

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the  
whole Counsel of GOD

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## WONDROUS GIFT!

Peace! Peace! The angels sang;  
Good will to man! The heaven's rang;  
This the chorus at His birth:  
Christ the King has come to earth.  
Unto us a Child is given;  
God's own Son is born from heaven.

Peace! Peace! The joyful strain—  
Naught of sorrow, sin nor pain.  
Good will to man, they only tell,  
As their voices rise and swell;  
Heaven's Joy has come to earth,  
Born a Babe of lowly birth.

Peace! Peace! The story this—  
Angels sang of grace and bliss;  
For on Mary's gentle breast,  
Lay the Gift of endless rest,  
And in Christ, "the Lord from heaven,"  
God's eternal Peace is given.



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'Twas just a Babe who yonder lay,  
In stable crude upon the hay,  
A Child unwittingly turned away  
On what was that first Christmasday.

'Twas just a Babe whom God did send,  
A sinful world to save and mend;  
A Child whose life was to befriend,  
To heal, to teach, Himself to spend.

**William James Clark, Sr.**

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**Editor: Gene Hawkins**





“**A**nd many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” Matt. 24:11-12

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, ... Without natural affection, ... despisers of those that are good, ... Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: ... Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” II Tim. 3:1-13

These last days bring forth many very unsavory and ungodly characteristics of wickedness, three of which are specifically named in the above text from Matt. 24. Jesus clearly warns of the deception put forth by false prophets in these closing days of the Church Age, along with the massive increase of iniquity which will directly cause “...the love of many...” to “... wax cold.” The “...many...” of this latter statement seems to suggest that even the love of true believers may wax cold due to the abounding wholesale wickedness of this same era, for it is spoken in the context of V. 9-10. “Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.” This scenario describes conditions which will prevail in this world well into the tribulation period. The intense persecution, or abounding iniquity will take its toll and many true believers who refuse to take the mark of the beast will most assuredly be martyred. However, Jesus immediately describes a contrasting group, whose love and dedication will not waver. “But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” Matt. 24:13 There will be those whose love will not “...wax cold...” and thus they will “...endure to the end...” meaning the end of that seven year week of Dan. 9:27. They will in no wise bow to the oppressive persecution of that day, but neither will they be killed. They will rather be “...saved...” or preserved, very much alive



physically, in order that they might form the very nucleus of that nation (Israel) which shall be born in one day. Isa. 66:8

“...iniquity shall abound...” or “increase” throughout the entire week of tribulation, but there is absolutely no doubt that it is plainly evident during these current days designated in Matt. 24:8 as “...the beginning of sorrows.” Jesus plainly indicated that such times of iniquity would abound and cause the love of even believers to wax cold as described above, but Paul goes even further, stating that some will even be found completely “...without **natural** affection.” The perilous times which he describes also highlight the deception which will be paramount even in the days just prior to the tribulation, confirming that “...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse,...” All these evil traits designated both by Jesus and Paul are surely directly connected with one another in these last days.

4 The abundance of wickedness or “iniquity” is rampant in our day, and while many might concentrate only on outward acts of sin and unrighteousness, scripture is very clear that all the above symptoms of our day are actually due to grave problems found in the heart. God plainly declared in the days of Noah that “... **GOD** saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every **imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**” Gen. 6:5 Iniquity, which literally means “wickedness,” finds its root in the heart of man, the same place from whence love should emanate. The pattern which Paul noted above declares plainly that the day will come when men would be devoid of even “...natural affection.” Recent reports on Isis leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi clearly demonstrate this point. When U.S. special forces moved in to capture him, this ungodly and wicked though extremely religious man apparently took two children with him down into a supposed escape tunnel wearing a suicide vest which he then detonated, killing himself and the children. Such an action surely confirms a statement widely attributed to Golda Meir, former Prime Minister of Israel. “Peace will come when the Arabs will love their children more than they hate us.” When men cannot even be constrained by natural affection, there seems to be absolutely nothing to even curb the iniquity, or wickedness, demonstrated in our world today.

It is also very difficult to comprehend how the love which family members should have for one another could deteriorate so badly that some would even turn on their own flesh and blood. It



is truly heart rending to hear reports of a father taking the lives of his own wife and children. We also read of other accounts wherein a gunman turned his weapon on multiple people including his own sister, yet such atrocities of iniquity almost provide a daily diet in today's news. It would be no problem to fill these pages with multiple accounts of violence which have already taken place in churches, synagogues, schools, and large family gathering businesses such as Walmart. A home should be a place of comfort and safety, but innocent family members have often experienced it as a place of horror. All of these things have been prophesied for these last days, but it is just a bit disconcerting when men often dismiss them without even considering that all such wickedness is a direct harbinger of Jesus' coming again.

