

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the  
whole Counsel of GOD.

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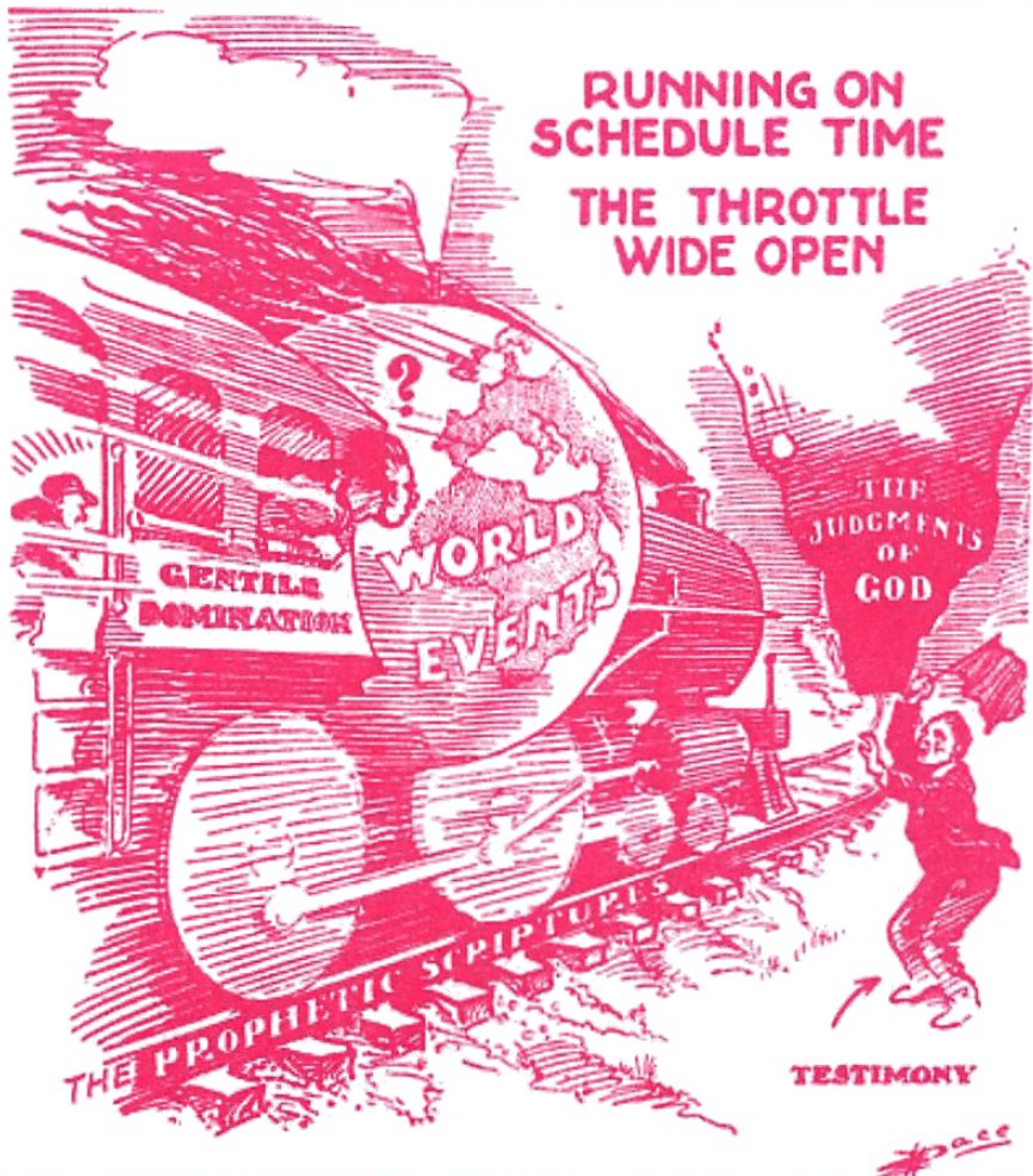


The Best Bouquet A Husband Can Give



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Editor: Gene Hawkins



By Gene Hawkins

**“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.” Ec 1:9**

**“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” II Pet. 3:3**

Both of these portions set forth the cry of the skeptic in our day when confronted with the specific signs of Jesus' soon return. Solomon was very emphatic that there truly is "... no new thing under the sun." However, the sheer volume of events happening in our day is one of the surest signs of Jesus' Coming. Peter tells us that men will say "...since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation," thus claiming this old adage that, "... there is no new thing under the sun." However, this wisdom of Solomon does not really hold true in these last days, for this world has not actually been in a static condition for some time. Though wars and rumors of wars along with gross ungodliness and erratic weather patterns which produce floods, famine, and countless other results have been a part of man's existence since the beginning of time, how can anyone argue that such things are becoming far more frequent and much more intense than ever before, in the recent past? There has not really been a status quo for this entire planet in years, and today's news sources are often at a complete loss in trying to keep up with major and often catastrophic events taking place almost hourly around the globe. In short, things are really NOT continuing "... as they were from the beginning of the creation!"

One of the major reasons for this complex onslaught of the dilemmas facing men in these last days is found in I Tim. 4:1. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits,

and doctrines of devils;” This prophecy might be considered as applying to only the “religious” community, but the reality is that it describes men from every walk of life, the problem being that men simply disregard the specific decrees of God’s Word and bow to Satan’s “conventional and logical humanistic wisdom.”

The term, “the faith,” is actually a reference to the entirety of God’s Word, which contains Divine instruction and admonition for every part of man’s existence. It applies to the political world, as well as the religious and moral ambitions of mankind. The faith presented in the scriptures proclaims a scathing rebuke to the gross and immoral practices of men today, as they depart from the specific path which God has clearly defined.

4 The political challenges among the nations today are legion, but we have heard none of the political leaders calling upon God and asking Him what they should do. One such example would be the impossible situation facing Israel and the Palestinians. All the rhetoric coming from the principal parties of this conflict rather rely on so-called human rights and very emotional demands from people who actually have no righteous claim to Jerusalem. Some have blamed Israel because of intermarriage with “the heathen” and because they may have imported Palestinian workers from time to time. We full well know that Israel’s overall unbelief has warranted God’s chastisement down through the ages, but God has not and will not forsake His people. Political leaders of our day must realize that God will still defend Israel despite their unbelief. They might also well follow God’s Plan recorded in “the faith,” and consult with Ezra and Nehemiah who were confronted with like problems after the Babylonish captivity, but refused to bow to the emotional and logical demands of men.

