

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole Counsel of GOD

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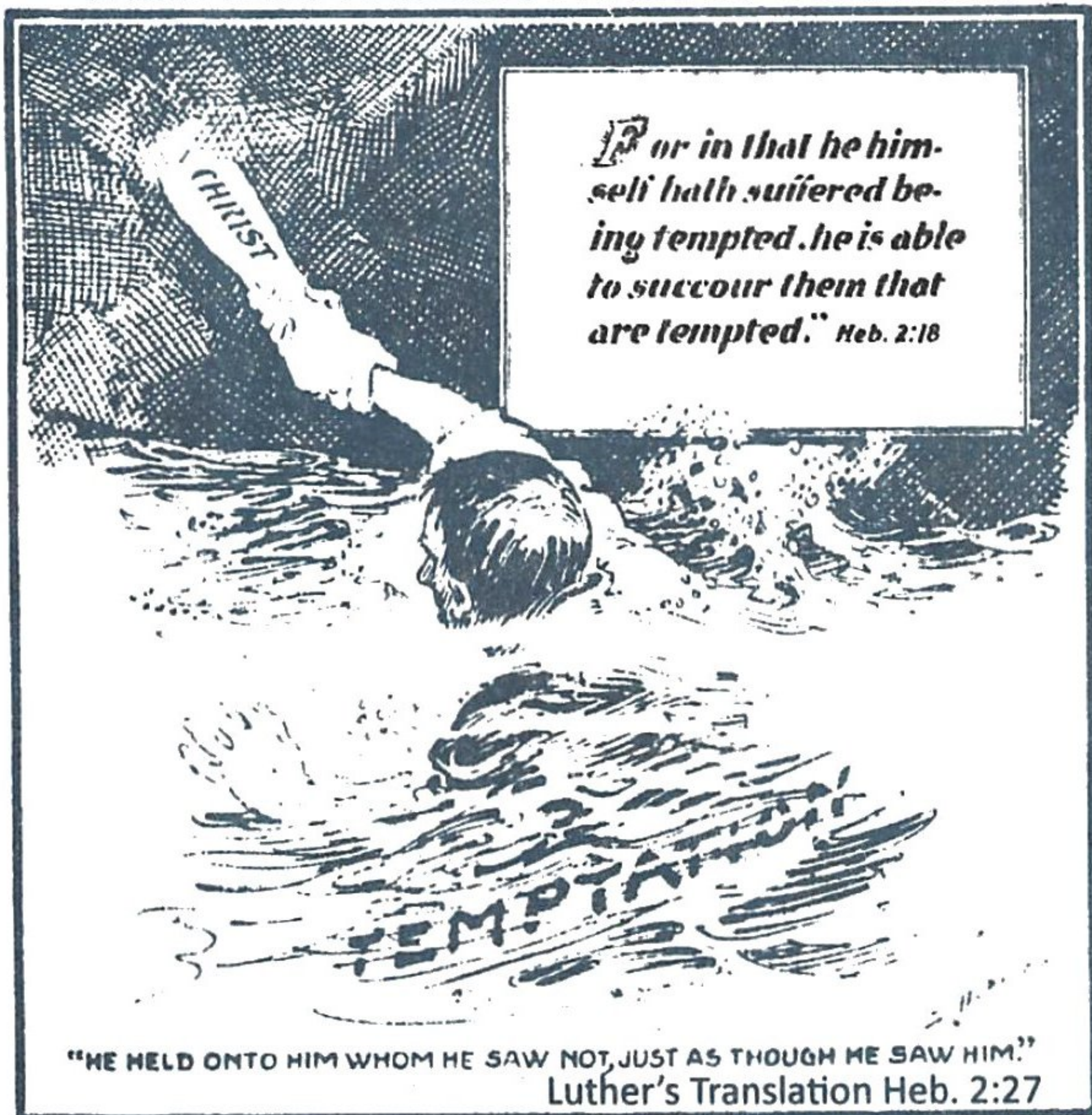


The hoary head
is a crown of glory,
if it be found in
the way of
righteousness.
Proverbs 16:31

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"WHEN THOU PASSEST THROUGH THE WATERS"



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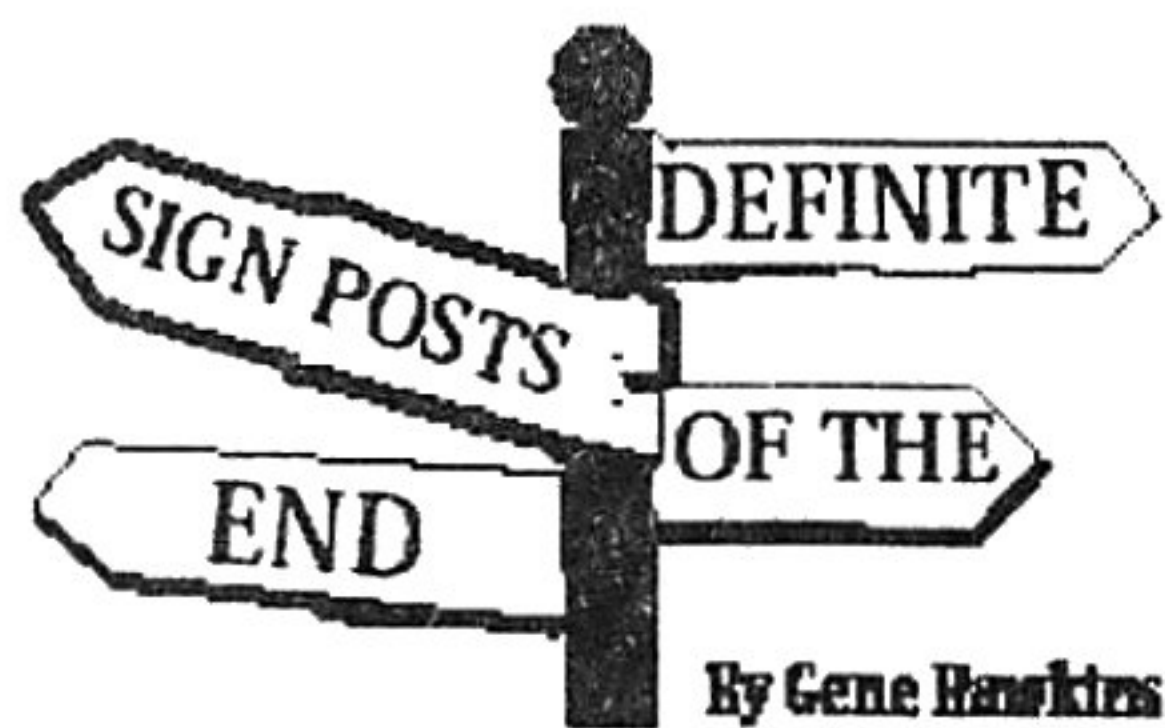
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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.” Lk. 21:10-11

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, 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.” Lk. 21:25-26

“And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.” Mk. 13:7-8

3

There is most surely great unrest among the nations of our day. Not only are enemies rising up against one another, but so-called allies are bickering back and forth, each blaming the other for the problem.

However, it is the volatile, intense, and erratic weather patterns that have currently captured large segments of news cycles in recent months, and they too are in direct fulfillment of Jesus' Words in regard to these last days. Men are very much responsible for the infighting among nations, but there are a multitude of end time signs which are beyond the control of mortal man.