Another prominent characteristic of evil which Jesus announced above is that "...many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many." Paul likewise asserted that "...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." Deception is one major tool which Satan has used down through the ages to promote his own agenda, and it seems to be magnified in our day. We have long known that men have **5** "twisted" the scripture in order to create their own religious "... commandments and doctrines of men." Col. 2:22 Our world is thus filled with multitudinous religious teachings which do not comply with God's Word, and are in no wise conducive to spiritual growth and development. However, today's news often follows this same pattern of dishonesty; being fraught with deception based only on the opinions of men rather than actual fact.

The link between "false prophets" and excess iniquity is also prophesied by Daniel. "And in the latter time of their kingdom, **when the transgressors are come to the full**, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up." Dan. 8:23 That "...king of fierce countenance..." is none other than the false prophet of the end time who is responsible for taking away the daily sacrifice. "Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down." Dan 8:11 The tactics and power of this wicked despot are further described in v. 24-25 of this same chapter. "And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: (rather Satan enables him) and he shall



destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. (Israel) And through his policy also he shall cause craft (deceit, fraud) to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; (Christ) but he shall be broken without hand.”

We are now in that prophesied “...latter time...when the transgressors are come to the full...” That statement reflects the same truth as that recorded by Jesus, “...iniquity shall abound...” and for the same reason, “...false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.” Once again, Paul also likewise agrees emphatically, asserting that “...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse...” Gross Satanic deception is the order of our day. It is rampant everywhere, and it will further escalate as the week of tribulation prophesied by Dan. 9:27 unfolds.

6 The question facing many believers today is “How do I know whether I am being deceived by various news reports or not?” The answer to that question is that we must measure everything by the standard of God’s Word. For example, men continue to publish the false narrative of man-made global warming or “climate change.” Many politicians world-wide have made it the central plank of their agenda, but that claim is refuted by God’s Word. We have noted repeatedly that men are intruding into a realm that belongs only to God. Revelation 16:9 is very emphatic, declaring that, “...men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, **which hath power over these plagues:** (including the plague of even more intense heat which is yet to come) and they repented not to give him glory.” The fact is that men in today’s world still refuse to give God glory as the Creator for this entire world and universe, insisting that some unknown force suggested by the “big bang theory” is responsible for an order and balance so delicate and precise that it had to have been specifically designed and implemented by the Hand of a Divine Creator. Job also had to bow to his own inability and lack of knowledge in this area when God asked him a host of questions about the universe and “weather-related subjects.” “Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war? By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth?”



Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder; To cause it to rain on the earth,... Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew? Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it? The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the **dominion thereof in the earth?** Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee? Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are? ...Who can number the clouds in wisdom? or who can stay the bottles of heaven,...?" Job 38:22-37

Job's answer to all God's questions is found in Job 42:2 "I know that thou canst do every thing,..." clearly inferring that accomplishing anything in that which would be considered God's Realm, would be completely beyond his own knowledge and expertise. Men of today refuse to acknowledge God's sovereignty, thinking that if they can disprove creation, they can also eliminate God. However, God has left creation as living proof of His Very Existence and Power. "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that **they are without excuse:**" Rom. 1:20

Does God deem it important for man to bow to His sovereignty over the elements of climate on this earth? His literal interrogation and demand of Job, contained no less than 72 questions in Chaps. 38-39, and of that number, the 21 recorded above, specifically target this same subject. This ungodly doctrine of "climate change" is twofold, as it proposes to impose undue power and control over humanity and seeks to rob God of His Sovereignty over both heaven and earth.

Denial of Divine Power and Authority is only one example of the fraud being perpetrated on men today, but we would reiterate that claiming God's Word as our standard of measure for any deception must be actively applied in our own lives to ensure that we are not deceived by all the false prophets of these latter days. Jesus warned His disciples: "...Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, **which is hypocrisy.**" Lk. 12:1



The word hypocrisy means “acting under a feigned part, deceit, condemnation,” and the Pharisees were the masters of it. They pointed fingers of condemnation at others while they were guilty of the same offenses. Jesus specifically admonished them: “Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.”

