

Grace and Glory

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'Loving His Appearing'

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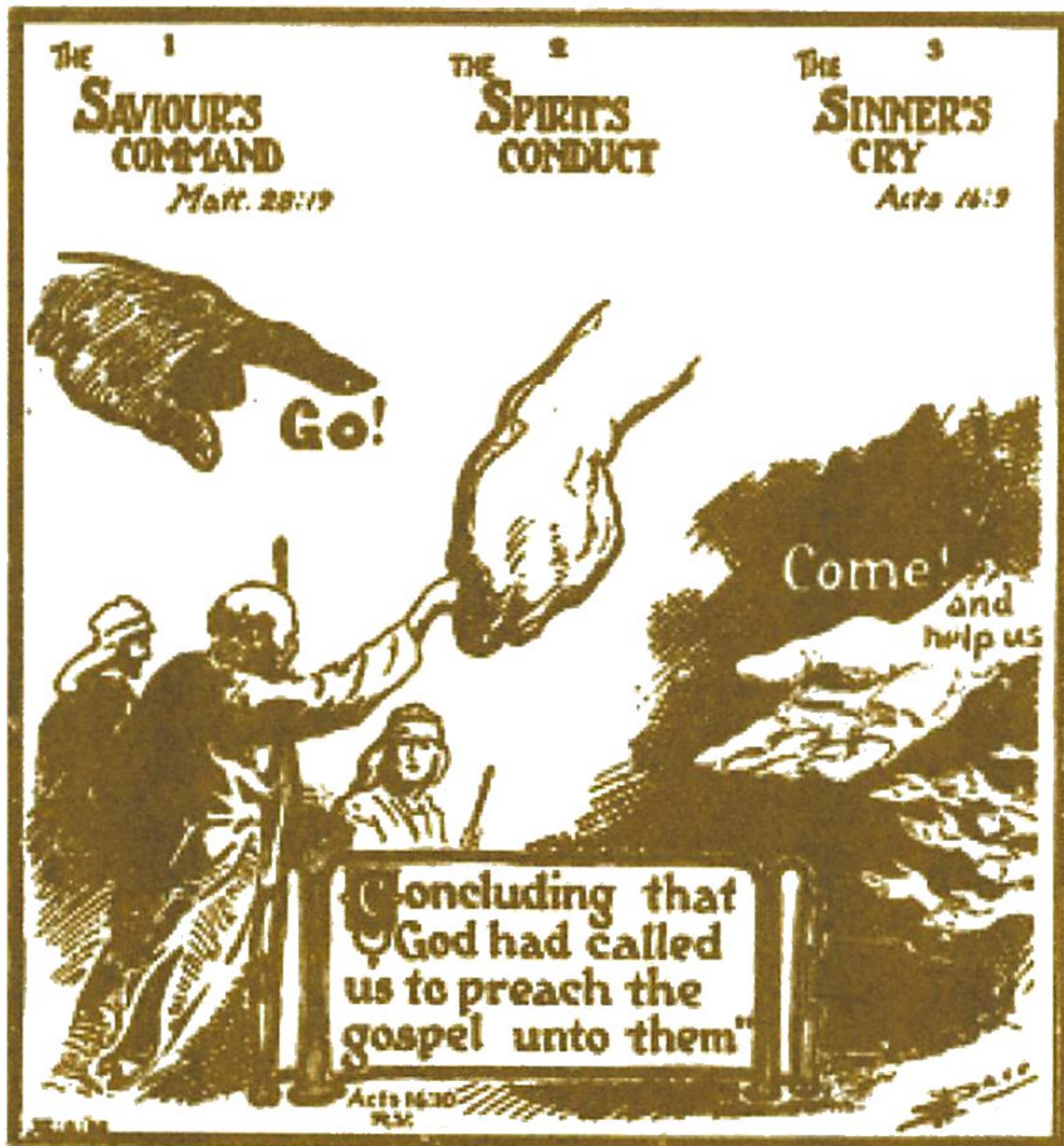
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THE THREE ELEMENTS OF A MISSIONARY CALL

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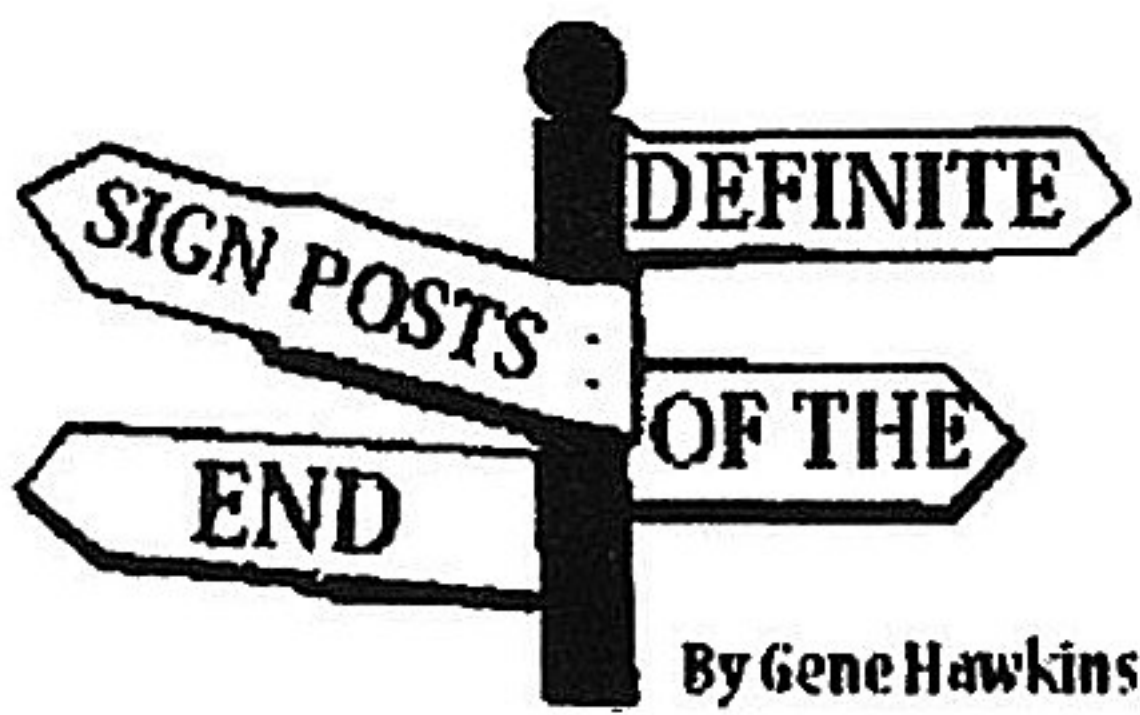
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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the LORD, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the LORD: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any more. At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart. In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers.” Jer. 3:16-18

These words seem to qualify only as a fantasy today in view of the horrendous circumstance surrounding Israel at this present time. However, such words were written by the same man who prophesied that the Jews would be held captive by Babylon for 70 years, and that prophecy came to pass with pin-point accuracy. Jer. 25:11 Isaiah is likewise very specific in his message to Judah, specifically calling Cyrus by name, and designating him as the King of Persia who would command that the temple in Jerusalem should be built after the Babylonish Captivity was over. Isa. 44:28-45:1 Isaiah made such a prediction before Cyrus was even born and long before Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem and took the Jews therein captive.

