

Grace Glory

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'Loving His Appearing'

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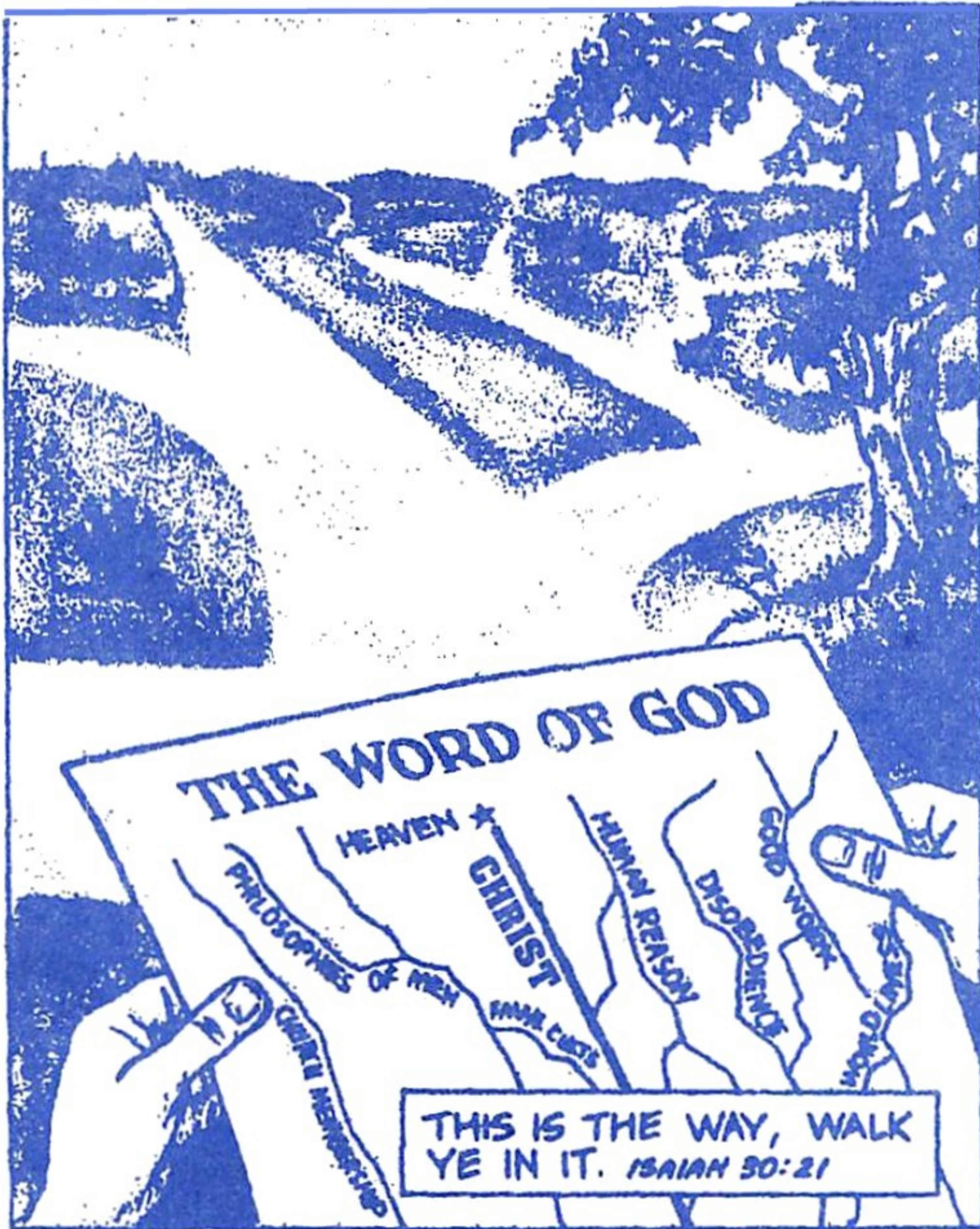
Number 2



Follow peace
with all
men, and holiness,
without which no
man shall see the
LORD
Hebrews 12:14

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GOD'S ROAD MAP



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Editor: Gene Hawkins



By Gene Hawkins

“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.” Psa. 2:1-4

This is a very familiar portion of scripture in regard to the end time, and one can only wonder if God has already begun His laugh of derision in view of present world conditions, wherein men seem to think that they can solve the world’s problems with their own puny ingenuity and human effort. Prophecy students have long understood that this Psalm graphically portrays the rebellion of the nations against God and the coming World Empire ruled by King Jesus. We would note that the root problem here, and that which is clearly evident in this present evil age, is that these rulers “...take counsel together against the LORD...” signifying that men have adopted their own counsel or instruction book, thus completely ignoring and replacing the counsel of The Lord. This simply means that rebellious man neither accepts nor believes the Word of God! This is true in all walks of life, be it in the social world, the political world, or the religious world. This text is directly addressed to political leaders who absolutely refuse to surrender their power to Jesus, and their unmitigated refusal to listen to God’s Word is clearly manifest in a number of ways today. 3

Recent erratic weather patterns have once again fueled the assertion that man-made global warming must be addressed, and even though some scientists have pronounced “climate change” a hoax, other proponents of such “counsel” are hard pressed to present a credible explanation as to how the same global warming atmosphere can produce temperatures of 117 degrees in Sydney, Australia, while at the same time, sub zero cold with

massive amounts of snow are experienced in North America. This is one major reason why these experts changed the title of their doctrine from “global warming” to “climate change.” How can you explain steamy hot conditions on one side of the globe when the other side of the same globe is simultaneously recording record low temperatures? If we are amused by it, we can surely understand why it would bring a bit of a smile to God’s Countenance. Forest fires in California have also been attributed to “climate change,” as the infamous Santa Ana winds were so intense that they knocked down power lines thus igniting these fires. Some have “suspected” that this is what caused the massive fires in Northern California back in October.

