

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the  
whole Counsel of GOD

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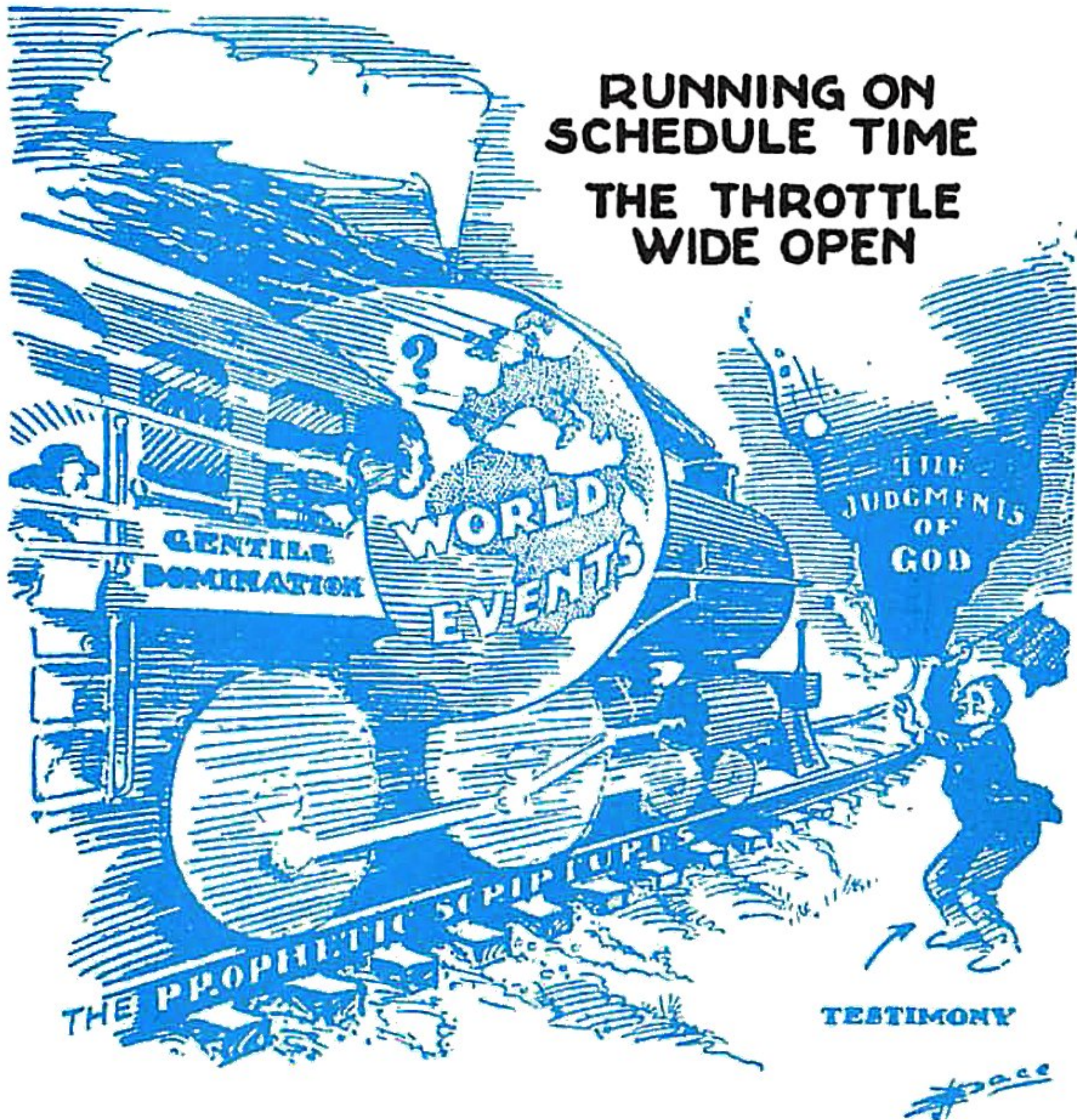
Number 8



**I** have set the  
Lord always  
before me:  
because he is  
at my right  
hand, I shall  
not be moved.  
PSALM 16:1

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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: ...” Matt. 24:7

“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; ...and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.” Dan. 7:7-8

The above citations describe two distinct eras of end time prophecy. The first is a part of the time which Jesus defined as “...the beginning of sorrows...” Matt. 24:8 The text from Daniel depicts an advanced time in the tribulation wherein some of the former squabbling nations combine to form a ten nation coalition which is ultimately gathered together “...against the LORD, and against his anointed,...” Psa. 2:2 These ten nations will then be reduced to seven when the “...little horn...” plucks up three of them by the roots. We feel absolutely certain that America, due to her current tremendous financial state and powerful presence in the world today, will be a part of these ten nations, and that she will also be one of the three who are plucked up. This is really not a bad thing, for the seven nations that are left are steeped in wickedness and will be defined as goat nations because of their hatred for Israel. Every one of them will be banished into oblivion when Jesus judges them. Those nations which are determined to be sheep nations due to their positive acceptance of Israel, will continue as a nation during the millennium. The seven horned coalition of rebellion and ungodliness will be in power at the beginning of the seven year tribulation period, but John gives the following detailed account of how it will be further reduced to only one man. “And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.” Rev. 17:10 The seven will be reduced

to two, and the last king standing will be the antichrist who will then form and control a one world government.

Current news accounts surely confirm that we are gazing steadfastly upon nation rising up against nation. John declared in the very beginning of this Church Age that the spirit of antichrist was already in the world at the time then present. “And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.” I John 4:3 It is imperative that God’s people understand the difference between the man of sin, who is the antichrist, and the **spirit** of antichrist which has prevailed in this world since the beginning of the age. Many have tried to ascertain the identity of this godless man, but to no avail. We are confident that he is in the world at this present time but will not be revealed until the proper time. However, the very spirit of antichrist reigns supreme in all nations of the world at this present time, for every one of them long to have the universal worldwide power and dominion which belongs only to Christ.

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One world government will prevail in the not so distant future. Scripture is very clear that the antichrist will be given a specific 1260 day period of total dominion. Daniel declares plainly that “...the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.” Dan. 11:36 The prophet further expresses the length of his days as being “...a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.” Dan. 12:7 John describes this same time of devastation for Jerusalem during the reign of antichrist saying that “...it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.” Rev. 11:2 Forty two months, --- time, times and an half, and a thousand two hundred and threescore days, all reflect exactly the same 1260 day reign of antichrist.

