

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole Counsel of GOD

Without Price Since 1910

'Loving His Appearing'

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Grace and peace
be multiplied unto
you through the
knowledge of God,
and of Jesus
our Lord. II Peter 1:2

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TO WHICH GROUP DO YOU BELONG?



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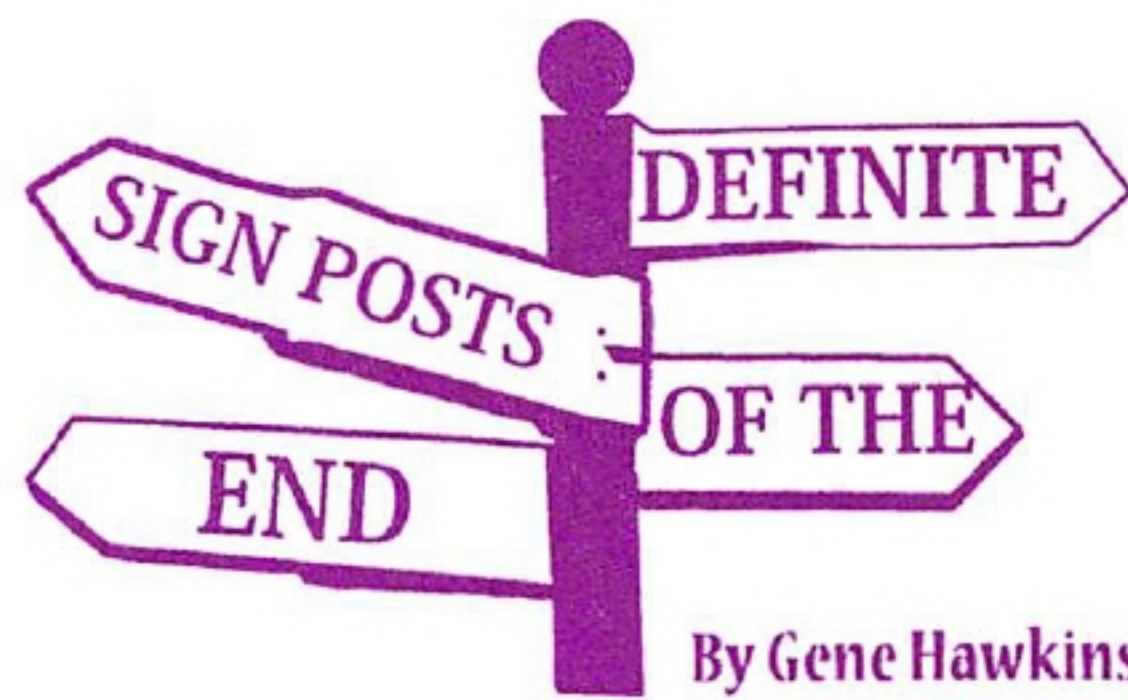
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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.” I Thess. 5:1-5

“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.” Matt. 24:3-4

Both Jesus and Paul record deception as the very first characteristic indentifying the atmosphere of these last days. The key to Paul’s assertion that peace and safety shall be followed by sudden destruction, is “... when they shall say peace and safety...” It means that the reality is just exactly opposite of what “they,” or those in power, purport it to be. The ultimate fulfillment of this verse will not come until after Jesus has taken His throne and has opened the first two seals of judgment found in Rev. 6. “And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals,... And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. And when he had opened the second seal,... there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.” Rev. 6:1-4

The rider of the white horse, who had a bow but no arrows, wearing also a crown of authority, is none other than the antichrist ,who will loudly proclaim an atmosphere of “peace and safety” for the entire world. However, that will only be a short - lived lie, and then cometh “sudden destruction” as the red horse of war

suddenly appears to "... take peace from the earth..." thereby bringing forth worldwide destruction. We repeat that this event has not happened at this present time, for Jesus has not yet even been crowned "King of kings and Lord of lords," but this pattern of announcing peace, when the true reality concerning this entire planet is violence and destruction, has already started in our day which Jesus indentified as "... the beginning of sorrows." Matt. 24:8

The exact context of Jesus' announcement, when He warned the disciples of the gross deception coming upon this world is that, "... many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Matt. 24:5 This does not mean that some will blatantly announce verbatim that "I am Jesus," though that has been proclaimed at various times throughout history. It rather means that men are proclaiming the ability to accomplish things that only Jesus will be able to produce. This represents the very spirit of the antichrist who will proclaim that he alone can bring about the utopia for which this world has long sought.

4 This mantra might well fit every politician around the world, for all of them claim to have the answers to all the world's problems. But there are literally worlds of difference as to what they **SAY**, and the reality of what is actually true. We were stunned to see this headline which stemmed from an article in the Boston Globe. "Violent Crime Rate Reduction. FBI Statistics Show Major Reduction in Violent Crime Rates." The writer then continues with the questions, "Did you know that according to official FBI and U.S. Department of Justice reports the rates of violent crime in the U.S. are now at their lowest level in 40 years? Did you know that violent crime rates of 2010 were 1/3 the rates of 1994? Other countries are experiencing a similar decline. And deaths of law enforcement officers are at their lowest in 50 years..."

It surely is hard to accept such a claim in view of the violence streaming into our living rooms almost daily bearing news of massacres in San Bernadino, Calif. and Orlando, Florida. Add to that the open rebellion and retaliation against law enforcement officers in Dallas, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Kansas City, and Minnesota, to name just a few. Other news items also tend to contradict the article in the Globe. The Washington

Times reports that "Police grasp for answers as homicides, violent crimes spike in U.S. cities." The essence of this story is that "A rise in homicides and other violent crimes in major cities across the U.S. in the first months of 2016 is reigniting a debate over whether law enforcement may have slacked off or become less aggressive. Chicago, Los Angeles, Memphis and Las Vegas are among major cities reporting a notable uptick in homicides --- but more than half of the police departments that reported first-quarter crime statistics also experienced increases in rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults and nonfatal shootings."