Quite a number of the signs listed above are indeed weather-related. Famines are most assuredly caused either by excessive rains or extreme drought. Many farmers have also experienced the heartache of seeing multiple fields filled with beautiful crops almost ready for harvest, only to be completely destroyed and decimated by hail. Pestilence also has been attributed to winter temperatures which simply were not low enough to freeze and destroy the eggs of any number of pests throughout the world.

And then there are the seas and waves roaring. These terms have often been rightfully used to describe the unrest and volatility demonstrated by national powers, but they are also literal, for they do depict the devastating effects of hurricanes, tsunamis, and tidal waves which have devastated the habitats of men down through the ages. Mud slides, record snowfall and blizzard conditions, avalanches, floods and many other “forces of nature” also combine to bring forth the reality of: “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 powers of heaven are emphatically being shaken today, bringing forth great changes upon the earth. The major news today is that of the devastating fires sweeping across California along with much of the Western U.S., and once again there is a loud outcry from environmentalists, proclaiming that the problem is “climate change,” which is simply code for “man-made global warming.”

4 The San Francisco Chronicle published this headline: “Scientists see fingerprints of climate change all over California’s wildfires” It was then followed with the explanation that, “Much of the heat that’s gripped California and hastened the spread of deadly wildfires recently is due to a strange but familiar shift in the jet stream... The jet stream, the river of wind high above the Northern Hemisphere, has been weaker and wavier in the past few weeks, scientists say. Instead of pushing weather systems along as it usually does, it’s allowing the patterns to stagnate. Not only has this meant searing temperatures for the West Coast, where the hot spot of Death Valley averaged a record 108 degrees last month, but also for Scandinavia and Japan. Norway and Sweden flirted with a rare 90 degrees at the Arctic Circle this week, while the Japanese city of Kumagaya recently landed that nation’s highest-ever temperature: 106. Other places, such as the East Coast, have endured relentless rain, even flooding.... ‘We’re seeing this mix of conditions across North America and Europe, but they’re all connected,’ said Jennifer Francis, a professor at Rutgers University who studies atmospheric circulation. ‘The weather patterns are just stuck. They’re trapped.’ The shift in the jet stream that’s driving the stagnation, say Francis and other climate scientists, is **almost certainly** tied to global warming. It’s just one of the ways that climate change is **probably** contributing to the spree of fires in California....”

This same article continues, explaining that, “Research

by Michael Mann, a climatologist and geophysicist at Penn State University, suggests that the change in the jet stream is partly the result of warming in the Arctic. When the Arctic gets hotter, the contrast in temperatures between northern latitudes and more southern latitudes is less. That variation causes a disturbance in the atmosphere that shifts the jet stream... 'These factors work together to produce the sorts of persistent extreme weather events — droughts, floods, heat waves, wildfires — that we're seeing across the Northern Hemisphere right now,' Mann said in an email."

Terms such as "probably, almost certainly, and suggests" indicate that these statements cannot actually be presented as absolute fact, but rather as theory, and there are other theories which have emerged to explain the lingering high temperatures associated with these wildfires. For example NASA confirmed several years ago that the earth has shifted on its axis. The "International Business News" announced it thus: **"NASA scientists confirm Earth is tilting the opposite direction; Climate change making Earth's wobble shift"** This is then followed by the assertion that, "Global warming has yet another victim and this time, it's our planet's axis. According to NASA experts, the North Pole, that was drifting towards Canada for decades has changed its course and is now drifting towards the UK. There was a shift in the drift about 15 years ago. Now, it is drifting directly down the Greenwich Meridian. Climate change and global warming is shifting the way our Earth wobbles. 'This is the first time we have solid evidence that changes in land water distribution on a global scale also shift which direction the axis moves to. The recent shift from the 20th-century direction is very dramatic," said Surendra Adhikari of NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab." 5

There is, however, another report, also from NASA, which tells an entirely different story in order to explain the shift in earth's axis. **"The March 11, 2011, great earthquake in Japan may have shortened the length of Earth days and shifted its axis.** Using a United States Geological Survey estimate for how the fault responsible for the earthquake slipped, research scientist Richard Gross of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., applied a complex model to perform a preliminary theoretical calculation of how the Japan earthquake—the fifth largest since 1900—affected Earth's rotation. His calculations indicate that by changing the distribution of Earth's mass, the Japanese earthquake should have caused Earth to rotate a bit faster, shortening the length of the day by about 1.8 microseconds

(a microsecond is one millionth of a second). The calculations also show the Japan quake should have shifted the position of Earth's figure axis (the axis about which Earth's mass is balanced) by about 17 centimeters (6.5 inches),... Earth's figure axis should not be confused with its north-south axis; they are offset by about 10 meters (about 33 feet). This shift in Earth's figure axis will cause Earth to wobble a bit differently as it rotates, but it will not cause a shift of Earth's axis in space—only external forces such as the gravitational attraction of the sun, moon and planets can do that...In comparison, following last year's magnitude 8.8 earthquake in Chile, Gross estimated the Chile quake should have shortened the length of day by about 1.26 microseconds and shifted Earth's figure axis by about 8 centimeters (3 inches). A similar calculation performed after the 2004 magnitude 9.1 Sumatran earthquake revealed it should have shortened the length of day by 6.8 microseconds and shifted Earth's figure axis by about 7 centimeters, or 2.76 inches. How an individual earthquake affects Earth's rotation depends on its size (magnitude), location and the details of how the fault slipped."

6 Though this report is also filled with conjecture, it is surely more in line with God's Word than many other opinions because it definitely states that only forces beyond the control of natural man are responsible for the shift in "...Earth's axis in space." The environmentalist scenario explaining this axis shift, begins with man's gross negligence and abuse in dumping massive amounts of CO2 and green house gas into the atmosphere. Thus global temperatures are immediately and dramatically increased, melting polar ice caps sending massive amounts of water into the oceans bringing forth severe "changes in land water distribution on a global scale..." creating an imbalance in the earth thereby causing earthquakes, which in turn produce tidal waves and tsunamis with their devastating effects on mankind. The report by Mr. Gross indicates that the earthquake itself created the imbalance in the earth, which then caused the axis shift.

Our opening text is very clear, "...great earthquakes **shall be in divers places...**" and absolutely no human effort will be sufficient to stop them. We are also persuaded that God does not need man's help in creating such upheavals in this earth. He created it and can do whatsoever He pleases with it any time He desires to change it. He needed absolutely no help from man when He poured out His wrath against Korah and his band as "... the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their

houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.” Num. 16:32 Nor did He need the overflow of man’s greenhouse gasses when He showed forth His wrath and fury, the day Jesus was crucified, with an earthquake. “Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;” Mt 27:50-51 Three days later there also followed an earthquake when Jesus was raised from the dead, and again it most assuredly expresses the anger of God undoubtedly because men simply refused to believe the miracle of resurrection. “In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.” Matt. 28:1-2

All the aforementioned signs will continue to transpire in these last days, for Jesus has proclaimed unequivocally that they will, and none of the efforts of men will prevent it. It should surprise no one that global temperatures are rising, for God’s Word confirms it. “And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues:...” Rev. 16:9

