affecting the free flow of blood, indicating turbulence or resistance to flow. A Systolic Murmur is most common and occurs when the heart is beating (working). A Diastolic Murmur occurs when the heart is at rest and is always abnormal as it indicates blood is flowing in the wrong direction, falling back into the heart chamber because the valve does not

close properly.

Valve problems can occur due to calcification resulting in stiffness, keeping them from moving freely. They become stiff and unyielding. This happens spiritually when we do not yield to the Holy Spirit but rather resist Him. Infections such as Rheumatic Fever can cause vegetations to build up on the edges of the valves and impair their ability to open and close properly. Spiritually, this would mean that something from the world has entered the heart; the cares of this life are affecting our yieldedness to the Lord. Jesus said in John 14:1 “Let not your heart be troubled.”

Murmurs may increase with fever, activity, or anything that causes the heart to work harder. If the doctor is unsure about a murmur, he may have the person jump up and down a few times or run in place to speed up the heart. The harder the heart works, the louder the murmur. You can't run the race to win with a murmuring heart. As a doctor, I would disqualify you from participating in sports if I found a significant murmur until it was further evaluated by a cardiologist. Likewise, we can be disqualified from running to win the prize if we are yielding to the flesh and not yielding to the Lord. Paul said in I Cor 9:27 **21** “But I keep under my body and bring it into subjection, lest I myself should be a castaway.” (disqualified) Let us look at some examples of murmuring hearts in the scriptures: I Cor 10:10 “Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured,…” (in the wilderness). Ex 16:2, 3 they murmured against Moses and Aaron because they wanted meat (discontent, resistance to God) Vs. 8 “Your murmurings are not against us but against God” (God's authority and headship) They rejected the Bread from heaven wanting to fulfill the desires of the flesh instead of feasting on Him. Psa. 106:24 “... they believed not his word but murmured in their tents and harkened not unto the voice of the Lord.”

We also read in Heb 3:19 that they could not enter into the promised land because of unbelief. They wanted to go their own way, much like an abnormal heart valve which allows blood to flow backwards, going the wrong direction. Murmuring is unbelief – not appropriating the Word of God. The Jews murmured at Him in John 6:41 because He said, “I am the bread which came down

from heaven.” They doubted His deity and authority as the Son of God. We are doing the same when we do not allow Him to be Lord of our own lives.

We see a different type of murmur in Acts 6:1, when “there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.” This is the murmuring of jealousy and feeling like you are being treated unfairly, demanding **your** rights. Paul instructs us in Phil 2:14 to “do all things without murmurings and disputings.” This especially includes the things we do not like to do, the mundane things of our daily home life or occupation, showing love to the unlovely or ungracious, praying for those who spitefully use us. We must allow the Love of God through the Holy Spirit to flow through us and do His will without murmuring.

I mentioned earlier that increasing activity can increase the intensity of a murmur. Anything that makes the heart work harder or faster will cause a murmur to be louder. The scripture gives us a spiritual example of this in the story of two sisters, **22** Mary and Martha. That narrative found in Luke 10: 38-42 reveals that Jesus visited their house and Martha immediately started preparing a meal for Him, but Mary sat at Jesus’ feet and listened to His Word. Martha became upset and complained to Jesus that her sister had left her to serve alone and wanted Him to tell her to help do the work. To which Jesus responded, “Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things; but one thing is needful and Mary hath chosen that good part which shall not be taken away from her.” Martha murmured against her sister because she had her eyes on her own works and was ignoring Jesus. The harder she worked the louder she murmured and complained. What Jesus really wanted instead of physical food was fellowship. He wants us to sit at His feet and learn of Him, to feast on the Bread from Heaven.

Isaiah 29:24 tells us the cure for murmuring hearts: “They that murmured shall learn doctrine.” It is the same place that Mary took - to study His Word, sitting at His feet and resting in the work that He has done. Then the Spirit can flow freely so no murmur is heard.

