

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole Counsel of GOD

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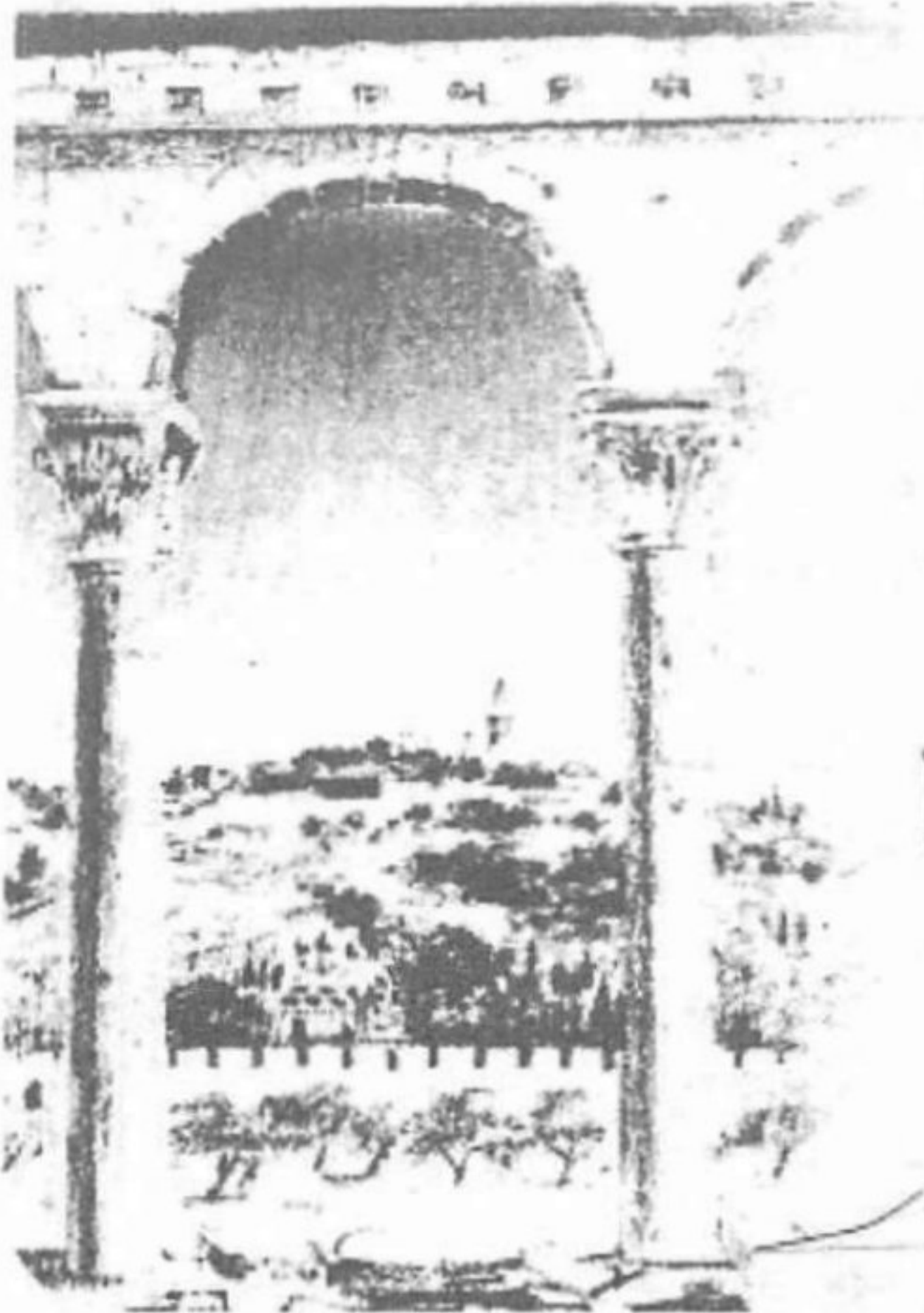
And they found
the stone rolled
away from the
sepulchre. And
they entered in,
and found not
the body of the
Lord
Jesus.

LUKE 24:12,5.



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God hath
begotten us
again unto
a living hope
by the resurrection
of Jesus Christ
from the dead ...

The mount of Ascension as seen through
an arch on the site of Herod's Temple.

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Editor: Gene Hawkins



By Gene Hawkins

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: (Israel) and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time:... But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, **even to the time of the end**: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” Dan. 12:1,4

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress (anguish) of nations, with perplexity; (state of quandary, at a loss mentally) the sea and the waves roaring;” Luke 21:25

“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh... To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds... and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These are murmurers, complainers, (to blame, find fault, discontent) walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words,... “But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers (false teachers, scoffers) in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.” Jude 14-19

“This know also, that in the last days perilous (dangerous, furious, fierce) times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous,... Without natural affection, trucebreakers, ... incontinent, (without control) fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, (rash) ... Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” II Tim. 3:1-5

“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... For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ;... And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars:... For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:

and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.” Mt 24:3-8

All these citations are very familiar to those who have their eyes set on the heavens looking for Jesus’ soon return. They are literally a treasure trove of encouragement outlining the legion of end time indicators surrounding the days when Jesus will fulfill His promise: “... behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me,...” Rev. 22:12 Such signs have appeared in these pages since the early 1920’s and though Jesus has not come even at this present time, we can say unequivocally that these end time harbingers are not going to go away. In fact, the frequency and intensity of the news reporting them will dramatically increase. For example, political correctness declares that man’s production of carbon dioxide is responsible for “global warming,” or “climate change, but despite all the regulations put into place over the last several years, the earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and other “acts of God,” attributed to climate change, have not diminished at all. Man’s idea is simply to impose more restrictions to save the planet, but God’s Word will not be denied, and none can stop the devastating phenomenon which has been prophesied for thousands of years. Record and erratic low temperatures along with record highs will continue to abound.