The above reports also indicate that earth days were made shorter by microseconds due to these earthquakes. We would love to ask Mr. Gross if that is a reference just to the day of the earthquake or is each day following also shortened by microseconds because the earth’s axis has been altered? Are these microseconds accumulative with microseconds being added each time there is an earthquake? The reason for the question is that, in God’s new order, exactly 360 days will complete a year, comprised of 12 months, each containing 30 days of a very precise 24 hour duration. Daniel is very clear that the antichrist will be allotted exactly 3 ½ years or “...time, times, and the dividing of time,...” for his reign. Dan. 7:25 John determines that same period to be 42 months. Rev. 13:5 This same era wherein the antichrist is given specific power over the Jews is also designated as 1260 days. Rev. 12:6 Every one of these expressions calculate to the exact same number of days. Scripture is also very clear that after the daily sacrifice is taken away there will be exactly

2300 days to the end of the tribulation. The point here is that these numbers simply will not match up if they are calculated according to the current 365 day year. We can only wonder how God will alter the axis of the earth in order to gain this shorter day. He could use earthquakes, but we are prone to view the situation as David did. "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" Psa. 8:3-4 If the fingers of God created the entire heavens, it would surely be no problem for even one of those fingers to alter the axis of the earth in order to achieve His exact timeline for changes in world events.

8 There is also another very valid reason for increased temperatures in this world and it has nothing to do with the efforts of men. An article published in The New York Times dating back to 1997 began with the headline "**Sun Is Getting Hotter, Satellite Data Indicate.**" This account then follows the same pattern of theory and speculation noted above. "The Sun is getting hotter, adding heat to the global warming that has been linked to greenhouse gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. Solar radiation reaching the Earth is 0.036 percent warmer than it was in 1986, when the current solar cycle was beginning,... The increase is only a small fraction of the Sun's total heat, but over a century, it would be enough to seriously aggravate problems of global warming, said Dr. Richard C. Willson of Columbia University's Center for Climate Systems Research. Dr. Willson said most researchers expected greenhouse gases to warm the planet by 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit over the next 100 years. Solar irradiance could add another 0.72 degrees, he said. Other experts agreed, although some argued that the satellite data used by Dr. Willson may be suspect....'This is a significant increase,' said Dr. John Firor of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo. 'It would increase the rate at which we go into warming.' He said that based on current estimates, the solar heat increase found by Dr. Willson would increase that warming trend by about 20 percent. But whether the Earth is being heated by an increase in greenhouse gases, which are produced by the burning of fossil fuels, is still not universally accepted by scientists. Although studies show that the Earth has warmed about one degree in the last century and that the trend is continuing, some scientists say it is part of a natural cycle for the planet."

We could undoubtedly fill more pages with these

contradictory accounts as to the cause of global warming, but it is far better for all men to base the conclusions for their lives upon God's Word. Rev. 16:8 very plainly tells us that the sun will get hotter. "And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire." Men must eventually conclude that regardless of their efforts to search out cause and effect in regard to rising world temperatures, they will discover that they cannot prevent all these end time prophecies from happening. Only God can stop the devastation caused by the erratic weather sweeping across the globe during these last days. Isaiah clearly proclaims that there is indeed a better day coming promising that, "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose." Isa. 35:1 Joel likewise corroborates this same story, promising the restoration of Israel and proclaiming that, "... he hath given you the former rain moderately, and...will cause to come down ...the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month." Joel 2:23 These rains must of necessity fall in proper measure and time for both the wilderness and the desert to prosper as promised. Thus, we know assuredly that the erratic weather patterns of this present time which bring great destruction and devastation will most assuredly cease, but God will in no wise need the puny efforts of men to accomplish it. 9

"And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Acts 2:19-21 This is a part of Peter's message on The Day Of Pentecost when he quoted from the prophet Joel announcing that, "it shall come to pass in the last days saith God,..." We have arrived at the last of these last days and are without doubt witnessing at least the beginnings of these emphatic "...wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath;..." Mark describes them as being a part of "...the beginnings of sorrows." Mk. 13:8 It is also imperative that we reach the same conclusion to which Peter was drawn at the end of this sermon proclaiming the risen Christ, when the people cried out, "...Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Acts 2:37 Peter's answer was a gracious invitation and exhortation for men to turn their eyes upon Jesus.

Instead of trying to fix the problem in an endeavor to eliminate the signs and wonders descending upon this world today, we must be absolutely and totally be occupied with Him. Paul says it thus. "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:" Phil. 3:20 He likewise exhorted the saints at Thessalonica: "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, (of the tribulation) but to obtain salvation (out of this world) by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him." I Thess. 5:8-10 The apostle here tells us not to try and fix this world, but rather be ready to vacate it!

The Man Of The Hour

O praise the Lord for the man of the hour,
The one who moves in the Spirit's great power
The one who desires the whole will of God,
Never shunning the road that Jesus has trod.

10

He always responds to the Father's commands
And is ever willing to serve with his hands;
So when he is needed, he is ready to go,
That the love and the grace of God he may show.

Such a one is prepared with a word of good cheer
For people discouraged, overtaken by fear.
And when the need rises for real fervent prayer,
He never is tired, but always is there.

He is able to speak of Christ and salvation;
And teach needy souls regardless of station
He is ready to succor when he finds a saint down
And tell him of victory which leads to a crown.

Such a man is ready God's Word to defend;
For he knows it is true from beginning to end,
And takes a sure vic'try in every hard test,
While others are fretting, in Christ, he has rest.

We behold with rejoicing the man of the hour,
On whom the rich blessings of God ever shower.
For he lives by believing God's wonderful grace,
Abiding forever in his God-given place.

Elsie E. Richardson

The Great Heart of Love!

Ray Quintana

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.” John 14:1

Have you ever been troubled? Are you troubled now? It was the sorrows of their hearts which now occupied His great heart of love. “Troubled?” they were deeply so. This chapter is a continuation of the heart-to-heart talk of Jesus with His disciples, which He began in the previous chapter. The work of love and sacrifice means trouble that nothing but supernatural aid and Divine strength can touch. They were troubled at hearing that one of them should betray Him (John 13:21). They were troubled at seeing their Master “...troubled in spirit;...” troubled because He would remain with them only a “little while” (John 13:33); Troubled over the warning He had given to Peter, that he would deny His Lord thrice. Although Jesus was right there with them, this little company of believers was lacking peace and cast down. Do you know we can have a trouble-free heart?

The Apostle Paul said be anxious for nothing. It may almost seem like an impossibility, but we can yield our lives and be in harmony with God to the degree that our hearts will be trouble-free. Isaiah shouts, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” Isa. 26:3 The Lord has provided this victory through redemption. Then Jesus says, “...ye believe in God, believe also in me.” John 14:1 11

God has announced in plain terms through His word and the prophets that Jesus was to be despised and rejected of men, that He was to be wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. These are the words of God Himself; we must not doubt them! “Believe also in me. I too have warned you what to expect.” “I have told you that I am to suffer many things at the hands of the chief priests and scribes and suffer death.” These things must be. “Then hold fast the beginning of your confidence steadfast:” be not “offended” in Me, even though I go to a criminal’s cross.” Was the Lord speaking only to the eleven, or is He speaking to us as well? “Believe in God!” We must not let our heart be troubled, for our Father possesses infinite power, wisdom, and goodness. He knows what is best for us. He sees your troubled heart dearly beloved. Trust in God! Though the

trials come thick and fast, and though we are misunderstood and unappreciated, and though Satan roars and rages against us, "If God be for us who can be against us?" Believe in God!