# WHO JESUS IS

*D. J. Williams, Salmon Arm, B. C., Canada*

**“Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.”**

**Phil. 3:2**

Here is a tri-unity of wrong teaching. They emanate from the realm of the animal and the flesh and must be avoided in order to successfully run the Christian race which this book teaches. Perhaps the latter is the most subtle of the three. Some were trying to add circumcision to what Christ had done, in order to be saved. We may hear little or nothing about that today but Satan is still busy on his adding machine and puts his tripe on the market in the form of saved and lost doctrine, which thing tends to incite the flesh to do instead of die. Such teaching dishonors the cross of Christ and robs Him of the glory which is rightfully due Him.

As we consider the first mentioned, I think a dog with four legs is more harmless than a dog with two legs. Among animals, it is one of the most faithful to mankind. I remember a case where a man had shot himself, and when found a week later, his dog was standing guard over his body. But after giving it all the credit due, it is still a dog — unclean.

23

The kind of dogs of which Paul warned us have but two legs. They are very faithful to what they believe, but know not who Jesus is, know nothing of the power of the Gospel and the new birth, but hope by their integrity to finally be saved. That means they are still sinners —unclean. Some, like the dog aforementioned, faithfully guard the corpse of creed and formalism. Such dead works can never save a soul. Still others go about beguiling unstable souls. Today the no-hell club is busily engaged in gathering thorns for the hell which they say is not. These pose as witnesses of Jehovah, but know not Who Jesus really is. They deny His Divinity, yet they say that He has already come, which is tantamount to saying the resurrection is past already.

Let us see what the Bible teaches. In Isa. 7:14 we read the prophecy concerning the virgin birth of the Child whose name was to be called Immanuel. This was fulfilled in Matt. 1:18-25. Here the name is interpreted as "God with us." Note the same Child was called Jesus.

God was known to some in the O. T. by the name Jehovah, but not

all (Ex. 6:3). The name Jehovah is not mentioned in the N. T. of our English Bible, but its equivalent is in Lord. Philip the apostle followed Jesus while He was here in the flesh, but for a while he knew Him only in part. Apparently, Isa. 9:6 had not yet registered in his mind. He said to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father and it sufficeth us"—John 14:6-11. Jesus said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." But that did not mean that heaven was empty. "Thus saith the Lord, the heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool."

24 If we compare John 14 with Mark 14, we shall better understand the state of the disciples as at that time. Each records the happenings immediately following the Last Supper, when in a figure they had partaken of the body of Christ. In each case, Jesus used three disciples to demonstrate their state. In Mark, we read that He took Peter, James and John and put them to a prayer test, and they slept. In John, He used Thomas, Philip and Judas (not Iscariot). Here, He tested their understanding of the words He spoke, which seem to have been beyond their present capacity. In Mark, Jesus said, "The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak." This shows "physical" sleep. This helps us to better understand the state of those in John 14 which may well be described as being in "spiritual sleep," hence their inability to clearly understand. Jesus was letting them learn by experience and by His Word, that of themselves they could do nothing, and He may do the same with us today.

As we continue in John 14, we find that Jesus was leading His disciples along to the place where He announced the One who would take care of all their short-comings. "And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever"—V. 16. John 16:13 states, "Howbeit when He the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth." The Spirit-filled life is the answer to every believer's need. In the last verse of John 14, Jesus said, "Arise, let us go hence" (they had further to go). To those of our day who have accepted Jesus as their personal Savior, but have not as yet been filled with the Holy Spirit, His Word is just the same. Arise, and let us go further. Simon Peter had boasted, I am ready to go with thee, into prison, and to death. Actually, he had been unable to stay awake, and afterwards followed Jesus afar off, then finally denied Him. The following morning, another Simon was found to bear the cross after Jesus, and will likely receive a corresponding reward. If we fail the Lord today, He will always find the other Simon to do His will. Philip wanted to see more,



while he had been unable to fully understand what he had already seen, just like a child who asks for a second cookie when he has not eaten the first one.