While there seems to be confusion among the so-called experts, God's people should in no wise be deceived by what "they say..." nor confused by those in charge. Scripture is extremely plain in uncovering the mystery. "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matt. 24:37 A quick look at Genesis 6 reveals a glaring characteristic of the Days of Noe. "The earth also was corrupt before God, and **the earth was filled with violence.**" Gen. 6:11 Numerous data sheets and articles appear on this controversy about violence, and a great many of them are nothing more than politicians using one angle or another to prove their point. If rising violence is an advantage to their own campaign to try and show the incompetence of some other politician, they will not hesitate to publish that report. We choose to believe the report found in God's Word, and that record shows that violence is already predominant in our world and none will stop it until Jesus comes and establishes His Own Kingdom. 5

Another report from "The Association of Mature American Citizens," once again bearing out the pattern of what "**they say**" in regard to international affairs, published this headline: "Task Force says U.S. Officials Downplayed ISIS Threat." The article which follows declares that "A congressional joint task force (JTF) investigating allegations of intelligence manipulation at U. S. Central Command (CENTCOM) released an initial report today detailing persistent problems in 2014 and 2015 with CENTCOM analysis of U.S. efforts to train the Iraqi Security Forces and combat the so-called Islamist State in Syria. The JTF found that intelligence products approved by senior CENTCOM leaders typically provided a more positive depiction of U.S anti-terrorism efforts than was warranted by facts on the ground... Rep. Pompeo said, 'After months of investigation, this much

is very clear; from the middle of 2014 to the middle of 2015, the United States Central Command's most senior intelligence leaders manipulated the commands' intelligence products to downplay the threat from ISIS in Iraq. The result: consumers of those intelligence products were provided a consistently 'rosy' view of U.S. operational success against ISIS. *That may well have resulted in putting American troops at risk as policy makers relied on this intelligence when formulation policy and allocating resources for the fight.'...*"

Surely such a practice was designed to give the appearance of "peace and safety" but the outcome proved once again to produce "sudden destruction," as ISIS literally exploded around the globe and continues to make massive inroads into every country in the entire world.

6 This same pattern of deception also seems to be evident in the 2012 Presidential campaign slogan: "G.M.'s alive and Al Qaeda is on the run." This message was designed to imply that peace and safety from terrorism was just around the bend, and had to be vigorously defended at all costs. However, the terrorist attack on Benghazi put the exclamation point on the fact that just the opposite was true and sudden destruction was almost immediate.

The opening quote from the Boston Globe article also asserts that less violence is likewise reported from other countries. We can only wonder how anyone can publish such a line in view of the recent violence in Paris, and Nice, France. How can men so soon forget the devastation in various airport bombings such as those in Istanbul, Brussels, and Shanghai along with all the other atrocities inflicted by ISIS world-wide? In short, every country throughout this little earth ball is absolutely teeming with violence, even though "they say" peace and safety abound.

The violence of the Days of Noah is still very clearly evident despite all these claims to the contrary. The Chicago Tribune reports, even at this writing: "After another violent weekend, nearly 100 more homicides so far this year in Chicago." Reporter Alexandra Chachkevitch continues, asserting that "Forty-four people were shot in Chicago over the weekend, seven of them fatally, bringing the total number of gun violence victims in the city this year to more than 1650. At least 282 of them died of their wounds, nearly 100 more than the year before, according to

data kept by the Chicago Tribune.” We know that many of these reports are designed to make the case for gun control, which has been done repeatedly in the wake of numerous violent eruptions just in this past year, but the fact remains that peace and safety in our day is but a myth. This is further corroborated by current events in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. “Milwaukee imposes curfew to quell rioting sparked by police shooting.” This headline from Reuters is explained by the following paragraph. “Tension gripped Milwaukee on Monday as officials hoped a late night curfew imposed on teenagers would deter another outbreak of rioting that hit the U.S. Midwestern city the past two nights in response to the police shooting of an armed black man.” Sadly, so much of the violence today surrounds the younger generation. Rebellion is rampant and violence is the result.

We also wonder if those who publish these reports of declining violence would change their tune, were they to question those on the border between the U.S. and Mexico who have experienced multiple acts of violence and loss of property just in the past few years. Where are the reports of violence against those brave border agents who have given their lives trying to keep this country safe? 7

We have heard a number of reports that the foregoing accounts are simply evidence of “the new norm,” for this country and the world. Thus, it seems that if there is any window of tranquility shown forth by so called statistics, men simply jump at the opportunity to proclaim that things are getting better.

However, the patterns in this day, once again known as the “beginning of sorrows,” are but a prelude to the tactics which will be used by the antichrist leading up to the signing of the infamous covenant of peace with Israel, which will eventually involve the world. It too will be built on deception and lies as scripture plainly declares. “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” II Tim. 3:13 Those evil men and seducers especially speak of power - hungry politicians who will do anything to gain the control they seek. This pattern will consummate with the false prophet deceiving the whole world into believing that the antichrist is the messiah for whom they have been searching, and let us make no mistake; the reports of, and the deception of a peaceful coexistence on this earth between all the peoples of this entire planet, will continue

until the Real Prince of Peace appears to take all that belongs to Him.

We rejoice today that neither Jesus nor Paul left us simply to endure and settle for the bleak picture depicted by the foregoing news items. The Master warned us not to be deceived by the happenings going on around us; and the chief apostle to the Church fills our hearts with hope, declaring plainly: "... ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." Paul strives diligently in these verses to show the difference between two distinct groups. The "brethren," who are not of darkness but of light, and need not be caught unawares, must be distinguished from "**they...**" who "say Peace and safety;.." along with "**them**" who will endure the sudden destruction "as travail upon a woman with child. It is also "**they...**" who shall not escape.

8 The light of God's Word establishes the difference between these two groups. It is through the Word of God that we understand the "... times and seasons..." of this day, the signs which indeed announce the soon coming of Jesus! Some in the Christian world seem to be waiting for some cosmic event to announce such a return, but scripture plainly asserts that He will come as a thief in the night, meaning that there will be those who are looking for Him and will be ready to be caught away, and there will be other Christians who are asleep. Paul exhorts here, "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." I Thess. 5:6 The little word "therefore" is a reference to the first five verses of this chapter, meaning that we understand the times and seasons. We understand that Jesus is coming unexpectedly to the masses as a Thief. We are further enlightened, and therefore not deceived by the announcements of peace and safety, knowing that destruction rather than deliverance is coming to this world. We full well know that our world is growing darker by the day, but we need not be a part of that darkness. "Therefore..." Paul cries out, since you know all this, "... let us not sleep as do others." The apostle does not here speak of the world being consumed by sleep, but rather Christians. The world is **dead** in trespasses and sins. Only Christians sleep, and are completely oblivious to the times and seasons announcing the eminent return of Jesus.