8 The next verse here in Luke begins with the little word “For...,” thus explaining the true essence of hypocrisy. “For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.” Lk. 12:2 The deceit of men today lies in what they are hiding. It has long been a ploy of Satan to leave out certain parts of scripture in order to emphasize his own doctrine. Men have become masters of issuing forth only half truths, or eliminating certain facts that would change the narrative they desire to present. The good news is, as Jesus declares here, “... there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.” Paul likewise asserts, “But all things that are reprov’d are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.” Eph 5:13 The light is once again the light of God’s Word, and our hearts must be absolutely open and controlled by it. One major point which Paul makes is that “...seducers shall wax worse and worse, **deceiving, and being deceived.**” This simply means that those who are wont to deceive literally set them themselves up to BE DECEIVED. We have often stated that “if a person honestly wants to know truth, God will show it to him.”

The above fact of scripture states that “...there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed;...” The dilemma we face in our day is, “**when** shall such things be revealed?” It has been often proved that men simply hide things for a time until they achieve their desired objective. The time will come when all the ungodly intents of men will be uncovered for what they are, but what do we do now? Scripture is very clear that Israel will be grossly deceived by the antichrist when they sign the horrendous covenant of Dan. 9:27. Many in the tribulation will think they are ensuring their safety by taking the mark of the beast, but just the opposite is true. The good news for believers is that Jesus said, even of those devastating times of deception, “...there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and



wonders; insomuch that, **if it were possible**, they shall deceive the very elect.” Matt. 24:24 The indication here is that it will be impossible to deceive God’s people or “...elect...” Thus, it must be concluded that God will always protect and preserve the honest heart before Him. It will be advantageous for all of God’s people to strongly adhere to the principles of scripture in these very deceptive times. Compare the elements of utopia which some politicians around the world are offering with the declarations of scripture, and remember that according to God’s Word, only Jesus will be able to create the atmosphere they are proposing. Know also that this will not happen until the Millennium when Satan is bound a thousand years and righteousness reigns supreme. Furthermore, consider how the proposals of men differ from the standards of righteousness set by the good Word of God. It is appalling that there is a wholesale approval in many countries around the entire globe of the abominable practice known as gay rights and marriage. The shedding of innocent blood by destroying babies both in and out of the womb is also a direct rejection of God and His Word.

Love for truth is our greatest defense against the wholesale 9  
deception of our day. The Apostle Paul gives this summation of both the dilemma prevailing in today’s society, and our deliverance from it. “For the mystery of iniquity (iniquity shall abound) doth already work: only he who now letteth (hinders) will let, (hinder) until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked (false prophet) be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who **believed not the truth**, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” II Thess. 2:7-12

It is imperative that our hearts be consumed with the truth of God’s Word. When we are, He will guarantee that we will not succumb to the leaven of the Pharisees, which is the hypocrisy of deceit manifest in our world today!



### **All By Believing All**

S. O. Sheldon

**“B**ut we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” II Thess. 2:13-14

I am glad that we are a called and chosen people. When were we chosen? From the beginning. My, that is a long ways back. How wonderful it is to our hearts that God saw us away back in the beginning and chose us as a new creation. We were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world. God saw the human family in the beginning. He saw the ruin of the human family and the redemption of the fallen race, and He saw the glorification of all those who take the place that God gives them by the faith of Jesus Christ, as Paul brings it to them.

**10** Yes we were chosen from the beginning; but we are saved by believing the truth. So many people have the idea that we are saved because we live right and treat our neighbors right; but by the Word of God, we are saved by believing the truth. Jesus said in John, "I am the way, the truth and the life." Solomon tells us that there is a way that seems right unto man but the end thereof is death. Man's way is to pay his debts and join the church and pat himself on the back and make himself think he is good; but the end thereof is death. I am glad that the beginning of God's way is death; but the end is life everlasting. That may sound harsh; but it is the truth. It is just contrary to the natural man. We are saved contrary to nature. It is natural for a man to want to save the flesh: but God's way was to put the flesh to death on the cross. Now we must take the divine resurrection life of Christ.

Paul tells us that we were chosen from the beginning "thru sanctification of the Spirit." The Spirit of God has his part in our salvation; but our part is to believe the truth. What is the truth for us to believe? Paul and Silas said to the jailor, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house." The man believed and he was saved. Indeed, Christ Himself is the truth.

### **Saved Through Believing**

In the 17th chapter of Acts, we find Paul coming into the city of Thessalonica. These people were saved by believing the Word



of God that Paul brought to them from the Old Testament. The word Thessalonica means "victory over the tossings of the law." They were a well developed class of saints and lived a victorious life. Being saved by grace and living under grace, they were wholly free from law.