Thomas almost contradicted the words of Jesus when he replied, "We know not whither thou goest, and how can we know the way?" When Jesus replied, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me," He meant that He is the embodiment of all that we need. We frequently hear people speak of "doubting Thomas," but that was allowed of God for our good, and has helped to bring a wonderful truth to our notice concerning the Deity of Jesus Christ. Eight days after the resurrection of Jesus he gave in just five words one of the strongest testimonies in this regard, "My Lord and my God." So we say, Everybody ought to know who Jesus is. Where that truth is denied, all religious profession falls to the ground, and is as empty as a last year's bird's nest. Such may just as well put their trust in a space-monkey.

Let us consider the first and the last chapters in the N. T. We have already seen in Matt. 1:18-25 that Immanuel (Deity) and Jesus (Humanity) are one and the same person. Now let us turn to Rev. 22:16. "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star." The Lord God and Jesus must be one. Can anyone doubt who Jesus is? He was before and after David because He is the eternal God. That was a question which the religious leaders could not answer Jesus (Matt. 22:41-46). Wonderful Jesus. That name is not mentioned in the O. T., but it is in the first, and the last verses of the N. T. and altogether about 700 times.

One more important point. The misguided people who claim to be witnesses of Jehovah take their authority from the book of Isaiah. Let us first get the proper setting of the Scriptures involved. Christians who study the Bible with the Holy Spirit as their only Guide are acquainted with the following: The book of Isaiah is the Bible in condensed form, or a Bible within the Bible. The 66 chapters compare with the 66 books of the Bible in their respective order. For instance, the first 39 chapters cover the 39 books of the O. T. The 40th chapter of Isaiah is fulfilled in the 40th book, or first in the N. T., compare Matt. 3.

"For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground. I will pour my Spirit upon thy seed, and

my blessing upon thine offspring"—Isa. 44:3. Isaiah's message was prophetic, therefore the 44th chapter was fulfilled in the 44th book of the Bible, Acts 2, and will be in effect during this Church dispensation. Preachers, listen! Do not try to fence Pentecost in the upper room. Note Isaiah 44:8. "Ye are even my witnesses." This too was fulfilled in the book of Acts, chap. 1:8. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me (Jesus) both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." There is no room for speculation in the Bible. Truth is found in the Bible, not on a religious stock exchange. I am not interested in the controversy over the Godhead regarding Person or Persons. I think there are extremists in both schools which lack balance. The all-important thing which God requires of us in the here and now, is to know Him in His fullness in the Person of Jesus Christ; then the things which lie beyond present truth will be better understood at the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. We would all be well advised to heed the words of the hymn writer:

26

Blind unbelief is sure to err,  
And scan His works in vain,  
God is His own Interpreter,  
And He will make it plain.

(Reprint 1959)



### THE HUMAN TOUCH NEEDED

An old potter, who was fashioning the clay into the desired shape by his hands, was asked by a visitor, "Why do you not have machinery to do that?" The potter replied, "We have tried all kinds of machinery, and failed. It needs the human touch." Men try to make saints and preachers by religious machinery; but God alone can do that.

**\* Bible study is more than finding nuggets. It is a real uncovering and bringing forth of hidden treasure of truth.**

## HEAVEN OR HELL

### Begun Within

“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” Mk. 11:24

“Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.” John 16:24

“Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” Jas 4:2-3

“And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.” Re 18:14

**Thank God! We do not have to wait till after death to find out whether we are going to land in heaven or hell. Jesus said to His disciples, "The kingdom of God is within you." We must have a new nature before we can enjoy the things of God. We must be born again, born of God.**

27

There is no such thing as the natural man waking up after death in that beautiful land of somewhere, on that golden shore of enjoyment and bliss. **"Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God."** There is not one thing in heaven that the flesh can enjoy. I have heard men say, “If I cannot smoke my pipe in heaven I do not want to go there.” Oh, what a terrible, dreadful, fearful restless and unsatisfying condition the flesh is in. And it goes from bad to worse. Oh, how sad to be filled with desires, lust, passions and ambitions that can never, never be satisfied.