Thus, we are strongly exhorted to forcefully claim our

true identity as children of light, and act accordingly. “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.” I Thess. 5:8 Now is not the time to give in to fear and hopelessness due to such manifold reports of wickedness, misery, and violence as reported above. Now is the time to take our places as those who are enlightened in regard to these closing days of time. Scripture has plainly declared what is currently taking place in our day and that same scripture exhorts us to claim the breastplate of faith and love to guard our hearts against the great atmosphere of fear set forth by the world. Our minds must also be guarded and enlivened by the glorious hope of literal deliverance from this world. Children of light must claim all these glorious blessings in the midst of the violent and turbulent times foretold by God’s Word, and then note one glorious final promise and purpose of God. “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,” I Thess. 5:9 The wrath here is not the wrath of hell, as some might suppose, but rather reinforces the fact that God never did intend for the Church to go through the wrath of the tribulation. However, because men have refused to believe God’s Word and because they would not submit to the Headship of Jesus Who has made every endeavor to “... sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish,” the bulk of this same Church will endure some of that wrath. Only the elite company known as the bride of Christ will escape that fate in fulfillment of Jesus’ promise to the Church at Philadelphia. “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” Rev. 3:10 This company alone has “... kept the word of my patience...” and heeded repeated admonitions such as the following:

“But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.” Mk. 13:32-33

“And when these things **begin** to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” Lk. 21:28

“Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.” Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?” And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.” Lk. 12:40-43

“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.” Heb 10:35-37

When Will He Come?

When evening comes—

And the long gleaming rays of sunlight show
Athwart the trees which line the streets below,
We look above at awesome amber glow,
Of setting sun, glorious in its light;
And we wonder, will He come tonight?

When midnight comes—

Dark shadows fall and all the world is still.
The stars appear and moon comes o'er the hill,
Its mellow radiance, making our souls thrill
With hope, as we gaze at sky's adorning.
And we wonder, will He come this morning?

When daylight comes—

And the beautiful greensward is wet with dew,
And the firmament is draped in tints of blue,
We ask, O shall our dream just now come true,
While men are working, or at play?
And we wonder, will He come today?

Author Unknown

In View Of His Coming

Edward I. Sherman

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Rev. 22:12.

Years ago, I spoke on this verse at a certain place. Afterward a saintly old brother said, "I am a charter member of this church; but we never had a sermon on the second coming of Jesus before." Oh, how many in this day of wonderful light are still ignorant of the soon coming of our blessed Lord. I want to read a number of Scriptures of tremendous importance to us in relation to this great event.

First of all, James 1:12 declares "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him." Here temptation means trial. In some places it is used with reference to enticement to evil. It is used both ways in this chapter. And just think, he says, "Blessed is the man," not he that simply hath a temptation, but he that "endureth temptation;" for when he has lived thru the testing, he shall receive the crown of life. Our cross-bearing will be rewarded with a crown. Our trials will be crowned with triumph.

11

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth." In Malachi, "those that love the Lord" are called His "jewels," or precious ones. Yes, He has some jewels, some who are exceedingly precious in His sight. He loves them all; but not all will shine as brightly as the others. His saints are the precious fruit of the earth. It is our privilege to so yield to God, to His good, acceptable and perfect will, that through the ages to come, we may indeed show forth the riches of His grace in His kindness towards us by Christ Jesus. Sometimes in distress of spirit, we see this world sinking, and know that this life is without remedy. Our only cry is, "O Jesus, come quickly." It is no less true, that He is waiting for the precious fruit of the earth. Are you not glad for His love and infinite patience? Perhaps long ago, you made to the Lord, **"what you believed,"** to be a full consecration; but as you look back, you see failures and mistakes. Are you not glad that God reckons to you a righteous standing through the merits of Jesus' precious blood, and that you are free from the law of sin and death? The triune God has patience to accomplish in us that perfect work

which He began. Some day He will bring us forth as gold tried in the fire, to the honor and glory of His excellent name. Would not God be glorified if we would look at people through the merits of His Son, beholding their perfect standing in Christ, which is fixed forever, instead of looking upon the outward appearance? It is the conviction of my heart that God's people should, by His mighty power, refuse to obey their fleshly instincts concerning their brethren. Let us pray for grace to see one another only in Christ Jesus our Lord. I know of nothing in which I have failed the Lord more than along these lines. In an unguarded moment, how easy it is to look upon the outward man. We should not need to be exhorted so often to "have fervent love one for another."

12 James speaks especially here of the last days, when evils are multiplying, when all sorts of "isms" and things that appear good on the surface are propagated, whereby many saints, like untaught children, are led astray for a time. Oh, how we need to claim the victory for those who cannot get it for themselves. This is our privilege in the plan of God. He will have a united band, in these days, who stand true. He may have to do as He did in Gideon's day, allow various tests, not to discourage us, but to take away the things upon which we are leaning and show us the unspeakable privilege and profit of resting upon the everlasting Arms. There is not one encouraging sign in all the world today; but our hope is in the Lord, "the Author and Finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame..." There is no mighty bolster to our hearts like the soon coming of the Lord. Therefore, James said, "Be patient, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord."

Translation By Faith

"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death, and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation, he had this testimony, that he pleased God; but without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Heb. 11:5,6 Three qualifications for translation are found in these verses — Believe in God's existence, seek Him diligently and please Him by believing what He says. The Lord informed Enoch that He would take him up without dying if he would live for such an experience. He learned this by walking with God and by earnestly seeking His face. It is marvelous what God will do

for those that please Him.

We would think that God's people would believe that He exists; but some often act as if there were no God. They think that they themselves must remedy all the evils in the world. Recently I met a very intelligent man 84 years of age. He was a great politician. He took me to task for speaking on the hope of the coming of the Lord. He thought that we Christians should straighten up and clean up things in the world. Oh, how little most people realize that there is a great gulf fixed between us and the world. Our kingdom is not of this world. It matters not what is going on in Washington, or other capitols, we know that God is over all and He is shaping the course of events. Soon His Son will come and take full control of all national affairs and reign in righteousness. Once I was a most radical politician, and read every article in the papers; but the Lord spoke to my heart and delivered me. Our duty is not to reform politics, but to get people saved from their sins and separated from the world and prepared to meet the Lord in the air.