Many national leaders today would love to see one world

government under their own control. Ponder for just a moment the statement made by Mexican Pres. Manuel López Obrador as he wrote a letter to Pres. Trump because the latter was threatening to impose tariffs on Mexico if they did not contribute help to maintain the border between the U.S. & Mexico. “With all due respect, although you have the right to express it, ‘America First’ is a fallacy because until the end of times, even beyond national borders, justice and universal fraternity will prevail,” There are some around the world who believe that no country should enforce their own border and thus the world would indeed become “a universal fraternity.”

China has made no pretense of trying to hide the fact that she would love to have complete and total worldwide dominance of that fraternity. The following headline was published recently in the “South China Morning Post” **“World dominance in three steps: China sets out road map to lead in artificial intelligence by 2030”** The term “artificial intelligence” is one with which many may not be familiar. According to “Techopedia” “Artificial intelligence (AI) is an area of computer science that emphasizes the creation of intelligent machines that work and react like humans. Some of the activities computers with artificial intelligence are designed for, include: Speech recognition.” The major reason for China’s aspirations are purely economic as is stated in this same article. “The ambitious plan will be an economic bonanza for the country’s technology firms, as the area defined as core AI is expected to be valued at 150 billion yuan by 2020, while AI-related fields are valued at 1 trillion yuan, according to the government’s forecast. By 2025, those values will exceed 400 billion yuan and 5 trillion yuan (US \$739 billion) respectively. The future is here: China sounds a clarion call on AI funding, policies to surpass US.

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Government finance will lead the way in AI research, including the development of supercomputers, and high performance semiconductor chips, software and the hiring of key talent to lead the field, China’s science and technology minister Wan Gang said in March during the country’s parliamentary meeting.

The focus on AI sets a new director for China’s economic model, which is trying to wean industries and state-owned enterprises off years of exports manufacturing to reinvent themselves to stay relevant for the future. Up to 26 per cent of China’s gross domestic products (GDP) could be generated by AI-related industries by 2030, making the

country the world's biggest winner from investing in the field,..."

China's theft of American artificial intelligence is one of the major areas of contention in the current trade talks between the U.S. and China. Not only so, but recent rumors indicate that Google may have shared such intelligence with the Chinese, while withholding it from the U.S. military. It remains to be seen whether or not these allegations are true, but some have suggested that the practice would be considered treason.

6 It is quite well known that the antichrist will most assuredly control the entire economic global market, for "...he causeth 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 Even in our world today, money is the absolute controlling factor among the nations. Both North Korea and Iran are suffering miserably because of the economic sanctions put upon them by the U.S. government. North Korea has a history of bluffing her way through these crisis situations, especially with the U.S., by making promises which have been quickly broken. Current U.S. policy has not succumbed to that, and it remains to be seen whether or not Kim Jong Un will finally surrender his nuclear program in order for those sanctions to be lifted. Meanwhile, the rhetoric of one nation rising against another continues.

Iran is another nation which would surely love to have the advantage sought by China, but at this point they are nowhere near achieving the economic power to do so. They too are under severe sanctions imposed by the U.S. after Pres. Trump withdrew from the infamous "Iran nuclear deal," and all reports indicate that those pressures are causing major distress in that country. Although the sanctions were imposed by Pres. Trump, this has turned into a global turmoil of nation rising against nation. Iran shot down a U.S. drone for which there was absolutely no retaliation. However, in an endeavor to put pressure on other nations to ignore the imposed sanctions, Iran first seized a Japanese ship. We then hear of British vessels capturing an Iranian tanker bound for Syria, desperately trying to deliver forbidden oil to that

country in an effort to acquire badly needed money for Iran. Iran needs cash and lots of it, but her efforts to obtain it have so far been greatly thwarted. There is a simple solution for her, meaning that she could stop trying to develop a nuclear weapon. She now insists that unless Britain meets Iranian demands to release their ship, this rogue nation will continue to rise up and enrich uranium beyond the limits imposed by the “nuclear deal.” It is quite certain that not one nation really believes Iran ever did cease her efforts to obtain this nuclear weapon, but the battle of words rages on and the British insist that they will release the Iranian tanker as long as it does not go to Syria. Every nation on the earth is trying desperately to maintain their own economic stability and the European nations are undoubtedly realizing that they are much safer trying to comply with U.S. sanctions and maintain good trade relations with the booming American economy rather than putting their confidence in a rogue nation like Iran.

Scripture is quite plain that this world will one day be engulfed in nuclear war. Though the nations may put forth every effort to prevent it, God’s Word declares that it will surely come to pass. John described such warfare writing that “The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.” Rev. 8:7 The hail and fire express the devastation of nuclear war due to the extent of the damage inflicted when “...the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.” This chapter continues with the same type and degree of devastation for, “...the second angel sounded and as it were a great mountain (kingdom or nation) burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.” Rev 8:8 The sea is here representative of Gentile nations, and a full third of them are affected by the death and destruction of this nuclear fire. The world is desperately trying to keep Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, and to stop N. Korea from developing the technology to deliver one. Both of them must surely be considered “rogue nations,” but Iran’s

history with Israel would be the most likely culprit in touching off this nuclear holocaust. One reason for that is due to their long history with Israel, for Iran is indeed the modern day kingdom of Persia. An extremely ungodly man by the name of Haman sought Persian King Ahasuerus' favor during the time of Esther, insisting that "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people... diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws... If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed:..." Esth. 3:8-9 The attitude in Iran has not changed from that day to this, and their blind religious motivation and hatred against Israel could most assuredly be the catalyst for literally starting nuclear warfare among the nations during the coming tribulation period.

8 Though China seems to have the economic advantage among these nations, Russia surely cannot be overlooked in this regard, for once again the power and spirit of antichrist is also most assuredly manifest in that ungodly nation. They too are trying desperately to control other nations especially in cyber-warfare in an endeavor to interfere with elections around the world, including the U.S. It is not difficult to assume that they too have used "artificial intelligence" to achieve their goals of disrupting political elections, thus creating absolute chaos around the world. It is imperative for all God's people to remember the absolute fact that, yes! God did commit the governments of the world into the hands of the Gentiles in 606 B. C. when Nebuchadnezzar became the head of the first world empire, but Daniel also plainly declared, "...Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings:..." Dan. 2:20-21 Let us make no mistake! Any ruler on the throne today is there because God put him there, and the antichrist, no matter from whence he comes, will reign by God's decree.