Ezra was confronted with a tremendous and complicated dilemma because the Jews of that day had “... trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing. Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to **put away all the wives**, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, ... and let it be done according to the law. Ezra 10:2-3 The rest of this chapter discloses the fact that this problem was so far-reaching that it was not “... a work of one day or two: for we are many that have transgressed in this thing.” V. 13 However,

they "... sat down in the first day of the **tenth month** to examine the matter. And they made an end with all the men that had taken strange wives by the **first day of the first month**. The list of those who had violated God's decree was long and the chapter closes with the fact that "All these had taken strange wives: and some of them had wives by whom they had children." Ezra 10:44 God's solution was to remove both the wives and the children, giving them no place in Israel, much like God had decreed in the case of Ishmael, when both Hagar and her son were literally evicted from the camp of Abraham. This was God's solution to the problem and one day He will indeed remove all outside ownership and occupation from Jerusalem.

Nehemiah likewise followed this same pattern a number of years later when the same mistake of intermarriage was made, and gross complications arose, but he was a bit more animated in dealing with the problem than Ezra had been. "In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab: And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and **could not speak in the Jews' language**, but according to the language of each people. And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves. Neh. 13:23-25 This godly man also drove one of the priests from the priesthood because "... he was "... son in law to Sanballat the Horonite:..." V. 28 He concludes this narrative asserting: "Thus cleansed I them from all strangers,..." Neh. 13:30

This same pattern of departing from the faith is truly evident in every avenue of life today, but one glaring demonstration of it, which literally sickens the godly remnant of these last days is found in the ungodly gay and transgender agenda sweeping across this country and the world. Recent reports indicate that some states which resisted the mandatory government "bathroom rights for transgenders" have now "caved- in," having received tremendous pressure from sports organizations which refuse to hold lucrative events in their state unless they comply with these demands. We would emphasize that this entire premise regarding sexuality is

based entirely on the abominable and “vile affections” of men which Paul describes in Rom. 1:26-27 All these departures from the faith will most assuredly continue to produce and manifest the end time signs of Jesus’ return which are graphically recorded in Scripture.

There is also another very prominent political sign rapidly coming to the fore at this hour, and it too is surely a direct result of men following their own agenda rather than principles of “the faith.” Daniel’s interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream image is surely evolving right before our very eyes. “And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters’ clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

6 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Dan 2:41-44

The feet and toes of this image mark the final throes of Gentile Times, wherein God committed world government into the hands of The Gentiles. It is in these final days wherein “... the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed:...” This is none other than the Kingdom Of The Lord Jesus Christ and He will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords for 1000 years. That time is surely upon us, for we can clearly see the mixture of the iron and clay in world governments today. Students of prophecy have long proclaimed that the iron represents the imperialism of a monarchy, while the clay shows forth the weakness of a democratic government. Daniel tells us that a mixture of these two forms a division, and “...shall be partly strong, and partly broken... they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.” This is most assuredly unfolding rather dramatically at this present time. It is said that Pres. Trump sent a resounding message, not only to Syria but to China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran when he launched missiles into Syria after Pres. Assad once

again used chemical weapons on his own people. Nations around the world are divided in their response to the U.S. President's actions as Reuters reported that "The UK government fully supports the U.S. action, which we believe was an appropriate response to the barbaric chemical weapons attack launched by the Syrian regime and is intended to deter further attacks." Australian P.M. Malcom Turnbull said the strikes sent "a vitally important message that the world would not tolerate the use of chemical weapons... and called on Russia to do more to ensure peace in Syria." Turkish Deputy P.M. Nurman Kurtulmus declared that "Assad's government must be fully punished in the international arena and the peace process in Syria needed to be accelerated." French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said: "Russia and Iran needed to understand that supporting Assad made no sense and that the escalation of the U.S. military role in Syria was a warning to a criminal regime." The San Diego Union Tribune also listed six more nations who were rather vocal in their support for this U.S. action, including Saudi Arabia, Italy, The European Union, Poland, Germany and Israel.

Russia, China, N. Korea, and Hezbollah are of course diametrically opposed to this bombardment against Syria, but there is another element of the iron and clay mixture which is quickly becoming evident. Diplomacy has become the linchpin of democracy. Regretfully, it has been sorely lacking in the U.S congress for the past several years, as each party is totally unwilling to give an inch on any issue. President Trump seems to be emerging as quite a negotiator in this area, but we are especially interested in the tactics which may be employed by these rival nations and the surrogate powers under them. It is no secret that Russia has long supported Pres. Assad, and it was Russia who agreed to ensure that Syria had surrendered all their chemical weapons when a confrontation between the U.S. and Syria was avoided after Assad crossed the infamous "red line" and used chemical weapons on his own citizens. Russia has now been accused of being either naïve or incompetent and has even taken the stance that Bashar Assad was "framed," and did not use these weapons at all. No nation believes that, and every one of them will take steps to save face and maintain their own image in the eyes of other nations.

The Australian P.M. has already “called on Russia to do more to ensure peace in Syria,” and it is hoped that Putin will take this renegade aside and try to impose a bit of diplomacy and persuasion on Assad to make a decided change in that country. Most would like to see him removed from power, but some also worry about who might replace such a barbaric dictator. Though Vladimir Putin has forcefully declared that relations between his country and the U.S. have deteriorated, he too is much aware of world opinion, and none of these world leaders will ignore the opinions expressed by the other nations of this iron and clay mixture. Russia will undoubtedly exert some kind of pressure to avoid any kind of further confrontation, and whether or not that means Assad will be unseated is at this point unknown.

8 Russia must also be prepared to influence Iran because of their nuclear program and the fact that they are sponsors of terror groups such as Hezbollah. The climate is surely ripe for major negotiations to curb the activities of these rebels, and right now that responsibility must fall to Russia. We know what Putin and his regime say publicly to save face for themselves, but what goes on behind closed doors will be far more effective and beneficial for the rest of the world, as some have suggested that WWIII is on the horizon and must be avoided at all costs.