4 Massive mudslides resulting from intense rains and the lack of vegetation destroyed by these horrendous fires has also brought loss of human life and property in large areas of California. Time Magazine also adds a bit to the confusion surrounding these catastrophes with this assertion in an article relating to “long-term climate change.” “The effect of climate change on the Santa Ana winds remains uncertain, though a 2006 study in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters* suggested that warming could shift the winds’ season leading to larger areas burned by fires.” Such language surely indicates that men do not really know whether or not their idea of climate change actually caused all this devastation

Severe cold, snow, and flooding have also been attributed to “climate change.” According to the Boston Globe, following a massive storm which brought record low temperatures over a number of Northern states and left snows of over 5 feet in some areas, along with flooding through the streets of Boston, “Mayor Martin Walsh said ‘If anyone wants to question global warming, just see where the flood zones are. Some of those zones did not flood 30 years ago.’” He failed to mention the man-made changes in some of the terrain surrounding Boston over the past few years, which some believe were in part responsible for the flooding of which he spoke when the high ocean tides arrived in Boston at the same time as the snow storm. We would add our own cliché in regard to all these events by stating, “if anyone wants to see a living proof of God’s Word, all of these incidents are it.” Jesus

foretold many of them in Luke 21:25. “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, (which control ocean tides) and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; **the sea and the waves roaring**; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are **coming on the earth**: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.” The reason all these things are happening is because God’s Word has declared that such phenomenon would most assuredly come to pass. The raging waters of the sea are an apt description of the unrest among the nations, but are also literal. The waves most assuredly did roar through the streets of Boston, and heavy rains became raging waves forcing their way down the hillsides of California, all in fulfillment of Jesus words of warning for these end days. Once again, the problem is that men simply refuse this counsel which God has already given, believing that they can control everything around them. This is the great secret behind the absurd insistence on man-made global warming. Men want to be in control and virtually refuse to accept the fact that there are some things which **ONLY** God can do.

5

We can only wonder if modern day rulers have ever bothered to read the long questionnaire which God gave to Job, a man who thought he had both the wisdom and knowledge to make decisions for his own life. How we would love to tender such a test to these environmental experts in regard to “climate change.”

“Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.... Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? When I made the cloud the garment thereof,... And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?... Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war? By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth? Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder; To cause it to

rain on the earth, where no man is;.. Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew? Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it? The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee? Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are?...Who can number the clouds in wisdom? or who can stay the bottles of heaven,” Job 38:4-37 Job would had to have answered a resounding NO to all these questions in regard to his own ability, and the lesson for him and all mankind is simple. Only God has all these elements affecting both heaven and earth under His control, and men today would do well to recognize the same counsel. However, their attitude toward God seems to be exactly the same as that noted above. “Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.”

6 Control is the driving force behind the doctrine and counsel of global warming. Pres. Trump was severely criticized both at home and abroad for his decision to withdraw America from the Paris Climate Accords because he stated that it was bad for America. Since many of the regulations imposed by the former administration have been reversed, and the tax reduction bill passed, the stifled economy in the U.S. has skyrocketed. One can only wonder why other national leaders do not follow the same example set by the Pres. in an effort to stimulate their own dismal financial woes, but apparently they want to continue bringing about more government control than ever around the entire globe. We would warn all men today that the current surge in the stock market and booming prosperity of this nation does not mean that the U.S. or the world is headed for utopia. Quite the opposite is true, for scripture is very plain that one world government control is swiftly approaching. Present day restrictions, which are being implemented by governments around the entire globe, are simply precursors of the more stringent demands which will be made by the one world government of the antichrist. There will come a day when the man of sin will try to impose his own will on every individual dwelling on planet earth and will cause “...all, both

small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Rev. 13:16-17 Those who refuse that mark will be slain, and with such restrictions and loss of citizens, we can only wonder what the global economy will look like at that time. However, all men must be put on notice at this present hour that the entire world at this very moment is being pre-conditioned to accept such unilateral one world government control.

"Why do the heathen rage, (tumultuously assemble) and the people imagine a vain thing?" Many have long seen and taught that the heathen is a reference to Gentile Nations while the people are an apt description of Israel. This tumultuous assembly of the nations teaches that the rulers of this world will in no wise willingly surrender their power when Jesus comes to set up His kingdom and reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. The vain thing imagined by the nation of Israel reveals the fact that the peace covenant which they have formed with the antichrist (Dan. 9:27) will be broken and come to naught. However, this same scenario 7 also proclaims a very specific description of the environmental community in these latter days, who are rather tumultuous and demanding in their demeanor. Indeed, they do imagine the rather vain or empty premise of controlling the climate of this world. Despite all the rhetoric which literally denies the truth of God's Word, believers should be encouraged that not one iota of God's prophecy concerning these end-time erratic weather conditions will come to naught. Though abusive regulations have been imposed in various places over the past several years, the so-called effects of global warming have not lessened, but have instead dramatically increased, all because God's Word has declared it. It is rather interesting that the article concerning the extreme heat in Australia stated that the 117 degree temperature had not been reached in Sydney since 1939. No record can be found that this 1939 bench mark was attributed to global warming, meaning that God had the control then just as He does now and man had nothing to do with it.

Scripture is also very clear that God can manipulate His

weather in any manner He desires, for there will come a glorious day when “The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.” Isa 35:1 There is absolutely no account given whereby men are able to pin point where moisture on this earth will and will not fall, but God can, and indeed will. There was also a picture on the internet showing snow in the Sahara. Experts say that low temperatures are very common there, but snow is a rarity. Such evidence shows clearly that God is most emphatically changing the “normal” weather conditions of this world, and it is absolutely certain that these so-called effects of climate change will continue both in frequency and intensity until all the judgment of God is poured out in the tribulation period. Jesus issued this specific warning to Jerusalem. “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place,...Then let them which be in Judaea flee....But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter,...” Matt. 24:15-20 Could He be warning Jerusalem of very extreme weather conditions like unto those which are currently manifest in those Northern States of the U.S.?