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Daniel’s primary burden was for his own people Israel, the very center of all God’s purposes for this little earth ball. Though he thought, and indeed hoped, that the 70 year captivity would end all their difficulties, God spoke multiple prophecies promising great blessing to many, but also revealing a time of unprecedented trouble. The term “to and fro” in Dan. 12:4 is a mariner’s term describing one traveling in the midst of a sea, and is surely descriptive of Israel’s peril at the hands of the end time nations during these last days. This same verse also foretells the fact that “knowledge shall be increased.” We have marveled over the years at the tremendous ability, and ingenuity which men have displayed in conquering various diseases, inventing almost impossible to imagine machines, and going so far as to put man on the moon. There have been major accomplishments and “breakthroughs” in about every facet of life, but in our day it seems that the increased knowledge has produced a new wrinkle. Many recent news reports have disclosed the fact that classified “knowledge” or information has dramatically increased

both during and after the American Presidential election due to a host of leaks to unauthorized recipients. Dissemination of such knowledge is deemed a felony, but prosecutions have in no wise been forthcoming. Russia has been accused of trying to tamper with the recent U.S. elections, and multiple recent news reports now indicate that two members of a Russian spy organization along with two other “criminal hackers” have now been indicted by the U.S. Justice department for the “massive cyberattack affecting 500 million Yahoo users,” in 2014. This article also concluded that there was no evidence linking this case with the Russian cyber-meddling in the U.S. elections, but we can only wonder how rampant such knowledge may become as nation continues to rise against nation, trying desperately to exercise power over one another in these closing end days when such knowledge will yet be increased more and more.

News items, just in recent weeks and months, which show the direct fulfillment of God’s Word are so abundant that it is absolutely impossible to keep up with them. The scripture citations quoted above apply to political trouble spots around the world. They speak of the signs in relation to God’s celestial elements when “...the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” II Pet. 3:10 There are the religious signs as men turn away from God’s Truth, and there are proclamations of horrendous immorality as men become more like beasts daily. More and more, entire nations are absolutely perplexed as to what course they should take or how they can deal with other national forces which would oppress them. All of these signs have been with us for a great many years and once again, the major change in all of them is that they have dramatically increased, especially over the last few decades. 5

Many prophecy students and scholars have looked for specific signs accorded to the revival of the Roman Empire prophesied by Daniel. Many of us have longed to see the emergence of the 10 nation coalition which the prophet beheld in Dan. 7:7-8 “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; ...and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first

horns plucked up by the roots:...” There will be an end time bloc of 10 nations which will be reduced to 7 and will eventually end with the one horn who will be the antichrist. We have looked in vain for such a coalition of nations, but given present day evidence, it is rather easy to speculate that both China and Russia would be two of those world powers. Since every nation in this evil regime will be a goat nation which has oppressed Israel and will be obliterated as a nation during the millennium, it is also not difficult to conclude that nations such as the U.S. would be considered sheep nations and would thus be one of the three horns “plucked up by the roots.” Such spectacular events would surely be somewhat of a “pin-point” sign that would be so clear and precise that one could almost declare the day and the hour when Jesus will return. Scripture however proclaims that God has not made that information known.

6 There is another even more pin point indicator found in the “little horn of Dan. 8. The little horn of Dan. 7 is the antichrist, while this one refers to the false prophet. “... the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. And out of one of them came forth a **little horn**, which waxed exceeding great,... And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away,...” Dan. 8:8-11 Taking away the daily sacrifice will be a spectacular sign marking an exact time as to when the tribulation will begin. Verse 13,14 specifically testify that there will be exactly 2300 days from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away until the temple is cleansed. “... How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” The only way for the temple to be cleansed is to remove both the false prophet and the antichrist, meaning that the temple will only be cleansed after the tribulation is over. But Daniel also gives us another pin-point timeline in regard to the daily sacrifice. “And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.” Dan. 12:11 This means that from the time the daily sacrifice is discontinued, to the middle of the tribulation

week when the antichrist sets up his image in the temple, that is, the "...abomination of desolation..." of which Jesus prophesied in Matt. 24:15, will be exactly 1290 days. Since the first half of the tribulation is comprised of only 1260 days, it means that the antichrist will enter into the infamous covenant of Dan. 9:27 "... with many for one week..." and the horrendous 7 year era tribulation will officially begin exactly 30 days after the daily sacrifice is taken away.

The great problem today is that we have found no evidence of the daily sacrifice even being offered; meaning simply that the religious economy of Israel must somehow be reinstated in order for there to be a cessation of this daily sacrifice. We have often wondered if perhaps the Palestinian problem might be solved through religious endeavor rather than political expertise. There are religious sects who seem to constantly be at odds with the Netanyahu regime or any other political leader. One would wonder if perhaps the proverbial carrot to negotiation for a two state solution in Jerusalem might be triggered by an offer for Israel to finally resume their religious practices. We are confident that such an agreement would indeed be short lived due to the ungodly nature and propensity of both the false prophet and the antichrist to fulfill the role of "truce breakers" prophesied in II Tim. 3.

We would conclude from the specific numbers above that the bride of Christ must of necessity be taken to glory **before** this daily sacrifice is taken away. Otherwise men would know that there would be a maximum of only 30 days for Jesus to appear before the tribulation actually begins; the reason being that, He must keep His promise 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 Such a scenario would surely preclude the fact that "... the day of the Lord so cometh as a **thief in the night.**" I Thess. 5:2

The scripture repeatedly gives us such exhortations as "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt. 24:44 Jesus also warned the Church at Laodicea: "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." Rev. 3:3 The promise to the Philadelphia

Church of being kept out of the tribulation, is in stark contrast to this warning issued to this Laodicean Church. The majority of Christendom today proclaims that the whole Church will be translated at one time, but how can that be when there is such a discrepancy in the messages to these last two end-time Churches? There is only one plausible answer. There will be those of the Church who are watching, waiting, and longing for Jesus to come, and there will be others who will be caught completely off guard when He comes to them as a Thief.

8 Paul spoke to Philadelphian type believers when he wrote to the elite saints at Thessalonica. "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." I Thess. 5:1-5 The "times and the seasons" are in no wise a pin point time declaring the day and the hour that Jesus will return. This overcoming band was indeed walking "... by faith, not by sight..." (II Cor. 5:7) and knew that these times and seasons simply indicate an environment and atmosphere that is "ripe" for the coming of Jesus! These Thessalonian believers knew the Word of God and thus knew those appointed signs. They also knew that they could not be passive and take their ease as though the time of genuine "peace and safety" had arrived. They would not be as the Church at Laodicea who heard this rebuke from The Judge: "... **thou sayest**, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;..." Rev. 3:17

Paul continues this contrast between the two groups announcing that "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night,... Therefore let **us** not sleep, as do others;..." Paul's reference to sleep here cannot be to sinners for unbelievers are DEAD in trespasses and sin. Their condition is not one of sleep. Only Christians can do that and they do it because "... they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night." These carnal Christians have paid no attention to the light of God's Word and their cold and dispassionate lives show it.