Tried And Trained

"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." I Pet. 1:7 13
Gold is not worth much today; yet most people will take all they can get. Many have the wrong idea. They think that if they accomplish, or seem to accomplish great things, they will receive a wonderful reward. Well, it depends upon the character of the work. Many things have been done, which were really of God, for which the doer of them will receive no reward, even as shown by Balaam. Balak, a heathen king, hired Balaam to curse the Israelites; but who can curse those whom God has blessed? Balaam was compelled to bless Israel; for God caused him to speak forth one of the most marvelous prophecies in the Bible, the fulfillment of which is yet future. Num. 24:1-9 and 15-19 God can speak through a mule if He wants to; for He spoke through an ass to Balaam. When the enemies of Christ were seeking His life, the high priest said, "It is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not." John 11:50 & 18:14 He spoke that, not of himself, but as moved by the Holy Ghost. He was used of God, but did not know it, and will not be rewarded for it.

The thing which God counts precious is not our achievements, but the trial of our faith. Not our miracle-working

faith itself, but tested faith is of the greatest importance to Him. People may call you a fool now for bearing up under a trial and for steadfastly believing God; but He declares that it shall be unto praise and honor and glory at Christ's revelation. To the natural mind, faith is foolish, but the Author of that faith will sound a note of approval of it in that day. He will treat us as though it were our own. Oh, how wonderful! He will praise us for enduring the trial. He will even bid us sit down and He will serve us. Through these trials, we are being trained to reign with Christ in glory. Folks will not pat us on the back now, if we walk in the perfect will of God. We will be misunderstood, misinterpreted, and evil spoken of.

"For we are laborers together with God; ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God, which is given unto me, as a wise master-builder. I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon." I Cor. 3:9,10 When I worked in a shop, I liked to have a partner who knew more than I did. That lessened the weight of my responsibility. We need not be afraid to undertake anything the Lord wants us to do, because we are laborers together with Him. He understands all about it. Hallelujah! He does not choose us because we are of any value in ourselves, not at all. It is a matter of grace, through the blood of Christ. It is wonderful to be a co-worker with Him. Sometimes it seems to me that our labor is like that of children. When I was a boy, I did not like to do a boy's work. I wanted to do a man's work, and have people think I was a man. Father took me along with him; but he carried the big end of the log. He let me have my fingers on the other end so that I would think I had done something.

So it is with the Lord and us. Praise His name! He gives grace and more abundant grace to those who realize their need of Him. Paul said, "According to the grace which is given unto me, I laid the foundation." He stepped out into what appeared to many to be contrary to the Word of God, even contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ. They did not understand that he had a revelation of truth, which was hidden in God until that time. It meant something for him to speak thus. It means much for you and me also to declare that we have the truth as Paul preached it. The great majority of Christians are ignorant of the full truth, and hence are against us. Therefore, we see little results. Our biggest trial is to pray and labor apparently in vain. There may be a temptation to let down, or to

use man's methods and contrivances, the allurements of the flesh, things that are bewitching, yes, actually bewitching, that will pull a crowd and make a great demonstration. I fear that many saints are letting down in order to achieve results. Brother, the main thing with God is not results, but to walk in the perfect will of God.

A Christian once said to me. "Brother, two courses are open. I want to do the will of God, the thing for which, in the day of the Lord when I come before Him, I will receive my reward." Oh, saints, it is not simply doing things. The secret of the New Testament saints was that they received what they asked for from God because they kept His commandments and did the things that were pleasing in His sight. They did nothing simply to pull a crowd, or get for themselves a name, or to have folks pat them on the back and say, What a wonderful preacher you are. They stayed and moved in the perfect will of the Lord, seeking above all things to please Him who had bought them with His precious blood. He who searcheth the hearts will reward every one according as his work shall be, not in the scale of human judgment, but in the scale of divine truth, "He that goeth forth with weeping, bearing his seed basket, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

15

Our Ministry Is To All

"Unto the Jews, I became as a Jew that I might win the Jews. I became all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. To the weak became I as weak." He adapted himself to every condition and circumstance, and to every nationality. He sought the good of all. No one likes to be weak. We want people to think we are strong. Many want folks to know that they are college graduates, and therefore, they should have authority. Much ado is made today of personality and natural gifts. But it is man's personality, man's authority. What saith the Scripture? "Know ye not, that they which run in a race, all run, but one receiveth the prize?" Therefore, observe the exhortation, "So run that ye may obtain." We must run according to the prescribed rules of the race course, if we would win. We cannot run haphazardly, or proudly, or officiously, or self-willed, or by spurts. Well, I believe that the Lord is about through. Hear Him saying, "... behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Rev. 22:12 God grant that we may build with "gold and silver and precious stones," the material only prescribed by our "wise master-

builder," and not with "wood and hay and stubble," the perishable things, which make a great display and provoke the praise of men. May we so live and labor, that at last we shall hear the great Judge say, "Well done good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things. I will make thee a ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." May the Holy Spirit enable us to walk before the Lord in humility, so that we may present to the World, not only the Gospel which we preach, but the Gospel which we live. "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." I Pet. 5:4

(Reprint 1934)

Savior-King

You have heard the blessed story,
How Jesus came to save the lost—
Loved us so, He laid His life down,
Suffered, died upon the cross.
God raised Him on the third day,
Gave Him Power o'er death and hell.
He will make us overcomers,
If we live, and in Him dwell.

"I will send the Holy Spirit,"
Jesus said when He went away.
"He alone will teach and guide you,
And you need no prop, or stay."
"I am going away," said Jesus,
"And a place for you prepare;
Trust me always and obey me,
And ye shall my glory share."

"I will come again," He said it,
"Where I am, there ye may be,"
And "Let not Your heart be troubled,
Fear thou not and walk with me."
Let the world pass on and leave you,
They have left my Savior too.
Watch and pray, be ever ready,
Soon He's coming back for you.

—Mary Rodobaugh

What Think Ye Of Christ

“Pharisees....With what have you to reproach Jesus? He eateth with publicans and sinners.”

“Is that all?”

“Yes”

“And you Caiaphas... What say you of Him?”

“He is guilty: He is a blasphemer because He said, ‘Hereafter shall ye see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven.’”

“Pilate, what is your opinion?”

“I find no fault with this man.”

“And you, Judas, who sold your Master for silver... Have you some fearful charge to hurl against Him?”

“I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood.”

“And you Centurion, who led Him to the cross.... What have you to say?”

“Truly this was the Son of God.”

“And you demons?”