The citations quoted above, which describe conditions that will exist when the one world government of the antichrist will prevail, along with the impending difficulty in Jerusalem, will not take place until the middle of the tribulation week. They are thus not intended to strike fear in the hearts of those looking for Jesus to come. Hopefully, believers will be comforted by the fact that the entire Church will be in heaven by that time. That does not mean, however, that we can in any wise dismiss these facts or entertain the premise; “whatever will be will be,” because if God’s people do not heed Paul’s admonitions in I Thessalonians 5, much suffering is on the way. “Therefore (because you are children of the light. V. 5) let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; ...But let us, who are of the day, be sober,.. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,” V. 6-9 The references to “wrath” and “salvation” in this verse do not speak of hell, because that deliverance is guaranteed for every

believer the moment he accepts Jesus as his Savior. Rather, this promised salvation means that we need not spend one day on this earth after the “wrath of the tribulation” has begun, for the Church at Philadelphia was promised: “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from (out of) the hour of temptation,...” Rev. 3:10 Sadly not all believers will qualify for this great promise, for not all have “...kept the word...” of His patience meaning that all men do not patiently wait for Him and allow Him to perform the work in their lives which is manifest in these Philadelphia believers. All do not measure up to the characteristics evidenced by this assembly. Not only so, but not all believers at this present day are looking for Jesus and thus He will catch them unawares as a thief. V. 2,4 The bulk of the Church, symbolized by the innumerable company of Rev. 7, will most assuredly endure some of the effects of that period, for it is specifically stated that “...These are they which came out of great tribulation,...” (Rev. 7:14) meaning that some Christians will indeed taste a portion of the aforementioned wrath, even though God did not appoint that path for them. They are there because they went to sleep! 9

The latter part of Psalm 2 is once again directed specifically to the leaders who took counsel against The LORD in the beginning text, and did in no wise keep His Word. “Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.” Psa. 2:10-12 This counsel given to the nations is applicable to all men. God’s amusement in v. 4 has now turned to anger because of rebellion and unbelief. The message is simple: surrender completely to The LORD and give Him your full allegiance. It is high time that men ravenously take hold of God’s Word rather than adhere to the counsel of men!

THE OVERCOMER'S REPROACH

Lois M. Neidholt

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Gen. 3:15

Far back in the beginning of time - approximately four thousand years before the birth of Jesus - God had promised a Deliverer for fallen humanity. This promise was handed down from generation to generation, and a living faith dwelt within the breasts of many, that God would fulfill His promise. Over three thousand years had passed by since this promise was made, and Israel in her wanderings and conflicts had become weary in waiting and looking for the Messiah. They had become a sign-seeking nation.

10 During the reign of Ahaz, the king of Judah, the prophet Isaiah declared --- "The Lord spake again unto Ahaz, saying, Ask thee a sign of the Lord thy God ... And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David ... Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His Name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:10-14 Bible scholars and teachers through all ages have always read this "Behold, a virgin shall conceive..." and have never doubted but that it referred to the virgin birth of Christ. This truth has been done away with by the modernistic infidel scholars, who have taken the liberty to break the force of many great passages in the Bible by trying to prove that Jesus was not the Son of God. In the Revised Standard Version Bible, which is not a Bible, this passage reads, "Behold, A YOUNG WOMAN shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His Name Immanuel."

God had told Ahaz the king to ask a sign of the Lord, and Ahaz said, "I will not ask, neither will I tempt the Lord." Then God addressed this prophecy to the whole house of David --- "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son." The Lord was saying here, "Look! Gaze intently! Behold! I am going to show

you a sign, a sign that you will never forget." Ahaz gave attention to these words - "A virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son." That was a sign. Now, if Ahaz was spiritually minded, his thoughts went back immediately to Gen. 3:15; for God had said that the Seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head. Oh, what a marvelous prophecy, and such an outstanding sign. For a young woman to conceive and bear a son is no sign. Millions of young women have conceived; but, up until that time, no virgin had conceived. But God had a special virgin in mind, for in the Hebrew it reads "the virgin," not "a virgin."

"And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call His Name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His Kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that Holy Thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God" - Luke 1:26-35.

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with Child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public

example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His Name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with Child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His Name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: and knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called His Name JESUS" - Mt. 1:18-25.

12 Joseph and Mary lived under the period of the Law. Therefore, Joseph being a just man and highly esteemed, and Mary having been brought up in the temple, knew the Mosaic law and every law governing any act of transgression with its heavy penalties. Within this lovely story of the virgin conception and birth, are marvelous typical truths which are hidden from the surface. Mary, knowing the cruel ostracism of the Scribes and Pharisees and the humiliating indignities which would fall upon her because of the law governing such cases, had reason to fear. Therefore, the angel's comforting words - "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God." Such favor - that God had chosen a weak earthen vessel as a depository for His Seed, and a channel through whom the body of His Son should come. The One who was to go to Calvary's Cross was the true Sacrifice for you and for me. This was all in accordance with His Word - "Wherefore, when He cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering Thou wouldest not, but a body hast Thou prepared Me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin Thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the Book it is written of Me) to do Thy will, O God"

- Hebrews 10:5-7. If Israel's heart had been ready to receive their Messiah, they would have believed the sign - the virgin should conceive and bring forth a Son. Joseph, likewise, had reason to fear; and, while pondering as to putting her away privily, the angel of the Lord also spoke to him, "Fear not." The power to enact the law was in Israel's hands, which brought Mary under the indignities and contempt of the law covered under the law of jealousies, as recorded in Numbers 5:20-28. Mary's trust was in the God of Israel, who had chosen her as the vessel to bring His Son from the palaces of glory to redeem mankind.

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law" - Gal. 4:4. Isaiah had promised to Israel - "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His Name Immanuel" - Isaiah 7:14. The Lord Jehovah has a set time for everything, and His clock never runs ahead nor is it slow. Therefore, approximately seven hundred and forty years after Isaiah's prophecy, the fullness of the time came and the sign that the virgin should conceive and bear a Son was fulfilled in the midst of Israel. Yet they did not believe that this Babe was the true Messiah. As stated previously, Mary came under the dealings of the Law; yet it was evident that she had conceived by the Holy Ghost, and was the honored vessel that should convey the Son of God from the glory that He might become a partaker of flesh and blood. It was most necessary that He become a partaker of flesh and blood, that He could go to Calvary and bear our sins away. "But we behold Him who hath been made a little lower than the angels, even Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God He should taste of death for every man. For it became Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings." 13

Heb. 2:9,10 R.V. The death and resurrection of God's Dear Son has brought many sons unto glory. When the Son was in the bosom of His Father, His "delights were with the sons of men." Prov. 8:31 Though He was equal with God, His heart longed to see Heaven graced by many sons. The humiliation and condescension of Christ is expressed in His coming to this earth as a Babe. "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross." Phil. 2:6-8

14 Through the Apostle Paul's epistles are revealed spiritual truths for the believer, which have been hidden from the surface in this story of the virgin conception and birth. Paul, the Apostle to the Church, unfolds to us the great mystery of Christ in the believer - "the hope of glory." He writes, "God ... called me by His grace, to reveal His Son in me." Gal.1:15,16 Christ revealed in the believer is completely sovereign, absolutely independent of all human works or efforts. The new birth is sovereignly brought about. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Eph. 2:8,9 God will not permit the natural man to take any credit to himself for anything spiritual or of the new creation. "God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." Gal. 4:6 Paul was concerned that Christ be formed within the believer. "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you." Gal. 4:19 Growing in the Lord entails reproach and suffering. The cross must come before the crown, as humiliation must come before exaltation. God is "bringing many sons unto glory," who will be qualified to reign with His Son Jesus Christ.