**"Christ must needs have suffered and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ."** Acts 17:3. What saved them? Believing this message about the sufferings of Christ, His death, burial and resurrection—and that is what saved us. It is believing the truth that Christ died and rose again. That is the Gospel in a nutshell. I dare say that a soul that believes this wonderful fact, God will make him one with Himself. The Jews did not believe that their Messiah had come. They rejected Jesus Christ who came as a lowly Person and they crucified Him; but Paul brought to them this wonderful message about Christ and proved from the Old Testament that this Jesus is Christ, and that He must needs suffer and go down in the tomb and be raised again, all of which had come true. The Old Testament has the Gospel. Moses was a wonderful Gospel preacher. I would have to go back to Gen. 3:15 where God said, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel," in order to get to the beginning of the Gospel that was told about Christ.

11

We would have to go over to the book of Exodus and see the Passover, which typifies Christ. In Leviticus, Christ is figured by the offering of sacrifices. Paul knew where to find that this Jesus was the Anointed One. And we also know it.

**"Many of them believed"** in Thessalonica (Acts 17:12). That was an unusual thing. Usually, there are only a few. Thessalonian saints are such as have the victory, being saved by grace thru believing the truth. But all that city did not believe. "The Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason and sought to bring them out to the people." It is wonderful how God's saints have to run. sometimes. No doubt Paul and Silas were out of town. Those Jews really sought to kill Paul. When Saul went down to Damascus his purpose was to kill God's saints; but as soon as God saved him he was turned around and began to preach to his own people. Then they tried to kill him. When we show people salvation thru simple faith in Christ, we



stir the devil. Oh, how the devil hates the truth. How he stirs the human heart to hate the saints of God. The Jews charged them with turning the world upside down; but they were turning the world right side up.

### **Built Up Through Believing**

The Gospel brings us in touch with God and we receive the mind of Christ. People even thought that Paul was crazy on one occasion. It does not take too much of a brain to believe that people are crazy; but it takes a good heart to believe this message. They brought Jason on bonds. That is the way the devil does things. They took security on him and let him go.

God wants us to live in His will. He wants us to put our confidence in Him and to be Thessalonian saints. We can be by divine enabling. Everywhere we go we will meet up with the devil and his crowd. But we can bring this glorious Gospel of grace that Christ has wrought. Some folks will come into the glorious experience of salvation, be filled with the Spirit, healed in body and be ready for translation. Let us believe God and go on telling the story.

12 "They received the Word in much affliction." They made terrible charges against Jason; yet the believers received the Word with joy of the Holy Spirit. In spite of the devil and the affliction, the joy of the Lord will overflow with glory. In one place, Peter and John were preaching Christ and the people took them and beat them; but they went on their way rejoicing. These sufferings are not pleasant; but sometime we will understand why God allowed them to happen. They are good for us or God would not allow them to come upon us. The sufferings drive us to God. Hence, when we suffer, let us not complain, but let us rejoice. James tells us to count it all joy when we fall into divers temptations. It takes grace to do that. The natural man does not want to do that. When we get into trouble, can we *just* say, "Thank you Jesus?" Maybe you will not the first time; but after more experience you will thank God for all things; for we read that "all things work together for good to those that love the Lord." Sufferings make us appreciate God; therefore let us not resist Him because He lets us suffer for His name's sake.

### **Rewarded Through Believing**

"For from you sounded out the Word of the Lord, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place, your faith to Godward is spread abroad; so that we need not speak anything"—V. 8. They received the Word under these terrible persecutions; but



they grew and became well-established saints. I believe they will be in the first company of the translation. It was a strenuous thing they had to go thru; but the end will be wonderful, even "the obtaining of the glory." I am glad that takes us in. Not only are we saved, but called unto the obtaining of the glory.

How are we called? We are called by Paul's Gospel. Why Paul's Gospel? Because God chose Paul to bring the message of grace to the people of God. Paul is God's chosen servant. He once was persecuting the saints ; but God called him and made him a faithful minister. We would never have stopped for Saul, if we were going to choose a minister. Is it not wonderful how God brings from the beginning a chosen people? He knew from the beginning that Paul would stand faithful in the hard places. God enabled him to stand. What did Paul suffer? We read in II Cor. 11:24—"Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one; thrice was I beaten with rods; once was I stoned; thrice I suffered shipwreck; a night and a day I was in the deep, etc." But God made him a faithful messenger. God in His sovereign will chose Him to bring this message to us down here in Kansas City. The same Gospel is preached to us, that was preached to the Thessalonians. We believe the same truth. We are called unto this glorious Gospel of Paul.