The constant fighting both in and among the nations today is both tiring and extremely disheartening. However, these times have been specifically prophesied and despite the attempts of men to stop decreed prophecy, all the signs indicating the coming of Jesus will without fail continue. Thus, we too must follow God's



instruction for us and continue to look up. We are most grieved by the constant immorality and disdain of God's Word seen in societies around the world, but again we must be most acutely aware of the fact that "...the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;" I Tim 4:1 Paul also declared emphatically that, "...that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;" II Thess 2:3 The falling away is already very plainly underway and will culminate with the revelation of the antichrist well into the tribulation period. We do not expect to be here for that revelation, 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, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." Rev. 3:10 We would be a part of that Philadelphia assembly and if we would maintain that status, it is imperative that we **look up**, beyond the present day chaos and depravity which permeates the atmosphere around us and hold on to the promise given to this choice and elite Church. "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." Rev. 3:11

9

### God Is Faithful

There has not failed us one good thing  
Of all the Lord has said.  
What He has promised He has done:  
And hitherto has led.  
  
Tho' we grow old as years go by,  
And hoary is our head:  
He will not leave, nor e'en forsake,  
Those for whom He bled.  
  
Then what have we to ask beside?  
His love will ne'er grow cold  
Amid the further strain and stress ---  
His Hand will still uphold.

Mary M. Bodie

## SCARS

Vicky Moots

**H**ave you ever had a scar? Not long after birth we begin to accumulate them, not just physical but also emotional scars. I am going to look at how scars are formed in the natural and apply that to our emotional scars, what they mean to us and why scars are necessary.

You may wonder why scars are necessary and why God couldn't make wounds heal without scars. Wouldn't that be nice? But scars are a necessary part of the wound healing process. You may also wonder, "Why were there scars in Jesus body? Why wasn't His body healed completely when He was raised from the dead?"

We are going to see why. Scars are part of the natural healing progress and appear in all sizes: long, short, wide and narrow and they all tell a story. They tell a story of something that happened in the past, whether it was an injury or a surgery. They have a meaning to us.

10

Bodies are identified by scars, tattoos and other markings that are found. As a doctor I can find out on physical exam what kind of surgeries you have had, even if you have forgotten. I see a scar and I ask "What was this from?" Sometimes as patients are telling me, they become a little bit emotional because of the circumstances associated with the scar.

Scars are important physically and spiritually. Jesus was identified after His resurrection and will be identified in the future by His scars. John 20:19-29, relates the account of Jesus when He appeared to His disciples behind closed doors after the resurrection. He showed them His hands and His side and they believed. But one of the disciples, Thomas, who wasn't there, stated that he would not believe unless he saw for himself and was able to put his finger into the print of the nails and thrust his hand into the wound in His side. We all know where the scar came from in His side – It was where the soldier thrust the spear into his heart to be sure he was dead. (I am going to talk a little more about what that scar meant later.)

Thomas had to see the physical evidence that Jesus was raised from the dead, so Jesus did appear to Thomas and invite him to

examine those scars. And he believed.

Zech 13:6 states, "And one shall say unto him, "what are those wounds in thine hands?" then he shall answer, "Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends." So we see that Jesus scars were His identification. Zech. 12:10 the declares that, "...they shall look upon me whom they have pierced."

As I said before scars are a reminder of a previous injury or surgery. They tell a story and can be a testimony of healing. Scars are not evidence of crucifixion because you must be alive to make scars. All those, other than Jesus, who were crucified did not have scars because they all died. Scars show healing, not just injury. Jesus scars were evidence of His resurrection and His healing.

Now let's look at the physical process of wound healing and scar formation to better understand their spiritual meaning. In the physical this is a very complex process but I'm going to try to simplify it a little. It is actually called "Regeneration", which means "replacement of destroyed tissue with new tissue."

Doesn't God do this spiritually for us also? The scripture says that if any man be in Christ he is a new creature (creation); old things are passed away and all things are become new. So when He regenerates us (by virtue of the new birth), He replaces the old destroyed tissue with new tissue. He doesn't just patch up our old sinful life. He gave us a new life, a resurrection life; we are born again. It means the regeneration of our lives by taking away the old and replacing it with the new. One of the purposes of scars in our lives is to create a new thing that is pleasing unto God.

Fibrosis is the formation of connective tissue that we call scar tissue. That is what we see on the outside as evidence of healing, but there is something going on in the inside at the same time. Tissue injury, an accident or surgery, causes bleeding which starts inflammatory events into motion. It happens spiritually and emotionally also. Sometimes we get angry and we become inflamed, but God uses that inflammation for it is a necessary part of the wound in healing, (in the natural and the spiritual).

Special cells called "mast cells" and "macro phages" release inflammatory chemicals which cause the capillaries (small blood vessels) to dilate (open up) and become permeable (or leaky). This allows white cells and plasma which is rich in clotting proteins

and antibodies to seep into the injured areas. This happens very quickly and forms a clot to stop the bleeding and holds the wound edges together, sealing it off from bacteria. Then the outer part of the clot hardens and forms a scab. That's nature's "Band-Aid" that helps protect the wound. Dead cells and other debris in the wound are eaten up by the macrophages (like Pac – Man).

Spiritually speaking, the Holy Spirit cleans up our emotional wounds in much the same way doing a hidden inner work to rid us of the harmful debris that Satan and the world throw at us to destroy us. This is taking place underneath, below the scab, not on the outside. People sometimes try to add insult to injury by things they say and the things they do to us but on the inside the Holy Spirit is working in us to cleanse and heal us.

While the inflammatory process of wound healing is going on, the first phase of tissue repair, called organization begins. God is well organized. He does all things decently and in order, according to his plan for our lives, according to his schedule. Sometimes we get a little impatient and start picking at the scab. We say, "Ok, I want to see if there is any new skin under there." So we pull the scab off and the process of healing takes longer.

**12** We do the same thing spiritually, but God is patient. He continues to work with us, and the process of healing goes on. Sometimes we get a little infection in there because we have "messed with it" and the scar may be a little bigger. But God works all things together for our good. The bigger the scar, the bigger the testimony can be, Even when we mess things up God continues to work on the inside.

Next, granulation tissue forms containing new blood vessels (capillaries) and fibroblasts which grow into the wound to bridge the gap where tissue has been split apart. The fibroblasts are somewhat elastic and actually pull the edges of the wound together.

How does this apply to us spiritually? In the same manner God is working in us to help pull our broken lives and hearts back together, like the fibroblasts. As we continue to cling to Him that helps the healing process. The macrophages (Pac-Man cells) begin to dissolve the old blood clot, which was necessary in the first place to stop the bleeding. Every part of the healing process is necessary. We can't leave any of the steps out. Everything that God does in your life to help you heal from emotional scars is

necessary, even the inflammatory phase when you get angry with God. But God uses that inflammation for healing.

At the same time the outer layer of skin (epithelium) begins to regenerate, growing under the scab. Collagen fibers are laid down, and granulation tissue forms a fibrous patch which we call a scar. That is the permanent part of the healing process that stays there to hold the wound edges together.