“He is the Son of God.”

“John Baptist ... What think you of Christ?”

“Behold The Lamb of God.”

“And you... John the Apostle?”

“He is the bright and morning Star.”

“Peter... What say you of your Master?”

“Thou art the Christ the Son of the Living God.”

“Paul, you persecuted Him... What testify you of Him?”

“I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.”

“Angels of heaven... What think you of Jesus?”

“Unto you is born a Savior which is Christ the Lord.”

“And Thou, Father in heaven, who knowest all things?”

“This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.”

Reader.... What think you of Christ?”

Author Unknown

REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

“For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.” I Thess. 4:7

We have often heard the cliché “God can do anything.” However, that assertion is actually inaccurate. God cannot lie. He cannot fail. He cannot break His promise, and there are a host of other negatives with which He cannot be associated.

The above text also sets forth a pattern of “**God hath not...**” Each time this statement is used, however, an alternative is presented. God always has a better way, for scripture is very plain that God never leaves a void. Paul tells us here that God has in no wise called us into uncleanness, but He has both called and provided a path to holiness. According to the foregoing verses of this chapter, the path of uncleanness has been replaced by God’s sanctification.

18

Ezra also discovered this same glorious pattern after the captivity declaring that “... now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place,... For we were bondmen; yet our **God hath not** forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy... to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God....” Ezra 9:8-9 Despite all their rebellion and subsequent captivity, God did not forget His Chosen People. He did not forsake them but rather gave them “... a nail in his holy place,...” that is, a solid place of security found only in Christ Jesus. Not only so, but He replaced their bondage with His unbounded mercy in the restoration of the temple.

Paul corroborates this same message for Israel, reinforcing the fact that “**God hath not** cast away his people....” He then uses the example of Elijah, who thought he had been forsaken but God gloriously affirmed “...I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Rom. 11:2-4

Paul likewise discovered the glorious path of “**God hath not...**” in his own experience, shouting triumphantly that “... **God hath not** given us the spirit of fear;...” He further appropriated

God's glorious doctrine of replacement, which is introduced by the little word "but," for God never leaves a void. Thus, instead of fear, God gave to him the spirit "... of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. II Tim. 1:7

Finally we must claim the promise: "For God **hath not** appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ," I Thess. 5:9 The wrath to which he refers is not hell, but rather the wrath which God will pour out during the tribulation. He never intended that the Church should endure such an ordeal, but because men have rejected His path of sanctification for them, that will be their only way of purification. The good news is that we, as individuals, can claim God's alternative path, indicated by the little word "but" found in the previous verse. "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." I Thess. 5:8 That would be salvation from the tribulation even as was promised to the Church at Philadelphia. 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

19

He Will Come

*He has said He will come, and I know that He cometh,
No power can make Him His purpose forget.
As sure as the dawning is the word He has spoken:
His schedule runs true and the time is all set.
His promise has never been forfeited yet.*

*He has said He will come, and I know that He cometh.
As sure as the print of the nails in His hands,
So surely He'll come for His saints who are waiting,
And take them away to the heavenly strand.
On this sure word of promise we've taken our stand.*

*He has said He will come, and I know that He cometh.
It may be at midnight, at morning, or noon.
Down from the archives of heaven come ringing
These words of good cheer, I am coming right soon.
And away we shall fly on long honeymoon.*

Mary M. Bodie

THE BRIDE, IN PREVIEW, IN PREPARATION, AND IN PROSPECT

Alice S. Mooneyhan

"AND the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone: I will make an helpmeet for him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man"—Gen. 2:18,21,22.

"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy; for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." II Cor. 11:2.

"For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Eph. 5:20-22.

20

We have been asked to show where "bridal truth" can be found in the Scriptures. The truth concerning God's purpose to obtain a bride for His Son is to be found throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We will call your attention to some Scriptures which pertain to this pre-eminent purpose.

Preview

Eve is a wonderful type of the bride of Christ in the fact that she was only a small portion of Adam's body, which the Lord took and "buildded" into a woman, a wife for Adam, "who is the figure of Him who is to come"—Rom. 5:14.

Genesis 24 shows a type of the bride of Christ in another phase, in her kindness and willingness to serve others, even submitting herself to every providence as unto the Lord, by which even the trials (camels) are made to serve in bringing her to her Bridegroom, for which purpose they are sent.

The "Song of Songs" gives a beautiful picture of the compelling power of the ardent love, the patience and faithfulness of the Bridegroom, which arouse the admiration, evoke the confidence, and awaken the adoring love of this woman of destiny for Him who "is altogether lovely."

Preparation

But let us get a close-up view of this desirable woman in her "every-day clothes," instead of just gazing at her "pictures." Romans, records her as taking her first step in overcoming the flesh, by laying hold of God's provisional truth of our death and resurrection with Christ, "and yielding unto God as those that are alive from the dead"—Rom. 6:13.

First Corinthians shows her as the one who recognizes Christ alone as her all-sufficient Head and Lord, glorying only in Him, as she reads the Spirit's revelation of Him in the Word of God, and follows the example of the Apostle Paul, God's ordained apostle to the Church, the body of Christ which is made up of all believers during this age of grace.

Second Corinthians reveals her ministry as a priest in worship and service, pouring out her life that others might be enriched thereby. The announcement of her betrothal is given in II Cor. 11:2, and though Paul's fear lest the Church should be turned from her dependence upon Christ was not without cause, yet the Lord will "build" a woman out of that small portion of the Church who will heed the Word of God and yield to the inward working of the Spirit. 21

In Galatians, sets this choice woman forth as standing fast in the liberty of Christ, and not being "entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Gal. 5:1 She boldly opposes "legality," "knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ." Gal. 2:16. She bears the fruit of the Spirit by Walking in the Spirit, and restores in the spirit of meekness, such as are overtaken in a fault, considering herself as being subject to temptation also.

Ephesians opens up to view the riches of God's grace and the vast inheritance in Christ which were marked out (predestinated) in God's purpose before the world began, and which this "builded" woman will inherit, according as she has walked in the "good works, which God hath before ordained." In this book we see her walking "worthy of the vocation" (calling), "walking in love," "Walking as children of light," and "walking circumspectly," (or wisely), realizing her destiny, that for this purpose Christ loved her, and gave Himself for her: "that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish"—Eph. 5:27. Though Satan and his wicked hordes in the heavenlies contest her

claim to this inheritance, yet with the whole armour of God upon her, and the sword of the Spirit in her hand, she can not only wage defensive warfare, but aggressive, as well, in behalf of others.