China likewise must be a major player due to their close alliance with N. Korea. All the nations now know that Pres. Trump’s doctrine of “diplomacy backed up by military might” is real. The U.S. has already launched the 59 missiles into Syria and has also dropped the MOAB (mother of all bombs) on ISIS rebels in Afghanistan. ISIS has become a central target for all these nations and we are certain that they are among those terrorist groups represented by the “ten toes” of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream image, which corresponds with the “ten horns” that John saw in Rev. 13 & 17. Those ten horns are clearly identified as “...ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; (they are not nations) but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.” Rev. 17:12 The nations have vowed to completely obliterate ISIS, but if the above explanation is correct, these groups will not be destroyed until Jesus Himself accomplishes it well into the tribulation period. Rev. 17:14

Meanwhile, nations like China and Russia must deal



with their close renegade allies who are stirring up trouble for the entire world. Headlines bearing messages such as “CHINA WARNS NORTH KOREA” have appeared in a number of news sources recently, and while China, according to this report from the A.P. “...issued a stern warning Friday to both the United States and North Korea, urging them not to push their recriminations to a point of no return and allow war to break out on the Korean Peninsula,” they have also taken action against N. Korea. This same article states that “... China banned coal imports from North Korea in mid-February — potentially cutting off an economic lifeline — and Chinese customs data released Thursday showed a 52 percent drop in imports in the first three months of this year, compared with the same period last year.” We simply do not know what other “elements of negotiation” and diplomacy China might use to avoid a confrontation between the U.S. and N. Korea due to the latter nation’s repeated tests in trying to achieve the ability to launch nuclear weapons, but Pres. Trump’s “... tweets and conversations with Chinese President Xi Jinping seem designed to push Beijing to crack down on North Korea...”

Reuters issued this report from Japan indicating that this nation is very much concerned “... that North Korea may be able to fire missiles that have sarin nerve gas. A senior Japanese diplomat said the United States was putting ‘maximum pressure’ on North Korea to ease tensions while also pressuring China to influence its ally.” Apparently China has gotten the message, for this same report indicates that “ China has called for negotiations to ease tensions. It also wants nuclear weapons removed from the peninsula. The Global Times newspaper, which is published by the Communist party’s People’s Daily, called on North Korea and its leader Kin Jong Un to stop developing nuclear weapons.”

We know from God’s Word that all these “wars and rumours of wars” will escalate into the awful conflagrations of nuclear eruptions in the tribulation. We also know that some semblance of peace will prevail before that most devastating time arrives “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.” I Thess. 5:3

Daniel clearly declared that “... in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be

destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.” Dan 2:44 This is once again a reference to the Kingdom of Righteousness over which Jesus will reign as Universal Ruler for 1000 years. He will then reign forever over Israel on the throne of David. The good news for those who are looking for Him is that we have the promise of being taken out of this world before Nebuchadnezzar’s dream image is broken in pieces through judgment from the Hand of Jesus. We should be indeed excited at this present hour, for we are living “... in the days of these kings...” Rather than striking fear and dread in our hearts as is evident in much of this world, especially among world leaders, these things must have the opposite effect on us, for “... when these things **begin** to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” Luke 21:28 These are the words of the same King Who will inflict all this damage upon the nations, but we need not fear, because **WE’RE GONNA BE GONE WHEN IT HAPPENS!**

10

***For the Lord himself shall descend  
from heaven with a shout, with the voice  
of the archangel,  
and with the trump of God: and the dead  
in Christ shall rise first:  
Then we which are alive and  
remain shall be caught up together with  
them in the  
clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and  
so shall  
we ever be with the Lord.  
Wherefore comfort one another with  
these words.***

***1Thess. 4:16-18***

# **IN VIEW OF HIS COMING**

Edward T. Sherman

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

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

First of all, James 1:12 — "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him." Here temptation means trial. In some places it is used with reference to enticement to evil. It is used both ways in this chapter. And just think, he says, "Blessed is the man," not he that simply hath a temptation, but he that "endureth temptation ;" for when he has lived thru the testing, he shall receive the crown of life. Our cross-bearing will be rewarded with a crown. Our trials will be crowned with triumph. 11

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

you believed to be a full consecration; but as you look back, you see failures and mistakes, Are you not glad that God reckons to you a righteous standing thru the merits of Jesus' precious blood, and that you are free from the law of sin and death ? The triune God has patience to accomplish in us that perfect work which He began. Some day He will bring us forth as gold tried in the fire, to the honor and glory of His excellent name.

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

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

### **Translation By Faith**

**"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation, he had this testimony, that he pleased God; but**

without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Heb. 11:5,6 Three qualifications for translation are found in these verses—Believe in God's existence, seek Him diligently and please Him by believing what He says. The Lord informed Enoch that He would take him up without dying if he would live for such an experience. He learned this by walking with God and by earnestly seeking His face. It is marvelous what God will do for those that please Him.

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

13

### **Tried And Trained**

**"That the trial of your faith,** being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" I Pet. 1:7.

Gold is not worth much today; yet most people will take all they can get. Many have the wrong idea. They think that if they accomplish, or seem to accomplish great things, they will receive a wonderful reward. Well, it depends upon the character of the work. Many things have been done, which were really of God, for which the doer of them will receive no reward. Balak, a heathen king, hired Balaam to curse the Israelites; but who can curse those

whom God has blessed? Balaam was compelled to bless Israel; for God caused him to speak forth one of the most marvelous prophecies in the Bible, the fulfillment of which is yet future. Num. 24:1-9 & 15-19) God can speak through a mule if He wants to; for He spoke through an ass to Balaam. When the enemies of Christ were seeking His life, the high priest said, "It is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not"—John 11:50 and 18:14. He spoke that, not of himself, but as moved by the Holy Ghost. He was used of God, but did not know it. The thing which God counts precious is not our achievements, but the trial of our faith. Not our miracle-working faith itself, but tested faith is of the greatest importance to Him. People may call you a fool now for bearing up under a trial and for steadfastly believing God; but He declares that it shall be unto praise and honor and glory at Christ's revelation. To the natural mind, faith is foolish, but the Author of that faith will sound a note of approval of it in that day. He will treat us as though it were our own. Oh, how wonderful! He will praise us for enduring the trial. He will even bid us sit down and He will serve us. Through these trials, we are being trained to reign with Christ in glory. Folks will not pat us on the back now, if we walk in the perfect will of God. We will be misunderstood, misinterpreted, and evil spoken of.