The scab needs to stay on, till it begins to loosen around the edges and fall off. We need to leave our hands off physically and spiritually while God is doing the healing. The Holy Spirit is not only working in us but in the other people, the ones who have hurt or injured us in some way, healing the inflammation.

We have all seen signs of inflammation, a little swelling and redness around the wound that is usually gone in a few days and does not indicate infection. If it is getting worse, then it could mean infection. In the natural body, doctors usually sew the wound edges together to speed up healing and decrease the amount of scar tissue needed to seal the wound, but there will always be a scar.

When we have been offended, when we have been hurt, we need to go to the Lord, the Great Physician, He can decrease the amount of the emotional scar we have if we turn it over to the Lord early. He can heal us if we turn it over to Him late too, but we will have a bigger scar. 13

The amount of scar tissue formed depends on how deep and how wide the wound is. That means something to us spiritually also. Eph 3:18, 19 tell us of the breadth and length and depth and height of the love of God which passes knowledge. What does that mean to us? It means that no matter how deep, how wide your emotional scar is, His love can go deeper, can go wider than anything you have ever experienced. Why? Because Jesus experienced all our emotions. He became a man; He became like us. He suffered emotional wounds. His friends turned against him, He was betrayed, He experienced grief, His father died, He thirsted, He hungered, He was tired. There is nothing that you have experienced that Jesus has not already endured for you. And so His love is deeper, higher, wider than our wounds. It passes our knowledge to understand that. We just need to experience it.

How do we comprehend it then if it passes knowledge? We lay hold of it by experience, then we know how great His love

is. Whatever emotional need you have, don't think that He cannot heal it. His love goes deeper and wider, and then He draws us up to Him, just like the fibroblasts. He draws us to Him to bring about the healing.

So scars are necessary. We need to not pick at the scab, not get impatient, but rather give the Lord time to work in our lives – We need to keep hands off both physically and spiritually as I said before.

The scars of Jesus tell a story of love and obedience to the will of His Father. He could have avoided them. But what did He pray in the garden? “Not my will but thine be done.” He said, “I come to do thy will Oh God.” So He went through the process of obtaining those scars because of His love for us. The scars in His hands will be seen by the world. But He had another wound. The scar from the wound that pierced His heart was only seen by those who were close and intimate with Him. He was behind closed doors because in order to show that wound, He had to pull apart His clothing, to partially disrobe. Only those that were close to Him and became familiar with Him were allowed to touch His

**14** wound.

Phil 3:10 records Paul's desire to know Him in the fellowship of His suffering. He desired to be close and intimate with the Lord. He wanted to know Him in the power of His resurrection. The power of His resurrection was evidenced by the fact that He had scars in His hands and side. Paul said, “I want more than just evidence, I want to fellowship with His suffering, being made comfortable to His death.” He wanted to enter in to the suffering, that Jesus experienced, not just the physical suffering, when the soldier took that spear and pierced into His heart. He wanted to understand the emotional pain that Jesus experienced when He hung there on the cross, the emotional pain of being made sin. He wanted to enter into that kind of suffering. If you just wanted to enter into the physical suffering you could just take a nail and hammer it into your hand. That would not even begin to compare to His suffering. The physical suffering, though very great, was only part of the suffering He experienced. The other part was that He had to be made sin for us and He willingly did that. If we want to know Him like Paul did, then we will get behind closed doors and we will handle Him. Paul said in Gal. 6:17 “I bear in my body the mark of the Lord Jesus.” He gloried in the

scars that he received as a result of preaching the cross because it glorified Christ. He gloried in the cross. He did not want to know anything except the cross.

We can glory in the scars that we have received after we have healed as it glorifies Christ. It is Christ in us. God allows circumstances in our lives that sometimes hurt us and leave scars. As we yield to the healing process, the scars can become testimonies of the Christ life in us, the resurrected life of Christ's life in us.

I have a friend who had been in prison, who was always afraid that people would bring it up to him. They would keep picking off the scab and causing pain. I told him that he needed to turn it over to the Lord and turn it into a testimony... The next time someone says something he needs to say, "I'm so glad you brought that up because I want to tell you what the Lord did for me while I was in prison. If I had not gone to prison I would not have had healing for my soul." Then they can quit talking about it because they probably do not want to hear his testimony. You can do the same thing whenever someone tries to bring up some things in your face. You can, through the power of the Holy Spirit, turn that scar into a testimony.

15

God doesn't remove the scars. They are there for a reason. Did you know that Jesus had no scars before He was crucified? How can I say that? Only the risen Christ had scars. As the Lamb of God, He was without blemish or spot. So that means He had no scars. He was perfect. Exodus 12:5 tells us that the Passover lamb had to be without blemish or spot. I Peter 1:18, 19 likewise reminds us that Christ was that Perfect Lamb. He had no scars. He was slain as the Passover Lamb for our sin. That is where He obtained these scars. Now He will bear those scars for eternity. Why? As a reminder to us and to the world that our sins will not be remembered and that we will not be forgotten. Those scars are His for eternity.

Will ours be? I will answer that question later. So why are those scars in His hands now? We read in Isaiah 49:16, "Behold I have graven Thee in the palms of my hands." What does that mean? The nail scars! When He looks at His Hands, He sees us. He says, "That's Vicky, I died for her." When He looks at His Hands He sees each one of us individually. You can put your own name in there. Those scars are His for eternity.

In the natural people do not want scars. They feel they mar their appearance. Surgeons and lawyers get rich from scars because of our vanity and pride. We desire the flesh to be perfect on the outside. Billions of dollars are spent on cosmetics and plastic surgery to cover up or try to remove scars. Are we doing the same thing spiritually, trying to cover up our scars?

The scripture says that all who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. That means you are going to have scars. Some will have physical scars for suffering for Jesus, some will have emotional scars but you are going to have scars and you are going to have suffering. Why? That you may reign with Him. As we yield to the Lord we are going to accumulate scars, many scars. Those scars in our lives are marks of obedience to the will of God. We learn to know Him in the fellowship of His suffering. When our suffering gets to be too great for us we can get behind closed doors with Jesus, and get close and intimate with the Lord and say to Him, "You have those scars because of me, Thank You Lord. I thank You for the scars that I have received because You are conforming me to **Your** image."

16

So do we have enough scars in our lives that the world could identify the Christ Life in us? Are we covering those scars up; are we hiding them? Or are we allowing the Holy Spirit to use them as testimonies of healing? Do not hide your scars. The flesh is not perfect. He takes away the old and gives us the new; we are regenerated.