13

"Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my Gospel, wherein I suffer trouble as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the Word of God is not bound. Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sake, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (1 Tim. 2:8-10). Jesus was raised from the dead according to Paul's Gospel. The people were charging Paul with doing evil; yet the Word of God grew and prevailed. He endured all things for the elect's sake that we may obtain this salvation with eternal glory. Men will do many things to get the praise of the people down here on this earth. I remember a man who used to climb away high on buildings. He would get the applause of men and women. One time that man fell and was killed, and only two men followed him to the graveyard. His glory was short. Did it pay? No. But God has called us to a high and eternal glory. He is going to put us on exhibition one of these days before men and angels. Will it pay to suffer now to be a partaker of that eternal glory? Oh, yes, it will. Let man do what he will, we are safe in the hands of God. Man can only go so far in his opposition. No matter what the difficulty is, God's will is going



to be fulfilled in us who walk in His will and love Him with all our hearts.

What is that glory we are going to obtain? Well, we are to be exalted to the same glory with Christ. That is for us. It is for you and me. Shall we believe it and live like we believed it? We are called by this glorious Gospel to the obtaining of the glory. Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 15 that there is "one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars." It will all be glory. It will be glory just to be inside the gates; but oh, to attain unto the highest glory. I believe in ranks. We are being gathered into our ranks now. We are taking our places in our respective ranks. We do not reach the high glory by one leap. We have to begin and go on step by step. We are children of God. When newly born, we are only babies. After we learn to view Jesus Christ with unveiled faces, not through the law but through grace, we become "changed into the same image from glory to glory by the Spirit of the Lord." If you are just a newborn babe, be encouraged. Feed on the sincere milk of the Word and grow thereby. Let the food take hold of you and strengthen  
**14** you to grow up into Christ.

That highest eternal glory will consist of a number of super excellent things. Our bodies will be "fashioned like unto the body of Christ's glory." We shall be wholly like Him. We shall sit with Him on His throne in the air; that is, on His "throne in the glory." We shall reign jointly with "the Lord of glory" as His glorified Bride. Oh, what a blessed and glorious hope beckons the sun-rank saints. Theirs will be glory indeed. Let us therefore do as did those Thessalonian saints at the beginning. Let us believe and receive the truth.

(Original printing, January 1926)

- \* God causes many a tight place to open into the right place.
- \* God's limitless resources meet our endless needs.
- \* The best robe, the only robe to cover the sinner, was made on the loom of Calvary.
- \* A man is never such a free man as when led by the Spirit of God.



## **An Undefeated God**

**Kathryn Devers**

“Therefore as by the offence (sin) of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.” Rom. 5:18-19

There is a great comparison of the many unrighteous, and the many righteous, in V. 19. Though by one man's sin, all were made sinners, yet by the righteous act of One, Jesus Christ giving His life, all can be made righteous. This is God's marvelous provision of grace. All do not receive, therefore many are made sinners. God will not be defeated in His great plan of redemption, because many will be made righteous by faith in Christ.

Let us consider the abode of both sinners and saints. In Luke 16:22,23 we read of Abraham's bosom (paradise) and hell (hades, Greek). Their location is in the lower part of the earth, and these two places are separated by a great gulf. They were called upper and lower hades. At the time of Jesus' death and burial, He descended into upper hades, called Abraham's bosom, and He preached unto the spirits in prison (1 Pet. 3:18). Then when He arose and ascended up far above all heavens, He led captivity captive (Eph. 4:8,10). So paradise is now in the third heaven (2 Cor. 12:1-4). This is now the abode of the spirits of saints. Paul said, “To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

The Scripture does not reveal a change either in the condition or the place of the wicked, until the final day of judgment. It still remains in the lower parts of the earth. “The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath,” (Prov. 15:24). “The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God” Psa. 9:17. This place is also the habitation of demons and fallen angels. Jude 6 reads thus, “And the angels that kept not their first estate, but left heir own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.” In 2 Pet. 2:4 we are told they were cast down to hell (tartarus, Greek). The deepest abyss of hell, the bottomless pit answers to this place.