The apostle's further contrast and admonition shouts:

“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.” V. 8 Paul included himself as one who most assuredly was looking for Jesus to come, and it was because he was obsessed with the Light of God’s Word. The salvation of which he speaks is found in the next verse and it does not mean deliverance from hell, which has already been guaranteed by the new birth. “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,” This is the same deliverance or salvation which was promised to the saints at Philadelphia. It is the promise that He will keep them from the wrath of the tribulation!

All believers are left with this same choice. “Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not... 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.” Luke 12:40-43 “And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.” Mk. 13:37

THE EMMAUS ROAD

Jesus is Risen! Oh, hear Him say,
Why art thou sad as thou goest today?
What are the things thou art saying just now,
Walking and talking with clouded brow?

Jesus is risen! He walks with thee,
Open thine eyes, and thou shalt see
Hands with the print of the nails in the palm
Clasping thee closely from all alarm.

Jesus is risen! Be of Good cheer!
There is no danger while He is near
Steadfast and true He will ever abide,
Walking and talking close by thy side.

Sin and the Foreknowledge of God

Leslie Barrowliff

“Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.” Acts 15:18

There is a strong tendency in many schools of thought today to adjust the Scriptures to the so-called enlightened mind of modern civilization. This process is not new. It is the same scheme as that adopted by Satan in the Garden of Eden when he said to Eve: "Yea, hath God said?" Truly the devil is the unapproachable master in the art of deception! He does not need to change his weapons though adept he is at changing his methods. The same old smooth-tongued manner of speech; the same disarming cultured tones; the same defiant blast as he smiles with his lips and snarls with his eyes; the same deceiver as ever --- Satan, the arch-enemy of God! "Yea, hath God said?" He wanted rid of Adam and Eve. He wanted rid of this new race of creatures God had brought into existence. He wanted rid of God. He did not get his own way, though it surely seemed he had! And his methods are the same today; a pat on the back, a cheery word, a little flattery and down the victim goes.

The force of education has opened many avenues for mankind. This, the adversary has been quick to turn to his own advantage. A certain American missionary devised a system to enable people to learn to read in the short space of a few weeks. This he did that they might read the Scriptures. But what has he found? That instead of their minds being watered with the pure word of Life they are being deluged with the words of evil. Foul literature disseminated by the godless and vassals of Satan is being absorbed greedily by these people. They have learned to read and will read anything. So Satan sees they are well supplied. "Let us educate the people. Teach them to read. Then give them to read what we want them to **think!**" So Satan worked. He still works; and he is determined to expunge from the minds, of men every thought and trace of his utter defeat at the Hands of God. His method is simple in the extreme. Get rid of the Truth, replace it with a lie that will satisfy and the deed is done. And the lie he is propagating today is the same as the lie he told Eve — "Yea, hath God said?"

Then, it was the forbidden tree; today it is another Tree — the Cross of Calvary! It does not matter whether you look upon that Cross

as an "X" or a stake, or a "T" or a Latin cross, a Greek cross or any other shape: It is the FACT of the Cross that Satan wants rid of. And to get rid of it he has confused the issue and caused bewilderment and misunderstanding because somehow folk do not see (or cannot or will not see) how it fits in; that is, how it fits in with THEIR way of thinking.

Suppose for a few minutes we consider the Cross from GOD'S point of view. Oh, yes, we can do this because what God thinks about the Cross is written in His Word. If you really believe the Holy Bible is the Word of God, the very Word of God, not a book about Him or a book containing His Word, then you must believe the Holy Bible declares to us what God thinks! And what God thinks about the Cross of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is told in the length and breadth of its pages.

While I am quite satisfied in my own mind what style of Cross was used to crucify our beloved Lord, I do not propose to deal with that aspect now. It matters very little. What does matter is that Jesus Christ the Son of God was nailed to a Cross to redeem the sons of men. That does matter. And because it matters so very much to you and me it must matter much more to God because it was His Son who was nailed there. What does the Cross of Christ mean to God? First: it means this: That a way of salvation has been found for men. To accuse God of a sadistic propensity is surely the height of impudence and irreverence. Yet such is the accusation hurled at God, and us, by many who ought to know better! "Why," they say, "you accuse God of deliberately scheming to have His Son publicly hanged that you might justify your own conclusions!" We do nothing of the kind! What we do say, is that God planned to bear away the sin of mankind in the only way it could be borne away, and was willing to pay the price. He did not deliberately create man to fall for the one purpose of having Jesus crucified. The suggestion is the fruit of a sin-soddened mind.

God made man in His Own Image and His Own Likeness: perfect, sinless, and innocent. The entrance of sin was not planned by God. He knew it would happen. He **could** have prevented it: but **you** would never have known the blessing of eternal life if He had done so, nor would you have known what it means to become a child of God. Certainly God foresaw the fall of Lucifer. Likewise He also foresaw the fall of Adam. He also foresaw the need of redemption and so He planned to meet that need; and the need was met at Calvary. This is the offence to the modern mind just as it was in days gone by. The Cross has always been an offence to man. It has always proved a

distasteful thing to those unopened eyes and sin-sealed hearts. The Christ Who taught the Beatitudes, the Christ Who fed the hungry multitudes, the Christ Who wept at Lazarus' tomb or prayed perspiringly in Gethsemane: yes, Him they will accept. But One cast out, rejected, torn and bruised and bleeding, a sacrifice for sin, a Lamb ordained before Adam was formed, a Lamb ordained to die — and such a death! — No! Never! They will have the Teacher but not the Saviour. They want the Crown but not the Cross. But the Crown must rest upon the mitre: and the mitre meant to Christ, **the Cross**. And so He came to die.

12 It was not in Gethsemane's wooded glade nor yet by Galilee's well-trod shore; it was not on Sinai's burning clefts nor yet on Olivet's majestic slopes that our redemption was secured; but on Calvary where stood a Cross, bare and rude bearing our Substitute Divine. There on a Cross extended by nail-pierced Hands and Feet the Saviour of our souls fought that great fight and in His death prevailed o'er death and brought to dead mankind Eternal Life. His Blood, the source from whence flowed the mighty power to cleanse our souls and make them white; His Blood the One Supreme, the only Sacrifice. He paid in full for all mankind. He paid; we enter in ; and none can bar our way into that blessed, thrice blessed abode. For now we are the sons of God. To enter is our right. O let us not fear to take what God has freely given. Let us not hesitate before that Golden Gate as though to enter were some presumption on our part. To do that is to doubt the Word, of God, to ascribe to Him some base, unworthy act. "Come unto Me and be at rest" is His invitation with this glorious promise of acceptance. "Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out." These are the words of our blessed Lord. Shall we then hold back from full possession? Shall we decline the proffered blessing of Almighty God? Nay; Heaven is ours with all its glorious provisions, because Christ is ours and we are Christ's and Christ is God's! O Glory ! Hallelujah!