Like the virtuous woman of Prov. 31, this one also has diversified activities, with garments suitable for each undertaking. Now she is stripped, as seen in Philippians, of every weight which would impede her progress in the race to win the supreme Prize, "having no confidence in the flesh," but suffering the loss of all things and counting them refuse that she "may win Christ, and be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ," (Phil. 3:9) praying even to share His sufferings, through the power of His resurrection, "If by any means I might arrive unto the resurrection out from among the dead," (Phil. 3:11) to be raised ahead of other dead saints, who are content to stroll aimlessly around instead of running so as to win.

22 Colossians presents her as the one who receives correction by the word, through which alone she arrives at an exact knowledge of the will of God, walking "worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing . . . strengthened with all might according to His glorious power, unto all patience and long suffering with joyfulness." Col. 1:11. Thus she is forearmed and forewarned of all Satan's deceiving emissaries, who would beguile her of her reward by seeking to make her take a lesser place than that which God's love and grace have given — even "the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you the hope of glory"—V. 27.

First Thessalonians displays this select company, whose faith is perfected, whose love has increased and abounded "toward one another and toward all men," and whose hope of the soon coming of the Lord has kept her separated from defilement. She is seen here winging her way up from the earth, at the shout from the Lord when He descends from heaven, that she may be ever with the Lord.

Prospect

Rev. 19, announces that "... the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready." This is the wedding day. The bride did not buy a "ready-made" trousseau, but garments made with her own labor of love and work of faith, that she might appear pleasing in His eyes—"For the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." V. 8

The 21st chapter of Revelation gives the last view of this fair woman, as "the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. V. 2. The Bride gives the name to the city of God, even the city for which Abraham looked, "a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Heb. 11:10.

Bridal love is not mere sentimental, rhapsodical, fleshly emotion, but is that preeminent love which seeks the will of the Lord above all things, because He gave Himself for us. It is a reciprocal love, which counts no sacrifice for Him too great, no task for Him too difficult, no reproach for Him too costly to bear. Such love may be manifested in sitting at His feet to learn of Him, in falling at His feet in quiet submission to His will, or in anointing His feet with the fragrance of our worship, praise and adoration, yet it is manifested also in fighting the good fight, in running the race, and in keeping the faith, looking to that precious promise of our Lord: "I will also keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." Rev. 3:10

(Ed. Note: This article is a reprint from 1950. Sis. Mooney subsequently enlarged on the Bridal Truth by writing a tract entitled "Paul's Gospel In The Song Of Solomon which is in Our Corn Crib.) 23

TRUE GREATNESS

Learn to grapple with souls. Aim at the conscience. Exalt Christ. Use a sharp knife with yourself. Say little, serve all, pass on.

This is true greatness, to serve unnoticed and work unseen.

Oh, the joy of having nothing and being nothing, seeing nothing but a Living Christ in glory, and being careful for nothing but **His** interest down here.

—J. N. Darby

Peace Pursuers

Ethel Cooper

“LET THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH AND THE MEDITATION OF MY HEART, BE ACCEPTABLE IN THY SIGHT, O LORD.” Psa. 19:14

24

I was impressed with an editorial in the September issue of *Grace and Glory*. It was about those who talked too much. People should think twice before making so many remarks and remember that words spoken can never be recalled. They travel on and on, though we may be ever so sorry about them. Folk seem to forget that God is the silent Listener to every conversation. If God called the murmurings of Israel sin, certainly He could say nothing less of words wrongly spoken. It surely is the result of sin unjudged, if folk continue on in this manner. God will have to judge it, as He did the sin of fornication in the Corinthian assembly. I Cor. 5 That assembly had failed in this matter, but Paul did not overlook nor bypass it. He did not judge this sin because he hated this brother, but because of his love for God and truth; yet he maintained a spirit of love for him. Later on, after this one had repented, Paul begged the assembly to confirm their love toward him and to receive him. II Cor. 2:8 Paul was true to God and mankind. When he judged something by the Word, he did not keep hammering on the subject, but he let the Holy Spirit finish the job. Paul's Gospel, if heeded brings about a peaceful fellowship among the people of God.

In I Pet. 3:10,11 we read this statement, which also carries with it a promise of life and good days — "Let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile." Wrong remarks will oftentimes separate the best of friends and that precious fruit of the Spirit, which is peace, is void. There are times when peace has to be pursued. We are told to "seek peace and ensue it." If everyone sought for peace there would soon be found a solution to end all difficulties. Too many people are like the warring nations of this old world, they all seem to feel that everyone should bow to them and since they will not do that, the little dove of peace has no place for her feet. Paul teaches us in Eph. 4:2 to "forbear one another in love, with all lowliness and meekness with long-suffering." In Col. 3:13 he adds a little more to forbearance by saying, "forgive one another, and if any man have a quarrel against any, forgive them

as Christ forgave us." I am most sure that no person ever inflicted the harm upon us that was placed upon Christ. His dying words were, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." Peace will rule in the Christian's heart, if they let it, according to Col. 3:15. It reads like this — "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Thank God for oneness of the body of Christ, despite the fact that it seems very much divided. This division can easily be traced back to the failure to judge sin in the flesh. Unjudged sin in one person can pollute a whole assembly oftentimes. It is like the leaven that leavens the whole lump of dough. Paul plainly states in Eph. 4 :25 — "we are members one of another," and in I Cor. 12:18—"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him." A spiritual assembly will recognize them as such, accepting them in their God-given place. Sometimes because of fleshly ambitions, saints may overestimate their ability and feel they are qualified for a place that God has not assigned unto them. This often brings confusion; but all things can be proved by the Word. Paul tells us in Gal. 6:3,4 — "If any man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another." All we need to do is to hear a person speak, or look over their written work to know whether they have greater or less qualifications than ourselves. If their ability is greater, then it would be foolish for us to think otherwise. The places that seem greater, and in reality are, also involve responsibilities for which many are not qualified. Jesus said to His Apostles who were craving to be great, "Whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all." Greatness does not only involve service, but sacrifice. Paul said he was no longer his own, he had become the bond-slave of Christ. Conditions were not always favorable for him, as he spoke of weariness, painfulness, of being hungry, and besides all this, the burden of all the churches. Folk who prefer an easy rocking chair, regular sleeping hours, and times of enjoyment with their family and friends, are already counted out for this great place. Brother Copley used to say, "Some folk did not have enough endurance to stay for an altar service or for a longer time to pray after the regular service." Paul said that he labored night and day with tears and seemed to be denied every earthly joy and privilege. He wanted to know Christ and the fellowship of His sufferings. How

much he was like Christ who said, "Foxes have holes, the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head." One thing certain, each one will be rewarded according to faithfulness. The man with the two talents doubled his, just as the one who had five. He met the requirement necessary and would be rewarded the same. "Godliness with contentment is great gain." "if any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth, that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ." I Pet. 4:11 "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God and the Father by him." (Col. 3:17) and to this he adds in V. 23, "... whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord and not unto men." Thank God we can talk, walk and serve, all to the glory of God.