Believe in His absolute sovereignty, His infinite wisdom, His unchanging faithfulness, His wondrous love. "I am the One who died for your sins and rose again for your justification;" "I am the One Who makes intercession for you." I am "...the same, yesterday, and to-day, and forever." Heb. 13:8 "I am the One who shall come again to receive you unto Myself, and ye shall be with Me forever." Yes, "believe also in me!" What did Christ mean by this? The apostles had already recognized Him as the Christ, the Son of the living God. It is also clear, that He was not here challenging their faith. The apostles already believed in Him, but their confidence rested in One who dwelt in their midst, who went in and out among them in daily companionship.

12 He was about to go away from them. The light was moving. Are you going to follow the light? Then you will have to follow Paul as he followed Christ. He whom they had seen with their eyes and had handled with their hands was to be invisible to the outward eye. Now, He says, "Ye believe in God," Who is invisible; you believe in His love, though you have never seen His form; You are conscious of His care, though you have never touched the Hand that guides and protects you. In like manner you must have full confidence in Me, and My love, and care, even though I am no longer going to be present to sight. This comfort remains for us; this is the faith in which we are now to live.

Paul said, in Phil. 3:10, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;" This is how we are to know Christ today. He is no longer in our midst physically, but we know Him by the power of His resurrection. Paul is not talking about initial salvation. He had known Christ as Savior for many years by this time. He is talking about that greater knowledge of Christ. He loudly cries, "That I may know him,..." and then describes three major ways as to how that may be accomplished. First is the power of His resurrection. That is the power of the Holy Spirit. He wanted to know that same power that it took to raise Christ from the grave. He wanted to live by resurrection power. And God did raise Paul from the dead when he was cast out of the city. He comments on that in I Corinthians. However,

the power of which he speaks goes beyond that. It means that he was sustained by that resurrection power of Christ day by day, and we too must be sustained by the power of His resurrection. It was the resurrection power that gave Jesus victory over all principalities and powers. It is the resurrection power of the Holy Ghost today which gives us victory over the onslaught of evil in the present evil age. That same power also causes us to triumph over Satan and the flesh, giving us power to "...mortify the deeds of the body,..." Rom. 8:13 We cannot know Him and that power unless we experience it. We can know about Christ being raised from the grave but we don't understand that power until we feel its dynamite in our own bodies. Such an experience goes beyond our own physical human strength. Until we have felt the literal physical power of the Holy Spirit, we do not understand it. Jesus had told the disciples when He went away there would be the Comforter that would come which is the Holy Ghost.

The only way Paul knew the power of His resurrection was to fellowship in His sufferings. The one demanded the other. Jesus had to have the power of the Holy Ghost in order to sustain Him. Matthew 4:11 clearly tells us that the angels came to minister unto the Lord after His battle with Satan in the wilderness, because He was so weak, but it was the power of the Spirit that sustained Him. This same scenario is evident again in the Garden of Gethsemane, when angel came and ministered unto Him the night before He was arrested. Paul defines such experience as "...being made conformable unto His death."

The chief apostle to the Church further states, "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." Phil. 3:8 Why would Paul go through such sufferings and the loss of all things? First, it was "...for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord:..." Secondly, that he might win Christ. Paul was out to gain something. This excellency of the knowledge is not just general knowledge about facts in regard to Jesus, such as He was a Jew and born of Mary and so forth. Paul is talking about the super excellent knowledge of Jesus. A good commentary on that kind of knowledge is found in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5 where the Shulamite began to verbalize intimate knowledge of her beloved. SOS 5:9-16 It shows that she had

been with Him. She described all these wonderful features of Him, speaking of things that she would not have known had she not been with Him. The same thing is true in our lives with Christ.

What was Jesus really telling the disciples in John 14? The disciples are silent in the sorrow of His nearing departure. "Let not your heart be troubled..." HE MUST GO, or He cannot RETURN. His first advent, fraught with bitterness and shame, makes way for His second advent of glory and power. The disciples had been like lambs carried in the warm bosom of a Loving Shepherd. He was now about to leave them, and they would hear the howling of the wolves and endure the terrors of the snowstorm. They had been like tender plants conserved in a hothouse, wherein a warm and genial atmosphere had always surrounded them. That is soon to change for they would now endure the wintry world with its nipping frosts, and so it was to be proven whether or not they had an inward vitality which could exist when outward protections were withdrawn. The trials must come.

14 We too, dear friends, though we have not enjoyed perhaps so entire an immunity as did the apostles, were at one time very graciously shielded from trouble. We had a summertime of joy and an autumn of peace, far different from this present winter of our discontent. It frequently happens that after conversion God, who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb, gives to the weaklings of the flock a period of repose during which they rejoice with David, "He makes me to lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside the still waters." But for all of us there will come a time of trouble similar to that sorrowful occasion which led the Savior to utter these memorable heart-cheering words; "Be of good Cheer." Our conscious communion with Jesus should not be interrupted, yet some other form of tribulation awaits us, for the testimony of earth's poet, that "man is made to mourn," is well borne out by the inspired declaration, "...man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upwards." Job. 5:7 We must not expect that we shall be exceptions. There is no discharge in this war; we must all be enlisted in the armies of grief. We too shall do battle with strong temptations, and feel the wounds of adversity.

But what is it that will carry us through? It is the love! Do we love the Father as Jesus loved His Father? Is there a Divine love for Christ? It must be by the Word of God, and Divine Love. Then the Holy Ghost must reveal Himself in our experience no

matter the trial, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

John 17:26 may be read as follows: "And I Jesus have declared unto (insert your own name) thy name Father, and will declare it to (your name) Father: that **the love wherewith you Father have loved me your Son Jesus may be in them, and I Jesus in them.**" This is Jesus' prayer for us.

John 17:11 likewise loudly proclaims, "And now I Jesus am no more in the world, but (your name) is in the world, and I Jesus come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they **may be one**, as we are." One! But how? It is in love. Jesus said we can have the same love that He had for the Father and that the Father had for Him. Jesus prayed in these verses that when we stand before the Father, we will not be one inch below Jesus in loving the Father even as Jesus loved His Father.

We must be one in love for the Father, "That they all **may be one (in Love for the Father)**; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also **may be one (in Love for the Father)** in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." John 17:21 One day the world will believe that the Father has sent His Son. "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they **may be one (in love for the Father), even as we are one**: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be **made perfect in one (in love for the Father)**; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." V. 22-23

15

Paul declared in II Cor. 5:14 that, "... the love of Christ constraineth us;..." This love of Christ is that love for the Father. You know we love each other in our assembly; we have love for a brother, for our sons and daughters; we have this natural love. Jesus had a love for the people around Him, but that love is different than the love for His Father. So, the love of Christ constraineth us. The word constraineth means to hold together; arrest (a prisoner); press on every side. Paul said in another place, "I am a prisoner of the Lord. For the love of Christ holds me together and it arrests me. The love for the Father consumes me." It is the love for the Father that is a Divine love and that is the love we need in order to grow up into Christ in all things. It will, however, take the attitude towards the Word of God in experience by the resurrection power of the Holy Ghost. We are powerless

until we are filled with Holy Ghost.