Satan, who is called the prince of the power of the air and the god of this world, who now occupies a place in heaven above us, will be cast down to the earth during the time of the seven years'



tribulation period, and authority will be given him to open the pit. Locusts with the power of scorpions will come forth. The locusts are no doubt symbolic of demon spirits, which will torment men for five months (Rev. 9:1-6).

Hell is a place of consciousness, sorrow, pain and torment. Psa. 116:3; Lk. 16:23 The wicked will remain in this place until the great white throne judgment, which is at the end of the one thousand year reign of Christ. Rev. 20:7-15 states that death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them, and they were judged every man according to their works, and death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This will be the final abode of the wicked. This place was not prepared for mankind, but for the devil and his angels Matt. 25:41. The destination of the wicked is because of rejecting Christ. The number no doubt is countless who will inhabit this place.

16 In considering the many righteous, let us meditate upon the wonderful promise that God made to Abraham. "I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so if a man can number the dust of the earth: then shall thy seed be numbered"—Gen. 13:16. This refers to his earthly seed, Israel. In Gen. 15:5 God gave him a marvelous promise of a heavenly seed. "Look now toward heaven and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them, and He said unto him, so shall thy seed be." "I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore, and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed"—Gen. 22:17. "For in Isaac shall thy seed be called." He is a wonderful type of Christ, the Redeemer, "Who is bringing many sons to glory," thru His perfect sacrifice at Calvary.

All who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ during this dispensation of grace, are the spiritual (heavenly) seed of Abraham. Gal. 3:6,7 In the five dispensations prior to the cross of Calvary, many embraced faith in Christ, and these dear saints will come forth in resurrection power at the proper time. Dan. 12:1,2 There were some who had hoped for a better resurrection and "many bodies of the saints which slept arose" when Christ arose. These are already in paradise, known as the "spirits of just men made perfect." Heb. 12:3 The Apostle John gives a fully developed photograph of all the redeemed in heaven. "And I beheld and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand,



and thousands of thousands.” Rev. 5:11 This company represents the full overcomers of this age, these are saints who purposed in their heart to win Christ as their Bridegroom. They have fully overcome the world, the flesh and the devil, thru the abundance of grace, and who reigned in this life by the righteous life of Christ.

“After this I beheld and lo a great multitude which no man could number of all nations, kindreds, peoples and tongues stood before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and with palms in their hands.” Rev. 7:9 This is a picture of the great majority of the body of Christ. It is an innumerable multitude and is beyond the comprehension of man. The counting of man reaches to one with sixty three zeros (vigintillion), so we can readily understand the promise that was made to Abraham, and of his seed that would be “as the stars of heaven.” Then there are the 144,000 of all the tribes of the children of Israel. Twelve thousand are sealed from each tribe. Rev. 7 Then there is the remnant of her seed, those who will be preserved physically during the time of the great tribulation. Add to that the souls under the altar, showing forth those who were slain for the word of their testimony, which they held. Rev. 6:9 There is no account of this number, but it will no doubt be many. 17

The description of the New Jerusalem is immense. This city lies foursquare, the length being the same as the breadth. He measured the city with a reed, twelve thousand furlongs, almost fifteen hundred miles (Rev. 21:16). Then there will be the redeemed who will inhabit the new earth during the righteous reign of Christ, these figure Abraham’s seed as the sand of the seashore. Isa. 60:1-5

This sums up the redeemed of all ages. Surely God will not be defeated. Christ’s death will not have been in vain. “He shall see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied. By His knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.” Isa. 53:11.

(Reprint 1961)

- \* Unbelieving men and demons refuse the authority of Christ, and yet they must obey Him.
- \* The Bible is one photographer that dares to give man a true likeness of himself.



# REFLECTIONS

## REFLECTIONS

...From the Editor

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,...For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” Lk. 2:10-11

18 The angel here is one of many which God has used throughout the ages to both announce and implement the “...good tidings...” or good news in regard to the gospel of redemption. Paul declares “...angels...” to be “...ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” Heb 1:13-14 The above text declares that this angel is announcing Christ, that is, the anointed of the Lord. Jesus has been “anointed” for a number of roles but the one proclaimed here is that of Saviour, or The Redeemer of all mankind. It must be noted that angels may announce the Redeemer, and even bring forth many benefits to the redeemed, but they cannot understand the glories of redemption which Jesus purchased for the flesh and blood of humanity. “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;...For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren,...For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted. Heb 2:14-18

A strain of the song entitled, “The Song of the Blood” expresses this truth beautifully. “What do angels hear, but they do not know? ‘tis the song of the blood.” The lone angel who brought these glad tidings to the shepherd boys is now joined by “...a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Lu 2:13-14 These angels clearly know that God’s Anointed Savior has come, and they well know what it means to give “...Glory to God...” and proclaim the benefits of “...peace



on earth, good will toward men,” but they will never know the depths of Divine Love, which those who have been rescued from the intense miseries of flesh and blood inflicted on Adam’s race, have experienced. In short, angels have not been redeemed! Thus, Satan and all his host of wicked minions will never be set free from the impending judgment pronounced against them.