26 We can cast down imaginations, too, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bring into captivity every thought and every word to the obedience of Christ. We cannot afford to fall short or to fail of God's grace; but overcome every difficulty. The race is not yet run, and like Paul, no one can yet say that they have attained; so we are to keep running—"Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith." Laboring together "exhorting and teaching with all longsuffering and doctrine, following peace with all men," as much as lies within our power. Praying one for another, "endeavoring (giving diligence) to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Let us be ready, "for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." He may come today. I want to be ready to go—don't you? The way to be ready, is to keep ready; then we shall hear that trumpet sound **and** arise together to meet our loving Bridegroom in the air.
(Reprint 1959)

* God declares that "He helps the helpless," but men cannot understand such language. Benjamin Franklin said, "God helps those that help themselves." Whom shall we believe?

* D.L. Moody once said: "A lie can travel round the world before the Truth can get its boots on." That is true, but woe be unto a lie when the Truth does get its boots on.

* Some folks make the best of their troubles and disappointments: others make the most of them.

Heart And Mouth

Ralph E. Hawk

“...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.” Matt. 12:34

It seems that in the Scriptures, the heart and mouth are almost inseparably joined together. We see that practically every time the mouth is mentioned, the heart is also. The mouth is a wonderfully important organ to our natural bodies, and no doubt by these scriptural references we can see that there is also an important spiritual answer to it.

Paul teaches us the spiritual import of the mouth even when we were in the flesh—Rom. 3:13-14: "Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." Even then the heart condition of the old creation was shown by the expressions of his mouth. Of course, in every place that reference is made to the mouth, the actions of all parts of the person, including the mouth, are signified. No doubt from this we can see the inseparable link that God has placed between the two sides of the Gospel—the provisional, shown by the heart or spirit, which receives and knows the Gospel; and the practical, figured by the mouth, which outwardly manifests the Gospel. 27

God has ordained that this heart-mouth link rule from the very beginning of Christian experience, as Paul tells us in Rom. 10:9-10, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart, man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth, confession is made unto salvation." True enough that salvation is an act of faith in the heart, but the Apostle also shows us that salvation worked in the heart also affects the mouth. And so it is with every Christian's experience, God's Word and promises are first revealed and worked in our hearts, then shown outwardly.

One of the most outstanding examples, of this is the filling of believers with the Holy Spirit. Some would teach that since the Spirit-filling is a gift to faith, we have only to claim it by faith and it becomes ours. While this undoubtedly is true as far as it goes, they tell us also that to wait for the sign of speaking in tongues, as the early disciples did, is to frustrate faith

and to walk by feeling and emotion. However, most of those who teach this hold steadfastly to the aforementioned Rom. 10:9-10, which shows, with other verses, that the gift of the Holy Spirit is indeed a result of faith in our heart. ". . . Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?" Gal. 3:2 Yet as in Romans and everywhere in Acts, out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth does speak, "the wonderful works of God." Acts 2:11; James 3:2-8.

So then the outward working of the Gospel is not only salvation, but the result of faith in our hearts. And speaking in tongues is not in itself the infilling of the Holy Spirit, but the result of our claiming it by faith in our hearts. Everyone who has true faith for the filling of the Holy Spirit will also experience the God-given sign of speaking in another tongue. How wonderful that this great Gospel really works in the "hearts" and "mouths" of believers!

(Reprint 1957)

Wells

28

Many wells are made by man,
But often they go dry.
The water is hard to lift
And it cannot satisfy.

Some are "broken cisterns,"
With water unfit to drink.
They fail when greatly needed,
Tho thirsty ones crowd the brink.

Some wells are just like fountains
Fed by a deep hidden spring.
They flow at all times and seasons
And real satisfaction bring.

O come to the LIVING WATERS,
That Jesus alone can give.
Drink deeply, and give to others
That they may eternally live.

Julia E. Martin

ISAIAH 44

(Continued from Aug. 2016)

The message to His Own “ancient people,” because of His Superiority, is “Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.” V. 8 The Same One Who prophesied all these choice blessings for Israel, and proved Himself to them over and over, even from those long ago ages, now assures this people that there is no need for fear, because He lives on eternally to bring His prophetic words to pass. Contrariwise, “They that make a graven image are all of them vanity; and their delectable (beautiful, beloved) things shall not profit; and they are their own witnesses; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed.” V. 9 Surely the day is coming when all of those who engage in idolatry must admit or become “their own witnesses,” that they “see not, nor know;” what they are talking about.

The True Master of prophecy continues, assaulting those who are so steeped in idolatry, asking the question: “Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image that is profitable for nothing?” V. 10 We know that Israel has bowed to gross idolatry throughout their history, but given the repeated references to the nations in this chapter, calling on them to be witnesses of His Power, and to acknowledge the ineffectiveness of their own efforts toward Israel, this reference to graven images undoubtedly includes their own involvement with idols. The answer to the question here, “Who hath formed a god...that is profitable for nothing? would have to be “no one.” Thus “Behold, all his fellows shall be ashamed: and the workmen, they are of men: let them all be gathered together, let them stand up; yet they shall fear, and they shall be ashamed together.” V. 11 Despite the following vast array of individuals involved in creating these idols, all of them are “vanity” (V.9) and “profitable for nothing.” V. 10 Such idols which are simply the work of men’s hands, did not profit or accomplish anything!

All of these “craftsmen,” seem to be rather adept at their trade, for “The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and

fashioneth it with hammers, and worketh it with the strength of his arms: yea, he is hungry, and his strength faileth: he drinketh no water, and is faint. The carpenter stretcheth out his rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man; that it may remain in the house.