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with

Him:..." II Tim. 2:12 When Christ reigns within the believer, trials and sufferings for the Lord will follow as we walk with Him. Christ Jesus, by His own precious blood, redeemed us - spirit, soul, and body; therefore, Paul asks. "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I Cor. 6:19,20.

As Mary was divinely chosen as the weak earthen vessel which was the depository for the Seed of God and a channel through whom the body of His Son should come to this earth, likewise the Lord would have His own saints so yield their bodies to Him as earthen vessels which contain the Christ Life. "But we have this Treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." II Cor. 4:7 Heaven will be enriched by the sons who go back to glory, even as earth was enriched by the Son who came from glory. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." I John 3:2-3.

15

For this tired old vessel, there's just one resort -
To make for the harbour - the time is so short.
My trust is in Jesus, He'll pull me to port.
I sail in the might of His Name.

Jean Wilson

THE WORDS OF JESUS

"Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." Matt. 6:32. Remember these words of the Lord Jesus. This comforting assurance though spoken by Jesus regarding temporal things, may be appropriated by the child of God amid all the vicissitudes of life. How it should lull all misgivings; silence all murmurings; lead to lowly, unquestioning submissiveness. Where can a child be safer than in a father's hands? Where can a believer be better than in the hands of his heavenly Father? We are poor judges of what is best. We are under safe guidance with His infallible wisdom. If we are tempted in a moment of rash presumption to say, "All these things are against me," let this word rebuke the hasty and unworthy surmise. Unerring wisdom and Fatherly love have pronounced all things to be needful.

16 My soul, is there aught that is disturbing thy peace? Are providences dark, or crosses heavy? Are spiritual props removed, creature comforts curtailed, gourds smitten and withered like grass? Write on each — "Your Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." It was He who increased thy burden., Why? It was needed. It was supplanting Him; He had to remove it! It was He who crossed the worldly schemes, marred thy cherished hopes. Why? It was needed. There was a lurking thorn in the coveted path. There was some higher spiritual blessing in reversion. He prevented thee with the blessings of His goodness.

Seek to cherish a spirit of more childlike confidence in the heavenly Father's will. Thou art not left un-befriended and alone to buffet the storms of the wilderness. The Marah's as well as the Elim's are appointed by Him. A gracious pillar-cloud is before thee. Follow it through sunshine and storm. He may lead thee about, but He will not lead thee wrong. Unutterable tenderness is the characteristic of all His dealings. "Blessed be His name," says a tried believer, "He maketh my feet like hind's feet, (literally, "equalleth" them), "He equalleth them for every precipice, every ascent, every leap."

And Who is it that speaks this quieting word? it is He who Himself felt the preciousness of the assurance during His own awful sufferings, that all were needed, and all appointed; that from Bethlehem's cradle to Calvary's Cross there was not the redundant thorn in the chaplet of sorrow which He, the Man of sorrows bore. Every drop in His bitter cup was mingled by His Father. "This cup which Thou givest me to drink, shall I not drink it?" Oh, if HE could extract comfort in this hour of inconceivable agony, in the thought that His Father's hand lighted the fearful furnace-fires, what strong consolation is there in the same truth to all His suffering people!

What? One superfluous drop? One redundant pang? One unneeded cross? Hush the secret atheism! He gave His Son for thee! He calls Himself "the Father." Whatever the trial under which thou art smarting, let the word of a gracious Savior be "like oil thrown on the fretful sea;" let it dry every rebellious tear-drop. He, thine unerring Parent, knoweth that thou hast need of this as well as all these things.

— First Published in 1861 17

HIS NAME IS JESUS

Jesus, Saviour, precious Name,
Throughout eternal years the same.
Refreshing, clear as drops of dew;
Shining forth as sunbeams true,
Beautiful as heaven's blue,
Jesus, precious Jesus!

Jesus, Saviour, precious Name,
We with joy its worth proclaim.
Precious more than rubies rare;
None with it can e'en compare,
In heaven, earth, or anywhere.
Jesus, precious Jesus!

Jesus, Saviour, precious Name,
Low we bow as we exclaim,
It is glorious, great, sublime!
Harmonic with angelic rhyme,
Soothing as the organ's chime.
Jesus, precious Jesus!

Author Unknown

REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.” Prov. 3:5

Trust! What a wonderful word. It literally means “to hie for refuge, to trust, be confident or sure:--be bold” and is a beautiful description of faith. There are a multitude of “trusts” in this world which do not really measure up to this definition, but Solomon exhorts us to “Trust in the LORD...” He most assuredly must be the object of our faith. Paul declares this same glorious message. “Now faith is the substance (support, assurance, confidence) of things hoped for, the evidence (proof) of things not seen. 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. 11:1&6 The apostle then brings forth a great number of examples throughout the rest of this chapter demonstrating faith, and its reward, in living color. He begins with v. 3 explaining how faith believes that God took nothing and made something out of it, for “... things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” Trusting in such a premise requires faith which absolutely defies human reason.