Second. Now that is a glorious and blessed Truth: by faith in Christ's redeeming work we become the sons of God. Born again by His Spirit we are henceforth His own. He has assured us we are forgiven fully and forever. Not one jot or tittle of condemnation remains. We are justified forever. Nevertheless, even as Christ Himself was tempted when He was veiled in the flesh, so are we still subject to the thrusts of our old adversary — we still may feel his blows. Jesus was not exempt from temptation though He was the Eternal Son of God. No more are we immune from such testing and trying since we became the sons of God. The devil found in Christ a Man Who could and did

withstand him, One Who prevailed at every step. Now we, too, may prevail: not in our own strength or might but in His alone. How is this effected in our lives? Through the cross! Always only through the Cross. When the Lord of Glory died upon that awful Tree, He died alone. And yet He was not there alone in the reckoning of Almighty God. For "by the faith of the operation of God" we who believe were baptized, into Christ's death as He hung upon that Tree. We are crucified with Christ. We died. We do not die daily for sin. We died once when Jesus died. And having died, sin has no more dominion over us. The penalty of the law for sin is death. We died with Christ, so the penalty has been fully exacted. Lawfully we are free.

Nevertheless, the law does not forbid a man to live again, and as Christ is risen from the dead, so indeed are we! We are alive in Him for evermore. With Paul we can say "I am crucified with Christ" (that is the end of our old man) "nevertheless I live and yet not I but Christ liveth in me (that is the New man) and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God Who loved me, and gave Himself for me." There we are: Sons of God! Risen and glorified! This new man is sinless and perfect before God forever. It is the Christ of Glory. So when temptations come upon us it is not the new man that is tempted but the old man, who, we say, died at Calvary. He is the one who would keep on sinning. He is the one who still walks after the flesh. But we count him dead. We say "Nay, but I am crucified with Christ. I can heed Satan no more. A dead man listens not nor hears." And as we thus reckon even as God reckons we find experimentally true what is judicially true—we are free from sin's dominion because we died with Christ.

And when the Tempter comes our way:

We do not argue nor debate;
But simply turn to him and say,
"Look, there! at Calvary I died;
"You've come . . . too late!"

And in despair he turns away; dead men can sin no more. So we prevail through Christ our God because we died with Him. Therefore we perceive:

1. Through His death on the Cross, Christ redeemed us by the shedding of His Precious Blood.
2. Through our death with Christ on the Cross we are justified forever.
3. Through this union with Christ in His death and

Resurrection we have Union with Him in Heaven above.

4. This union is by God established and we are God's forevermore.

This was the purpose of God in Christ Jesus our Lord before the foundations of the earth were laid. God purposed it: God carried it out. Now all this is true because Christ died on the Cross. Had He died any other way the glorious purpose of God could not have been accomplished, because death by any other means would have excluded the imputation of our sins to Christ and rendered His death nugatory for salvation. But He died on the Cross; hence, was cursed for our sakes. He there shed His Blood giving His life for our sins. Thus in vicarious suffering He bore our sins away and God is able justly to forgive and pardon us freely by His grace. The debt of sin has been fully paid. God is vindicated — the Just One and True; we are vindicated — the Justified of God. Thus every mouth is stopped, every foe is silenced. The Cross answers all and in it we glory. For the Cross is God's way of salvation made possible by His Faith and Grace. Now we see —

14

1. The Love of God is revealed through the Cross as it is written in John 3:14-17. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness even so must the Son of man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." And again in I John 4:10, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

2. The wisdom of God is revealed in the Cross of Jesus as it is written by Paul in I Cor. 1:17-24: "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel; not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."

3. The justice of God is revealed in the Cross of Jesus Christ as it is written — "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly; for scarcely for a righteous man

will one die; yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die; but God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him." Rom. 5:6-9 And in Isaiah 53:4-6, we read, "Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

We were reconciled to God by the death of His Son; we are saved from the wrath to come.

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"

In conclusion, let us see what all this means to us.

It means that the penalty of the law has been fully exacted for every soul of man through the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross. God's holy law has been upheld and yet the sinner has been set free because Grace is mightier than the law. The law could condemn, Grace alone could justify. And the law took its course and death entered in; but Grace took a hand and lo! we are saved. Not by our might, or merit or wisdom, but by the Grace and the Faith of God freely bestowed upon us. How wonderful salvation is as devised and perfected by God. No saint need fear the penalty of sin, no saint need fear God will change his mind. Our security is in the Blood of Jesus and God can never renounce that sacrifice. As the hymn writer so aptly wrote:

Payment God will not twice demand,
First at my bleeding Surety's Hand
And then again at mine.
NO! The work is done!

We are saved, we are justified. The foreknowledge of God has prevailed for our salvation. All glory be to His Holy Name!

EMMANUEL--GOD WITH MAN.

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;" Heb. 1:1-3.

16 In the above citation, we have the Deity and the humanity of the Son of God most beautifully intermingled, entwined and contrasted. He is first presented in His humanity, after His resurrection, as made heir of all things by His Father, God. Then His Deity is flashed upon us, as though fearing any one might judge Him less than the eternal Son of God; for though He had become a Man, "He made the worlds," purposed or framed the ages, we are assured by the inspired writer. In the ages eternal He was God.

Here we are reminded of the Apostle John's testimony concerning the eternal Sonship of Christ. He is "The Word made flesh," the revelation of the mind of God. "All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made." All creation is the work of His hand. Yet He came out of His infinitude to make Himself known to His creatures. Christ is Deity on display—the outshining, or effulgence of the glory of God—in light as well as love.