Someday our sin and suffering scarred bodies will be healed. We are going to have glorified bodies and I know we will not have scars in those bodies. Why? Because the scripture says we are going to become His spotless Bride. No scars! So until then, let us allow scars to become testimonies of what Christ has done in our lives, what He has done for us and in us.

### *Prayer for the Saints*

May God in mercy send you  
His Help along the way,  
His Grace for every trial,  
His Courage for each day;  
His Hope for each tomorrow,  
His Strength in all you do,  
His Guidance and His blessing---  
May He send all this to you!



## The Israel of God

The Jews are the only Israel known, in the Bible, and as the Bible knows of no tribes of Israel having been "lost," it is vain to look for them in any present-day nation other than the Jews.

Paul in Acts 26:6-7, also Jas. (1:1) recognized the Jews as representing the twelve-tribed Israel. Israel's spiritual blessings cannot be known outside the Covenant of Grace in Christ, and her national blessings cannot be enjoyed outside the Land of Promise --- Palestine.

Deut. 4:24-31 clearly teaches that the nation was exiled for disobedience and idolatry, and reduced to "few in number." Their restoration awaits their conversion.

The great Hebrew Christian missionary, Mr. David Baron, used to say, "When God has the whole heart of the whole nation, THEN the whole nation shall have the whole land."

To confuse Israel with any other nation, is to confuse the three branches of the human race — Shem, Ham, and Japheth ; to confuse the New Testament classification --- the Jews, the Gentiles, and the Church of God ; and to confuse Bible histories and prophecies.

It is important to remember that the British-Israel theory is rejected by MOST leading Evangelical teachers. All the Missions to the Jews reject it. All Hebrew Christians of repute reject it. Jews themselves reject it. The names "Hebrews," "Jews," "Israel," are interchangeable in the New Testament, and their use always assumes that they are the successors of Old Testament history and inherit the promises made unto the Fathers. The New Testament represents the Jews as being Israel, without hesitation or question. Paul used all three terms of himself — a Benjamite.

Jeremiah 30 & 31 are an inspired tractate, giving God's message concerning all Israel to the Gentile nations. It records (1) their present dispersion, (2) their coming unparalleled tribulation, (3) their restoration in unbelief, in preparation for (4) their conversion at the Second Coming of Christ and their subsequent full possession of the Land.

Paul, in three chapters of Romans (9, 10, 11), instructs Christendom concerning Israel's past, present, and future. The complete fulfillment of Old Testament promises to Abraham, David, and the now scattered nation, awaits Christ's Appearing in Glory. Meanwhile, as He said, "Your house is left unto you desolate UNTIL ye shall say, 'Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord; " and "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles UNTIL the Time of the Gentiles be fulfilled." —Selected.

# REFLECTIONS

*... From the Editor*

“.... the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.” Psa. 84:11

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Many may recognize this verse as that from whence the title to this magazine was derived. The characteristics of “...grace and glory...” present only two major examples of the goodness extended to “...them that walk uprightly.” Divine grace permeates this psalm, which begins with identifying those to whom it is directly written, for the heading indicates that this is “A Psalm for the sons of Korah.” Korah was the son of Kohath, a family of the Levites which had been charged with carrying the furniture of the tabernacle in the wilderness when it was in transport. The account in Num. 16 indicates that Korah and his band were not satisfied with the ministry given to them and emphasizes the fact that Korah actually wanted the place which God had given to Aaron. Num. 16:9-10 God’s judgment is swift, as “... the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up,...” Num. 16:32 However scripture does reveal that “... the children of Korah died not.” Num 26:11

This psalm then continues, specifically identifying many good things reserved for “...them that walk uprightly,” including the sons of Korah, shouting “How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts!” The word amiable means “loved, or well-beloved.” What a glorious blessing it is to realize that we can become the very tabernacle wherein God doth dwell, and indeed we are the beloved of the The Lord. Intimate fellowship with God is then offered, for “My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.” V. 2

Next, we must realize that we are identified with the heavenly band, as “... the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God.” V. 3 It seems that these heavenly beings have found a home in the

very altar of God, signifying the fact that we too must discover our own home on the altar of sacrifice, presenting ourselves as a living sacrifice unto Him. Rom. 12:1

This list of "...no good thing..." being withheld continues proclaiming: "Blessed are they that  **dwell** in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah." V. 4 This close and intimate fellowship with God is not a temporary hit and miss experience, but rather becomes a customary place of constant dwelling in the very Presence of The LORD! Praise is then a constant companion which then results in the glorious blessing of discovering that we can be "...the man whose strength is in thee..." V. 5 Refreshing wells even in the valley of Baca (weeping) comes next, followed by the assurance that The Lord of hosts will hear my prayer and surely become my own personal shield of protection. This account continues proclaiming more good things available to these sons of Korah. The impetus here is that they are not responsible for the acts of unbelief and rebellion committed by their father but as Paul exhorted the Galatians, "...let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden." Gal. 6:4 Divine grace allows us to stand on our own merit in Christ Jesus regardless of what someone else may or may not have done.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**Fellowship Meeting  
LABOR DAY WEEK-END  
GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP  
13011 GRANVIEW RD.  
GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI 64030**

**Aug. 30 – Sept. 1**

**Services will begin on Friday Eve at 7 P.M. and conclude with the Sun. Morning Service on Sept. 1.**

**If you desire lodging, or need further information, please contact us at: 816-618-3306 or e-mail [gjhawk1@msn.com](mailto:gjhawk1@msn.com)**

## The Chastening OF THE LORD

L. H. Done!son

“GIVE ear and hear my voice; hearken and hear my speech. Doth the plowman plow all day to sow? doth he open and break the clods of his ground?”—Isa. 28:23,24. The Lord no doubt is speaking here of the years of Israel's chastening. We may also take this Scripture to ourselves. We are the Lord's tillage. He plows us, breaks up the ground, sows the seed, smoothes the soil of our hearts and makes us bring forth fruit. He does this by trials and chastenings, as we read, "For whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons, for what son is he whom the Father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us and we gave them reverence, shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure, out He for our profit that we might be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Heb. 12:6-11.

Sometimes we are inclined to think we are the ONLY ONES that get chastened. Well, some Christians are not chastened very much, but notice the wording. The Lord "scourgeth every SON whom He receiveth." Everyone who really grows into sonship is not only chastened, but he is scourged to an almost unmerciful degree. "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as sons. Sometimes parents do not use good judgment in chastening their children, but that is not the case with God, who is infinite in wisdom and does not chasten us except for our profit. Paul tells us if we yield to it, it will be profitable, but if we do not yield to it, we will be the losers. "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous but grievous." Everyone can say "amen" to that. "Nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." This word, 'exercised' in the original Greek refers to training for athletic games. So this chastening yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those that are trained by it. As we have heard it said here, "It is easier to take the train than the training." When the Lord is chastening us and we are in a hard place, there is a great temptation to try to get out of it —

to go somewhere else — if there is anywhere to go. The devil of course brings to our minds every disturbing thought which he can. Paul says if we take the training the peaceable fruit of righteousness will be worked unto us.