18

Solomon begins to introduce the glorious rewards of faith, exhorting: “In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Prov. 3:6 This means that God is searching for those who will exercise full trust in Him rather than partially walking by faith while also putting confidence in the reasoning ways and abilities of men. “... all thy ways,....” truly means all the various avenues and paths which daily confront us. The result of such trust is that He will then direct our every step. The next verse informs us that there is a cost in following such a path, for we must surrender our own thoughts, reasoning, and fleshly intent. “Be not wise in thine own eyes:...” However, the rest of this text records a beautiful reward, for as we relinquish control

of our hearts and minds unto Him we are then able to learn by experience what it means to "... fear the LORD,..." The term does not signify that such trust teaches one to stand trembling in fear before Him just waiting for some kind of retribution as many teach today, for the very first meaning of trust is to "hie (hasten) for refuge or protection." Thus the fear of the Lord cannot mean that a person is consumed with being "afraid" of The Lord, for that would be a contradiction in terms. The word fear rather carries the thought of standing before Him in total awe, reverence and respect. When we do, we too are able to enjoy that glorious feeling of protection and safety and it is an attitude such as this which enables us to then "... depart from evil." Prov. 3:7

David also enlarges on this glorious connection between trust, refuge, and total commitment of our ways unto Him. "In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah." Psa. 62:7-8

19

THE HAND OF GOD

My times are in the Hand of God,
That strong, almighty Hand
Which will not suffer me to fall,
But makes me surely stand.

And when His Hand has pressed me sore,
And I have felt the rod;
What comfort to my soul to know,
'Twas still the Hand of God!

The Hand of God was pierced for me
Upon Golgotha's tree,
When Christ my Savior bore my sins
And suffered there for me.

And when at last there dawns for me
Heaven's great eternal day,
'Twill be the Hand — the Hand of God
That wipes the tears away.

— Grace Robinson

Spiritual Wickedness

Walter Anderson

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Eph 6:12

Let us carefully consider several citations of the Apostle Paul: First, 1 Cor. 2:13, "Comparing spiritual things with spiritual." It could also be rendered, "comparing spirituals with spiritual. In the term "spirituals" there is incorporated in its meaning that which is only a substitute or imitation of the genuine spiritual truth. It may have some points of resemblance, but does not bear the stamp of Scriptural authority. The mature saint must constantly make comparisons of spirituals, for "If thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth," saith the Lord.

The spiritual warfare of the full overcomers is "against spiritual wickedness in high places." The evil of this spiritual or wicked spirit lies in the fact that it often attempts to seduce the saints into accepting a false imitation of what is really spiritual.

20 Another admonition that is to be heeded today is found in Rom. 12:2, "Be not conformed to this age ;" that is, do not allow your mind or spirit to be led off into the spirit evil of this age. Paul adds more light for us in Gal. 1:4, "Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age." The foremost evil of this age is its spiritual wickedness," which is controlled by the prince of the power (authority) of the air, for the whole world lieth in the wicked one. To fully overcome every wile of the devil is indeed a qualification of the full overcomer. During this age, Satan is masquerading himself as an angel of light. II Cor. 11:14,15.

Brother A. S. Copley has written upon this same Subject: "The tendency of the times is to make spiritual things soulish. Men worship soulishly, rather than spiritually. They harness divine things in man-made methods, and cause their flocks to walk as men."

In order for a better understanding of the subject of "spirituals," we may look at the history of the nation of Israel from the Old Testament. Turning to Joshua 6:3,4, we read of the Lord instructing Joshua upon the entrance of Israel into the land of Canaan, "And ye shall compass the city (Jericho) all ye

men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams horns; and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets." Here is plainly illustrated to us the present conflict of the Church. Through our identification with Christ, in His death, burial and resurrection, God "hath raised us up together, and made us to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Our present spiritual position in the heavenlies is comparable to Israel passing through the river Jordan (death) and entering the land of Canaan.

A most formidable fortress city named Jericho stood in the way of their occupation of the land, and of necessity had to be overthrown and laid waste before they could possess it as their inheritance. The name Jericho means "fragrance," as the world appeals to the nostrils of the natural man. It is thus a type of the world which has been already judged at Calvary. "Now is the judgment of this world. Now shall the prince of this world be cast out"—John 12:31. In the march of the Israelites about Jericho, one circuit each day for six days, and seven times on the seventh day, is pictured in graphic language a like encirclement of the earth as seen by the saints of God, with Christ in their midst and blowing their Gospel clarions.

21

This present day which is the sixth in God's calendar; the Church is still encompassing the world although it does not appear that the walls have fallen. This battleground is viewed from Paul in II Cor. 10:3,4: "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh; for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." The phrase "pulling down of strongholds" describes the real world rulers, or the powers behind the throne, who are named "the world rulers of this darkness." They are now being overthrown by mighty spiritual warriors of faith who wrestle with them in the heavenlies. Today, the believer accepts God's judgment upon the world in faith. "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world"—Gal. 6:14.

God honors obedience to His Word. "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days." Marvelous victory indeed! Likewise, with the anointed eye of the Spirit we can see the kingdoms of this world crumble in the

seventh day under the judgments of God—Rev, 11:15.

A solemn warning is given to the Israelites in regard to their possession of any of the spoils of Jericho. "And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it"—Joshua 6:18.

This warning has a like spiritual application. Beware of covetousness in *regard* to anything of the world. Any possessions of this earth must be held in faith alone. This is more fully explained in I Cor. 3:21-23. "Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's." What an enormous wealth is ours in Christ!

22 Failure of Israel to keep the commandment soon appears, resulting in disaster and defeat for the entire nation. "But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing; for Achan, took of the accursed thing, and the anger of the Lord was kindled against the children of Israel." One man, Achan "the troubler," is found possessing the accursed thing. Sister Mary M. Bodie writes concerning this: "This is all fragrant with instruction for us. Ai means "a heap." This connects it with Jericho which we have just seen reduced to a heap. Now these cities represent the world, over which Satan rules, from two viewpoints. Jericho is the whole world, judged by God at Calvary; and Ai represents failure to carry His judgments out in practical life. Faith views the world a ruin, but which, apart from God's presence with us, we are unable to overcome. He refuses to go up with us and give us the victory unless we accept His judgment of the world and actually devote it to death. We must count with God that we have been crucified unto the world, and the world unto us, or else the unjudged evil in us will soon have the ascendancy and we will be overcome as was Achan."

After being defeated at Ai, and suffering great humiliation, Joshua their leader rends his clothes and turning his face toward the ark exclaims, "O Lord, What shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies?" The answer follows: "Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them." All Israel is identified in one man's transgression, and we as a body of believers are identified

in the failure of one of our members.