Hence, He is the expresssion of the substance of Deity; the visible image of the Infinite and Eternal; upholding the universe by the word of His power. The matchless, immeasurable dignity and majesty of His Person is expressed, as though to emphasize the contrast with His humanity, and His stoop unto death, the death of the cross, whereby atonement was made. "He, by Himself, purged our sins." But the inspired Word does not leave Him in death. Thank God for what follows —"He sat down on the right hand of the Majesty

on high." Death and resurrection are implied. It was not possible that He should be held in the clasp of death, as Peter affirms (Acts 2:24); for He was divine. His flesh could not see corruption; for He was holy. He was man; hence, He could die: but He was also God; hence, He must rise.

Today there is a Man in heaven, not an ordinary man, but "The Man," Christ Jesus, Head and Lord of a new creation. He came down to earth, clothing Deity with humanity. He went up to heaven clothing humanity with Deity. Hallelujah!

Christ Arose

Low in the grace He lay ---
Jesus my Savior!
Waiting the coming day ---
Jesus my Lord!

Vainly they watch His bed ---
Jesus , my Savior
Vainly they seal the dead ---
Jesus my Lord!

17

Death cannot keep his prey ---
Jesus, my Savior
He tore the bars away ---
Jesus my Lord!

Refrain:

Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes
He arose a Victor from the dark domain
And He lives forever with His saints to reign
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah Christ arose!

Robert Lowry 1826-1899

REFLECTIONS

. . . From the Editor

“And she (Martha) had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.” Lk. 10:39

“Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.” John 11:20

“Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair... “Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.” John 12:3,7

18 Jesus had told His disciples repeatedly that He would “... be killed, and be raised again the third day,” but Mary is the only one who truly understood His Words. She alone acted “... against (in preparation of) the day of my burying...” as she anointed His body before He was even delivered unto death. The reason for that is because she had sat at His “... feet, and heard his word.” It was undoubtedly for this same reason that she “... sat still in the house,...” when Jesus returned to Bethany after the death of Lazarus. She had a genuine spirit of quietness and trust, that Jesus knew exactly what He was doing and she would simply wait until He called for her.

It is also quite clear that Mary was not among those who went to the tomb bearing “...sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.” Mk. 16:1 It is as though she is once again sitting “... still in the house.” Mary Magdalene was given the distinction of first seeing Jesus, and hearing Him say “... unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father:...” Jn. 20:17 One might conclude that Mary of Bethany should have been accorded that honor but the fact remains that she did not need a sign, or even to behold the resurrected body of Jesus; to know beyond doubt that He had been raised from the grave. She knew assuredly that He would not be in that tomb for she had sat at His feet and heard His word, and she alone had comprehended Jesus' teaching that, “...he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: And they

shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.” Lk. 18:32 Thus it was Mary who anointed Him “... against the day of my burying...”

There seems to be a quietness about Mary as she went about her task of anointing the feet of Jesus with this costly ointment. There is no record that she was even the least bit discouraged by the criticism of those who insistently asked “Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?” John 12:5 Instead she “... anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.” V.3 That loving act resulted in creating a powerful fragrance about Jesus, but that same fragrance filled the whole house and there is no way that such sweetness was not intimately attached to Mary’s hair. So also is the sweetness of her faith for which Jesus highly commended her. “Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.” Matt. 26:13 Let us also unabashedly set forth our faith in the Word of Jesus for our day, knowing without doubt that He shall appear before we are actually able to reach out and touch Him!

19

GH

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Living Waters Tabernacle Youth Camp July 23-27, 2017

Youth Camp will be held at Highlands Camp and Retreat Center in Allenspark, CO, near Estes Park. Camp will begin with dinner Sunday night and will end with Thursday morning service. There will be Bible studies for all ages in the mornings, supervised recreation each afternoon, and Church services every evening.

For lodging and registration please contact Pastor Jesse O'Dorisio at 303.907.8099, email jfo2000@gmail.com or Polly O'Dorisio at 303.594.0933, email pollyodorisio@gmail.com.

Forms and additional information will be available at www.livingwaterstabernacle.com. We invite you to join your brothers and sisters in Christ for this annual gathering to give glory and honor to God and be strengthened and renewed by His Spirit.

Without Mercy

Gene Hawkins

“He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:” Heb 10:28

This verse describes the rigorous and unbending demands of the law. It applies not only to those of sinful humanity who reject God's plan of salvation, but also provides a direct reference to Christ Himself, as we shall see presently.

20 The apostle begins this discourse in v. 26 declaring emphatically that, “... if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,” These words must be put into the context in which they are written for they reflect a pattern which Paul uses repeatedly in his writings as he addresses one group, but speaks **about** another. Hebrews is written directly to the Jews who had already accepted Christ but were still actively trying to carry out the demands of the law. Paul wrote this epistle in a desperate attempt to turn them away from the types and shadows couched in the law to the glorious realities found only in Christ Jesus. Some might think that the little word “we,” which the apostle uses twice in this verse would be a reference to believers. The conclusion of this text, however, proves plainly that the “willful” sin cannot refer to believers for if one is guilty “... **there remaineth no other sacrifice for sin.**” The same language is found in Heb. 6 where this very prominent Jew declares plainly that, “...**it is impossible** for those who were once enlightened,... If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.” V. 4-6 Both of these declarations mean that if a person rejects the sacrifice which Jesus offered on Calvary he has crucified to himself “... the Son of God afresh...” and thus “... there remaineth no other sacrifice for sins.” If the text in Ch. 6 refers to a believer, then once a person “has lost his salvation,” it is impossible to renew him again to repentance.

The willful sin of which Paul speaks is the sin of unbelief after one has received the knowledge of the truth surrounding Christ which is sufficient to save him. When any man rejects that path of Divine Grace, God has no alternative but to pour out His judgment, and such a Christ rejecter can only look for “... judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the

adversaries.”

The next two verses record the basis for these rather harsh conclusions. “He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?” Heb 10:28

The contrast in this message is very clear. If the transgression of the law demanded such a severe penalty, then the sin against Christ would be even more so, for the one who rejects Christ's work of redemption is guilty of three major infractions. 1. He “... hath trodden under foot the Son of God. 2. He “... hath counted the blood of the covenant.... an unholy thing...” 3. He “hath done despite (insulted) the Spirit of grace.” Scripture is extremely plain: “For by grace are ye saved,...” thus if any individual refuses such proffered grace, there is no other way of salvation.

“He that despised Moses' law died without mercy...” also describes the place which Jesus took as He was hanged on the cross and assumed responsibility for the sins of all humanity. Galatians 4:4 informs us that He was “...made of a woman, made under the law,...” and became subject to all the limitations and responsibilities of humanity as well as all the stringent requirements of the law. He actually became The One who had despised or transgressed the law, and must now endure the penalty of that infraction.