How is it that we worship? In Spirit and truth. To the degree that we know truth is the degree we will worship and have this Divine love for the things of God. When you love someone and you are completely crazy about them, that's worship. We worship in Spirit and in truth, that's love. We need the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised in John 14:16-17 that, "...I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Let us not be content until the love of Christ is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. We cannot love a God whom we do not know.

16 Who is it that says "...Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come." Rev. 4:8 It is the bride. Why? Because she had an understanding of love that many others simply do know. "...Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty..." describes the Trinity. Love grows as we understand by experience the word of God. The bride has a capacity for more love. The innumerable multitude has limited capacity for love. They only see salvation and many others only see creation. They will have a cup and it will be full, but their cup will not have the capacity of love that the bride or the Apostle Paul demonstrate. Brethren, we must know in order to believe; we must know in order to hope; and we must especially know in order to love. It is not knowledge that you and I pick up as a matter of book learning that will ever bring out our love to the Father: it is knowledge given us by Christ through His Holy Spirit. Think of the love wherewith He loved His Son. Such is His love to all of us. Can you believe it, that you should be the object of God's delight, even as Christ is, because you are in Christ? Are you persuaded that you should be the object of the Father's love as truly as Christ is, because he sees you to be part and parcel of the mystical body of his well-beloved Son? Can you say that God the Father does not love you as much as He does Christ? When there was a choice between Christ and His people which should die of the two, the Father freely delivered up His Own Son that we might live through Him. That is love and victory through redemption. The Lord Jesus sank that we might swim. He sank that we might rise. This is amazing love, so Divine. The Father loves you even as He loves his Son.

Sadly all Christians do not see, appropriate, or experience that glorious provision, but Paul's prayer for us in Eph.3:20 is "...unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the **power** that worketh in us." What is the **power** that worketh in us? It is the love of God which "...is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Rom. 5:5 It is imperative for bridal saints to submit to the work of the Holy Ghost in order that we might "... know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." Eph 3:19 We look to the day ahead! Oh the Fathers heart of love for me and for you! Praise the Lord!

My Camel

I loaded my camel rich and high, and marched him up to the needle's eye. He was laden with riches manifold, with bales of silks and with sacks of gold, with precious stones and jewels rare, with vessels lovely beyond compare. I urged my camel with angry din, I pressed my camel to enter in, but far too large with his loading high, he could not pass through the needle's eye. I rode the camel a night and day and sought to enter some other way; but though I folowed a wearisome round, only the needle way I found.

17

I groaned, for I did not have enough, so I took from the camel the bulkier scuff; and with gold and gems, I would feign get by—still the camel stuck at the needle's eye. Then I left the camel alone outside, and all by myself, the entrance tried; but with all my pockets stuffed — alas, the needle still would not let me pass. So at length I threw all my wealth away, and sank upon my knees. I begged the Lord to forgive my sin and let a poor traveler in. Then lo — the marvelous needle's eye grew to an entrance wide and high, and proud and glad in a beggar's dress, I passed through the portals of happiness. But where the camel decided to go, I did not care, and I do not know.—A. R. Wells.

(Bonds Of Peace 1951)

REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

pray thee, my blessing... because God hath dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." Gen. 33:9-11

"I have enough..." What a wonderful statement of satisfaction, fullness, and sufficiency, and these words were uttered by both Esau and Jacob. They were spoken however, from two very different perspectives. Jacob plainly declares that his contentment was because "...God hath dealt graciously with me,..." Esau could in no wise make such a statement. He was a self-made and self-sufficient man who had willingly sold his access into the choicest of God's blessing. The record of this transaction clearly shows that Esau "... despised his birthright." Gen. 25:34 Paul likewise declares that Esau was a fornicator or profane "...who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright." Heb. 12:16

18

Contrariwise, Jacob sought every opportunity to obtain all the bounty which this birthright provided. Purchasing it was just the beginning. God appeared to him almost immediately after he left home and confirmed the Abrahamic covenant to him personally. Gen. 28 Jacob responded by building an altar unto the Lord and calling the name of that place Bethel, or House of God. He continued his pursuit of God's blessing even to the point of crying out to the angel of the Lord, "...I will not let thee go, except thou bless me...." after this "...man..." from God had "touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint,..." Gen. 32:25-26

There is another term used in the N.T. which also conveys the same glorious message as "I have enough." That word is "exceeding," meaning "a throwing beyond others, abundance, far more, beyond (out of) measure." God expressed the truth of it when He said to Abraham, "...Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward." Gen. 15:1 Numbers 14:7 describes Canaan as "...an exceeding good land," and God endowed Solomon with "...wisdom and understanding exceeding much,..." I Kings 4:29

Paul tells us that we have a path to "... a far more

exceeding and eternal weight of glory;...” due to the temporary light affliction which has been given unto us. II Cor. 4:17 We are then informed that the key to obtain this “exceeding” glory is walking by faith, looking “...not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:...” V. 18

Paul also prayed earnestly that we might know “...what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe,...” which is a reference to the same power which raised Jesus from the dead. Eph 1:19-20 Such power does indeed become very real in our lives, ministering both to natural needs and working to change us inwardly from glory to glory. Furthermore, Peter gives even more hope and exceeding confidence, proclaiming that “...his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness,....Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature,...” II Pet. 1:3-4 These are most assuredly promises that are far superior and beyond other avenues available to us, resulting directly in our being “...partakers of the divine nature.” We walk by faith to claim all these exceeding great blessings, proclaiming with Jacob, “I have enough,.... because God hath dealt graciously with me,....” and we can do it without fear of becoming passive or complacent. We full well know that we are not perfect yet, but we also know that we have enough in these exceeding riches to bring us to full maturity in Christ, and are absolutely confident that He “..is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.” Eph 3:20

19

GH

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We still have plenty Grace and Glory Hymnals available, both piano copies and books for the congregation. Many have enjoyed these deep spiritual songs down through the years for they are literally sermons declaring unto you the whole counsel of God.

Also be advised that our corn crib is full and all of the titles listed are readily available. Once again, we would remind our readers that the book of John is back in print, having been missing for quite a number of years. It is our desire to spread this deep message of Divine Grace to as many as will receive it while we longingly wait for Jesus' return and occupy faithfully until He comes.

The Two Sauls

W. J. Franklin

"As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." "God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis..." Acts 13:2 & 21.

20 I want to speak about two interesting characters and compare them and contrast them. One is in the Old Testament, the other is in the New — Saul the son of Kish and Saul of Tarsus. They surely were opposite characters in every way. The name of the latter was changed to Paul. They had some things in common also. Both were of the tribe of Benjamin and they had the same name and each introduced something new. Saul of the Old Testament introduced the monarchical form of government and Paul introduces the spiritual government of this age by the fullness of the doctrine to the Church. They were both chosen by the Lord and both were anointed — Saul after looking for his father's asses for three days and Paul after being blind for three days. Samuel poured a vial of oil on Saul's head and the Holy Spirit was poured out on Paul. From then on everything was different in their lives. Consider Saul in the 10th chapter of 1st Samuel. Saul was a big fellow. People like big things. A man said to me once about the grace movement, that we glory in our littleness, but we ought to be big men. Well, maybe so, but we are still little just the same. People in the natural glory in bigness. Everything that the world does it tries to put over in a big way. If we listen to advertisements over the air, sometimes we might think if we buy something advertised that all of the rest of our problems would be solved. Everything that the world has to offer is so cheap that they have to put it over in a big way to sell it. Saul was chosen of God, the anointed of God. It is specifically stated that God chose him to be over the people. He was God's man for a little time, but he did not remain in God's perfect will very long, though God left him in power. It seemed he was always wanting to be the big fellow, because in his very actions afterwards, he showed that his nature was like his physique. More and more I see that only God is King. Let us notice Paul of the New Testament. "For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak and his speech contemptible." II Cor. 10:10. I will never

get over marveling at God's choice of instruments. When He really wants to do something, He usually picks someone that we would not use at all. He usually uses weak things. Paul's conception of God certainly was not weak, but his bodily presence was weak and his speech contemptible.