The heavenly choir of this beautiful Christmas Story sounded out their praise unto God and when they “...were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.” Lk. 2:15 Their mission has been accomplished and thus these heavenly messengers now return to their own realm, leaving the humble shepherds to pick up the banner and shout out that which they had witnessed firsthand for, “...they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.” Lk. 2:16-17 Consider the order here, for the first heralds of The Redeemer’s entrance into the world “...found...the babe...And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them....” That is also our mission today. We can only proclaim that which we have made our very own. The message of our day is still that of the Christ or “The Anointed One,” but we have the glorious privilege of proclaiming that He will shortly assume His role as having been anointed King of kings and Lord of lords! It is imperative that God’s people today be as excited as these privileged shepherds were. We read of no angels who will announce His second coming for He shall return as a thief in the night, but we know assuredly that, “...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” Acts 1:11 We must be faithful to proclaim that message, to as many as will listen, before faith is made sight!

19

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## In A Manger

Mary M. Bodie

“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” Lk. 2:7

Here is recorded an astounding fact and it is the inspired report of the Spirit of God. There was no ROOM in the inn for the Holy Son of God when He came to dwell in an earthen vessel in which He was to die. We read in a previous verse that His foster father, Joseph, was of the house and lineage of David, the ruling tribe of Judah. He was of the royal line, yet there was no room for Him in the inn.

20 Me thinks that this inn keeper did not want to accommodate the royal couple because they looked shabby and he did not know who they were. They were disguised as it were, and did not look the part of princes. If he had known that Joseph was of the royal seed of David he might have made room for his family. That phrase, "no room in the inn," has a double meaning. It not only gives us the fact of the scarcity of room in that hotel in that little town of Bethlehem but it is telling the lack of room for Jesus in the hearts of men for whom He came to die. Do you hear the solemn and sad refrain — "no room in the inn?" He came unto His own people, the Jews, and "His own received Him not." There was no place in their hearts nor in the world for Him. Worldly things — desire for gain, for honor and fame, crowd out the desire for the Saviour of men; or maybe in some cases, the cares of the world absorbed their interests.

The Joy of heaven, the Light of this world, the bright and shining Orb of day, the Gold of Ophir, the fairest Jewel of all time, found no favor in this cold world, no house to shelter His little head when He was born, nothing except a rude and barren stable. It is almost unbelievable! Who could ever have imagined such a thing? The Lord of Life and Glory was laid in a manger. He first opened His eyes on the drab and dreary interior of a barn. He saw the world at its worst even in infancy. It was a little symbol of the earth as sin had made it, fleshly and corrupt, into which He had come. No silver cradle, lined with soft down white cushions, was



waiting for Him. Oh, mystery Divine! What surging emotions stir in our hearts as we think upon these things! What memories sweep over us of the condescension of the Creator in His humbling stoop! The angels sang at His birth, all heaven was interested as the heavenly choristers made the welkin ring; but the subject of it all, the Babe in the manger heard only the lowing of the cattle or the bleating of the sheep.

**"No room in the inn"** for the royal Seed of David! Can we imagine such a contingency! The royal couple, Joseph and Mary, must have looked poor and friendless, and the innkeeper turned them away. He did not recognize royalty. We wonder if he ever learned what he had missed. We saw a picture recently, supposedly the scene of Christ's birth and of Joseph and Mary, by a renowned artist. The setting was perfect and beautiful. The master painter had caught the beauty and mellow glow of the sunset but he never caught the real message of the Babe in the manger. It was adorned, as also the stable. These were not bare and uninviting. No ugliness was visible. The "holy family," as it was labeled, were all clothed as the rich and the great. Nothing betokened poverty or need. Joseph was portrayed as a prince (which he was) instead of the poverty-stricken peasant, husband of Mary the virgin. The artist missed the mark entirely. The Son of God left the riches of Heaven, the glory of the Father, and identified Himself with woe and poverty. What could the riches of earth add to Him who had the wealth of Heaven at His command? All of earth's greatness was cheap and tawdry to Him. He poured contempt on all the pride of man. He needed no raiment or ornament to adorn or glorify Him. The earth was adorned with His Presence. He was the glory of that rude stable. He stooped to earth. He disdained its wealth. What had vain man to offer Him whose Hands had created all these things? He had called worlds into being. Man's very best was as tinsel compared to the glory of that which He had left but the poor innkeeper never knew. Like the mass of humanity, he looked upon the outward man, and did not know that God had come to visit him. He let Joseph and Mary pass on and the Child was born elsewhere. It was too late to take Him into his home. Too late! How sad! No room for Jesus!