Both of these men were inspired by God, and proved once again that only He knows the end from the beginning. God called the false prophets, who in essence equated themselves with gods, to account in Isa. 41:22-23. “Let them bring them forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come. Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods:...” God further goes on record designating Himself as being quite superior to them, declaring: “Behold, the former things are come to pass,

and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.” Isa. 42:9

4 This same pattern continues down to this present time. No matter what we see before us, God’s Word remains true, and the above text from Jeremiah will be fulfilled verbatim. The prophet boldly asserts that “... it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the LORD, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the LORD: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any more.” Jer. 3:16 We can hardly imagine these words coming to fruition, for the ark is symbolic of the entire law in which Israel has trusted and gloried since Mt. Sinai. The two tables of stone engraved with Ten Commandments were put therein and the ark was greatly revered down through the years, even to the point of idolatry. One example of that is when Israel was under siege by the Philistines, and cried out, “... Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.” I Sam. 4:3 God would not be treated as a common idol, and Israel was not only smitten, but the ark stolen by the Philistines. It was eventually returned, for God still respected the fact that it, along with all the other requirements of the law, simply pointed to Christ. However, Israel as a nation has never put the law into perspective. Even Jesus could not persuade them that the law had run its course and must give way to the redemption found only in The Cross. Paul wrote to the Hebrew Christians, trying desperately to turn them away from the types and shadows contained in the multitudinous requirements of the law, to the reality which is in Christ Jesus. Our present text means that National Israel has finally accepted the Real Ark, The Lord Jesus Christ, knowing that He is their salvation. Thus, they neither “... remember it...” or “... visit it... any more.” We know from God’s Word that this will follow the horrendous suffering which they will endure during the 1260 day reign of the antichrist in the time known as Jacob’s trouble. It is that suffering which will bring them, as a nation, to their knees, whereby they will gladly accept their Messiah. Thus, the words “... in those days,...” are a reference to the days following the unprecedented era of tribulation foretold by Jesus in Matt. 24, wherein Israel has been restored and will become God’s emissaries

to the world during the millennium.

The city of Jerusalem is next addressed as we read **“At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem:...”** Once again God’s Word is crystal clear, but events of our day seemingly make such a scenario impossible. Jerusalem is a major point of contention and there has been no mention from either the Israelis or the Palestinians that Jerusalem is clearly identified with **“... the name of the Lord...”** Quite the contrary. Men from multiple factions are doing everything in their power to divide this Chosen City into pieces, as politicians try desperately to placate all parties, trying to give all claimers a small piece of it. This is not God’s Way!

Jesus emphatically declared: **“But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.”** Lk. 21:9 The word **“commotions”** means **“disorder:--commotion, confusion, tumult, unstable,”** and is most assuredly a description of both the world and present day Jerusalem. This fact is clearly demonstrated by the recent meeting in Washington between newly elected Pres. **5** Trump, and Israeli P.M. Netanyahu, and Jesus’ assertion that **“... the end is not by and by,”** is clear evidence that these things are happening at this present time before the tribulation has begun.

A report from the New York Times proclaimed that **“President Trump jettisoned two decades of diplomatic orthodoxy on Wednesday by declaring that the United States would no longer insist on the creation of a Palestinian state as part of a peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians.... ‘I’m looking at two-state and one-state formulations,’ Mr. Trump said during a White House news conference with Mr. Netanyahu. ‘I like the one that both parties like. I’m very happy with the one that both parties like. I can live with either one....’** At the same time, Mr. Trump urged Mr. Netanyahu to temporarily stop new housing construction in the West Bank while he pursues a deal, echoing a position past presidents have taken. **‘I’d like to see you hold back on settlements for a little bit,’ he told Mr. Netanyahu.”** This article continues to describe even more unstable conflicts and the extremely elusive solutions to the Middle East dilemma with or without the purported two-state solution. **“The trick is that no one has offered a plausible alternative that would satisfy both camps, leaving the conflict in a state of suspended animation. Mr. Netanyahu**

is under pressure from his right-leaning coalition to abandon the two-state solution and even annex parts of the West Bank. And the Palestinian Authority faces pressure from Hamas, the militant group that controls Gaza and is sworn to Israel's destruction. Mr. Trump did not address these dynamics, instead emphasizing his confidence that he could produce a breakthrough. 'I think we're going to make a deal,' he said, describing that as personally important to him. 'It might be a bigger and better deal than people in this room even understand.' "

6 Whether the President can use his negotiating skills in this matter remains to be seen, for some in Israel are extremely skeptical and even resentful of his efforts, and he did emphatically announce that, "... Israel would have to be flexible in any future talks. 'As with any successful negotiation, both sides will have to make compromises,' " He then turned to Mr. Netanyahu asking, "you know that, right?" to which the P.M. replied: 'Both sides,' emphasizing the first word." Mr. Netanyahu then stated his own position noting that "... that the concept of a two-state solution meant different things to different people. And he repeated his two prerequisites: that the Palestinians recognize Israel as a Jewish state and that Israel maintain security control over the entire West Bank. He said the obstacle to peace was Palestinian hatred, demonstrated by the building of statues to those who carry out terrorist attacks and the payment of salaries to their families. 'This is the source of the conflict,' " he said.

It is also rather disheartening to read reports from Haaretz, a prominent Middle East news source which was inundated in the "Opinion" pages with extremely disparaging remarks about both of these world leaders. Jude defines such attacks as "... filthy dreamers..." who "...defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities." Jude 8 Daniel has clearly told us that God "... changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:" Dan. 2:21 Paul likewise asserts that, "...there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." Rom. 13:1 We do not always know why God has certain rulers in certain places, but we do know that He doeth all things well. He does have a plan even now, and will even use wicked men who have no regard for Him or His Word. Thus, we can rest assured that the foregoing scriptures from Jeremiah in regard to Jerusalem and the nations will be fulfilled right down to the most minute and intricate detail.

All nations which are left after the tribulation period is over will most assuredly "...call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart." This last phrase undoubtedly applies to both Israel and the nations, for reports of evil imaginations in regard to Jerusalem today are freely expressed by both Jews and Gentiles. It is rather surprising to read some of the comments from Jewish people who apparently see nothing wrong with Palestinian demands for Israel to surrender their ground and even East Jerusalem wherein the Temple Mount is located. A poll conducted by PCPSR (Palestinian Center for Polling and Survey Research) and IDI (Israel Democracy Institute,) and published in The Jerusalem Post, found that "... 39% of Palestinians and 46% of Israelis supported a hypothetical peace agreement which included mutual recognition, a demilitarized Palestinian state based on 1967 borders with land swaps, the establishment of a Palestinian capital located in E. Jerusalem (location of the Temple Mt.) and an Israeli capital in W. Jerusalem, and the return of 100,000 refugees to Israel based on family reunification. Among Israeli Jews, 10% of the Right, 59% of the center, and 88% of the Left supported the proposed deal, while 56% of seculars and 10% religious backed it."