In James 1:3, we read, "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." Also in Romans 5:3, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience." These citations tells the results of faith being tried. Let us examine some of the testings that Bible folk endured. The first illustration is in Mark 10:17,21, 22. "And when He was gone forth into the way there came one running and kneeling to Him and asked Him, Good Master what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? Then Jesus beholding him loved him and said unto him, One thing thou lackest; go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast and give to the poor and thou shalt have treasure in heaven and come, take up the cross and follow me. And he was sad at that saying and went away grieved, for he had great possessions." This was not a trial of a saint. This nice, attractive, well-educated young Hebrew was not born again. He did not feel his need of a Redeemer. He did not address Jesus as Lord, but as Master which means instructor or teacher. He felt confident that he was able to do whatever was required to earn eternal life. Jesus told him a hard thing to do and he went away sorrowing. Jesus simply showed to him that his own righteousness was not sufficient. How different the outcome would have been if he had cast himself upon the mercy of Jesus and said, "Lord save me, I cannot save myself."

When we read of God trying His people, especially the overcomers, the trial always came out all right, working good for the individual and glory to God. We find when God tries His people He provides the grace for them to overcome in these trials and be increased and helped and God will be glorified. "He knows our frame and remembers we are but dust." Christ was tempted in all points like as we are and He knows just how much we can stand. He will not allow us to be tempted more than we are able to bear. We read in the 22nd Chapter of Genesis how God tried Abraham. No one except one who has children could really enter into what Abraham must have gone through in that demand which God made of him. What a severe thing for God to tell a man to do --- indescribably severe --- offer up his son! Yet we all know the outcome. Abraham believed God and went ahead, and though he did not actually have to sacrifice his son, God counted it so, because he went through all the motions right up to the point of slaying Isaac.

We thank the Lord that He gave Abraham the grace that he needed for the trial.

Then look at Job, a familiar character, known throughout the world. "And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man one that feareth God and escheweth evil?" Job 1:8 We know that the Lord allowed Job to be tried to the very limit of his endurance. The saints today are going through similar trials. The Lord only knows what people go through ; but we do know this, that no one who wants God's best need think he is the only one who has severe trials. The Word reads, "EVERY son whom the Lord receiveth, He scourgeth." It is the tendency to think that no one was ever tried like we are, for that which is a trial to one is not such to another. Nevertheless, I am sure from experience and from the Scripture, that the Lord allows everyone who has purposed in his heart to go on with Him, to be tried to the very limit — spirit, soul and body --- sometime. It is because He wants to develop this new life that He has put in us and make us strong by these chastenings. In I Kings 19:19, we read how one saint speaks seemingly harsh words to another. We know it often happens that the Lord uses one saint to try another. Sometimes we speak harshly and offend someone and we did not intend it at all. The other person gets offended and has to overcome it as in the following.

22

"So he departed thence and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth; and Elijah passed by him and cast his mantle upon him." God had showed Elijah that He had called Elisha to be his successor. V. 16 We may be sure that God had already worked in Elisha and prepared him for his coming task and responsibilities. "And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, GO BACK AGAIN; for what have I done to thee? And he returned back from him and took a yoke of oxen and slew them and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen and gave unto the people and they did eat. Then he arose and went after Elijah and ministered unto him"-I Kings 19:20, 21. Elisha might have become angry and felt like giving back the mantle to Elijah. He might have said, "Here take your mantle back. I don't want it anyway." But he took the rebuff because the Lord enabled him to take it. You know Christ gave some examples in which people were called and wanted to go back. He said that anyone who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is not worthy of the kingdom of

heaven. Elisha was an overcomer in this even though for the moment he was tempted to "look back." He took the Lord's best as it was offered to him.. He overcame and did what the Lord wanted. "And it came to pass when the Lord would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the Lord liveth and as thy soul liveth I will not leave thee.

So they went down to Bethel. And the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Elisha and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace. And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the Lord liveth and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho. And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to Elisha and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace. And Elijah said unto him, Tarry here I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the Lord liveth and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on."

II Kings 2:1-6. Elijah knew he was going to be taken up—translated into heaven --- and it seems that a good many other people knew it, too. Elisha knew it evidently and that there was a blessing attached to him being with Elijah, when he went up. It seemed that Elijah tried to discourage him from going along with him, but Elisha said, "I will not leave thee." Elijah would say, "you stay here. The Lord has called me somewhere else." but Elisha was determined to go on and get the best the Lord had for him. After the third time we read in II Kings 2:9, "When they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon, me." Elisha did not let Elijah talk him out of staying with him and now he has the privilege of getting a double portion of the spirit that was upon Elijah. "And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing; nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not it shall not be so." II Kings 2:10 Just think what Elisha would have missed if he had not gone on with Elijah. It is wonderful how the Lord gives us grace to go on.

I am impressed with this: "They that are led by the Spirit, they are the sons of God." I am glad that the Spirit leads us, that we do not have to go out and look for a way and then tell the Lord to follow.

I prefer to be one to follow behind the Lord. I praise the Lord that in every war He has gone ahead of us and praise Him for what He has done for us. Christ went to the cross and suffered. He paid the debt which we could not possibly pay. He arose in triumph and victory and is interceding for us today. The Lord has made the provision and He is actually carrying it out—the provision that He made for enabling us to overcome. I believe the Lord intends for His people to overcome, otherwise, why should He give us all of this Word and all of these examples all through the Bible? He knew there would be a people who would want His best.

24 We have another reference in Matt. 16. Here we find the Lord Himself said some hard words to a woman and yet she overcame. "And behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts and cried unto Him saying, Have mercy on me O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and besought Him, saying, Send her away, for she crieth after us. But He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the Lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped Him saying, Lord help me. But He answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth Lord; yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her. O woman great is thy faith; be it unto thee, even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour." First He answered her not a word. I was impressed with that. I went to a very snobbish college when I was quite young. Some of the boys tried to act very superior. They would sometimes pretend they didn't hear when you would ask them a question which was very insulting. This woman who wanted the Lord to heal her daughter, would not be insulted. She knew Christ was not a snobbish person. She knew in her heart that this was the "Christ" that Israel had been waiting for. She recognized Him as the Son of David but she could not be blessed in that way. She was a Canaanite and calling Him "Son of David" was equivalent to saying she was of Israel. But He answered and said, "It is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to dogs." So He called her a dog, but she would not be rebuffed. She said, "Truth, Lord, yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table."