Praise God for bringing in a new life, the only life that lives now and for all eternity, through the

death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Now if I only could put in words what I enjoy and see; but it cannot be done. **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."** Gal.15:2-24. Beloved, we can so yield up to God and let the word judge us that our every desire will be granted and our joy will be full to the utmost, now, and through all eternity. If we are now at times filled with joy unspeakable and full of glory; what will it be when we get our glorified bodies?

28 God wants us to have desires. He said to Daniel, "...thou art greatly beloved:..." or "A man of desires." (margin) And Daniel's desires were granted. Unto David it was said, "A man after my own heart," "And do all that is in thine heart," Think of it to have desires after God's own heart. I believe all of Paul's desires are granted and will be granted. No doubt the places and saints he wished to visit, he came to see, and his heart's desire for Israel that they might be saved will be granted, and his desires that the saints may know Christ will all be granted.

By yielding continually to the Spirit and word of God our desires for, the whole will of God increase. Though the enemy at times may stir up some unjudged desires in our flesh for a moment, trying to stop us from going on, Praise God we learn by experience, that we dare not yield to any of those desires. Be it ever so small; that is against the Spirit, but daily count with God that we are a new creation, that all our desires are God-ward, And God is faithful. ---John F. Ney.

## Isaiah 45 – Romans

The glorious truths of the Power and Dominion of God, along with the call to salvation by faith presented in the book of Romans, are beautifully set forth in this 45<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah. Both writers share verses that are almost verbatim in the truth they convey. Consider the following:

Isa. 45:9 “Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?”

Rom. 9:20-21 “Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?”

Isa. 45:17 “But Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end.”

Rom. 11:25-26 “For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:” Both Paul and Isaiah describe God’s Work in restoring the nation of Israel, as He fashions them according to His Plan and implements It by making them a new creation in Christ Jesus. “All Israel” shall surely “be saved,” but it will be by virtue of the new birth.

This next portion from Isaiah describes the requirement for bringing this wholesale restoration to pass. “Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else... In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.” Isa. 45:22 & 25 Now hear Paul. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” Rom. 1:16 He further instructs that the path to salvation for all men is by grace through faith. “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:” Rom. 3:24 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace

with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" Rom. 5:1

These two stalwarts of Truth are also in complete agreement, as they loudly proclaim the Majesty and Complete Dominion of Jesus, when He fully assumes His Role as King of kings and Lord of lords. Isaiah emphatically writes, "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." Isa. 45: 23 Paul likewise chimes in shouting; "For 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

30 Isaiah begins our current chapter at the same point where Ch. 44 ends. "Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;" V. 1 The first ten verses of this chapter seem to be addressed directly to Cyrus, but they are "For Jacob my servant's sake and Israel mine elect,..." V. 4 The message of this first verse is clearly a prophecy of Babylon's demise, for God would "loose the loins of kings to open before him the leaved gates..." that is, Cyrus would be given unrestrained and permanent entrance into Babylon. God also promises that "I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron; And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel." V. 2-3 God proved to be true to His Word, for Cyrus became the supreme leader of the second world empire known as Medo-Persia. Not one would be able to resist him, for God would "...break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron;" and he most assuredly did gain possession of all the "...the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places,..." which formerly belonged to Babylon. God's intent was that "...that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel." He would have Cyrus know Who is actually in charge here, and the next part of His message seems to indicate that all the power and prosperity given to him, is directly in behalf of Israel. "For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me." V. 4 God declared specifically

that "I have called thee by name," but that name is not just Cyrus. He rather says that I have "surnamed thee," and that surname would be "anointed," as seen in V. 1 "Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus..." The word carries exactly the same meaning as "Messiah," and Cyrus is most assuredly typical of the Real Messiah, Jesus, Who will liberate and enrich the Jews of the end time. It is also noteworthy that these riches, out of the coffers of Babylon, were made available to the Jews for the rebuilding of the temple at Jerusalem, for "...Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods; Even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah. And this is the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand chargers of silver,... Thirty basins of gold, silver basins ...All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred. All these did Sheshbazzar bring up with them of the captivity that were brought up from Babylon unto Jerusalem." Ezra 1:7-11