7

Once again, scripture emphatically declares that Jerusalem and all of Israel belong to God, but that is the great world-wide problem of our day. Men simply do not believe or accept God's Word. The good news, according to Jeremiah and other prophecies in Scripture, is that one day, all men will bow to God's decree. None of Israel or the nations will "... walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart." We know that all of the Church will have been safely transported to glory by the times these words are fulfilled, but it is comforting in this day of commotion, chaos, and uncertainty to know that God is still ruling even among present day rulers, and despite all natural indications to the contrary, He will bring His purposes to pass. We have long been comforted by the promise in II Pet. 2:9. "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:" He will surely fulfill that promise in this present hour and we can boldly claim it for our own. We too can lay hold of the same words which Jesus gave to His disciples in Luke 21 concerning

the troublous times of these last days. “But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, **be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass**; but the end is not by and by.” Jesus continued His instruction, not only admonishing us not to succumb to fear but also “... when these things **begin** to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” Lk. 21:28 We can indeed lift our heads high in victory knowing that God is true to His Word and will without fail deliver us, even unto Himself.

8 The last part of Jeremiah’s prophecy directly addresses the full state of Israel. “In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers.” Jer. 3:18 “In those days...” is once again a reference to the time immediately following the tribulation period when God will gather both Judah and Israel from all parts of the earth back to their own land as one nation. It is at such a time when they will finally inherit the fullness of all the land which God bequeathed to Abraham. There will be no Palestinian conflict or anyone else trying to lay claim to Jerusalem or any other part of Ancient Israel. Israel will finally be what God intended from their very beginning as a nation. “And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation....” Ex. 19:6 This is the time in which Israel will finally fulfill the Great Commission of Matt. 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. (Age) Amen.” This will be Israel’s role in the Millennium, as the head and not the tail of the nations. All nations will most assuredly recognize Jerusalem as “... the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem.” All nations will be taught the ways of The LORD by Israel. We know that many in Christendom have tried to claim the verses for the Church, but history is quite clear that no Gentile minister or organization has ever converted an entire city to Christ, let alone a whole nation. But “in that day,” when Satan is bound a thousand years, Israel will have this unprecedented success.

The mission for the Church is found in Mark's gospel, where we are exhorted to "... Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mk. 16:15 The ministry for the Church is directed to "every creature..." (individuals) rather than all nations, and as long as we are on this earth we must be diligent to cast the seed of God's Word to anyone who will listen. Paul gave this instruction for the Church: "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." I Cor. 3:6 Our responsibility is simply to sow the seed and leave the results to God. It is imperative that we are diligent in this endeavor, as Jesus gave this instruction in keeping with these final days of this Church Age. "And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. 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. 12:39 9

The Sure Vision

Have you got the vision sure?

Let no fleshly aim allure.

Keep the goal steadfast in view,

Pressing on, thy way pursue.

To the world say one adieu.

Loiter not; the loss is great.

Run along, 'tis getting late.

Soon the race will have *been* run,

And the Judge will say, "Well done."

Christ the Prize will have *been* won.

Look not to the left, nor right.

Speed thy going in the light.

'Tie the last lap of the race.

Ample is God's matchless grace.

We shall see the Bridegroom's face.

Anon

Anointed To Reign

Margaret Keener

"... they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. Rom 5:17

All the promises in Revelation are "to him that overcometh." Jesus was victor over every temptation and became the greatest emancipator of all times. When He arose from the dead "He led captivity captive" and ascended through all the forces of evil that sought to oppose Him to the very throne of God. There high above all principalities and powers, as absolute sovereign, He is able to assist all who desire to live an overcoming life. His strength is mighty "to the pulling down of strongholds and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. See II Cor. 10:15. As we govern imaginations, our actions are of secondary importance; for "thought is parent to the deed." As one writer has stated, "A man is the result of all that he has thought." As we meditate upon and believe the things of God we are gradually conformed to the very image of the One Who fills our vision. See II Cor. 3:18.

10

The Christian's training is a progressive affair. God wants to fit each of us to reign conjointly with His Son upon an eternal throne. In order to rule wisely upon a temporal throne, the heir to the crown receives special training. From earliest childhood he is educated for the place. The thought of his future responsibilities causes him to govern himself as befitting an heir-apparent and apply himself to gaining the knowledge he will later need. We are chosen for a higher place than any earthly monarch. Until we attain that for which we are "apprehended," our lives will **continue** to be those of instruction. See Phil. 3:12-14.

God gave us record of Saul and David, that their lives should serve us as examples. Their history has been recopied by Samuel, first of the writing prophets, for our instruction. God saw the way His people were yearning to imitate the heathen nations round about. Although Samuel had served them faithfully for forty years as prophet, priest and judge, Israel desired a king like the nations. In their theocracy, God was their King, and Samuel, His divinely appointed administrator.

Although outnumbered many times by their enemies, God fought for Israel all the days of Samuel. However, the unseen forces of heaven failed to impress the Lord's people as did the visible kings who rode before their troops to battle. No doubt

they were spectacular in their war bonnets and their shining armour. The showy things of earth are so contrary to the things of God. As their horses pranced forth in gay trappings, their pomp so impressed Israel that they failed to appreciate the power of angelic forces about them. Horses in Scripture speak of power and we still determine strength by so much "horse power." "The Chariots of God are twenty thousand, even **thousands of angels**"—Ps. 68: 17. While "the legs (strength) of a man are a poor thing to trust in." Israel lacked faith to visualize the mighty power at their disposal. By God's strength alone can any nation or individual hope to prevail against odds. See Luke 14:31.

The Lord has never allowed anyone to make a mistake without plenty of forewarning, even as in the disobedience of our first **parents who knew exactly the penalty** before they had ever sinned. God had warned beforehand of the outcome. Samuel was sent to rehearse their history from the time God led them forth from Egypt. Not once had the Lord failed them in any way. He warned of how a king would take the best of everything for himself and would literally enslave the nation. See I Sam. 8:12,13. They had been delivered from the tyranny of Pharaoh and yet were asking for more bondage. Instead of receiving their tithe a king would exact it as tribute, for indeed he would be supplanting God. See I Sam. 10:19. Still their answer was, "Nay, but we will have a king over us."

Knowing the vanity that prompted their desire, God allowed them a man of their own choosing. Although Kish, the father of Saul, was a "mighty man of power," his son did not inherit the father's strength. Outwardly, Saul was every inch a king. Doubtless he stood out in any crowd for his great height and distinguished appearance; but circumstances later proved the weakness of his character. As associated with the Prophet, Saul "fed upon the shoulder" to equip him with strength to carry the responsibility of a nation. (Heavy burdens are carried upon the shoulder.) In the beginning of his career as the first king over Israel, Saul was very humble and appreciated the honor conferred upon him. Had he remained so, his reign would have been successful and the nation blessed.

Instead, when Saul had reigned but two years, his selfish, jealous disposition began to manifest itself. Later his son, Jonathan, with half the number of men that his father had at his

command, wrought a great victory over the Philistines. Saul "tooted his horn" as though he were the conquering hero—not willing to "give honor to whom honor is due." See 1 Sam. 13. Nothing so arouses the enemy as a partial victory, and the Philistines rose "enmasse," but as for Saul, "he was yet in Gilgal," taking his ease, instead of leading his troops to battle. Realizing the weakness of their leader, "the people followed him trembling." Hiding in thickets, behind rocks, in pits and high places, they were afraid to expose themselves to the enemy. A people never rise higher than their leader. As their future history proved, when Israel had a godly king, Israel did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord; but when she had an evil king, then Israel did that -which was evil in the sight of the Lord.