The offender must be found, so each tribe is brought forward to the Lord, and divided into their respective families, until the guilty one appears. Christ who is walking in the midst of the candlesticks, observes all, Achan, "troubler" is on the spot. "And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done. When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them and behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it."

He saw, coveted, took and hid a goodly Babylonish garment with the silver and gold. A Babylonish garment is also translated "a mantle of Shinar," bringing our thoughts back to the tower of Babel ("confusion"). Anything Babylonish is confusion and herein lies the seductive influence of a goodly Babylonish garment. The garment itself was composed of alluring colors, and exquisite design, making it most appealing to the soulish nature. Behind its beauty lay its sinister evil. It represented a false and counterfeit priesthood. The Levites from whom the lawful priests were taken to minister about the holy things of the Tabernacle, were authorized by Moses (a figure of Christ) to conduct the services and wore appropriate apparel for this office.

Likewise believers are constituted a "royal priesthood," ministering in true spirituals unto Christ, and given a true robe to wear which is the righteousness of Christ, and exhorted to "put on Christ," as their genuine garment. Any substitute for this brings confusion and is classed as "spiritual wickedness." When any appeal is made to the religious flesh, or any material garment befitting the same, the old creation is recognized, resulting in a violation of Pauline truth. "Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh (the old creation), yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more." II Cor. 5:15. In the cross of Jesus Christ, God pronounced judgment once for all upon the flesh. To deny this fact is a rank denial of the work of Jesus on the cross. Alas, some flesh is condemned today in its open evil, but that which is only pious and sanctimonious is spared like Agag, from the sword of the Spirit. In like manner, many local assemblies identify themselves with unscriptural titles or slogans, giving of a decidedly Babylonish odor.

Not only was the garment involved in the "accursed thing," but silver and gold as well. The root evil of this is covetousness, that is, to desire anything out of God's will. Together with this desire for a Babylonish garment is always another sin, "The love of money is the root of all evil."

May we all set our house in order, "for if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged." Any meritorious recognition of the pious old man would consent to a false headship in the old creation, which would not be "holding the Head," Christ Jesus. If this is not judged, spiritual adultery is committed, bringing down God's judgment upon Achan's flesh.

Are we all standing together with Paul, and able to discern this spiritual Wickedness? As a body Of Pauline saints, we must ever "strive lawfully;" "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against, spiritual wickedness in high places (heavenlies)."

ALWAYS

Pray always — Eph. 6:18,
Give thanks always — Eph. 5:20
Rejoice in the Lord always — Phil. 4:4
Speak with grace always — Col. 4:6.
Be ready to give answer always — I Pet. 3:15
Abound in the Lord's work always — I Cor. 15:58.
Be led in His triumph always — II Cor. 2:14, R. V.
Please Him always — John 8:29.
Obey Him always — Phil. 2:12,13

* Someone has said, "Endeavor to so live that when you die, even the undertaker will mourn your going."

* The bent knee is more powerful than a sharp tongue.

* Eighty times Jesus is called the Son of Man in the Gospels.

Satisfied

S. O. Sheldon

"Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple." Psa. 65:4

To be satisfied means to be filled to the full, to have enough, to want no more. The natural man is not "born again." He always has a longing for something that he does not have, as says the proverb: "Hell and destruction are never full, so the eyes of man are never satisfied." Prov. 27:20

In the first and second chapters of Ecclesiastes, we read that Solomon, who was the wisest and richest man on earth, tasted to the full all that this world has to offer. He builded houses, planted vineyards, all kinds of fruit trees. He had great possessions of all kinds of cattle, all the servants he needed, singing men and singing women. and musical instruments of all sorts. He had a yearly income of gold amounting to more than eighteen million dollars; and his silver was as plentiful as stones. Still his heart was not satisfied! He wrote, "ALL IS VANITY AND VEXATION OF SPIRIT." 25

It is said that a man became despondent; and consulted a physician, who after an examination could find no trace of a disease, and prescribed the reading of some light literature. But the man said, "No, I've tried that and it will not help Me." Then the doctor told him to try a certain humorous book. Again the man shook his head and answered, "That will not help me either." Finally the doctor said, "There is a famous clown in the city now who is drawing great crowds. If he doesn't lift your troubled spirit, then I know of nothing else to offer you." Then the man answered, "But, I am that clown!" The man was hired to act the fool; but he knew that such things could not help his poor, distressed spirit. So people may spend their money for that which satisfieth not, and at the last say, "I am that fool." The fact is, that the things of this life do not satisfy. A rich man built a fine mansion with imported stones. As soon as it was finished, he became sick and died. Many build air castles and live in hope that someday they will have what they long for. Oftentimes disappointment is all they get, and yet they continue to seek great things for themselves.

When I was a child, I longed for a little wagon, thinking life would be full of joy if I had one. The only wagon I ever enjoyed was a neighbor's. Then I longed for a horse and buggy; but that brought only a little joy; the horse soon died. As the years went by; I longed for a home. When I moved into my new house, I thought that now I will abide here and be satisfied; but there was always something else that I wanted.

All the rivers run into the sea, and yet the sea is not full: The eye is never satisfied with seeing; the ear is never satisfied with hearing. But God seeks to bring to mankind another life, one that can be satisfied, even a new creation. This is the blessed man that is chosen to dwell in God's courts, in His holy Temple, and he alone is satisfied with the goodness of God's house.

26 The new creation is separated from the things of the flesh, and is content only with heavenly things. The heavenly life begins with a new birth. It is born of an incorruptible seed; the Word of God. What a joy and satisfaction, the new-born soul has in the Lord! How he delights in the Word! He feeds upon the satisfying Bread of Life. Jesus Christ. He announced; "I am the Bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

This new man can be satisfied. As we grow, we learn not to "labor not for the meat that perisheth but for that meat that endureth unto everlasting life." Jeremiah says, "Thy words were found and I did eat them and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart." Chap. 15:16.

Personally I can testify that since God saved me and filled me with the Holy Spirit, I am satisfied with His heavenly food; satisfied to dwell in His house; satisfied with His goodness. There is no thirsting for life's pleasures. He filleth "the hungry soul with good things." Like Daniel, we can purpose not to defile ourselves with the Babylonian meat that many are feeding upon today. We refuse the wine of worldly joy which others drink. The truth of God's Word of Grace is the only thing that will satisfy the hungry soul. I can say that I am satisfied, and yet not fully satisfied; for there are greater things ahead. I am on a race track, seeking to win THE PRIZE, which is Christ, as Bridegroom.