**"For we are laborers together with God; ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God, which is given unto me, as a wise master-builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon" —1 Cor. 3:9,10.** When I worked in a shop, I liked to have a partner who knew more than I did. That lessened the weight of my responsibility. We need not be afraid to undertake anything the Lord wants us to do, because we are laborers together with Him. He understands all about it. Hallelujah! He does not choose us because we are of any value in ourselves, not at all. It is a matter of grace, through the blood of Christ. It is wonderful to be a co-worker with Him. Sometimes it seems to me that our labor is like that of children. When I was a boy, I did not like to do a boy's work. I wanted to do a man's work, and have people think I was a man. Father took me along with him; but he carried the big end of

the log. He let me have my fingers on the other end so that I would think I had done something.

So it is with the Lord and us. Praise His name! He gives grace and more abundant grace to those who realize their need of Him. Paul said, "According to the grace which is given unto me, I laid the foundation." He stepped out into what appeared to many to be contrary to the Word of God, even contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ. They did not understand that he had a revelation of truth, which was hidden in God until that time. It meant something for him to speak thus. It means much for you and me also to declare that we have the truth as Paul preached it. The great majority of Christians are ignorant of the full truth, and hence are against us. Therefore, we see little results. Our biggest trial is to pray and labor apparently in vain. There may be a temptation to let down, or to use man's methods and contrivances, the allurements of the flesh, things that are bewitching, yes, actually bewitching, that will pull a crowd and make a great demonstration. I fear that many saints are letting down in order to achieve results. Brother, the main thing with God is not results, but to walk in the perfect will of God.

15

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

### **Our Ministry Is To All**

**"Unto the Jews, I became as a Jew that I might win the Jews. I became all things to all men. that I might by all means**

save some. To the weak became I as weak." He adapted himself to every condition and circumstance, and to every nationality. He sought the good of all. No one likes to be weak. We want people to think we are strong. Many want folks to know that they are college graduates, and therefore, they should have authority. Much ado is made today of personality and natural gifts. But it is man's personality, man's authority. What saith the Scripture? "Know ye not, that they which run in a race, all run, but one receiveth the prize?" Therefore, observe the exhortation, "So run that ye may obtain." We must run according to the prescribed rules of the race course, if we would win. We cannot run haphazardly, or proudly, or officiously, or self-willed, or by spurts.

Well, I believe that the Lord is about through. Hear Him saying, "Behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me to give to every one according as his work shall be." God grant that we may build "gold and silver and precious stone," the material only prescribed by our "wise master-builder," and not with "wood and hay and stubble," the perishable things, which make a great display and provoke the praise of men. May we so live and labor, that at last we shall hear the great Judge say, "Well done good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things. I will make thee a ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." May the Holy Spirit enable us to walk before the Lord in humility, so that we may present to the World, not only the Gospel which we preach, but the Gospel which we live. "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

(Reprint 1934)

\* Good Prescription: Anxious for nothing; thankful for anything; prayerful about everything.

\* God is not so much concerned with what a man DOES as with what he IS.

\* Today is the day of our stripping. Our dress parade will come later.



## **AN ARCHITECT'S VIEW OF THE BIBLE**

The Bible is like a magnificent palace constructed of precious oriental stone, comprising sixty-six stately chambers. Each one of these rooms is different from its fellows and is perfect in its individual beauty, while together they form an edifice incomparable, majestic, glorious, and sublime.

In the book of Genesis we enter the vestibule where we are immediately introduced to the records of the mighty work of God in creation. This vestibule gives access to the Law Courts, passing through which we come to the Picture Gallery of the Historical Books. Here we find hung upon the walls scenes of battles, heroic deeds, and portraits of valiant men of God. Beyond the Picture Gallery we find the Philosopher's Chamber - the Book of Job - passing through which we enter the Music Room, the Book of Psalms, and here we linger, thrilled by the grandest harmonies that ever fell on human ears. Then we come to the Business Office - the Book of Proverbs - in the very centre of which stands the motto, "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Leaving the Business Office we pass into the Research Department - Ecclesiastes - and thence into the Conservatory - the Song of Solomon - where greet us the fragrant aroma of choicest fruits and flowers and the sweet singing of birds. We then reach the Observatory where the prophets with their powerful telescopes are looking for the appearing of the "Bright and Morning Star," prior to the dawning of the "Sun of Righteousness." Crossing the courtyard we come to the Audience Chamber of the King - the Gospels - where we find four lifelike portraits of the King Himself, revealing the perfections of His infinite beauty. Next we enter the workroom of the Holy Spirit - the Acts - and beyond that the Correspondence Room, the Epistles, where we see Paul, Peter, James, John and Jude busy at their tables under the personal direction of the Spirit of Truth. Finally we enter the Throne Room - the book of Revelation - where we are enraptured by the mighty volume of adoration and praise addressed to the enthroned King, which fills the vast chamber; while in the adjacent galleries and Judgment Hall there are portrayed solemn scenes of judgment and wondrous scenes of glory associated with the coming manifestation of the Son of God as King of kings and Lord of lords.