12 When Saul realized that he had lost the confidence of the people he intruded into the priesthood, offering burnt sacrifice, (a priestly rite), incurring the wrath of God in a vain effort to gain favor with the people. Having received his office through popularity, Saul continued to seek the approval of men rather than God. Such presumption and self-will cost him the kingdom. See I Sam. 13:13,14. In due time, Samuel arrived and found Saul as sanctimonious as though he had never sinned. In fact, he was so far from getting the mind of the Lord, that he never realized when he missed the will of God altogether. For this brash foolishness, Saul was set aside and his prayers were hindered from that time forth. God sought a man after his own heart. Unlike the people of Israel, God cared nothing for outward appearance but looked upon the inward quality of the heart. God's ways are usually just the opposite of those of men and His thoughts are higher than theirs. In David, the youngest son of Jesse, He saw true humility and reverence for the things of God. As a shepherd boy, alone in the hills, he had much time for meditation and his psalms express the thoughts of his heart. Content and faithful in a small place, God knew that He could trust him with a greater responsibility. At the jeopardy of his life, David had guarded the few sheep that his father had entrusted to his care, delivering the helpless from the jaws of a lion and a bear. His eye that "runs to and fro throughout the earth" was not unmindful of that shepherd boy.

Samuel was sent to anoint David as the future king over Israel and the anointing rested upon him from that time forth. There were times of temptation and discouragement in the life of David when he

failed miserably. But when he earnestly repented God was able to forgive and forget. The anointing rested upon David through the grace of God.

Saul realized that David had been chosen as his successor and hunted him to slay him in direct opposition to the will of God. Fleeing as a fugitive from Saul and his band, hiding in caves and forests, David became familiar with every inch of the enemies' territory as well as that over which he was to rule. He even lived for some time in the enemies' camp and learned all his tactics. Crossing the brook Kedron (poured out), David surely emptied himself of all pride and selfwill, and took spoil from the enemy which he later used to God's glory. Although he was denied the privilege of building the temple because he "was a bloody man," David not only drew the plans but also gathered most of the material that went into the "Temple of Solomon." Yet his son received the glory.

To love a bitter enemy is certainly a real test; and David felt a compassionate love for Saul to the very last. When he had an opportunity for slaying Saul and was urged to do so, he refused to lift his hand against "God's anointed." He had learned to govern his desires and wait upon God for the fulfillment of His promise. Through many hard trials he had learned self-control. It was no novice that God intended to set upon the throne. Regardless of the age, He is going to have a "tried people."

Saul's followers were chosen as he himself was—for supposed ability to "put it over." "When Saul saw any strong man or any valiant man, he took him unto himself." 1 Sam. 14:52. David's little band of six hundred were just the opposite; instead of self-sufficient folk, it was composed of "everyone that was in distress, and everyone that was in debt, and everyone that was discontented," Those who through sheer love of David were willing to share every hardship. Such loyalty could not be bought by Saul even though he promoted many to places of honor, setting them as captains over fifties and captains over thousands. David had nothing to offer but the promise of ruling conjointly with him when he should gain the throne.

Of those who followed David there were three more outstanding than the rest. These obtained more honor and a greater place in the kingdom for having followed more closely than the others during his rejection. Jesus had three disciples, Peter, James and John, who were a little closer than the rest. They had blessed fellowship that not

all enjoyed. The privilege is optional to any who will pay the price. As one star differs from another in glory, so the one who walks closest to the Coming King will shine with a little more radiance than the others farther away. Remember, not one of David's faithful little band was forgotten when God saw fit to place him upon a throne. SO SHALL IT BE WITH CHRIST.

IN THE CARPENTER SHOP.

I wish I had been His apprentice,
To see Him- each morning at seven,
As He tossed His gray tunic about Him,
The Master of earth and of heaven;

When He lifted the lid of His work chest
And opened His carpenter's kit,
And looked at His chisels and augers,
And took the bright tools out of it;

When He gazed at the rising sun tinting
The dew on the opening flowers,
And He smiled at the thought of His Father
Whose love floods this fair world of ours;

When He fastened the apron about Him,
And put on His workingman's cap,
And grasped the smooth haft of His hammer
To give the bent woodwork a tap,

Saying, "Lad, let us finish this ox yoke,
The farmer must finish his crop."
Oh, I wish I had been His apprentice
And worked in the Nazareth shop."

—Selected

The Hidden Mystery

Mary M. Bodie

“Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:” Col. 1:24-26.

Paul was commissioned as the minister of this dispensation to complete the Word of God by the revelation of the mystery that had been hidden from all the past ages. V. 26. He was given the revelation of the Church. “He was to make all men see the fellowship of the mystery” —Eph. 3:9. This word fellowship is also translated stewardship. The secret has to do with those who have been CHOSEN IN CHRIST before the foundation of the world—Eph. 1:4. Every other company of people, Jews and Gentiles, were chosen since the foundation of the world—Matt. 25:34. Those chosen before the foundation of the world, the Church, are not subjects of Old Testament prophecy. Their sphere is not an earthly sphere. They are not to set their affection upon things of earth, but on things above—Col. 3:1,2. Their blessings are spiritual and are in the heavenlies in Christ. “God set Christ at His own right hand in heavenly places, far above all principalities and power and might and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come and hath put all things under His feet and gave Him to be the Head over all things to the Church, which is His Body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all”—Eph. 1:20-23. The Church has been offered a place with Christ and given a hope in Christ that no other body of people has been given. The place and hope of Israel is not the place or hope of the Church. As soon as saints learn of these great purposes and desire to stand perfect and complete in the will and purpose of God, Satan begins to persecute and present by all the means in His power to hinder the message being proclaimed for the Church for this hour. In 2 Timothy 3:12, we read “But even all that will live godly in Christ

15

Jesus shall suffer persecution." Before Paul had the mystery hidden in God revealed to him, he preached boldly in the Name of Jesus—Acts 9:27-29. Afterwards he asks prayer "that he might open his mouth **BOLDLY** to make known the mystery of Christ" (Eph. 6:19) "and that a door of utterance might be opened to him." Also "that he might speak the mystery of Christ, that he might make it manifest as he ought to speak"—Col. 4:3,4. Before the revelation of the mystery he said, "The Churches of Asia salute you"-1 Cor. 16:19. Afterward he declares, "All they that be of Asia have turned away from me"-2 Tim. 1:15. And in 2 Tim. 4:16,17, he says "All men forsook me. I pray God it may not be laid to their charge, notwithstanding the Lord stood with me and strengthened me." Unless we know and desire to speak the mystery of Christ, we should not pray that God would open a door of utterance, for until we have this revelation, we have nothing much to speak. When ministers do not speak the mystery of Christ, they often refuse engagements because they are booked ahead for months. They do not need to pray for a door to be opened, because they are not

16 preaching the true message for this day. But when we have the message, we must pray for doors to be opened that we can preach this glorious mystery of Christ for which Paul was in bonds. There will always be those like Alexander the coppersmith, who will do us much evil; but the Lord will reward them as they deserve, even as He will all those who withstand the message of the Apostle Paul, which he received from the ascended Lord and which we preach-2 Tim. 4:14,15. Therefore let us not be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord, nor of His messenger, but be partakers of the afflictions of the Gospel." "Let us be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus and endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." II Tim. 1:8 and 2:1,3 Paul declared that he rejoiced in, his sufferings and filled up that which was left for the saints of the affliction of Christ. His sufferings were thus in harmony with Calvary's atonement.