There is a pattern seen repeatedly in scripture showing how Jesus bore the penalty for our sins and transgressions, but at the same time provided great benefit for us. Isaiah loudly shouts this glorious pattern of redemption as he cries out “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:... he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” Isa 53:4-5 Peter takes up the same banner as he too preaches Christ “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, **that we**, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” I Pet. 2:24 He took our sins, iniquities, and diseases upon Himself, but then replaced these horrendous negative elements with full salvation,

deliverance and healing for spirit, soul, and body. Paul likewise describes this same pattern outlining the fact that Jesus replaced our sin with His righteousness. “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” II Cor. 5:21

22 He likewise died without mercy for Himself directly because He assumed the place of the most decadent, vile, incorrigible and horrendous sinner who had despised, violated, and cast off or rejected God’s Holy Law. That same path led him to the judgment found in verses 30,31 whereby Jesus Himself learned by experience, “...Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Jesus did fall into these Divine Hands of Judgment, and experienced those three agonizing hours of outer darkness, the separation from God which every unrepentant sinner will endure for eternity, when “... about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” He died without mercy and experienced the unrestrained judgment of God in order that we might not only be delivered from judgment, but also be literally saturated with the inexhaustible grace and mercy of which He had been denied.

This truth of Jesus dying without mercy had long been prophesied and illustrated in the scriptures. God declared through Moses that, “Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD.” Ex. 23:17 Those three times included the three annual feasts of Unleavened Bread, The Feast of Ingathering or Firstfruits, and The Feast of Tabernacles. The specifics of the Feast of Firstfruits found in this same chapter beautifully illustrate the subject of this message. “The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.” Ex. 23:19 This verse is also found three times in scripture emphasizing the fact that the death and resurrection of Christ cannot be separated. The “... first of the firstfruits...” of the harvest or the tithe, portray Christ as the first fruit of the resurrection, meaning that His resurrection guaranteed that more would follow. I Cor. 15:20 Every time we give the tithe, it commemorates the very resurrection of Christ.

“Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother’s milk,” attests

to the fact that Jesus died without mercy. There was no milk of comfort or grace shown to Him in the midst of His offering God's sacrifice for sin. Jesus well understood that as He said to Peter after the latter had tried to defend Him with the sword. "Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" John 18:11 He knew there was no mercy or deliverance in God's Plan for Him. He also found no comfort even in those closest to Him. "And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?" Matt. 26:40 Luke adds that the disciples were sleeping for sorrow, but the truth is that no one could share in Jesus' burden nor ease it for Him, no matter how well intentioned they might be.

This is further illustrated on the road to Calvary when "... Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children." Luke 23:28 All their tears and sorrow could do nothing to bring forth any kind of mercy in His behalf. The scene at the Cross likewise reinforces the fact that Jesus died without mercy. "They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink." Matt. 27:34 Jesus knew that the mixture extended to Him was a painkiller and He must endure the full impact of God's judgment upon sin. Thus again there was absolutely no comfort for Him. The milk of Divine Grace could not be present as God "seethed" or boiled Him relentlessly as the sin offering for all mankind. 23

Psalm 22 gives us a unique perspective from His innermost Being, as Jesus hung suspended on the Cross. "Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help." Psa. 22:11 He knew of a certainty that He was indeed in "no-man's land" doing a job which He Alone could accomplish with none to help or alleviate the suffering He must endure. He said to the disciples even before His arrest, "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" Matt. 26:53 He also knew that if He were to accomplish God's Plan or redemption, He could in no wise render that request.

There were three "Marys" present at the foot of the cross: Mary His Mother, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene, and none of them could supply the "milk," or comfort

of a mother. Mary means “bitter” and the women seem to be a summation of the fact that bitterness and judgment prevailed that day, rather than mercy. Jesus could not come down from the cross even for His most priceless earthly possession, but He did commit her to His beloved apostle John.

24 The Cross itself also loudly proclaims that mercy hid her face as Jesus hung suspended between heaven and earth rejected by both God and man. Crucifixion is the most horrendous death ever conceived by wicked man. It is a slow painful excruciating death which could leave life in its victim for up to three days. A body hung in such manner will sink down after a time, cutting off the air of the one crucified. Even though it is extremely painful, the person fighting for breath will force his legs to push upward in order to breath, a cycle that will be repeated over and over again as life is present. This is the reason for which the soldiers broke the legs of the two malefactors, for then they would almost immediately suffocate. When they came to Jesus and found He was already dead, there was no reason to break his legs. Jesus proved that He was the One in charge even until the last breath when He rendered up His Spirit into the Hands of His Father.

There is no quick merciful death in crucifixion and Jesus endured those six horrendous excruciating hours without mercy, even in the final three when He suffered the harshest effects of God’s judgment. He was neither deceived nor taken unawares in this matter, for He willingly made the decision to abide by His Father’s desire.

Psalm 16 seems to be a conversation Jesus had with Himself. “O my soul, thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee; But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.” Psa. 16:2-3 Surely Jesus is not speaking to His Father when He says “... my goodness extendeth not to thee,...” for He came into this world and to this horrendous fact because He sought always and only to please Him. Jesus was both God and Man, and when He says “O my soul...” it seems that He is having a conversation with Himself, saying “... my goodness extendeth not to thee...” and indeed there was no mercy or goodness for Himself when He chose to bear the sins of humanity. However, we note the same pattern set forth throughout this message. He had not mercy or goodness but Himself but first “...to the saints

that are in the earth,..." that being a reference to Israel which is identified with the earth throughout scripture. Secondly, His goodness is "... to the excellent, in whom is all my delight," this a reference to the Church. This does not mean that the Church was an "afterthought," but rather follows God's order of the gospel going "...to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Rom. 1:16 We would once again conclude that mercy was not available for Jesus, but His act of sacrifice opened wide all the doors and windows of heaven to pour out His inexhaustible and manifold grace upon us!

EMMAUS WAY

(Based on Luke 24:15-34.)

We thought Him but a stranger,
Wandering through the countryside,
Who had not heard our Christ was crucified;
How our cruel leaders had nailed Him to the cross,
Scorning His holy teachings and counting them
but dross.

We journeyed on.
He walked and talked with us,
And all the while our hearts did burn within,
Our troubled minds though vague as mist at sea,
Thus wondering who this Charming One
could be.