# REFLECTIONS

*... From the Editor*

“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents,...” Heb. 11:23

This verse is quite clear that both of Moses’ parents were driven by faith, but the account in Exodus enlarges especially on his mother, Jochebed, which is not surprising because there seems to be a pattern in scripture in regard to the close affinity between mothers and their children. Solomon declared that the children of the virtuous woman shall “...arise up, and call her blessed;...” Prov. 31:28 He likewise paid tribute to Bathsheba for “...the prophecy that his mother taught him.” Prov. 31:1

18 Moses himself chose to “...suffer affliction with the people of God,...” and we can only wonder if much of that decision stemmed from the formative years he spent with his mother. He was born under the cloud of a horrible decree from the king that “...Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive. Amram’s wife is especially singled out in this narrative for **she** “... conceived, and bare a son:...saw him that he was a goodly child,...hid him three months...could not longer hide him,...took for him an ark of bulrushes, ...put the child therein;...laid it in the flags by the river's brink. And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him. Ex 2:2-4 Pharaoh’s daughter found him and eventually, Jochebed was paid to nurse her own son, until she surrendered him to Pharaoh’s daughter, after which Moses made his own choice of faith “...when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;” Heb. 11:24

Sarah is another woman of faith who came to the fore in behalf of her son Isaac, when he was ridiculed by Ishmael. This woman also refused to be denied in her quest to ensure that her son should be the sole heir of Abraham. God agreed with her and declared “...Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.” Gal. 4:30

Hannah also played a tremendously important role in

the life of Samuel. This was a barren woman whom God supernaturally endowed with a man child. She vowed to surrender him to The Lord, but when it came time to "...to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, ....Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever." I Sam. 1:21-22

Elkanah was a godly man and declared "... Do what seemeth thee good;... only the LORD establish his word." This was a wise man and undoubtedly knew that "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her,..." Prov. 31:11 Hannah proved to be true to her word, and presented her young son to Eli but surely her influence is seen when this young child was left at the house of the Lord and "And he worshipped the LORD there." I Sam. 1:28 Scripture is also very clear that she maintained a continuing and active relationship with this choice son, for "... his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice." I Sam. 2:19

All of these special mothers clearly demonstrate the order which Paul gave to Titus, that young women must be taught "... to be sober, to love their husbands, to **love their children**, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." Tit 2:4-5 19

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**  
**Living Waters Tabernacle Youth Camp**  
**July 23-27, 2017**

**URGENT ADDENDA:**

Due to a Colorado legislative requirement prohibiting youth gatherings for more than 72 hours without a Child Care License, Youth Camp will begin on Monday, July 24th at 10:30 AM and conclude Thursday at 10:00 AM July 27th

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

Forms and additional information will be available at [www.livingwaterstabernacle.com](http://www.livingwaterstabernacle.com).

## *He is Seeking for You*

Debbie Baker

Today we might ask ourselves, "Why do I love Jesus? The learned answer from God's Word would be "We love Him because He first loved us." I John 4:19 The question however, must become much more personal: "Why do I love Jesus?"

Think back to when you first began to love Him. What drew your heart? Was it not Love? Was it not in fact His Words of Love? Words of Love, specifically spoken to you? By Faith you believed those words.

And what made you fall deeper in Love with Jesus? The Holy Spirit took His Words of Love and made them real to your heart, shedding the love abroad in your heart. You listened for His call.

20 Yet in our present circumstance, many may be downcast, or wanting to retreat into a hiding place somewhere. Perhaps you have never felt that way, but I have. Yet, we are reminded of the song which shouts, "Oh Love that will not let me go....that moved my will and brought me low! I find my happy home in Thee, a captive bound yet ever free, there is no Love apart from Thee."

Let us declare this glorious fact: His Love is ever seeking us out!

I went for an inspirational walk recently around a familiar pond. The Lord showed me a funny little duck, and impressed me to follow him. So I began walking along side of the pond where he swam. That little duck was very different than the other mallard ducks and geese. We are presently witnessing the beginnings of spring, and all the ducks are ready for mating. The mallard duck with his fine shimmery green head and distinguishing stripe on the neck caused him to look very handsome as he swam a foot and a half behind a lovely brown female. In fact, as I looked about the lake, there were many pairs of the Mallard ducks swimming together.

There were also other geese, Graylag geese, without number, and the male and female looked pretty much the same. But then, there was this one little funny looking duck I was following which happened to be called a

"wood" duck, and he was quite different, with a head that looked like a doves head with a funny helmet on top. He had many markings, like polka dots on his breast, and stripes here and there...like a coat of many colors. You could say...he was an odd duck.

He swam about the pond...alone...yet he kept going by the shore line, looking in the underbrush and rocky crags. He would go in and come back out alone. It made me think he was looking for his mate. Since all the ducks had a mate, perhaps he needed one too. He swam and swam, seeking out his mate. I thought, Lord, he's just like you, seeking out your bride....she's hiding somewhere at the shoreline...in the cleft of a rock. Oh Lord you are like that odd duck... a wood duck for sure! Your earthly father was a carpenter, and you died upon a cross of wood. And you are seeking for your Bride ... that goodly pearl among the oysters.

Isaiah describes Him so sweetly, even as an odd duck, for "... many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:" Isa 52:14 He is also portrayed as "... a root out of a dry ground... he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Isa 53:2-3 We did not seek Him, but He surely sought us for, "... 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 every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, ... He was taken from prison and from judgment: ... he was cut off out of the land of the living: ... he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him;... Isa 53:4-10 Our Savior, Jesus, endured the Cross of shame for us. We hid from Him, yet He found us, and made us safe. We hide safely in Him, our spiritual Rock, that follows us. Yet He's calling out to you, come out, my dove, my love, come

out from the safety of that cleft of the rock, and learn how to fly. For I need a mate, a Bride...will you hear Me call you?

"O my dove, that are in the clefts of the rock, in the secret place of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice for thy voice is sweet and thy voice is comely." S. O. S. 2:14. He's calling today! Listen to His Voice in V. 8-13 of this same chapter "The voice of my Beloved!!!! "Behold He cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills." Wow... He's jumping over all this difficulty in my life and calling out to me! "My Beloved is like a roe or young hart: Behold He standeth behind our wall..." Wonder of wonders! He found my hiding place!!!! "He looketh forth at the windows...shewing Himself through the lattice." Oh my! He is looking in the window of my hiding place! "My Beloved spake and said unto me..." "Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away, for lo.... The winter is past, the rain is over, and gone! The flowers are appearing, the time of singing is come. And the voice of the turtle (dove) is heard in our land; the fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines give a good smell, ARISE my Love and come away!" He is

22 telling me to rise up, and come away!

He would have me come away with Him, just as that little odd wood duck, when he finds his mate in those hidden places by the shore, will call out his little duck call, "Quack, quack!" and she will come out and follow him. She is a little less spectacularly arrayed than He, yet it doesn't matter to him, as long as she is an odd little female wood duck. He doesn't call out to the popular Mallard duck or the gregarious Graylag Goose. No, He calls out to a mate like unto Himself.