The Truth of God has never been popular, and those who declare all the Word of God will always meet with persecution and false accusations. Those who oppose the message hurl verbal stones and attack the messenger. Our Lord Himself was accused of deceiving the people and also accused of having a demon—John

7:12 and 20. Let us not be surprised or discouraged when we are treated in like manner, if we declare the same message which Paul preached. He says "he suffered trouble as an evil doer, even unto bonds, but also added, "The Word of God is not bound" and later says "If we suffer with Him we shall reign with Him"-2 Tim. 2:9 and 12. When we acknowledge the Mystery of Christ (Col. 2:2) and learn what is the fellowship of the Mystery (Eph. 3:9) we shall experience in a measure at least the fellowship of the suffering of the Mystery—Phil. 3:10. But this is a glorious privilege. These sufferings are appointed the overcomers on the way to reaching the goal. "They are killed all the day long, accounted as sheep for the slaughter"—Rom. 8:36. There is a goal to be reached, an OUT-RESURRECTION, from among the dead and a PRIZE for all such who reach this goal. Christ as Bridegroom is the Prize of the upward calling. Let us not be weary of well-doing. The shout from the heavens shall soon be heard and the trumpet of God will sound and we shall be caught away to meet our Bridegroom and forever we shall be with Him. I Thess. 4:14-17 Hallelujah!

17

Christ's Agony

The gloomy Garden, blood bedewed,
The hideous midnight's shame and scorn,
The scourge, the wreath of rending thorn,
The tortures of the dreadful Road.
These were the billows of Thy death,
The storm toss'd surface; but the cry
The Spirit's woe, SABACTHANI,
Rose from the ocean underneath.
Man has no line that sea to sound,
The abyss of night — whose gulfs within
Now lies Thy people's weight of sin,
Forgotten, never to be found.

C. G. Moults.

REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.” Col. 3:1

Sitting often indicates a position of rest and contentment. Today’s hurry up world is often so fast paced that men do not even have time to sit down and eat a relaxing meal. That same pace often carries over into the spiritual realm, where men simply do not have time to follow Mary’s example as she “... sat at Jesus’ feet, and heard his word.” Lk. 10:39 The two on the road to Emmaus likewise discovered great joy and revelation “... as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him;...” Lk. 24:30

18

This text from Colossians is also fraught with great benefit both for Jesus and for us as He sits at the right hand of God. One of the most notable advantages is that the Risen Christ “... is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.” Rom. 8:34 It should be a comfort to us to know that He is there permanently, resting at the right hand of God, where intercession in our behalf is a top priority.

There is soon coming another day where He will be at absolute rest conducting the affairs of both heaven and earth when, “He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.” Psa. 2:4 The term “sitteth” at this juncture implies the relative ease in which Jesus will rule as King of kings and Lord of lords. The nations and all the Satanic forces of wickedness will be no match for Him, and victorious laughter will ring throughout the universe announcing His superiority and mocking scorn for all those who would dare resist Him.

This same pattern of ease is further demonstrated as He pours out severe and righteous judgment for, “Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.” V. 5 The book of Revelation is filled with countless examples of

the power which He will unleash against all the evil forces of the universe. No nation will be able to resist Him, and all the principalities and powers behind them will bow to His Authority, as is quite evident in this portion from Rev. 19. "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True,... His eyes were as a flame of fire,... And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses,...And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS....And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him... And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse,..." V. 11-21

The rest of Psalm 2 basically follows this same pattern in showing forth the tremendous ease of The Man Christ Jesus, Whose work of redemption is complete and now He "... sitteth in the heavens..." enjoying perfect peace and tranquility. God has begotten His Beloved Son in resurrection, "...Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee," (V7) and V. 8 beautifully describes His 1000 year reign of perfect rest. "Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession."

19

GH

STAR DUST

Dear friend of mine, see the stars, how they shine?
Who holds them there?
Our blessed Lord by His almighty power.
And the moon! Queen of the night
Her golden, mellow light shines out afar,
Far brighter than the brightest star.
And far beyond, where mighty Suns
Their dazzling light, makes bright as day the night.
Dear Friend of mine—take courage—do not fear;
For He who holds the Sun and Stars, Still holds us, dear.

Benjamin H. Robbins

The Mighty Grace of God!

Ray Quintana

“For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?” I Cor. 4:7

20 What have we that we did not receive? It is all because of divine grace that God has given us His gifts and more importantly, the gift of Jesus Christ. Paul asks three questions in this verse, and the answer to all of them seems to merit the same conclusion: That which glorifies man cannot have been revealed by God, for He has said that no flesh shall glory in His Presence. “Who makes you to differ from another?” The answer is that God, by His matchless Grace, has made us to differ. One primary example is set forth in Paul, a “self-made” man. He was brought up at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and apparently very zealous toward God! Paul was a man who, as far as the Christian Church is concerned, forced his way up without aid from others. He began in the Church with no respect, and under suspicion. The brethren had heard that he persecuted the saints, so that, at first, they would scarcely receive him! His name brought terror rather than pleasure. But God chose this man, who was saved on the road to Damascus, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, determined and backed by the Grace of God, to be front and center during this Church Age. He would have not have been a likely choice to be the chief apostle to the Gentiles, according to man’s standards, but he was given this place by the Lord Jesus Christ. “Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;” said Paul of his prior life, in Eph. 3:8, “but what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.”

The Apostle Paul had great zeal as Saul of Tarsus, but zeal without knowledge is harmful. When he persecuted the saints of God he did it ignorantly, in unbelief, and thought he did God a service. Yet his testimony of his own indebtedness to God’s Grace is so plain and given so many times over and over that we cannot mistake it. He says distinctly, “by the Grace of God I am what I am.” He counted his own righteousness as worthless and only desired that he might be found in Christ, arrayed in the

righteousness which is of God by faith.

Israel, too, had a zeal for God. They were ignorant of God's righteousness, going about to establish their own. Self-righteousness was so important to this nation that they would not accept God. "I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead him also, and restore comforts unto him and to his mourners." Isa 57:18 "... his ways..." are expressed in these words. "But draw near hither, ye sons of the sorceress,... Against whom do ye sport yourselves?... are ye not children of transgression,... Enflaming yourselves with idols under every green tree, slaying the children in the valleys... Among the smooth stones of the stream is thy portion;... Upon a lofty and high mountain... even thither wentest thou up to offer sacrifice.... Behind the doors also and the posts hast thou set up thy remembrance: for thou hast discovered thyself to another than me,... And thou wentest to the king with ointment,... and didst debase thyself even unto hell." Isa. 57:3-9 Notice the strong terms which set forth the horrible wickedness of this nation. It is staggering! However, the mercy, rather than judgment following, is likewise overwhelming! There is not one thing of destruction to the nation added. He does not say, "I will destroy him," but, "I will heal him." God's Grace, is like the depths of the sea, which can never be fathomed and, like space, it can never be measured! This is our God! God Himself, wondrous, matchless, boundless. "Oh, the depths!, the depths of the Mighty Grace of God!"