Paul said, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." That is quite a statement. He was speaking of himself under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Some preacher, wasn't he? I do not know that the speech of anyone here is contemptible. They all speak good English. I do not think any of them stutter, but I wish I could preach like Paul. Maybe I am stronger in body than he was. It seems as though he had a weak body, but his faith was not puny. What a contrast. The one was self-sufficient, seeking a place; the other was seeking God's glory. He had a place. There is nothing wrong in having a big place, but there is a lot wrong in using a place to exalt one's self.

Both had great responsibilities. The one used his strength to the glory of God and received eternal bliss, but the other used it for his own glory, for his eternal shame. Notice the fact that King Saul exalted himself. It always impresses me in spite of Saul's condition that he had a wonderful son, named Jonathan. I Sam. 12 He smote the Philistines and Saul blew the trumpet. Saul had nothing to do with smiting the Philistines. His son Jonathan did it. He exalted himself to the priesthood, which was not his. Seemingly, he was always pushing himself. So here we see a man using his place for his own self-exaltation instead of using it for the glory of God. How often that is the case? I have noticed men that were little and whenever they came to success, they were filled with egotism and began to strut. Well, none of us have anything to strut about. I do not care what God does with us if He would withdraw His power, it would certainly be manifest that it was God. Paul said, "We have this treasure in earthen vessels." It is wonderful that Jonathan could outgrow his surroundings and have a wonderful faith anyway. He certainly did not get any inspiration from his father.

Now notice Saul of the New Testament. "And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise and go into the city and it shall be told thee what thou must do." Acts 9:6 This shows the characteristics of Paul's new life. Right away, he took a servant's place. Only a servant asks, "What wilt thou have me to do?" The king tells people what to do: it is the servant who takes orders. The Lord gave him specific orders. Later on in the chapter, we read what those orders were. God told Ananias that he was a chosen vessel to bear the Gospel to the Gentiles. Verse 15 That was his commission. Ever afterwards he took the place of a servant man-ward. He had authority as an apostle from God. Paul always took that place when he was speaking of himself before God. Of course, with us today he has authority as of God's voice to us and to the whole Church. Always toward God, he maintained a lowly attitude. He was just a servant. He brought himself down.

22 Now I want you to notice something else about these two men. In the 15th chapter of 1st Samuel we see that God sent Saul against the Amalakites, and he killed most of them. The Amalakites are figures of the flesh, and there are always some of them around. It does not matter how many of them are killed, there will be some left here and there and everywhere, even, until the Lord does away with the old nature. But he spared the best of the flesh, and flesh is still flesh. There never was any good in humanity except in one Person, that was in Christ. Notice what Saul says in the 8th verse. They were perfectly willing just like most people are to destroy that which was vile, but they wanted to spare the best of the flesh. With God there is no best of the flesh. It is all just flesh. God said, "All flesh have corrupted themselves." God never did reverse that statement in spite of the fact that Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. It still stands true that all flesh has corrupted themselves.

Saul failed to judge the flesh. "And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the Lord. I have performed the commandment of the Lord." I Sam. 15-13 I consider Saul's statement supreme hypocrisy. Samuel then wondered about the bleating of the sheep and lowing of the oxen that he heard. Notice the

22nd verse. "And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, He hath also rejected thee from being king." That is quite a statement. If I rebel against God, I just as well start telling fortunes and reading palms. Stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. We measure sins, but do not think much of them. I might see a man bowing down to an idol. If I were stubborn, I would be as bad as he is. All flesh is the same. Of course, there are degrees of transgression, but actually it is all the production of the flesh and it is all bad, because he had rejected the word of the Lord. That must have been a staggering statement.

Let us notice what Paul said—"With **me** it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you." I Cor. 4. He did not sit in condemnation over himself. He was so given over to God and had judged the flesh so thoroughly that he knew nothing against himself. We can judge ourselves, and we should every day. If we do not do it, we should do it. People are always telling what they can do and ought to do. If we can do it, let us judge ourselves. That does not mean to condemn ourselves, but it means to judge the flesh. If something is wrong, take it to God and get rid of it. We should yield to the corrections the Word gives that we might have a perfectly good conscience before God. Saul, the son of Kish, did not judge his own flesh. He pampered and gratified it.

Another interesting fact about these two men. One started with a crown and lost it. The other started for a crown and won it. We all started without a crown, but we may win a crown. When Saul failed to judge the Amalakites, one of them took his crown. II Sam. 1:10 The flesh took his crown. The one who took it could not wear it, for he was not a king. It did not do him any good. Saul failed to obey the Lord and execute judgment on the Amalakites, so the very people that he failed to judge took his crown. Now, notice the Saul of the New Testament, or Paul. The last chapter of 2nd Timothy is very precious to me, for it gives the last words of Paul. We always value the last words of friends. We record them in the mind at least. The sixth verse is interesting. "For I am now ready to be offered and the time of my departure

is at hand." If I had sided with Saul of the Old Testament and took glory that did not belong to me, if I tried to kill even my own son and persecuted David all over the country and failed to execute God's judgments, etc., then I could not stand with Saul of the New Testament, who said of the past, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. I am ready." Paul was about to be executed, but he would not think of it as death, but simply a departure. In his very death he was going to be an offering unto God. If we walk with God in every phase of our lives, whether life, or death, it can be a service to God. Sometimes people bear a very effectual testimony on their death bed and people are converted. Just before our Lord died, He saved the thief. As Paul looked back, he could say, "**I have fought** a good fight,..." As he looked at the present, he could say, "... I am ready to be offered..." Then as he looked at the future, he could shout, "...there is laid up for me a crown..." It is sad to die in defeat, when one could die in victory and glory. Saul was chosen to be the first king over the only nation that God ever claimed for His own. He was anointed with the holy oil of God, by the faithful prophet Samuel. The Spirit of God came on Saul at times and he went out against Israel's enemies, but what a defeat he suffered. I do not think there is a much sadder life in the Old Testament than Saul's. It started through his failure to obey God. If we fail to judge on one point, it will be easy to fail on another point. Then Saul became jealous of David and tried to kill him. Finally, God would not even speak to him, so as a last resort he went to a witch for information. He had dishonored his office and God. Samuel was even afraid Saul would kill him if he anointed David.

But the Saul of the New Testament said, "...I am ready to be offered..." I am looking forward to a great coronation. No hardships move me, so that I might finish my course with joy. Nothing moved him, neither death, nor persecution, nor famine. His only aim and ambition was to please God. I believe he was happy about it. I do not believe he had to lean on someone else's shoulder for comfort. God had stood by him always. Though all had forsaken him, he prayed God it would not be laid to their charge, and he added, "Notwithstanding, the Lord stood by me that by me the preaching might be fully known, ... and I was delivered from the mouth of the lion." II Tim. 4:17 He knew his God would stand by him because he had stood with God.