All of this "enabling" by Cyrus was to ensure that he knew God's purpose that "I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:" V. 5 Cyrus becomes another typical figure at this juncture, for he now speaks of the nations, which God will use as instruments for His Own People at the very end of this age. Twice, in these last two verses, it is said of Cyrus, "...thou has not known me." So also, all the nations of the end time will need such an "introduction" to this same God of Israel. They too will learn by bitter experience that "I am the LORD,...there is none else, there is no God beside me:..." as, once again, God does stand up for His people and they shall be delivered, even at the expense of these same nations. All such nations are surely meant by V. 6: "That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me I am the LORD, and there is none else." This message addressed to Cyrus, and meant for all those nations who will survive the tribulation, continues with these rather mysterious words. "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things." V. 7 The tenor of this address is a familiar one from previous chapters, where God outlines things that He

31

can do, but men simply cannot. Scripture is quite clear that "... God is light, and in him is no darkness at all," (I John 1:5) so how is it that He creates darkness? The mystery is actually revealed in this same verse. Darkness is revealed or "created," when God would "form the light," and thus reveal darkness for what it is. Likewise evil is "created" in the sense that God demonstrates the glorious attributes of "peace" through the Lord Jesus Christ. When these things are fully manifest, it will be shown to all the world that God has brought about the long-sought peace for His People, when all these nations, with their "evil machinations," will have miserably failed. This process continues, as God reveals that all the solutions to the ills of mankind are from above. "Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it." We learn these lessons today, knowing first-hand that righteousness comes only through the Lord Jesus Christ. This same glorious truth will be manifested universally to all the nations of this earth when Jesus assumes His Rightful Place as King of kings and Lord of lords. He Alone will bring the "salvation" for which the whole earth has yearned, and waited, and the earth will surely spring forth in righteousness on a world-wide scale. However, with this glorious projection of righteousness and peace, there also comes forth a very severe warning, and it seems to be directed both toward Israel and the nations.

32 "Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?" V. 9 This verse could be paraphrased as follows. "Let these 'sherds,' or pieces, referring to the nations, strive with one another all they want to, but **DO NOT STRIVE AGAINST YOUR MAKER**, because there will be severe consequences if you do." "Woe unto him that saith unto his father, What begettest thou? or to the woman, What hast thou brought forth?" V. 10 The Superiority of God is the lesson taught here, and it must be observed both by individuals and nations. All men must learn that It was God who chose our natural parents, and we can neither question, nor blame Him for the choices He has made for us. "Woe" awaits the one who does, for He has His Own Purposes to fulfill, His Own Reasons for the way He does it, and one day



the Nations will learn that all their own existence must center around Israel. The Millennium will bring forth a nation which will, as it were, be a "Father," to all the world, instructing the entire kingdom in the ways of God's Righteousness. This fact is reinforced by the next segment of Isaiah's discourse. "Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me. I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded." V. 11-12 Israel is clearly the central subject of these words, but it is also quite clear that the nations are included for they too are "...the work of my hands,..." and a part of the earth which He Alone has created. They too must observe the fact that God's Ways are not to be questioned and one of the specific things that they should do is "...Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me." God is literally inviting the nations to ask of Him the plans that He has already ordained for this very Select and Chosen People. We know of a surety that none of the nations of our day have any intention of seeking such information concerning this Little Nation which has become a thorn in the side of the whole world, but one day they will be forced to bow before Christ and accept God's Plan "...concerning my sons..."