We can never look upon the ocean or look upon a sunrise or sunset without feeling it is always fresh and new. But as we read the Holy Scriptures, passages not only bring freshness, but cause an amazement to our souls by the grace of God upon our hearts. Through His word, Grace is like the cool breeze which God blows upon a sweltering night. It is the warmth of His face upon the desert traveler on a cold winter's eve.

The Lord is aware of the unworthiness of those to whom He deals out His Grace and it is the glory of that Grace that He pours it upon the utterly undeserving. He knows exactly what men are, and yet He is kind to the evil and to the unthankful. He gives His Grace to those who, like Manasseh, Saul of Tarsus, and the dying thief, have nothing but sin about them and deserve His hot displeasure rather than His gracious love. The eyes of the Lord never sleep. He sees man through and through,

so that He not only hears his words, but knows his thoughts. God does not merely behold our actions but weighs our motives and knows what is in the heart. David cried, "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me! It is high, I cannot attain unto it."

22 Our Savior said in Matt. 10:29, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father." He also asked, "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?" Lk. 12:6 Two for a farthing and five for two farthings, so there is an odd one thrown in for the one taking a double quantity. Only a sparrow! Nobody cares about that odd sparrow, but not one of them is forgotten by your heavenly Father, not even the odd sparrow! Do you sometimes feel like the odd sparrow? There is no stray thought, no imagination, nothing which has escaped your heavenly Father's notice. "I have seen his ways..." proclaims God, and He has seen your ways at home, abroad, in the shop, in the bedchamber, and your ways within as well as without. He knows the ways of your hope, and the ways of your desires. He has seen them all. The wonder of it all is, after seeing all, He has not cut us down, but instead, has proclaimed this amazing word of mercy, and grace, "I have seen your ways, and will heal you. I have seen all that you have done, and yet for all that I will not cast you from My Presence, but I will put my mercy and my grace upon you." What words of love and grace!

Oh the wickedness of the human heart. And yet, after describing such character, the Lord says, "I have seen your ways, and will heal you. I have seen everything bad and I have perceived nothing good in them, but nevertheless, though I know all your conduct and see the filthiness of it all, yet will I come to you, and I will heal you." What Mighty Grace of my Holy Father. Oh, the splendor of His Grace! When we think of Israel at the time of Isaiah's writings, what mountain was there, which Israel had not set up her altars? What stone was there, polished by the flow of the stream, which they had not consecrated to an idol? What giant oak was there throughout all Bashan which they had not given confidence to a false god? The land was stained with the blood of their children offered to idols! Yet God said, "I have seen behind the door what they have done. I have seen in the high mountains what they have done, but I will heal them."

That grace has come in the personage of the Lord Jesus

Christ. "The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin." Who can explain this amazing grace! What a wonder that God's love should cast its eye upon the very vilest of the vile which I once was. That He should say of me, "I have seen him. I know what he has done. I understand it all and yet, nevertheless, I mean to save him and save him, I will." Heaven itself shall be amazed that ever such a wretch was saved! And Hell itself shall tremble in its lowest depths while it sees what a gracious God it has offended! My Father not only inspected my ways but judged them in the cruel death of his Son, Jesus Christ. "In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer." Isa 54:8 What mercy and grace has been bestowed upon the undeserving of which we were once a part.

The foregoing comments do not mean that God winks at sin! No, He will by no means spare the guilty, those who have rejected His Son! As surely as fire consumes the stubble, so does His wrath burn against wickedness! But today is the day of salvation, and His grace abounds to all men **if they will just believe on Jesus Christ.** He said, "I have seen his ways, and will heal him. He is My child though he has played the prodigal. I hate his harlotry and the riotous living with which he has wasted his estate and Mine. I hate the swine trough and the citizens of the far-off country, but My child, My child, I love you still! And when he comes back to Me, I will receive him with a kiss, and I will say, "Bring forth the fatted calf, the best robe, and put it on him. Put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet and let us eat and have fellowship, for this, My son which was dead is alive again! He that was lost is found." Let these words ring in your heart. That was me and that was you! What love, and mercy, and such divine grace He has shown us!

The Good Shepherd goes after the sheep, and seizes it, by His love. He throws it on His shoulders and carries it home rejoicing. We bless that mighty Grace which did not stop for us to seek it, but sought us! It was like the dew which does not wait for men, neither tarries for the sons of men, but comes in all its blessed cheering influences and makes the earth glad. It is said that dew only falls on a still night, and when it does, not much water is required in the natural for a flock of sheep. Oh, may the mighty Grace of God come in that way today upon your people

to quench the thirst of the hot trials! What sort of comfort is this? It is the comfort of perfect forgiveness, the comfort of complete acceptance, the comfort of a loving Shepherd towards His people! The Father sets a warm kiss upon the child's cheek and that is the comfort of Adoption. Whereas we were heirs of wrath, we become heirs of Heaven and have the comforts of hope. We receive the comfort of daily fellowship, for we are admitted to speak with God and to draw near to Him. The comfort of perfect security, for we are led to feel that whether we live or die it does not matter, we are safe in the arms of Jesus! We have the comfort of a blessed prospect, to be caught up with Him in the air, as He comes in the clouds of heaven with the trump of God. But then, maybe He will tarry, but my hope is not dashed, for beyond the grave in the land of the hereafter where the roses shall never wilt, He longs for me. There is also the comfort of knowing that all things work together for good, along with the comfort of being face to face with my Bridegroom and Heaven for my home!

24 “And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. He did not say, I saw New Jerusalem coming down from heaven prepared as a bride for her husband, but it is a bride **adorned**, for her husband. The bride of Christ is but one. Her adornment consists of all the rest of the Church. So the New Jerusalem is not just the bride of Christ. The New Jerusalem is the bride of Christ and all of her adornment. It includes the attendants, all of the servants, and all of these different glories, which will be a part of that heavenly scene. The bride is but one; she is the bride of Christ. But all Christians will share in some measure the glory of God, and be a part of that adornment. “And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God:...” Rev. 21:10-11 The glory depicted here is the same as that for which Jesus prayed in John 17:24. “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me:...” The text here in Revelation continues, announcing that “... her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.” Then Rev. 21:22 declares that John “... saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. The temple

is the center of New Jerusalem. Jesus' letter to the Philadelphia Church in Revelation 3 declares that "I will make you "... a pillar in the temple of my God." V. 12 However, Rev. 21:22 plainly asserts that John "... saw no temple..." Why? The only way that God can fulfill that promise to the Philadelphia saints, the full overcomers of this age, is that they become a part of Jesus. They are now the temple. So we read: "I saw no temple there for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple." There will be that bridal company who are made one with Christ, and they will be pillars in the temple, which is Christ Himself. Oh the Mighty Grace of God that we are offered this. We don't deserve it; we didn't merit it! But God with His Mighty Grace has offered this to us today!