One of these lives might be called the most miserable and foolish, an entire failure. Perhaps so, because he was the choice of the people, who clamored for "a king like the nations." God gave them the kind of king they wanted. It should be a warning to us, never to want our own way, but always let the Lord choose for us. With the Saul of the New Testament it was altogether a life of faith and victory. He was God's choice absolutely, independently of the wishes of men. His career closed in triumph and honor. Thank God! He always causes the obedient and faithful to triumph. Sometimes it may look like we were sinking, and the devil was getting the upper hand, but God is over all, and sooner or later we come out on top. Let us profit by Saul's mistakes and failure, and rejoice in hope of eternal victory through Paul's example and sound doctrine.



The Day Breaks

Say not, oh weary soldier, Naught availeth,
That your labor and your wounds are vain.
Your Captain fainteth not, nor ever faileth.
He is faithful, and you shall remain.

25

If hopes are growing dimmer, fears are liars.
It may be that in the haze concealed
The enemy shall be o'ercome by flyers,
And you quickly will possess the field.

For tho' your tired nerves are near to breaking
And you cannot seem one inch to gain;
Far back the Captain stands and He is taking
All the spoils from out the foe's domain.

O, see the night is going; day is breaking.
And the Captain comes in dazzling light.
The enemy is dazed, all things are shaking.
Look above; the sky is clear and bright.

Mary M. Bodie

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. . . . And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also” (I John 4:11 & 21).

26 I became a Christian when I was just a young child. At an early age, I felt the condemnation that unresolved sin brings into a person’s life. And I also felt the release from that guilt and condemnation that only the peace of God provides when I knelt and prayed the sinner’s prayer. It was in the summer during Vacation Bible School. I had heard the “Good News” that Jesus died for my sins, and since we were all sinners from birth, I needed to accept Him as my Savior. That guilt seemed to build more each day so by the end of the week I made a commitment to go forward. I was finally forgiven. What a relief! It was a very real experience that I remember well to this day. But in spite of my new birth and the big change inside of me, being just a kid, I continued on for years pursuing the idea that the world must surely revolve around me. This is evidence that even though we are forgiven, we are still human. I lived for a long time hugely unaware of other’s needs, desires or concerns. I was pretty well self-absorbed and self-serving. . . Just looking out for number one. I was just plain SELFISH! And then one day something happened — we had a visitor.

When I was around twenty years old we had a visiting missionary come to our church. Myrtle Huff was the lady’s name who stood behind the pulpit that evening, barely tall enough to be seen over top of the podium up there in the front of the church. I would guess she was well into her sixties and barely five feet tall. There was really nothing special about the woman in appearance. Her credentials that caused me to pay any attention to her at all were the years she had spent in Ghana, West Africa, as a missionary. She had been there for years, faithfully serving the Lord. She was ministering to people from a different continent, a different culture, and (some would say) a different race. I was impressed with that, even though I didn’t understand it. This visit and this visitor would prove to have a profound impact on me.

It’s hard for me even now to describe exactly what happened to me on that visit. She began reporting on her work

there in Africa. And then she talked about the people. She really went on and on about the people; the people learned English, they were good with crafts, they knew how to do this and learned how to do that; they could sing in four-part harmony. . . on and on she went. Looking back, it was not so much what she said but the passion that she had for the work and the deep love God had given her for the people. I was honestly baffled by all of this. And as I began to ponder how God must have done something special in this woman, He began to turn the light on for me. I can only say that by the time she was done speaking, something had happened to me that would cause a permanent change in my attitude. Something that she had brought with her was left with me that night. She had captured me with her vision and inspired me with her passion. Call it an epiphany, a revelation, or whatever you like, God simply used this unlikely vessel to enlighten me on how He feels about people. I would never feel the same about people again. He touched the strings of my heart and began to play some new chords in my life. Although I understood the need to turn to God and to rely on Him as my source, prior to that visit, I had no idea what a resource God considered people to be to Him. I did not truly understand His love for mankind or His plan for them to serve Him by serving and loving each other.

27

I am reminded of something Jesus spoke about in regard to sheep (Matt 10:6). In fact, someone posed the question, "Who are the lost sheep of the house of Israel?" The question was asked to provoke some thought and could also foster some polarizing opinions for debate. However, if the truth be told, I seriously doubt that Jesus cares where the sheep are from. He might say, "Don't worry about where the sheep are from. . . just be concerned that they are lost!" I don't think that the Great Shepherd would care if they were from Jerusalem, Juneau, Jamaica or northern Siberia. I do not think it matters to Him if they live in houses with black roofs, red roofs, yellow ones or green. Could it possibly matter to Him if they bleat in English, Spanish, or fluent Hebrew? No. He only cares that they are lost. Somehow they need to find Him!

So who are these lost sheep of the house of Israel? In my mind there can only be one true answer. I think I know who they are. Even though their identity may have been concealed — I think I have the answer. Others might disagree, but I am quite certain now exactly who they are. After spending a great

deal of time comparing scripture with scripture I feel that their true identity has now been disclosed. The only possible answer could be. . . . “the lost sheep of the house of Israel” are not sheep at all — they are people, people just like you and I. No, God was not talking about sheep; He was talking about people and He desperately loves them. All of that to say: I had the wrong attitude toward people. I thought of them more as sheep (just so many creatures that happened to be on the same planet with me), not as spiritual beings who God sacrificed His only Son for and has an eternal purpose for.

We have the unique distinction as human beings of being created in the image of God and after His likeness. I have come to understand over the years that we are more valuable to God than anything. Nothing is more important to Him. . . . No currency, no creature, no element or product are of more value to God in this universe than people — nothing!

28 Since that one visit years ago, I have gradually stepped down from my throne of the universe and have tried to leave my selfish ways behind. Now, people are at the center of my life and not me. In my opinion, God, who is my source, has made me merely a steward of all the resources He has supplied me with. I need to be sharing everything I have with those around me. So in going forward, I want my focus to be on helping others. Whatever pathway of purpose or artery of influence God would lead me down, I want to be an ambassador for Him. . . . To exemplify His kindness in some way everyday, and to demonstrate His love to people. My prayer is this:

*Lord, may my hands be always open to the poor,
My arms reach out to embrace the broken in heart,
And may my heart never cease to cry out with compassion
for those who are lost.*

GOD, our greatest source — **PEOPLE**, God’s greatest resource!