33

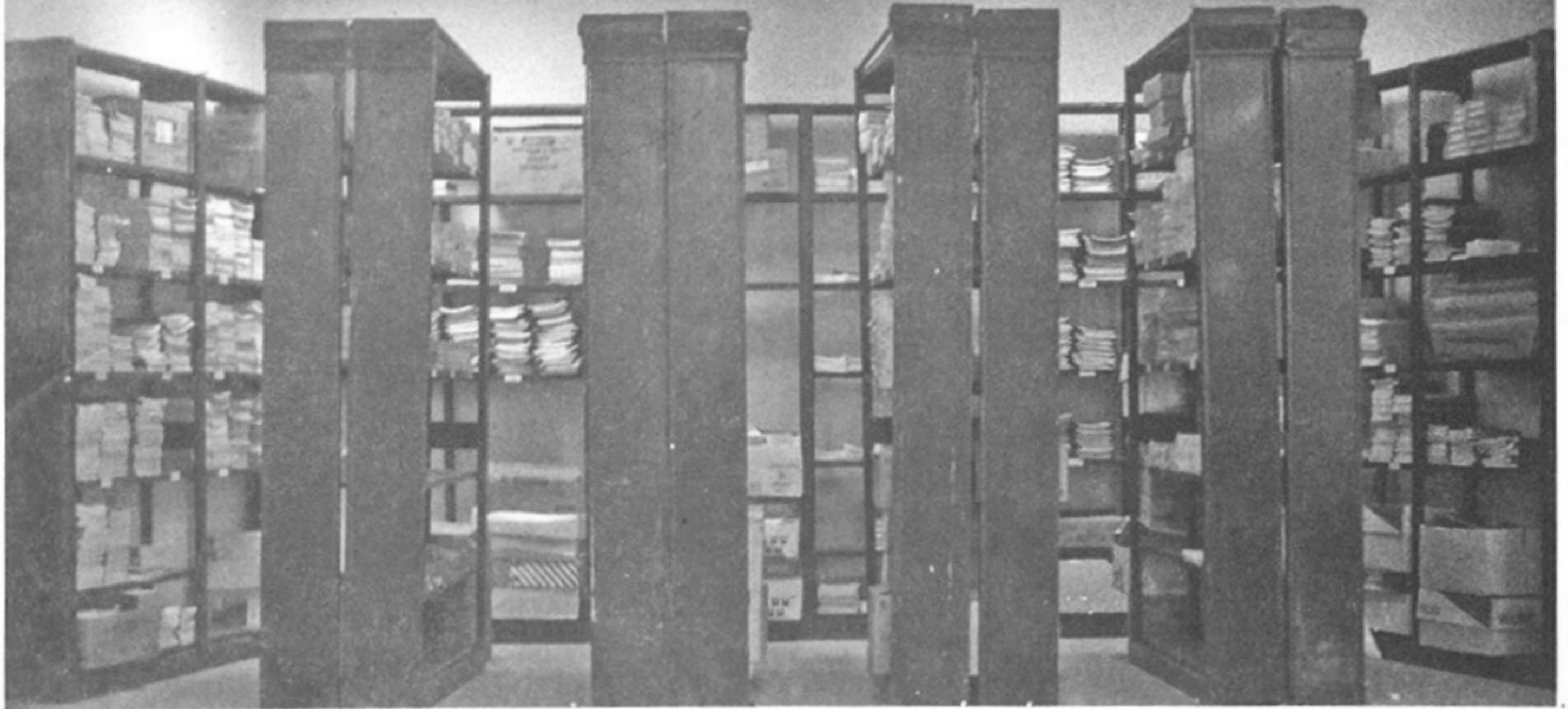
"I have made the earth,..." declares God, and this also is one of the primary themes in Romans, where Paul tells us emphatically that God has left creation as an absolute witness of His Own Existence. "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the 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 It is no wonder that men are fighting so desperately to proclaim the myth of evolution rather than embrace the truth of creation, for then they would have to acknowledge God. However, all their efforts will be in vain, for The Creator will not be denied, and He becomes even more specific in regard to His creation and His plan of bringing righteousness into this world. Our present text continues, informing us that God did create the earth "...and created man upon it:..." but the next verse clearly announces the fact that The Maker has a specific Man in mind, Who will bring