With tears I say all this to the man of whom it was once said, "You did debase yourself even unto Hell." All these comforts for me! A crown in Heaven for one whom, but for mercy, had been damned in Hell! A harp of everlasting music for hands that once delighted in lascivious music! New songs in Glory for lips that once spoke such ill of the Savior's call! The Presence of Jesus and the likeness of Jesus for one that often rolled in the mire. Proclaim it! Proclaim it! Proclaim it! I am brand new! It is the Mighty Grace of God! Receive it in the Name of our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, our soon and coming Bridegroom!

25

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### ***BLESSING FROM GOD***

The Lord bless thee,  
and keep thee:  
The Lord make his face  
shine upon thee,  
And be gracious  
unto thee:  
The Lord lift up his countenance  
upon thee,  
And give thee Peace.

Num. 6 :24-26

## ***Glorious Victory***

"And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him,..." Luke 23:33.

Calvary! what does it mean? A mocking multitude. A crucified malefactor. Silence. Apparent triumph of the mob and the powers of darkness. But in the unseen realm, victory and afterwards millions of souls brought through that death and darkness into life and light. Oh, glorious Victory!

Likewise in the case of the children of God in personal experience. Pressed out of measure, without strength, despairing even of life,..." was Paul's experience. Where is the victory?

Where is the power? It seems a triumph of the enemy, but the Word declares otherwise. The experience of Paul declares otherwise. The "pressure" is the sentence of death upon all natural resources. Even physical strength is seen as nought. The pressure must be great enough to press us to such straits that we have no hope outside of God. Why, the answer is given and easy to understand, "...  
26 *that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God that raiseth the dead,...*  
*who delivered us..." I Cor. 1:9-10*

The enemy rages. It appears as though all hope is taken away yet we stand trusting God. Can this be victory? Yes, it is the way of victory. Outward defeat, weakness, limitations, little things apparently, but great enough to cause us to sink down in utter despair of ourselves. Ah, that is where the power begins. We sink down into God Who raises the dead, and thus we come up into newness of life, and become fruitful. The "corn of wheat must fall into the ground and die, or it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it, but he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal." John 12:24,25.

Author Unknown

## CHRIST IS COMING-

Written in 1893

Hear ye not the voice of warning:—

Christ is coming from on high?

At the midnight, noon or morning,

Soon His form will rend the sky:

LO! He comes, in power and splendor,

Justice unto all to render,

And His Name to magnify!

Some anxious hearts are yearning,

As the many signs appear

Time foretells His quick returning:

And they feel the hour is near

When His voice shall break with terror

On the darkened powers of error

That have ruled the world with fear.

For He'll judge each living nation,

When that fateful morning dawns;

End their march through tribulation,

Where that awful chasm yawns

To engulf within its burning

All who scoffed at His returning

And oppressed His faithful ones.

There'll be bitter sobs and sighing—

Wails of anguish everywhere;

With the groans of millions dying

In the midnight of despair

While the cry for help is falling

On the ear that heeds no calling

Though their pleadings fill the air.

Rise ye up—ye souls that slumber!

Trim your lamps and hasten out,

And be ready with that number

Who shall hear His welcome shout.

Rising up beyond the sighing

Of a world in darkness lying

Doomed to death through sin and doubt.

—John Boddy.

## ISAIAH 48

Gene Hawkins

“My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,” Gal. 4:19

“O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?” Gal. 3:1

28 This chapter of Isaiah presents a rather interesting correlation with Galatians, in that both Isaiah and Paul reprimand their hearers for trying to portray themselves as something they are not. Paul addressed the Galatians as “little children,” but his questions to them indicate that they were, in no wise, where they “should have been” spiritually. “Ye did run well;...” he cries, “... who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?” Gal. 5:7 He also enquired, “Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?” Gal. 3:3 Likewise Isaiah demands, “Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the LORD, and make mention of the God of Israel,...” V. 1 These are most assuredly wonderful traits for this nation to exhibit; however, the latter part of this same verse indicates that they were “...not in truth, nor in righteousness. He further accuses them of being “...obstinate, and thy neck is an iron sinew, and thy brow brass;” V. 4 They are called by the name of Israel, or “prince with God,” and they “... swear by the name of the LORD,...” but they are walking in the ways of rebellion. Paul also leveled these rather harsh words of reprimand against those who would be justified by the Law rather than Christ. “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace...Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? Gal. 5:4-7 The chief apostle to the Church also severely reprimanded Peter because the latter refused to eat with the Gentiles sending this strong message to those around him. “But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest

thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?” Gal. 2:14

God also knew that Israel also had a great problem with idolatry, and would attribute fulfilled prophecies to the idols, rather than to Himself, saying; “...Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them.” V. 5

Paul also determined that the Galatians had been duped by witchcraft, asking “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you,...” or who has used satanic witchcraft against you? Gal. 3:1 He further denounced them for attributing righteousness to the law rather than Christ, explaining that “...if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.” Gal. 2:21 Such statements are a tremendous blow unto God’s redemption and indeed rob Him of His Glory even as Israel had done. Thus, from the outset of this chapter, Isaiah describes the tremendous advantage that was given to this people, but they did not walk in the ways that God had ordained for them.

“Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the LORD, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness.” V. 1 God had called them as Israel, or “Prince with God,” as noted above. They also sprang from the refreshing “waters of Judah,” or “Praise,” but apparently when they swore by the “name of the LORD,” or made “mention of the name of the God of Israel,” it was only a form or pretense to them. There was not real righteousness and truth attached to their actions. They did indeed claim that they had availed themselves of His provisions as “... they call themselves of the holy city, and stay themselves upon the God of Israel; The LORD of hosts is his name,” but their actions belied their words, as noted in V. 4, “...thou art obstinate, and thy neck is an iron sinew, and thy brow brass;” The chief reason for such an accusation seems to be couched in these words. “I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of my mouth, and I shewed them; I did them suddenly, and they came to pass.” V. 3 God has insisted repeatedly in these last few chapters that He can prophesy things, even thousands of

years before they happen, and then bring it to pass. One such prominent example is that of Cyrus, who would deliver the Jews, and make provision for the temple in Jerusalem to be restored after the Babylonish Captivity had ended. However, Israel seems to have the idea that even though God, "...even from the beginning declared it to thee; before it came to pass I shewed it thee:..." they would give such credit to their idol. The context of these words is that God deliberately spoke these things far in advance "... lest thou shouldest say, Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them." V. 5 He further insists, "Thou hast heard, see all this; and will not ye declare it? I have shewed thee new things from this time, even hidden things, and thou didst not know them." V. 6 God emphatically announces that Israel has known all these glorious things, but they simply refuse to make them known as coming from God. They have seen fulfilled prophecy right before their eyes, but will not acknowledge that God is responsible for it. He continues His assault, removing any excuses they might try to use, explaining that "They are created now, and not from the beginning;..." He means that the things He has brought to pass, right in front of them, did not exist from the beginning of time, so to speak, but He created them specifically for their benefit during their time of need. God continues to insist that He has done these things "...even before the day when thou heardest them not; lest thou shouldest say, Behold, I knew them." V. 7 Israel could not say that these miraculous happenings always existed, or that they "would have come to pass anyway." God would expose their rebellious hearts and bring them to repentance, pointing out the fact that "Yea, thou heardest not; yea, thou knewest not; yea, from that time that thine ear was not opened: for I knew that thou wouldest deal very treacherously, and wast called a transgressor from the womb." V. 8 The Creator surely knew all the rebellion that was a part of the Adamic nature, even "from the womb." It is the same nature as that exhibited by the Galatians when they too would "...not obey the truth..." and "...walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel."