"Then Jesus answered and said unto her. O woman, great is thy faith; be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour." That woman kept right on



and was enabled to believe for her daughter's healing. We know these things are written for our admonition and example that we may not be overcome or offended in trials. God's grace is sufficient. I thank the Lord for that. Not long ago I had a trial and was sick for several weeks. However, it gave me an opportunity to attend the prayer meetings of the Bible School, which was a wonderful blessing. They lasted about 45 minutes every morning. What a privilege to hear the priestly prayers of intercession for people all over the world. So I was blessed in my trial. Sometimes sickness draws us closer to Him. Sometimes those of us who work may neglect prayer. Maybe we are too tired at night and cannot get up early in the morning to spend much time in prayer. Some of us do not pray as much as we should, but I thank the Lord for the times that He does give us to wait on Him. Here is another illustration.

"Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool; where is the house that ye built unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord; but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at MY word." Isa. 66:1,2 The Lord is mentioning big things here, prominent things. The heavens are so large that the most powerful telescope will not reveal them all. Astronomers cannot see how many stars there are because there are so many and so far away. The thickness and height of the heavens cannot be measured by scientists. What a premium God places upon a man who is poor and of a contrite spirit and trembles at His Word. God speaks of all these wonderful things he has created, yet by comparison He seems to value an humble godly man more. Though the trials and chastenings that we go through are grievous at the time, yet we know that the Lord's way is the best and we can look back on the past trials and see that the Lord took us through the training that we should have had. We know the Lord has dealt with us in such a way that we have grown. We know He will continue to be faithful in the future. In the final analysis, it is the heart attitude that counts and the Lord will enable us to reckon our old man dead if we really so desire. He made every provision for us to overcome and He is going to take us all through to victory and to a place of everlasting glory and honor at His side. "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the GLORY which shall be revealed in us."

## A Hidden Ministry

“If anyone minister, let him do it ministering as of the strength which God supplieth that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” I Pet 4:11 R.V.

Herein is a ministry for all — to serve the children of God because we love them fervently. It is not to preach, or to teach the Oracles of God. This does not mean to talk. It is the doing of the little things that come in our way; and God is glorified thereby. A man may talk big and most beautifully, and yet there be nothing in his message but words and wind. He may be seeking to glorify himself — and many there are of this character today. But the service of which Peter tells us here is of far greater worth. It is to go to the burdened, weary, sorrowing saint with a message of cheer. If it is financial worry, it is to take along something of material help if possible. It is to put one's self in the very place of the needy one and apply the Golden Rule. The new man ought to be able to do this.

26 Here is an incident that illustrates the service. It occurred during the war. A tired horse fell in a busy street and the usual crowd gathered. Various efforts were made to get the poor beast up, but in vain. The reins were pulled, and shouts were hurled at the poor animal. It made a few spasmodic jerks but that was all the result. Then the whip was tried. That also was useless. Finally, the driver losing patience, kicked him vigorously; but only shudders of pain resulted. At this moment there came a soldier on the scene. He said, "Get out of the way. Leave him to me." To the amusement of all those who had never seen it in this wise, he laid down by the side of the horse and whispered soothingly in his ear, at the same time stroking his neck. This continued for about a minute, when to the amazement of all those present, soldier and horse arose together. The whole thing was simply and quietly done.

That man understood. He himself was down, and the horse knew that he understood, and that was the secret of the whole thing. It makes such a difference when we understand; for he who serves must have a heart. Most of us have so little feeling for the other fellow's need — but the Lord can change us. We can then minister in the Spirit of Christ who came down where we were and lifted us up with Himself. **"He came not to be ministered unto, but to minister."**

This is the need of the day — not golden-tongued oratory, but hidden service which does not lift the servant up; for no great renown is

won by it either in the church, or the world. But God never forgets. He will reward such ministry. The Lord Jesus Himself links such ministers with Himself. These deeds of love are recorded in heaven. Names unknown here will be heard and commended there. When all the honors of men and their perishable crowns have passed away, diadems of glory shall be found upon the heads of those lowly ones who sacrificed for others — and they shall wear them forever. **"Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord; for-as-much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."**

(Anon: reprint 1945)



Christian, when thy way seems darkest,  
When thine eyes with tears are dim  
Straight to God thy Father hast'ning,  
Tell thy troubles all to Him.  
Not to human ear confiding  
Thy sad tale of grief and care,  
But before thy Father kneeling,  
Pour out all thy sorrows there.

Sympathy of friends may cheer thee  
When the fierce, wild storms have burst,  
But God only can console thee  
When it breaks upon thee first.  
Go with words, or tears, or silence,  
Only lay thee at His feet;  
Thou shalt prove how great His pity,  
And His tenderness how sweet.

Think, too thy divine Redeemer  
Knew as thou canst never know  
All the deepest depths of suffering,  
All the weight of human woe;  
And though now in glory seated  
He can hear thy feeblest cry,  
Even hear the stifled sighing  
Of thy dumb heart's agony.

--Sent in.

# Scriptural Terms Defined

Paul N. Smith

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" - II Cor. 5:17.

There are several terms in Scripture language that are sometimes confusing. Some of these words which we are concerned with are: the old creation and the new creation; the old man and the new man; the body of sin and the members of righteousness; the flesh and the Spirit; the natural man and the spiritual man; the natural body and the spiritual body. In order to properly understand these terms, we have grouped them in direct contrast.

28 First, let us consider the new creation as opposed to the old creation. It is evident that to become a new creation one must be born again. When this takes place, the believer becomes separated by birth from the "old things," and experiences the blessings of the new creation life. What makes the old creation old, and the new creation new? Each creation has a head or leader. The first man Adam became the head of the first creation which was earthy. He dishonored the place that God gave him by disobeying God's commandment; and, consequently, he and Eve fell from the lofty place of dominion. They also fell from righteousness to unrighteousness. Sin entered through their disobedience and was passed on to their progeny, as was seen shortly after in the life and act of their son Cain. Thus, the first creation became a fallen creation. God's creatures needed redemption, which He has graciously provided through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The first creation - fallen from God's favor and fellowship - became the old creation when a different creation superseded it. Christ, in performing

His Father's will to perfection, brought in a different creation. God raised His Son from the grave and "gave Him to be the Head over all things to the Church, which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all" - Eph. 1:22,23. In this, Christ became the Head of a new creation, as contrasted with the fallen creation. The two creations are diametrically opposed to each other. The old creation was born through disobedience and transgression; the new creation was born through obedience and righteousness. As far as God's will is concerned, the moment a person is obedient to the call of salvation he is born again (John 3) and becomes a new creation; also, he is immediately separated from the old creation. This separation was made by the Cross of Jesus Christ - Colossians 2:10-12.