He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish it. Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth it; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto. He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth himself, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire:" V. 12-

16 The general message of these verses is that these "experts" are bent toward idolatry. The dedication of the smith seems extraordinary as he uses all his power and expertise to accomplish his task and, even though he is hungry and weak, refuses to even drink water. The carpenter is likewise totally absorbed in his work, but his tree is used for his own comfort of warmth, and the baking of bread. The fire of his tree also provides for the roasting of meat, and though all of these are God's intended purposes for the tree, with "...the residue thereof he maketh a god even his graven image..." V. 17 After that he "...falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god." We can only wonder at the foolishness of men who would use this tree for these every day requirements, and then worship "the residue," of the same tree, as being some deity, which would come to his aid. God also concludes that "They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand." V. 18 Paul reiterates this same message in the book of Acts, as he quoted directly from Isaiah 6. "And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not. And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto

our fathers, Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive:" Acts 28:24-26 We would emphasize that, according to the text here in Isaiah 44, "...he (God) hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see..." This was not a Sovereign Act whereby God unilaterally prevented them from "seeing and hearing, but rather all these citations simply mean that He was faithful to display the truth before them, and because of their rebellion and unbelief, the light became darkness. Jesus taught the same lesson when the disciples asked Him "...Why speakest thou unto them in parables?" Matt. 13:10 His response was; "...Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given." Matt. 13:11 He then explains, "Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand." He then quoted the truth of these same texts from Isaiah. "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive; For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed;..." V. 13-15 The Master plainly insists that their own rebellion and unbelief prevent them from understanding the parables which are simply a "secret code," whereby God will separate the one who has a hearing ear from the one who does not.

Isaiah likewise asserts that the problem lies in the heart. "And none considereth in his heart, neither is there knowledge nor understanding to say, I have burned part of it in the fire; yea, also I have baked bread upon the coals thereof; I have roasted flesh, and eaten it: and shall I make the residue thereof an abomination? shall I fall down to the stock of a tree?" V. 19 Apparently this idolater is so engrossed in his own vision that he can in no wise ask these questions and consider the foolishness of what he is doing. He simply cannot consider "in his heart," that if this tree is to be worshipped, which part do you separate as being deity, and which part would be used for such mundane purposes as cooking and keeping him warm? Neither does he consider God's view, that such worship is "...an abomination." God is certainly

at no loss for answers, for He plainly outlines the results of such idolatry. “He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand?” V. 20 Ashes are his bread, and a “deceived heart” has doomed him to the point that he does not even realize that he has believed a lie, which is a direct consequence of refusing any truth. “...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.” II Thess. 2:10-11

32 “Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me.” V. 21 Though Israel is most assuredly guilty of the idolatry described above, God exhorts them to “Remember these,” that is, these examples of unbelief, and the fact that “thou art my servant...” Despite all their history of rebellion and rejection, they are still God’s Chosen People, and He will not forget them. That truth is reinforced by the fact of redemption, for “I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.” V. 22 First, God has already “blotted out...thy transgressions, and,...thy sins...” That happened at the Cross, as it did for all men, now the path is clear for them to “return unto me...” This glorious advantage will belong to Israel, as a nation, the day they accept the Messiah Whom they have so long rejected. We would also note that when Israel assumes their rightful place, the whole universe will respond with this song of victory, giving honor to The LORD. “Sing, O ye heavens; for the LORD hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel.” V. 23 Only The LORD could perform these stupendous acts in restoring this nation to her appointed place, and it has all been through the glorious process of redemption found in Christ Jesus. Scripture is very plain that all men have been redeemed, but God’s purposes have always centered around Israel, as is demonstrated by V. 24. “Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb,...” Then follows the fact

that "...I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;" The language here, once again, parallels the book of Acts. "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;" Acts 17:24 God is seen here as the Only Creator, and presents Himself in direct contrast to the false gods who boast of their own accomplishments and abilities. He is further rather adamant in proclaiming that He "frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish;" V. 25 All of these things declare just how Unique and Superior The LORD Is. He Alone can accomplish such feats of creation, and He "frustrates the tokens of the liars,..." The word "tokens" means "monuments, flags, or beacons," which supposedly present evidence that these gods exist. God has repeatedly invited these diviners and wise men to prove themselves and predict the future as only He can do, but they have been unable to accomplish it. He frustrates them with specifics of what He can do, for God is The ONE "That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof:" His "servant," is undoubtedly a direct reference to Isaiah, who did most assuredly prophesy a number of things that came to pass before their very eyes. God also went on record saying "...to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built,..." This bespeaks the fact that Jerusalem would be rebuilt after the Babylonish captivity, and history confirms that this restoration did come to pass. It is also a prophecy of the end time promising that Jerusalem, which even in this day is under siege by a great number of opposing powers, will be restored in all her glory. Not only so, but He "... saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers:" V. 27 God did that locally when He gave those who went back to Jerusalem under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah, great victories over the "deep" waters and "rivers" of their enemies. The greater fulfillment will be when He literally annihilates the "Gentile waters," or nations

during the great tribulation. Furthermore, This Same Majestic Champion, is very specific when He "...saith of Cyrus, He is my (God's) shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid." Isaiah uttered these words hundreds of years before they came to pass, long before Cyrus was even born, and long before Jerusalem would be taken captive to Babylon. This message testifies to the fact that Jerusalem, which was completely demolished and burned with fire by Nebuchadnezzar, would be restored after 70 years by the decree of Cyrus, who became the leader of the second world empire known as Medo-Persia. The confirmation of Cyrus' role in this matter is found in II Chron. 36:22-23 "Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah (Jer. 25:11-12) might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth
34 hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up."

Isaiah 45 verses 1 & 4 also designate Cyrus by name, as he whom God would use to implement His purposes, thus showing once again, that God only is God. He Alone can distinguish Himself from all these other gods, who would try to, even remotely, imitate that which only The LORD can do.

To be barren seemingly is both a reproach and painful; but to know that we are in God's perfect will is heaven on earth. Hallelujah! The words "The just shall live by faith," so often come to me when I look for results and fruit.

Though our labors appear barren of results, yet the Truth, the Seed of God, is never fruitless. "**My Word shall not return unto ME void,**" saith the Lord. Hence, let us continue to sow the good Seed of the kingdom, and trust God for the heavenly irrigation and cultivation, which will certainly make it fruitful.

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

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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
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