When through the din
We reached the village inn
Where we were wont to rest,
He made as if to go and yet delaying,
And we at once constrained Him, saying,
"Abide with us."

He tarried with us this short and precious while,
And as we sat at meat,
With tender smile He blessed and brake the bread.
Those nail-scarred hands! Oh, God, thine only Son!
Our Christ — 'twas He,
Just risen from the dead.

Eva M. Powell

The Priesthood

Corina Medina

The book of Hebrews declares that the Lord our Savior, is also our great High Priest. Hebrews is a book of better things. Jesus is better than angels, better than Moses and grace is certainly a better covenant than the Law. He is a better sacrifice, the Perfect Sinless Son of God and we have a better hope. We put our trust in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here are some comparisons between the Aaronic priesthood and that of Jesus Christ. The sons of Aaron, the high priest were Levites (priests). Aaron was the son of Levi, who was the third son of Leah and Jacob. And now Jesus Christ, who is our High Priest, is the Son of God.

26

These high priests offered the sacrifices. Going back to Gen. 3:8, Adam and Eve walked in the garden and "they heard the voice of the Lord God...and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam...Where art thou?" God knew! Verse 21, "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them." The first animal or animals that died spoke of the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. That had been in the purpose of God from before the foundation of the world. When God clothed them in skins of the sacrifice He was, in type, clothing Adam and Eve in the righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is nothing of ourselves that we should boast. That first sacrifice was made to cover the sin of our father, Adam. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ covered the sins of "whosoever will" in the whole world.

The sons of Levi, who also became High Priests also offered sacrifices as seen in Heb. 5:1-3: "For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins; Who can have *compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way*; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity, and by reason thereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins." The priest also needed a sacrifice.

"Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle accomplishing

the service of God. But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered *for himself*, and for the errors of the people." Heb. 9:6-7 The high priest was to be a compassionate man, having compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.

Were all high priest compassionate? In Samuel 1, we read of Elkanah going up with his two wives to Shiloh to worship and sacrifice unto the Lord of hosts. One wife, Hannah was barren and was provoked or mocked by her adversary, the wife who had children. Hannah was grieved and wanted a child. She was loved by her husband who gave her worthy portions, but the Lord had shut up her womb, so she had great grief and sorrow and did not eat. Vs. 8-14: "Then said Elkanah, her husband, to her, Hannah, why weepest thou: and why eatest thou not? And why is thy heart grieved? Am not I better to thee than ten sons?" Even her husband could not understand her. "So Hannah rose up after they had eaten...and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the Lord. And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow and said, O Lord of host, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head... as she continued praying before the Lord, Eli (the high priest) marked her mouth. Now Hannah, spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. Eli said unto her How long wilt thou be drunken? Put away thy wine from thee." Was Eli a compassionate high priest? Did he know all about Hannah's suffering? No. He was a human who offered sacrifices for the people and also *for himself*. He was unable to understand or to be compassionate.

Paul likewise encountered a high priest who had not compassion. "Paul earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day. And the high priest, Annanias, commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth. Then said Paul unto him,

God shall smite thee, thou whited wall; for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law: And they that stood by said, Revilest thou God's high priest? Then said Paul, I wist not brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people." Acts 23:1-5 This man surely did not understand Paul. Was he God's high priest? No, for according to that time, Jesus Christ had died for our sins. He was buried, rose again and ascended to heaven and He is sitting at the right hand of God interceding for us. So this high priest was usurping the office of high priest. Was he compassionate? No.

28 The first point in regard to the priesthood was that the Old Testament high priest offered sacrifices for the people and for himself. Now compare Christ's priesthood. "For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated **for evermore.**" Heb. 7:26-28 Note here that we now have an ETERNAL priesthood, NOT a sacrifice for **himself** and for the people!

The second point reveals that the Levitical high priest was to be **compassionate**, understanding, caring, having "... compassion on the ignorant, and those out of the way, **for he himself also is compassed with infirmity.** Heb. 5:1-2 So he should be compassionate and gracious. We see in Acts 23:5 that the Aaronic priesthood had been set aside. Paul (standing before Annanias) knew Jesus, who is the believer's High Priest. In Heb. 4:14-16 concerning Jesus, our High Priest: "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. He is

compassionate, He cares, He understands. We have at least these two men, Eli and Annanias, who were examples of those that were not. There probably are many more examples in the Old Testament showing they were simply fallible, human men.

The third point is the duration of the priesthood. Let's look a little more about how long it continued. "And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.... And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death." They were human, so they died, thus they did not have an **eternal priesthood**, "But this man,..." (Jesus Christ because he continues ever,) "...hath an unchangeable priesthood," and is therefore "... able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Heb. 7:23-27

Concerning the eternal priesthood, Heb. 10:12-14 further proclaims that "... this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God; from hence forth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. By "...**one offering...**" He hath "...**perfected forever...**" them that are sanctified." So there it is, one perfect offering. He sat down at the right hand of the Father. How marvelous! We have an Eternal Heavenly High Priest. It is finished! He lives always. He IS eternal life...

29

Lastly, we would consider the garments of The Great High Priest in the book of Exodus. This is a beautiful type of our Lord Jesus Christ. It shows His character, compassion, care, and responsibility for His own. "And thou shalt take two onyx stones, and grave on them the names of the children of Israel: Six of their names on one stone, and the other six names of the rest on the other stone, according to their birth. With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, shalt thou engrave the two stones with the names of the children of Israel: thou shalt make them to be set in ouches of gold. And thou shalt put the two stones upon the **SHOULDERS** of the ephod for stones of memorial unto the children of Israel: and Aaron shall bear their names before the **LORD** upon his two shoulders for a memorial."

Ex. 28:9-12 This would be nationally and collectively as a nation. They are also seen in Malachi 3:16-17 as living stones and jewels: "Then they that feared the Lord spoke often one to another, and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spares his own son that serves him."

Peter likewise defines them "... as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." I Pet. 2:5 From verse 1 to 10 we see that they were carried on his shoulders, in that he took responsibility for these children. This was written to believing Jews and now applies to all that believe. Shoulders speak of responsibility.