However, there remains the work of an actual experience of the separation in a believer's life. He has within himself two natures: the one alive unto God; the other cut off with Christ and, therefore, dead. We are taught in Romans six that - "He that is dead (or, having been crucified with Christ) is freed from sin." We are also admonished to believe that fact and - "Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" - Romans 6:7,11. In verse thirteen, we are told to also yield ourselves "unto God, as those that are alive from the dead." This is a matter of faith taking hold of God's Word and making it a reality. The distinguishing mark of the old creation is that it is dead to God; the sign of the new creation is that it is alive unto God and to His will. 29

When this truth is grasped with the heart, there is immediately a conflict within the believer. As we have before stated, the two creations are opposed to each other; and, when two opposites clash, there are reverberations felt. Such was the expression of the Apostle Paul, as stated in Romans seven. He sums it up by saying, "I find then a law, that, when I would do

good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man (the new creation life): but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind ..." - Romans 7:21-23. Each creation is battling to gain the supremacy over the other. Our members are the battleground for this warfare. We either yield ourselves to the new creation life and live unto righteousness, or we yield to the old creation desires and fail to live righteously in this life.

The two creations are expressed in other ways. In Ephesians 4:17-5:20 and in Colossians 3:5-17, we read of the old man and the new man. Thus, the creations are identified in their heads. Adam is the head of the old creation; Christ is the Head of the new creation. We say then as Paul, "That ye put off concerning the former conversation THE OLD MAN, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts ... And that ye put on THE NEW MAN which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Eph. 4:22-24. In Colossians we read, "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off THE OLD MAN with his deeds; and have put on THE NEW MAN, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him." Col. 3:9,10. You will notice, as you read all the verses connected with these which we have quoted, that the character of the two men or the two creations is as absolutely different as night is from day.

These two creations, or the two natures as they are sometimes referred to, are positively separated from each other. The one is corrupt, the other is righteous. The one is death, the other is life. The one is controlled by Satan, the other by God. Also, remember that the old creation will never become the new creation; nor will the new creation become the old creation. They are in no way identified with each other. The old creation was put to death once for all in the death of Jesus Christ. The old creation was not raised from the

grave, but remains there corrupted. The new creation was not brought forth until Jesus Christ was raised from the grave. The new creation was provisionally raised from death in its Head, who lives forevermore. The new creation possesses eternal life, or the Life of the Lord Jesus Christ. We cannot mix the two natures in any way. You cannot take the traits of the new creation and put them in the old creation --- it is impossible and unthinkable!

Who does the Scripture mean, when we read that we are to "put off the old man" and "put on the new man?" We have the power within ourselves to choose between the two creations. We were born into the first family, but we do not need to remain there. Because of redemption we may, by accepting the offer of salvation, become a new creation or born anew. That is when we are actually severed from the old. Having changed our identity and our home, it would be unreasonable to expect us to desire the things of the old life any more. Until one actually understands the two natures, he can neither appropriate the new creation life for his practical use, nor can he disclaim the old life and reckon as God does that it is dead. Until that time, we will surely become confused, trying to put the new man's clothes on the old man; that is, trying to dress up the old nature with holy garments. As Jesus illustrated, new wine cannot be put into old bottles.

This brings us to the difference between the NATURAL man, the OLD man, and the SPIRITUAL man. We must never confuse the natural or mortal man, with the old man. We are natural, because we are human beings born of earthly parents. But we do not cease to be human beings when we are born again. We will always be identified with the first Adam, as to creation; but we lose our identity with the fallen or old creation when we are saved. As natural beings we possess

spirit, soul, and body, and look upon everything from a natural standpoint. Our whole nature needs to be transformed into the spiritual realm. We read in I Cor. 2:14 - "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

The natural mind is limited in its comprehension of spiritual truths. It can only understand natural things --- any other truth is foreign and unreasonable. When we try to understand God's Word with the natural mind, we become confused and unbelieving. The next step is that we try to reason out the apparent discrepancies in our findings, and we become more confused and discouraged.

32 Paul teaches further in the same chapter, that the natural man can only understand natural things with his natural mind. That means, of course, that something else is needed in order to understand spiritual truths. We have the secret in the words, "Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but (or, except through) the Spirit of God" - I Cor. 2:11. The Apostle quotes from Isaiah when he writes, "Eye (natural) hath not seen, nor ear (natural) heard, neither have entered into the heart (natural or human) of man, the things which God hath prepared for them (the new creation) that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." I Cor. 2:9,10. The work of the Holy Spirit is now seen as revealing spiritual truths to natural minds.

We do not become spiritual until we are absolutely controlled by the Holy Spirit. He is God's Agent to execute His will in the lives of the new creation. The Holy Spirit has the power to quicken God's Word to us, and make us to understand even the deep and hidden mysteries of God. As we lay hold of the divine



Scriptures and in Romans eight, does not refer to the natural body. Listen to Paul's words, "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die (a physical death): but if ye through the Spirit do mortify (reckon dead) the deeds of the body, ye shall live" - Romans 8:12,13.

As we have said before, the body is the battleground of the Spirit and the flesh. The members of our bodies can be used and controlled by either the Holy Spirit or the flesh. The desires of the flesh are hidden in us until they try to exhibit themselves. Then we either yield to them or else, by the power of the Spirit, we judge these inclinations as dead and actually silence their workings in our members. The work of the Spirit continues until we are perfected in this respect. The flesh has many guises, both good and bad; but the Spirit is always on the alert and  
34 warns us. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Rom. 8:14

This leads us to the terms, CARNAL and SPIRITUAL. The word "carnal" means "of the flesh, or fleshly." Thus, to be carnal is to mind the things of the flesh. No one who is carnal is spiritual. There are several characteristics of the carnal saints, shown in I Corinthians three: They are "babes in Christ" (verse 1). They drink only the "milk" of the Word (verse 2). There are "envying, and strife, and divisions" among them (verse 3). The carnal "walk as men" - natural or worldly men (verse 3). The carnal take heads other than Christ. (verses 4-6)

(To be concluded in the Sept. 2019 issue)

"Some folks appropriate grace and grow; while others do not appropriate and groan."

Grace does not abolish God's laws. It agrees with all of them, and enables saints to go beyond them in obedience.



# Our Corn Crib

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

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