"Plains unexplored before me spread. New mountain heights loom just ahead. Their summits soon my feet shall tread.

Bless God, I'm going on."

Thus, I am laying aside every weight and running the race, looking alone to Jesus. I am abundantly satisfied with the fatness of His house, as I drink of the river of His pleasure. Every day brings its trials, testings, battles; yet with Christ I am satisfied. How wonderful to know the truth and be SATISFIED. When I was a child, I would look up into the face of the hired man, and wish I were as big as he was. Today, I am full grown physically. For the past thirty years, I have not grown larger. But I have grown in my spiritual life. Someday I hope to be entirely conformed to the image of Christ.

I expect to be exactly as Christ is. Someday I expect to be able to say with David, "As for me, I Will behold thy face in righteousness. I shall be SATISFIED WHEN I AWAKE IN THY LIKENESS." Psa. 17:15 What a glorious eternal day that will be when we shall be able to stand at the throne and praise the Lord for the life in the Spirit, a life conformed to His likeness, a life that satisfies; eternal life; eternal joy; eternal glory; forever with the Lord, joined to Him forever. We will be with Him, in Him, satisfied that at last He has brought us to the place that He had designed that we should fill a place that satisfies His heart and ours. We may sing now and in eternity, "I have Christ and need no more." I want no more, I can get no-more; for to awake in His likeness is to be eternally satisfied.

27

Some people seem to think that they will be satisfied to be saved as by fire, as multitudes will be; but should we be contented with so little when God has so much prepared for us? We wonder if there will be some who will wish that they had taken hold of the truth in a larger measure? They may shed some tears over their failures; yet God shall wipe away all tears. Through eternity they shall have to be satisfied with their position.

Some may ask, Will Christ be satisfied? To this we answer, Yes. "He shalt see of the travail of His soul, and HE SHALL BE SATISFIED." Isa. 53:11 He shall be satisfied with the results of His sacrifice for a lost world. He met every demand of a righteous God. He made all the preparation that it was possible to make, and offered this great salvation freely to all who believe. What more could He do? Yes, He will be

satisfied. He shall have a Bride who will comfort His heart forever. Even though many today are lost and shall experience eternal punishment, He shall be satisfied. He has purchased redemption, and if people refuse to believe His offer, they only are the losers. Multitudes are already saved, and Christ is enriched through their lives of worship and love.

In the eternity past, a covenant was made among the Godhead. Christ, the Son of God was to give Himself as a sin offering for the ransom of humanity. He believed that after He should die on Calvary, God His Father would raise Him from the dead, and that He should thus become the Head of a new race of people. The New Testament records the fact that God raised Him from the dead; the beginning of the spiritual creation of God. After 1900 years, many have been saved and born into the new creation. Thousands more will be saved during the Millennial Age, even all Israel. When Christ sees all this multitude, the fruit of redemption, then **SHALL HE BE SATISFIED.**

28 Then, Satan shall deceive no more, and Christ will be satisfied. Today, He sees His people struggling in unbelief with sicknesses and weaknesses; and battling against the prince of the powers of the air. But He also sees our faith. He sees our final triumph, and He is satisfied. The time is coming, too, when every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess Him as Lord to the glory of God the Father, and then He shall be satisfied. And one day, the enemies of the truth and of those who loved the truth, shall have to bow and acknowledge their error. They will then know that the Lord loved those humble, little people who believed the Truth and lived by it and died for it. Then **HE SHALL BE SATISFIED and WE SHALL BE SATISFIED.**

(Reprint 1956)

- * If at first you don't succeed, you'll receive plenty of advice how to.
- * You can be too big for God to use, but never too small.
- * The only bit that will bridle the tongue — a bit of love.
- * He who spends time on his knees has no trouble standing on his feet.

ISALAH 55 (CONTINUED)

The Prophet then continues with the predominant theme of this chapter, exhorting his hearers to heed God's Word. "Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David." V. 3 The word "incline," is another word expressing extreme energy. It means "to stretch or spread out; by implication, to bend away," indicating that men must put forth more than just a "casual, or convenient," effort if they would truly learn and experience the depths of God's Word. Mere "mental assent" will not be sufficient in this matter. There is a definite order expressed in this verse, for once genuine "inclination" is achieved it will lead to "...come unto me..." which will then give way to "hear and your soul shall live." There is glorious simplicity in such a statement, but it applies to every truth in scripture. When men simply embrace the wonder of God's Word, the Power thereof, expressed in the admonition, "hear and live," will be radiated throughout his entire being, even as Jesus promised, "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10

The last part of this glorious verse lends special reference to the Davidic Covenant, and is especially applicable to the nation of Israel, promising that "...I will make an everlasting covenant with you even the sure mercies of David." These "sure mercies," relate the glorious grace promised to David when God declared that "...my mercy shall not depart away from him, (Solomon) as I took it from Saul,...And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever." II Sam. 7:15-16 Scripture is very clear that David understood the magnitude of this grace or mercy for "Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?" II Sam. 7:18 Isaiah's promise to Israel is that God will make good on this "everlasting covenant," which will be fulfilled when The Son of David occupies his throne forever. His role is further defined in the following irrevocable decree.

"Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a

leader and commander to the people.” V. 4 Solomon was the local fulfillment of this Davidic Covenant, but Christ Himself will soon appear as the real “...witness to the people,...” He will become both Leader and Commander, and “He shall build an house for my name,...” (II Sam. 7:13) which means that He will rule in righteousness, bringing men into fellowship with God. Israel will be the primary recipient of that endeavor for “Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee.” V. 5 When Christ becomes King of kings and Lord of lords, this tiny Nation of Israel, will likewise be exalted. She will have been effectively ignored and unrecognized by the rest of the nations, even as is manifest during this present day, but one day these same nations “...shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God....” Israel will become the very channel of blessings to these Millennial Nations because God “...hath glorified thee.”