Jesus, wants a Bride who has His heart and His mind. She has a helmet like His....She wears the whole armor of God, and in particular, she is wearing that helmet of salvation, not only to guard her thoughts, but to have His mind, meaning that she occupied and even obsessed with loving His Word. She delights in His words of love spoken directly and specifically to her.

Are you hiding out in your present circumstance? Arise my Love and come away with Him. He wants you to fly with wings as eagles, to mount up and fly. Leave the safety of

your hiding place and by faith trust Him to keep you. Trust in that Grace that He gives you to go with Him. Come boldly to the Throne of Grace, to find grace and mercy. There is a mercy seat, stained with His blood, a remembrance of that Cross, where He bore all your griefs, and all your sorrows and sins. He put them all away, now gaze upon His life, (the life is in the blood) and rejoice in the Mercy He has given. Grace is the wings to fly.

He wants you to soar in His Love. No longer hide in fear. His perfect Love casts out fear, and there is no fear in love. Can you trust His Love for you? Let Him kiss you with the kisses of His mouth, and equip you with His Word of Love. You can face anything when you know you are truly loved. This is your whole armor of God, His Word that says; "... I have loved YOU with an everlasting Love, therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you." Jer. 31:3 Jeremiah also declared "For I know the thoughts I think toward you, thoughts of peace, and not evil, to give you an expected end." Jer. 29:11 That expected end is to win Christ as your Bridegroom.

The apostle Paul admonished the Corinthians; "Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." II Cor. 11:1-3

Oh the simplicity of His Grace, His Mercy, His Love. Paul's Gospel is simple... it has the key to the whole Word of God. Do not let others condemn you... or complicate your life with doing and "don'ting." Let it be simple. Love is simple and holds many intricate things, yet never departs from the first love. True love, which is not to be imitated! Always the Cross! Always the Mercy seat, always The Throne of Grace! How do I keep going with God, no matter what? It is simple. Grace. I do not lead a perfect life. But He called me out from among the camp, to go with Him, out from among the craggy places, out from where I was hiding, He sought me. I heard His voice, and rose up, and came away with

Him. Out of my comfort Zone, to fly in a Heavenly Zone, with Him. It is His Grace. It is His Love, by Faith which worketh by Love. It is by His Spirit, and it is His Word. "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, 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." Gal. 2:20. He gave me His faith to go.

He is seeking you to go without the camp... will you go? Will you be like the little female wood duck who comes out of her hiding place, to go with that colorful lonely little male wood duck, with the stripes on His back and be His bride? I pray you will hear His call...and Go with this Man.

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## REJECTION

He was my fellow for five beautiful years  
We shared laughter, we shared tears.  
We dined, we danced, we talked for hours  
Never was there another love like ours!

I was his gal and he was my guy  
Quickly the joy-filled days went by!  
His jokes, his songs, the notes he'd send  
We vowed our love would never end!

Suddenly he's gone, he has someone new  
She's younger, blonde, with eyes of blue.  
My heart is broken, tears won't go away  
My dear little son started kindergarten today!

Rita Kauser



# Our Broken

## Alabaster Vessel

*"Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom He raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with Him. Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment." John 12:1-3*

When reading this portion of Scripture, the thought of our individual ointment of spikenard spoke deeply to me. We have read the story of that home in Bethany, where Jesus of Nazareth often visited and hallowed the spot by His presence. Martha was a bundle of activity; she and Peter would have made a dangerous pair of co-workers before the Paraclete bridled their activities for His own holy purpose.

With Mary, however, the study is different because she was humble and teachable, and had learned HOW to worship the Lord, HOW to wait upon Him for His directions for her life. The Holy Spirit leaves a happy, peaceful record of this woman, and a good pattern for us to emulate. 25

Her gift to Jesus prior to His burial was a most expensive gift, and she was not a rich woman. For that reason, it was a sacrificial gift. The Holy Spirit gave her discernment, and may it be said of her, she may have been the only one of all His disciples who really discerned His coming death and resurrection. In the Spirit, she acted and anointed her beloved Savior against the day of His death and burial. Christ acknowledged the act as such and commending her for it, declared that wherever the good news of the Gospel was carried, so also would be carried the record of a true worshipper of God in Spirit and in Truth.

Did the flesh rebel at such apparent sacrifice and expense? Read the record and see that Satan's man, who carried the purse of the disciples, loudly protested. The "old man" and the devil do not wish to acknowledge God, because neither of

them can discern God's thoughts nor know His ways Isa. 55:8-9

Mary didn't receive the praise of men when she anointed Him, but blessed be God, that work will stand the test of fire (I Cor. 3:14), and she already had the witness that it was acceptable unto God. The disciples were slow of heart to believe and act. They, too, were upbraided because they did not discern the real meaning of this sacrifice.

What a contrast Mary's actions were on resurrection morning to those of the other disciples of Jesus, who were mourning His decease. While there were several Marys at His tomb, Mary of Bethany was not so unbelieving as to bow before the grave's trophy. She was tuning in on the "Hallelujah Chorus," because she was a discerning worshiper. Her very absence at the tomb proclaimed that JESUS IS VICTOR! Sometimes, our very lack of activity speaks more in the Christian walk than much restless activity. Christ was both her Sabbath and her Resurrection, and all she had to do was believe and rejoice.

26       What is the practical application of the alabaster box to you and me. Each of us for our dilatory ways may sigh and say, "What a privilege Mary had! Would that I could have lived then and be able to bring my costly ointment," then excuse ourselves and say that we are doing the best we can. Has it ever occurred to you what a costly thing life is--that life of yours and mine? Even natural life is costly to someone. Someone paid the price of our life here and hereafter. Our blessed Creator, who is the world's greatest Economist said: "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" More than asking this question, He was the only One qualified to answer it, both in theory and in practice.