30 The second point in Ex. 28:15-21 "thou shalt make the breastplate of judgment with cunning work; after the work of the ephod thou shalt make it; of gold, of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine twined linen, shalt thou make it. Foursquare it shall be being doubled; a span shall be the length thereof, and a span shall be the breadth thereof. And thou shalt set in it settings of stones, even four rows of stones: the first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this shall be the first row. And the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond. And the third row a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst. And the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper: they shall be set in gold in their inclosings. And the stones shall be with the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings of a signet; every one with his name shall they be according to the twelve tribes." Verses 29 & 30: "And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before the LORD continually. And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the LORD: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually." The stones upon his shoulders were a national, collective responsibility, but this breastplate carried the responsibility personally, individually, tribe by tribe. It was borne

on His Heart of love, the love of the High Priest for us.

The third point about this clothing that he wore is in Ex. 28:36-38 "thou shalt make a plate of pure gold, and grave upon it, like the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD. And thou shalt put it on a blue lace, that it may be upon the mitre; upon the forefront of the mitre it shall be. And it shall be upon Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things, which the children of Israel shall hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall be always upon his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD." On the forehead — the all-knowing, all-wise God. And we know we are accepted in Him, and that He loves us and knows us. He is responsible for us.

This is such a beautiful portion of Scripture. Living Stones! God is responsible. "Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Aaron's *forehead*, upon his *heart* and on his *shoulders* speaks of the work of Jesus Christ our Savior in our behalf. And because we know this, and believe this, and have accepted this and have embraced this and know His great care and concern for us, we can personally enjoy all these benefits. He gave Himself for us. He was our sacrifice once for all, the great perfect sacrifice. Seeing that he loves us, He is our mediator. There is no other man under heaven able but Christ Jesus. "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession." Heb. 4:14-15. Believe! Hold Fast! Testify! "For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." He was certainly not like Eli, or Annanias. He was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin, the sinless, perfect Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:16 We can put our trust in, and dependence on Him, on His shoulders and trust in his loving heart and His wise all-knowing ways as Head. Jesus Christ, better than all the Old Testament priests. Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever!

ISAIAH 49

Gene Hawkins

This forty ninth chapter of Isaiah, corresponds with the forty ninth book of the Bible, which is Ephesians. Both of them refer to “a bride.” Ephesians provides the qualifications for the bride of Christ, while Isaiah gives instruction regarding Israel, the bride of Jehovah, which analogy is clearly depicted by Hosea. He shows the great difficulty of this nation in being “divorced” by God but the glorious culmination of their journey is summed up in these words. “And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.” Hos. 2:19 Isaiah also declares “Lift up thine eyes round about, and behold: all these gather themselves together, and come to thee. As I live, saith the LORD, thou shalt surely clothe thee with them all, as with an ornament, and bind them on thee, as a bride doeth.” Isa. 49: 18

32 Most of the teachings surrounding the bride of Christ today insist that she is comprised of the “whole Church.” However, the language in Rev. 21:2 is very similar to that which is used here by Isaiah. “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride **adorned** for her husband.” The new Jerusalem is never said to be the bride of Christ, but rather one “adorned for her husband,” meaning that this spectacular city is made up of the bride and those who would provide her adornment, or enhance her appearance. Any wedding ceremony sets forth much more than just the bride and groom. Likewise that of Christ and His Bride, will display attendants, servants, and guests, all adding to her adornment. So also Isaiah proclaims that Israel will be adorned like unto a bride.

Paul’s message in Ephesians, likens the natural marriage unto Christ and His Bride. “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might 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.” Eph 5:25-27 It is quite evident

that the entire Church does not measure up to this state of "..., not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." This entire book of Ephesians contains some of the deepest mysteries, and truth in scripture, but the Church as a whole does not appropriate it. Likewise, Israel shall be separated unto Jehovah, as His Bride, set apart from the rest of the nations, directly because they, at last, have heeded the fullness of His Word and have laid hold of this special place which He has afforded them. The first step in that endeavor is found in the very first verse of this chapter.

"Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name." V. 1 These words are recorded, in the first person, as being the testimony of Israel, calling out to the "isles" or nations, "ye people from far." The message they are sending proclaims the Faithfulness of The LORD, which they will have learned by the time they truly become the Bride of Jehovah. Hosea describes in graphic detail how God had "married" this people, but they played the harlot, and sought other lovers among the nations. He then asserted, "Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths. And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now." Hos. 2:6-7 33

The above testimony is that of a woman who has been restored after having gone through a path strewn with thorns in the wilderness. She has finally recognized "my first husband," and has been willing to listen to Him. The results are wonderful, for now He can accomplish His purposes through her, and according to Isaiah, "...hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;" V. 2 Israel has truly learned the safety of being hidden in "...the shadow of his hand,..." during that horrendous wilderness of tribulation. They have, in turn, now become His mouthpiece, speaking forth the "sharp sword," of His

Word. They have also become an instrument of war or “a polished shaft.” Zechariah, as seen previously in these chapters, bespeaks the fact that God will use Israel to punish the nations. “When I have bent Judah for me, filled the bow with Ephraim...And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning:... and shall go with whirlwinds of the south.” Zech. 9:13 That “hidden, and polished shaft,” shall go forth at God’s bidding, for direct communication will have finally been restored between God and this very select woman as is indicated in V. 3 “And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” Israel will most assuredly attain to this place of glory and God will be glorified because of it. She continues her testimony admitting that her path was one centered around her own desire and self sufficiency. “Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God.” V. 4 Only the throes of the tribulation period will teach her these lessons by experience where she will finally recognize, even as

34 stated by Hosea, “...she shall follow after her lovers,...but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband;...” She will, at long last, let The LORD exercise His judgment, or decision, in her behalf, and will engage in “...my work with my God.”

(To Be Continued in May Issue)

Easter Tidings

One Day, a cross and anguished cry,
And darkened, dismal sky.

Messiah in a tomb.

Heartbroken tears,

With groans and fears,

Of shuddering friends in gloom.

Another Day, but splendor bright,

Illumines friends’ dark night,

And all earth’s hopeless fears.

An empty grave,

A Christ to save,

And wipe always all tears.

Anon



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Eternal Life	Living Ones	The Unforgiven Sin
Extra! Extra!	Made Sin for Us	This is That
Faith	Man Child- Rev. 12	Times of the Gentiles
Fear of the Lord	Mercy or Judgement	Tithing
First Day of the Week	New Birth	Water Baptism
Five Much Mores	Not Legislation, Revelation	Wheat and Tares
Five Consequences	Oneness of Christ	Why am I Not Healed

Books of the Bible

Genesis	Esther	Luke	1, 2 Thessalonians
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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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