God considered all this in regard to the whole of humanity

but specifically concerning Israel, He now declares, "For my name's sake will I defer mine anger, and for my praise will I refrain for thee, that I cut thee not off." V. 9 God would have been justified in annihilating the entire human race, but He found a way to preserve them. Likewise, He could have destroyed Israel long ago, when they bowed down before the golden calf after He had delivered them out of Egypt. He did in fact tell Moses, "Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation." Ex. 32:10 God could have destroyed them at that time, and still honored His promises to Abraham through Moses, but through the intercession of this same meek man, He did not do that. Instead, This Mighty Creator, Who is never taken unawares, brought forth His Own Glorious Plan of Redemption. Israel has been most rebellious, steeped in idolatry, but the innovative Ways of God can boldly declare, "Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction." V. 10 This is prophetic of the end time when He will "refine," this entire nation through the fires of the tribulation. He will bring forth that nation, which He envisioned from the beginning, and it will be "For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another." V. 11 The glory of God is reflected in His Plan of redemption. His Name would have been "polluted," that is, "wounded, dissolved, profaned," but the redemption in Christ Jesus, not only preserved Israel but the whole Adamic race. The only requirement is "Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last." V. 12 These are the Words of Jesus! He is seen as The Judge in Rev. 1, loudly proclaiming "... I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last:..." Rev. 1:11 He will be reigning as God when this response from Israel actually comes to fruition. He, as God, will assume full control of both heaven and earth, and "Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together." V. 13 Jesus has always been God, and these words of creation are borne out in John's declaration of Him. "All things were made by him;

and without him was not any thing made that was made.” John 1:3  
However, the fullness of such Majesty will not be fully manifest until that time when He is enthroned as King of kings and Lord of lords, which will signal the full restoration of Israel.

32 All of these things seem to put forth His “credentials,” for the next command. “All ye, assemble yourselves, and hear; which among them hath declared these things?...” V. 14 These words are in reference to the “idols” which have been so problematic for Israel. God continues to enlarge on the fact that only He is “the first and the last,...” and only He has “...from the beginning declared it to thee; before it came to pass I shewed it thee:...” He Alone can claim this superiority over such powerless idols and thus He asks, “...which among them hath declared these things,...” meaning, which of them has declared the deliverance of Israel described in Vs. 9-13 and which of them has answered the challenge of Ch. 41:23 “Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods:...” Verse 14 continues, showing HOW The LORD will accomplish His deliverance. “... The LORD hath loved him: he will do his pleasure on Babylon, and his arm shall be on the Chaldeans.” The POWER, in God’s redemption of this choice nation, lies in His Love for them. Here He pronounces judgment upon Babylon and the Chaldeans, long before Jerusalem is ever taken captive. He Who Is The First, and The Last has the ability simply to speak, and know that it will come to pass. “I, even I, have spoken; yea, I have called him: I have brought him, and he shall make his way prosperous.” V. 15 God has called Israel, and while He sends Babylon and the Chaldeans down a path of judgment, He will bring Israel unto Himself, and make their way prosperous. The only requirement for them is to “Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.” V. 16 These words of invitation are most assuredly from The LORD, but they are uttered through His prophet Isaiah. It seems to be Isaiah himself who is saying, “Come ye near unto me... and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.” Isaiah had known “from the beginning,” from the time God called him in



Ch. 6 that he was to "...Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed" Isa. 6:9-10 He has indeed experienced the rejection and rebellion against his words from The LORD, but it seems from the following verses that Israel is now ready to hear a message whereby they WILL be converted.

"Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go." V. 19 This message sounds much like Paul's entreaty to the Galatians. "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Gal. 5:1 They too needed to experience the full freedom and liberty of the redeemed, and let the Lord lead them too, "...by the way thou shoudest go." Both Israel and the Galatians needed to travel the path of correction, for as noted previously, neither of them had achieved what God had intended for them. This is Isaiah's message from the Lord to those of Israel. "O that thou **hadst** hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea: Thy seed also had been as the sand, and the offspring of thy bowels like the gravel thereof; his name should not have been cut off nor destroyed from before me." V. 18-19 God says to them, "look what you could have had, fruitful increase that could have been manifest in your midst, had you simply heeded the Word which I spoke among you." They could also have spared themselves the "cutting off," which followed. The good news is that all is not lost! 33

"Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The LORD hath redeemed his servant Jacob." V. 20 God, once again, had prophesied that they would go forth from Babylon, despite the idolatrous ways which drove them into captivity. That same message will prevail after they are swallowed

up of the antichrist in the end time. God will also forcefully deliver them and theirs will once again be a song of rejoicing, reaching truly "...to the end of the earth; say ye, The LORD hath redeemed his servant Jacob." This is a message of redemption that not only Israel will know, but will also be witnessed by all the nations round about them.

34 "And they thirsted not when he led them through the deserts: he caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them: he clave the rock also, and the waters gushed out." V. 21 These words are a tremendous reminder of God's blessing in the wilderness after Israel came forth from the land of Egypt. They tell the story of Jesus, being smitten by the law, in order that the waters of blessing should "gush" out freely, but this truth of "The Rock," will be even more emphatically true when He rescues Israel from the awful plight of tribulation. They will at that time genuinely discover their "Rock," Christ Jesus, Who will pour forth the refreshing and life-giving waters of blessing in the midst of a very dark and trying time of deprivation. Isaiah then brings this chapter to a conclusion, emphasizing a message that all the world must now know, "There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked." V. 22 There is abundant peace and blessing abounding for His Own People, but the wicked who refuse Him will never enjoy that glorious state.

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### **Life Is A Gift**

Some folk think they can earn eternal life, but that is impossible. Life is always received, either in creation in the natural or the spiritual birth. In neither case is it earned. Think upon that for a moment and see at what conclusions you arrive.

\* The Name of Jesus gives us our divine authority over Satan, but the Holy Spirit is our divine enabling.

\* Do not carry a grudge. It is too heavy a load for anyone.



# Our Corn Crib

*"Buy The Truth, and Sell It Not"*

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| A Burning Truth               | God- A Triunity                  | Preaching Another Jesus   |
| A Growing Relationship        | Gospel Records                   | Predestination            |
| Caught up with Paul           | Gospels, Acts & Epistles         | Preparation of the Bride  |
| Cherubim & Seraphim           | Holy Spirit- Baptism & Anointing | Ranks in Resurrection     |
| Chaste Virgin                 | How to Receive Holy Spirit       | Resume of What we Teach   |
| Comfort in Time of Sorrow     | It is Finished                   | Salvation for the Body    |
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| Dying Daily                   | Life Everlasting                 | The Two Adams             |
| Earnest but Wrong             | Light on the Law                 | The Sin Offering          |
| 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    |
| Exodus      | Job                                 | John             | 1, 2 Timothy          |
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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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# grace and glory

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*Therefore I*  
*say unto you,*  
~~~~~  
What things soever
ye desire, when ye
pray, believe that
ye receive them,
and ye shall have
them. —MARK 11:24.