May the Holy Spirit reveal to us just what that beautiful experience of Mary of Bethany can mean to us, seeing our own lives are as a treasure in earthen vessels. We are privileged to make glad the heart of our Redeemer by presenting a voluntary sacrifice of the ointment of our lives. The vessel must be broken before the odor of the ointment can freely ascend--"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite

heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.” Psa. 51:17

After we are saved, the Lord begins the interior-decorating process of our lives. We may be elated over the gracious gifts He has bestowed upon us, and subconsciously become proud. The Lord then must rid us of every excess weight by a turn in our circumstances. He uses adverse things to cut loose many weights shackling His people. If we are exercised by God’s will for our lives, we will become effectual worshippers. We need not envy Mary --- Let go! God will show us His pleasure, even though to others, our worship is misunderstood.

First God wants the perfume of our lives for His own pleasure, but He is unselfish, for the perfume of a saint’s sacrificing life envelops and stimulates other believers. Paul understood this and wrote to the Romans: “I beseech you, therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (12:1). Jesus sacrificed His life to blot out our sins by dying on the cross. Today, God’s pleasure is in a living sacrifice, which is a perfume distributed by the “heavenly Apothecary,” the Holy Spirit, issuing from the Divine Life in believers. It is: CHRIST-IN-YOU-THE-HOPE-OF-GLORY.

27

--Neva Tate Shultz

## A LITTLE GIRL’S DOXOLOGY

A little five-year-old girl had been attending the church kindergarten. Each day before the children were dismissed the teacher had them sing the Doxology, which the little five-year-old loved to sing, but in her own words: “Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures, here we go!”

\* It isn’t difficult to make a mountain out of a molehill. Just add some dirt!

\* The devil makes a falsehood stick by adding to it a few grains of truth.

\* Hem your blessings with gratitude lest they unravel.

## ISAIAH 49

(Concluded)

28

Moreover, she is willing to claim His Words and promises in her behalf. "And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength." We are confronted here with the fact that God had His purposes for this people when they were formed "from the womb." He has indeed brought His servant Jacob, "again to him." However, the pattern manifest here also tells us, "...Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD,..." The voice here must surely be that of the faithful remnant, which will hear His Voice and come forth as the nucleus of the nation which will be born in one day. These are, in fact, represented by the five foolish virgins of Matt. 25 who had taken no oil in their vessels. They must surely have gone away and found it, else there would have been no reason to return, but they were too late to gain entrance into the marriage supper of The Lamb. They remain, however, spirit-filled leaders of those left on earth, in learning the choice lessons listed in these verses. This order is confirmed in the following verse which also outlines the occupation of Israel after they have been restored to the place God had long ago ordained for them.

"And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel:..." that is, it will most assuredly be the faithful remnant that will spark life into the rest of "Jacob." We learn further that "...I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth." V. 6 This is exactly what the restored nation of Israel, as a whole, will do as they fulfill the "great commission" of Matt. 28:19-20 "Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations**,... Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:..."

All of the above blessings through Israel will come to pass in this world, but the following portion of this chapter is a direct message to them, indicative of their present circumstance. "Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One,..." This Speaker is none other than Jesus, The Messiah, indeed the "Redeemer of Israel," the Holy One of God, and His address is "... to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation

abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.” V. 7 This same Chosen People is portrayed in all these descriptions. They are the ones despised by men and abhorred by the nations, even at this present time, and they have, since the beginning of Gentile Times, been a “... servant of rulers,...” That is all about to change. The day is quickly coming when “Kings shall see and rise, princes also shall worship, **because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.**” Those same nations, which have rejected and despised this people, will now most assuredly recognize that God is for Israel, and He has indeed chosen them. These nations, as well as Israel, will know the very process of God’s intervention in behalf of His People, for “Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;” V. 8 The “acceptable time,” simply refers to the time in which this once rebellious nation has finally dropped all their defenses and accepted the Promised Messiah. When that happens, God will hear their cries and it will be a day of salvation wherein He will help and preserve them. Such salvation will lead to the “ministry,” He long ago ordained for them. They will be given “...for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;” During the Millennium, Israel will literally “own,” the earth and the “desolate heritages,” are the nations to whom they will minister. They will be able to “... say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places. They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.” V. 9-10 This is truly the utopia for which all of humanity has searched, and it will come only when Jesus brings forth His Kingdom Of Righteousness with the nation of Israel at the helm as His representatives. They will be effective witnesses, for they will have experienced all of these glorious blessings in their own lives, and will thus be able to impart them to the nations round about. These glorious riches wherein none “...shall hunger nor thirst, neither shall the

heat nor sun smite them:..." will undoubtedly be literal, natural, provisions, but they must also be spiritual for "...I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted." V. 11 This description presents a marvelous likeness to the truth which Paul imparted to the saints at Ephesus. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:" Eph 1:3 These "mountains...and my highways..." which "...shall be exalted," speak beautifully of the spiritual riches from above that will be forthcoming for those on the earth at that time. They are enjoyed by the Church today, but Israel will lead these earthly nations in those same paths of righteousness wherein Jesus, The Messiah is exalted and pours forth a spiritual trove of heavenly treasure as well as the promised natural riches. The spiritual bounty, however, is especially emphasized here, for "Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim." V. 12 The "far" land seems to be the place from whence all these others emanate, and those from "the land of Sinim," are especially interesting. That word means "thorn," and would therefore be closely associated with Sinai, which means exactly the same thing. There will truly come that day when both Israel and the world will recognize that the blessing they assumed came through the law, comes in reality only through Christ. Such a revelation will produce praise only unto Him.

"Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted." V. 13 Though the nations will be beneficiaries of the aforementioned benefits, they must also acknowledge that they come through an exalted Israel. It is directly BECAUSE "...the LORD hath **comforted his people...**" that these same nations may now be blessed. That process has surely been a rather long and arduous one at times, and many had undoubtedly lost hope for, as noted here, "... Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me." V. 14 These would be the words of a nation steeped in unbelief and idolatry, but God has a different view. "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." The outcome for Israel has proven beyond doubt that God did not