30 The above scenario will come to absolute and complete fruition, but they must first “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:” V. 6 Israel, as a Nation, will one day seek Him, even in the midst of Great Tribulation, but this principle also applies to the Church today. Paul quotes from Isa. 49:8 admonishing the Corinthians. “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)” II Cor. 6:2 Time is of the essence in seeking The Lord, regardless of the dispensation, and the order here remains the same for all who would seek Him, as Isaiah’s next instruction is to “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” V. 7 Men must seek The LORD first, in order to “forsake” their wicked ways. Paul testified of this order when he wrote to the Thessalonians and commended them for the fact that; “...ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.” I Thess. 1:9 Every repentant man must then know that “...the unrighteous man...” must also forsake “...his

thoughts:..." This is most assuredly a process, because,"... my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD." V. 8 Even after a person "accepts the Lord," his thinking must be changed because natural reason is just exactly opposite the ways of Divine Grace. Man truly believes that he must "earn," the blessing of God, but scripture is very plain in declaring that, because of His mercy and grace, "...he will abundantly pardon. Thus the prophet continues, crying out, "...let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him;..."

God continues His Assault against the thoughts and ways of men, demonstrating His Superiority with an analogy, which describes how "...the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." V. 9 God's Wisdom and Knowledge is far superior to that of man, and His example, of the heavens standing above the earth, simply magnifies the fact that there is no comparison. God would, however, "change" such thoughts of man like unto His Own, and the next portion of Isaiah's message, outline a specific detail of that process.

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." V. 10-11 The Power of God's Word is here demonstrated, and likened unto the rain which "cometh down and the snow from heaven..." The rain beautifully portrays that gentle warm moisture containing God's message from above. The snow reflects the "cold" moisture descending upon us, but it reflects the glorious benefits and blessings of heaven. God asked Job, "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?..." Job 38:22 Those "treasures" are legion and Isaiah defines one of them as representing "purity," for "...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;..." Isa. 1:18 The Virtuous Woman also discovered some of the treasures of the snow, for "She is not afraid of

the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.” Prov. 31:21 The snow here represents cold adversity, but it is from God, and this woman has learned by experience, to claim the scarlet blood of Jesus for protection. Isaiah likens both the rain and snow to The Word of God. There are times when It is most assuredly gentle, warm, and comforting, but there are also those times when God must speak in much harsher terms. It makes no difference which one “cometh down...from heaven...” both are beneficial and “...watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:” God’s Word is all inclusive in meeting the needs of men and we are further instructed that just as the rain and snow will not return to heaven before they have accomplished their intended mission, neither shall My Word “...return unto me void, ...” Some often interpret these words to mean that “everything and everybody,” will be automatically regenerated, regardless of the ill-advised decisions that some would make in regard to the benefits of redemption, but that is not what Isaiah teaches. The message here is that God’s Word will never remain “neutral!” It will always have an effect, regardless of whether or not men believe it. Scripture is very plain that “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise,...is longsuffering...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” II Pet. 3:9 God made every provision that all men should be saved, and He sent His Word to accomplish that purpose, but all men will not bow before Him. However, His Word will not return unto Him void. It will have some effect. If God’s Message be received, the result will be life, fruitfulness and prosperity. But when one rejects such an offer, that same message will have the effect of “darkening” them or hardening their hearts, as is seen in Pharaoh. “And the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh: for I have hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants, that I might shew these my signs before him:” Ex 10:1 God’s Word will always have a result, “...it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it,” for every “target,” of that Piercing Utterance will be forced to some decision, even as is quite evident on the Day Of Pentecost.

“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Acts 2:37 This was the response of those who heard Peter’s marvelous sermon explaining the advent of The Holy Ghost. The Word of God had “pricked” their hearts prompting the question “...what shall we do?” Peter had the answer: “...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:38

This same pattern is again in evidence after Stephen preached Christ to the unbelieving Jews about seven years later, but this time “When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.” Acts 7:54 There was no repentance, even though the “pricks,” have intensified to a much deeper “...cut to the heart...” and when Stephen “... being full of the Holy Ghost, ...saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said; Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice,...stopped their ears,...cast him out of the city, and stoned him...” Acts 7:55-58 This severe reaction by ungodly men is simply another example of the fact that God’s Word will always elicit a response, proving that none can remain neutral. 33

Saul of Tarsus, who, also beheld that scene, and was consenting to the death of Stephen, had his own experience with the convicting power of God’s Word on the Road to Damascus. The Words of Jesus Himself pierced his heart as He said, “...I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.” Acts 9:5 The glorious news here is that Saul did not reject those “pricks,” of God’s Word but rather responded with “...Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?...” revealing, once again, that “...my word...shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

My Word “...shall not return unto me void,...” is an absolute fact in regard to the whole of God’s Promises, but the closing portion of this chapter puts a special exclamation point on that declaration, insofar as Israel is concerned. Though this

nation has been steeped in rebellion and idolatry throughout the ages of their history, "...it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." The "apple of God's Eye," will, at last, occupy the place which He promised so long ago, "For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." V. 12 This is a glorious picture of New Creation Israel, when they are restored to their land during the Millennium. "Peace" will be the central theme of their very existence, and the nations will follow their lead, as "...the mountains and the hills,..." representing all the kingdoms of that age, both small and large, "...shall break forth in to singing." A most glorious atmosphere will erupt in that day, as the nations, led by Israel, will break forth into songs of victory following the tremendous devastation and oppression of the tribulation period. The "trees of the field,..." showing forth the fruits of God's New Creation, manifesting the fact that Israel has finally fulfilled the "great commission," of teaching "...all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" will indeed "clap their hands" in joyous celebration. Matt. 28:19

Finally, the curse imposed on the ground from The Garden of Eden, "...cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;..." (Gen. 3:17) is lifted, for "Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off." V. 13 These "green and growing" trees, which replace the thorns and briars brought forth by the curse, reflect the "new birth," both spiritually and naturally. The "rains" of God's Word will produce righteousness during the Kingdom Age, and the earth itself "... shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose." Isa. 35:1 The Word of God will not return void and, at long last, God shall be glorified and receive His Due, for all of these glorious changes "... shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."



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*"The LORD hath
appeared of old unto
me, saying, Yea,
I have loved thee
with an everlasting
love: therefore with
lovingkindness have I
drawn thee." Jer.
31:3*