—Anonymous

The Glory Of Jesus

“...Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:... And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” John 17:1,5

To glorify means to honor, confer honor upon, extol, to esteem most highly. Prov. 8 tells of the glory that Jesus had before the creation. When was Jesus Christ glorified on earth? Three disciples saw Him glorified in vision. Lk. 9:32 and II Pet. 1:17 He manifested the glory of His supernatural power in Cana, where His first miracle took place. But here, Jesus prayed that He might be glorified through redemption. By death and resurrection He purchased a new kind of glory. By anticipation, Jesus began to be glorified when Judas went out from the Passover Feast. John 13:31 He knew that the traitor would betray Him into the hands that crucified Him. Christ's glorification began where Satan's power was annulled and the old creation was slain. His death was the first stroke of eternal victory — the glory of satisfying Divine justice by paying man's debt. Then came the birth of the new creation. His Spirit and body were reunited. He rose from the grave in a glorified state. He was no longer identified with the old creation. He possessed a spiritual body from that moment on. Note the proofs. Jesus disguised Himself, and changed His identity, when meeting Cleopas and another witness of His resurrection, something He had never done before. Lk. 24:15-31 Then He vanished out of their sight. Mary Magdalene did not recognize Him. John 20:14 He entered a room "...when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled... and stood in the midst..." John 20:19, 26. He went to heaven and returned that very day. V. 17 He may have made that trip more than once during those 40 days. Do you ask, How could He eat if he had a glorified body? I would ask you, "How did God, in the form of three men, eat roast calf?" Gen. 18. No one saw Jesus after His resurrection except when He revealed Himself to them, and the manner of His departure from them is recorded only once, viz., when He ascended to heaven the last time. Acts 1:11 They witnessed His ascension. But His resurrection was His glorification, for all the future depended upon it. His millennial reign will be the final manifestation and effulgent culmination of His supreme glory.

(Anon. 1943)

ISAIAH 62 ~ I JOHN

“...and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name... Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken;... And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought out; A city not forsaken.” V. 2,4,12

The above verses somewhat summarize the eternal benefits of redemption which Israel will experience after they accept their Messiah, and are “... called by a new name,...” thereby making them a new creation in Christ Jesus. Thus, this sixty second chapter of Isaiah corresponds beautifully with I John where the beloved apostle enlarges on the glorious blessings and attributes of eternal life. “(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.” I John 1:2 -3 “I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.” I John 2:12 “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 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.” I John 3:1-2

One day Israel, as a collective nation, will enjoy the same glorious benefits of eternal life, which are common to believers during this Church Age. They will, in their day of restoration, realize the fullness of God's love and fellowship, and they will revel in the fact that their sins are forgiven thus opening the path for their own exaltation as the sons of God. It is that redemption in Christ Jesus which provides the array of blessing which Isaiah describes throughout the rest of this chapter.

“For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that

burneth.” God has promised both righteousness and salvation to this beloved city. Neither peace nor righteousness prevail within its walls today, but that will all change when this nation finally experiences the new birth in Christ. Isaiah asserts that God “... will not rest,...” until He has brought this great miracle to pass, and scripture is very plain that the only righteousness acceptable in His Eyes is found in Christ. Israel will discover that glorious treasure and become “... as a light that burneth.” She will be that beacon of direction, “And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.” V. 2 That new name is exactly the same as we enjoy today, for Israel will become a new creation. They will display the very righteousness of Christ as they lead all the nations in such paths during the millennium. They shall also be greatly exalted, reigning as sons of God, for “Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.” This nation will finally display the fact that they are God’s crowning work on this earth, and it is in direct contrast to the dire straits displayed during the tribulation.

31

“Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.” V. 4 Such desolation will run rampant during the devastating time of Jacob’s trouble, and it will be necessary to bring them to total dependence on The LORD. Isaiah had previously declared that, “In that time shall the present be brought unto the LORD of hosts of a people scattered and peeled, and from a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden under foot, whose land the rivers have spoiled, to the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, the mount Zion.” Isa. 18:7 That time will arrive during this awful week of tribulation wherein they will be left completely forsaken and desolate, but all that will change, for this entire nation shall be as a present “... brought unto the LORD of hosts... to... mount Zion.” The day of desolation will fade into distant memory, and they will be known as both Hephzibah and Beulah. Hephzibah

means “my delight is in her,” while the word Beulah signifies “married.” Both terms reflect the love of God upon this people, even as John declared, “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:...” That love and intimacy is further demonstrated by the reference to marriage, “For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.” V. 5 God long ago claimed Israel as the wife of Jehovah. That story of both rejection and restoration is “acted out” by Hosea, whom God required to marry an harlot, who then committed adultery against him. After that, he had to literally “buy her back,” and bring her unto himself as a demonstration of God’s persistent pursuit of Israel. His overall purpose is, “... at that day, saith the LORD, that thou shalt call me Ishi; (Husband) and shalt call me no more Baali. (Master) ... And I will betroth thee unto me **for ever**; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD.” Hos. 2:16-20

That day has finally arrived, even after the great desolation portrayed by Hosea and a number of other prophets, and now Isaiah plainly declares that, “... as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.”

Furthermore, He is now able to assume His place as a Protector, asserting that, “I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence, And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.” V. 6-7 The fulfillment of these verses seems to begin while Israel is yet in the tribulation period. The watchmen are true intercessors for Israel like unto the two witnesses, who will minister for the first 1260 days of the tribulation period, “... which shall never hold their peace day nor night:... And give him no rest,...” Their’s is a ministry of intercession before God, and that intercession will be effective, for even though the same two witnesses are killed in the midst of the week, yet “... to the woman (the faithful remnant) were given two wings of a great

eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.” Rev. 12:14 This same woman is indeed protected throughout the full 1260 day reign of the antichrist, wherein Satan would try to destroy her. However, our present text clearly affirms that the “watchmen” should cry out “And give him no rest till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.” That cry will be effective, for this same fledgling nation will eventually come forth in glory as the aforementioned bride of Jehovah!

“The LORD hath sworn by his right hand, and by the arm of his strength, Surely I will no more give thy corn to be meat for thine enemies; and the sons of the stranger shall not drink thy wine, for the which thou hast laboured:” V. 8 The record is quite clear, both in history and the scripture, that the nations have literally fed themselves from the bounty of this chosen nation. That pattern will now change dramatically, for “... his right hand,...” that is Christ and all His Majesty, will shortly introduce a new order whereby all nations of the earth must now bow down **33** to Israel and serve them, even as previously declared in Ch. 61:5. “And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers.”

“But they that have gathered it shall eat it, and praise the LORD; and they that have brought it together shall drink it in the courts of my holiness.” V. 9 Israel will now enjoy the fruits of their own labors, and that which had been used for the satisfaction and gratification of the nations will now be brought into “... the courts of my holiness,” as a beautiful expression of worship toward God. Those same nations are also exhorted to “Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people.” V. 10 Rather than impede this chosen generation, all nations of the world will now be required to assist them, “...cast up the highway...” in order to lift up a “standard,” or banner of recognition for them. Israel must be recognized as God’s Chosen People, and the closing verses of this chapter give forth the reason.

“Behold, the LORD hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.” V. 11-12 All this proclamation will come to pass, “For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God....” II Cor. 1:20 Total deliverance or salvation will come to Israel, and they most assuredly shall receive God’s reward of being chief among the nations. They shall be a “holy people” simply because they have finally bowed to the redemption which is in Christ Jesus. They have also been “... Sought out, A city not forsaken.” What a great contrast to their former testimony, for God has diligently sought them out and claimed them as His Own. They have now truly experienced: “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:...” I John 3:1

34

“SECURE IN CHRIST”

Secure in Christ, blest Lamb of God
Who died to set me free.
And in His body bore the rod
Designed for such as me.

Secure in Christ, when foes assail
And try to make me doubt.
I’ll trust in Him who will not fail,
Nor ever cast me out.

Secure in Christ, when days are dark,
And I but dimly see.
Some day to glory I’ll embark,
And ever with Him be.

Secure in Christ, ‘Till I shall stand
Before His shining face;
And ever dwell in that blest land
For all those saved by grace.

Secure in Christ, Oh praise His name,
My song shall ever be,
His blood with power still the same
Gives me security.



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