forget His promises to Abraham and this nation. Natural love may fail, but Divine Love never will. Men often measure what God will or will not, do by their own natural inclinations, and some have concluded that even a Christian's conduct could be so bad as to merit being "cut off." God declares here, using Israel as an example, that "...they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." His basis for that redemption is "Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me." V. 16 This would be an eternal "engraving," symbolized by the nails driven through the palms of His Hands for us. The redeemed forever belong to Him, regardless of the gross errors they may make in their lives, and in this case of "Zion," or Jerusalem, ... thy walls are continually before me," meaning that the protection of this city belongs only unto Him, and that task is continually uppermost in His Mind. Such benefit for Zion goes much farther than just protection from their enemies. Zion continues to be the subject of this portion, and "Thy children shall make haste;..." V. 17 The inference here is that these children of Israel should make haste to the repentance outlined in V. 4. All the glorious benefits manifested in this chapter are predicated upon that fact. This present text also indicates that after they make haste to seek Him, "... thy destroyers and they that made thee waste shall go forth of thee." Scripture is very plain that once Israel is repentant to the point that they freely accept their Messiah, He will arise for them and summarily defeat all their enemies. That is not the end of their story. Those enemies may be thrust out of their midst, but this elect is next exhorted to "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." V. 18 This pattern is very familiar, as noted at the beginning of this chapter. Just as other ranks of the Church provide the "ornament," or "adornment" for the Bride of Christ, these nations, the sheep nations of the world which were **not** destroyed and "went forth of thee,..." will "...gather themselves together, and come to thee," as the "ornament" or "finery" for Israel, The Bride of Jehovah. That adornment seems to be further reflected in the following text.

31

"For thy waste and thy desolate places, and the land of thy destruction, shall even now be too narrow by reason of the

inhabitants, and they that swallowed thee up shall be far away.” God’s Word is very plain that Israel has never occupied all the land that God promised to Abraham. That new generation of Israel, which marched so triumphantly into the land of Canaan under the leadership of Joshua, and experienced many glorious and miraculous victories, never did drive out all their enemies. Today, even though they are back in their land, many of these other nations are determined to make their dwelling “...too narrow by reason of the inhabitants,...” The Palestinians, at this present time, are determined to occupy the land of Israel, but the promise in this verse emphatically indicates that “...they that swallowed thee up shall be far away.” This simply means that the day is coming when ALL the land which God bequeathed to Abraham will be firmly in the hands of Israel. There will be adequate space for this nation to expand and grow as Micah emphatically promises, “But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.” Mic. 4:4

32 Isaiah tells us that there will be an influx of inhabitants into Israel because all nations whence they have fled will be forced to return them. “The children which thou shalt have, after thou hast lost the other, shall say again in thine ears, The place is too strait for me: give place to me that I may dwell. Then shalt thou say in thine heart, Who hath begotten me these, seeing I have lost my children, and am desolate, a captive, and removing to and fro? and who hath brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; these, where had they been?” V. 21-22 The children “thou shalt have after thou hast lost the other,...” describe “new creation Israel,” which will replace those who were lost when that rebellious nation was under the law, and a product of unbelief and idolatry. The promise to her, and all these new children now, is “Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders.” V. 22 This message speaks plainly of the fact that all Israel will be gathered back to their homeland, and the Gentiles will facilitate the process. These Gentile nations will most assuredly be the “ornament” of V. 18, for these “...kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust

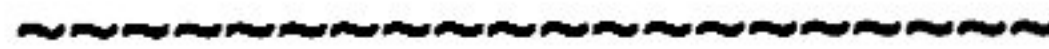


of thy feet;...” V. 23 Such nations will honor Israel, even bowing before them “with their face toward the earth....” This verse has been listed by some as being a “difficult text,” the reason being that God has never ordained worship of any but Himself. Some have concluded that it simply denotes demonstrations showing the highest honor and regard for Israel, which is absolutely true. However, due to some other statements in this chapter, we are confident that there is something much deeper on display. The pattern here is somewhat akin to that of Rev. 3 where they of “... the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship **before thy feet**, and to know that I have loved thee.” Rev. 3:9 These “worshippers” do not worship that bridal company identified here as the Church at Philadelphia, but since that choice company is already gathered at the feet of Jesus, this group must, of necessity, bow before it when they come to worship Him!

Likewise, our current verse does not indicate that these Gentile nations would bow to worship Israel but rather that they would come to worship God, and since this choice nation is already in His Presence, they must bow before God’s Chosen People. Isaiah has already proclaimed “Thus saith The LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and His Holy One,....Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.” V. 7 That is, they must acknowledge that this new state of Israel is the Very Work Of God. By the time these words are actually fulfilled, the nations will know without doubt that God has chosen Israel! This truth is further reinforced by the fact that “...**all flesh shall know** that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy (Israel’s) Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.” V. 26

The remainder of verse 23 emphasizes the fact that “... thou (Israel) shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.” Just as the nations have learned this valuable lesson, so Israel will know by first-hand experience that Jesus is LORD. They have indeed learned to wait for Him and His Glorious Deliverance, even during a very devastating time, but He has proven beyond doubt that He is Faithful. He then asks the question which would explain how this new state of affairs for The Jews has come to pass. “Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered?”

The glorious answer to this question lies in the fact that God did surrender this people to be “captives of the mighty,” way back in 606 BC when Nebuchadnezzar carried them away to Babylon. They were indeed “lawful,” captives because God had ordained it. However, that long era has come to an end, and now “...thus saith the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children.” V. 25 These nations no longer have the liberty to oppress this people, and any who try will find themselves in direct contention with The LORD. He has delivered “the prey,” and will most assuredly “...save thy children,” meaning “new creation Israel.” Furthermore, “I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine:...” V. 26 The nations, designated in these last two verses, must be distinguished from those of verses 22-23 which are gathering Israel back to their land in a rather loving and nurturing fashion. These would be considered “sheep” nations. These latter nations, however, would be defined as “goat” nations, and they will suffer the most destructive and devastating wrath of the tribulation period; the battle of Armageddon. God will take vengeance on all those that would oppress His People, but this chapter closes with the clear proclamation that “...all flesh shall know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.” The full scale redemption of This Choice Nation stands as living proof of God’s Very Presence!



They're saying things that are not true;

O blessed Lord, what shall I do?

*He answers, "What is that to thee?"*

*"Your duty is to follow me."*

*Some go to church to meet a friend;*

*Some go their idle time to spend;*

*Some go to sit and doze and nod—*

*But we should go to worship God!*



# Our Corn Crib

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

## Tracts

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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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Destiny of the Wicked	Judgement Seat of Christ	Words on Eternal Security
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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
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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

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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
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