about all His promised blessing for Israel. "I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the LORD of hosts." V. 13 Locally, this man would have been Cyrus, who would set the Jews free to go back to Jerusalem, and he would not be bound by "...price or reward,..." meaning that he would not be "bribed," or controlled by man, for he was under the direct control and direction of The LORD. The greater fulfillment will of course be realized when King Jesus liberates this same nation in the end time and establishes Jerusalem as His Own, bringing everlasting righteousness to the entire world, as is seen in the next segment of this prophecy.

34 "Thus saith the LORD, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall come after thee; in chains they shall come over, and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, saying, Surely God is in thee; and there is none else, there is no God." V. 14 These words were surely fulfilled when the surrounding nations were forced to bow before these lowly Jews when they went back to Jerusalem, following Cyrus' decree, but once again, their real fulfillment will come when all nations of the world are forced to be subservient to Israel. Note the elements, of which the world boasts, which are presented here. The "labour," or hard work, which is the mantra of success for much of the planet, must bow to Israel. The merchandisers and great men of stature, represented by Ethiopia and the Sabeans, are likewise represented as being an asset, not to themselves but to Israel. Israel, as the head and not the tail of the nations, shall be dominant over them all, and the greater part of this glorious prophecy is that, at long last "...they shall make supplication unto thee, saying, Surely God is in thee; and there is none else, there is no God. Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour." V. 14-15 This is the direct fulfillment of Rev. 2:26: "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works **unto the end**, (of the tribulation) to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father." It is Christ Who will be shown as the Dominant One, even through His Own People, Israel.

To be Continued In The Nov. Issue)

# Our Corn Crib



A Problem, Solution & Triumph  
 Arrangement & End of Ages  
 Attack against the Truth  
 A Burning Truth  
 A Growing Relationship  
 Caught up with Paul  
 Cherubim & Seraphim  
 Chaste Virgin  
 Comfort in Time of Sorrow  
 Death, Hell & Lake of Fire  
 Destiny of the Wicked  
 Diamonds in the Rough  
 Dying Daily  
 Earnest but Wrong  
 Eternal Life  
 Extra! Extra!  
 Fact of Tongues  
 Faith  
 Fear of the Lord  
 First Day of the Week  
 Five Much Mores  
 Five Consequences

Freedom  
 Gifts of the Spirit  
 Glossolalia  
 God- A Triunity  
 Gospel Records  
 Gospels, Acts & Epistles  
 Holy Spirit- Baptism & Anointing  
 How to Receive Holy Spirit  
 It is Finished  
 Jesus Heals Today  
 Judgement Seat of Christ  
 Law or Grace  
 Life Everlasting  
 Light on the Law  
 Living Ones  
 Made Sin for Us  
 Man Child- Rev. 12  
 Mercy or Judgement  
 New Birth  
 Not Legislation, Revelation  
 Oneness of Christ

Pauline Sanctification  
 Pauls Superlatives  
 Phoebe  
 Preaching Another Jesus  
 Predestination  
 Preparation of the Bride  
 Ranks in Resurrection  
 Resume of What we Teach  
 Salvation for the Body  
 Scriptural Terms Defined  
 Words on Eternal Security  
 The Adams Case  
 The Two Adams  
 The Sin Offering  
 The Unforgiven Sin  
 This is That  
 Times of the Gentiles  
 Tithing  
 Water Baptism  
 Wheat and Tares  
 Why am I Not Healed

## Books of the Bible

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

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