22 “When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Mat 16:13-16 Paul states in Heb 1, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;” V. 1-2 The order of the Greek is, “...at sundry times and in divers manners God spake...” This was for emphasis preparing us for the truth that God has now, after the preliminary revelations, given a final word in the revelation of His Son. The revelations of the Old Testament truth were given at sundry times in different manners. God did not speak once for all, in the giving of the Old Testament truth, but in separate revelations, each of which set forth only a part of His will. One writer was given one portion, and another, a different element of truth. God spoke in various ways. This does not refer to different ways in which He imparted His revelations to the writers, but to the difference of the various revelations in contents and form. He spoke to Israel in one way through Moses, in another, through Isaiah, etc. At the beginning of the revelation, the presentation was elementary. Later it appealed to a more developed spiritual sense. Again, the revelation differed according to the faithfulness or the unfaithfulness of Israel. The Old Testament revelation was progressive. All could not be revealed at once, because all could not be understood at once. Thus, the revelation was given in many parts. In addition to this, it was given in different modes. It was given in the form of law, prophecy, history, psalm, sign, type, and parable. The people of Israel were like men listening to a clock striking the 12<sup>th</sup> hour, always getting nearer to the truth, but obliged to wait till the midnight hour is heard.

God spoke to Israel by the prophets. He spoke exclusively through them and through no other men, so far as the written



revelation is concerned. They were looked upon as the instruments in God's Hands by which the Old Testament Scriptures were written down. They spoke out the counsel of God with the clearness, energy, and authority which spring from the consciousness of speaking in God's Name and having received a direct message from Him to deliver. Thus, the prophets were the mouthpieces of God. John the Baptist said, "I am a voice of One who is crying out in the wilderness." Jn. 1:23 John was merely one among many voices which God used in delivering the Old Testament dispensation. However, we must emphasize: the One crying out, giving the message, was God. John was His articulate voice, a mere instrument in His Hands. Paul brings out something very interesting in Heb 1:2. The expression "...in these last days..." is recorded in the Greek text, "...in the last of these days..." The word "last" means, "the outermost, the extreme, last in time or in place." Paul had just related the times in which God spoke through the prophets. Now, at the very termination of the times in which He is speaking to man, He speaks, not through the prophets, but "...IN SON..." In Son speaks of the Son-relationship of the Messiah to God the Father. It speaks of the distinction that exists between the prophets as God's creatures used as instruments in His Hands and the Son who by Nature is Deity. The Son belongs to a different category. God spoke through One who is in character, His Son. The revelation God gave "in His Son" consisted not merely in what was said, as in the case of the prophets, but in Who the Son was, not merely in what He (the Son) said. In other words, it was not primarily, nor finally, a revelation given through words, but through a Personality. It was a revelation made by One who in all that He is and all that He does and says, reveals the Father. He is the Logos, the total concept of Deity, Deity told out, the Word of God, not in the sense of a spoken or a written word, but in the sense of a Person who in Himself expresses all that God the Father is. He said on one occasion, "...He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father..." Jn. 14:9 And so John could write, "In the beginning was the *Logos* (the Word), and the Word (*Logos*) was in fellowship with God (the Father), and the *Logos* was (as to His nature) Deity." Jn. 1:1 This is the Person in Whom God gave His final revelation to the human race.



Paul writes the first of four verses of Hebrews 1 as one sentence. They declare the Deity of Jesus Christ and His ascension. They imply His atoning death and resurrection. God's Son takes center stage. The ages were framed by the Son of God as The Word, declaring that He was the brightness of God's glory and the express image of His substance (or Person) and upholds all things by the word of His power. Paul tells us of the Old Testament prophets, then of God the Son, Jesus Christ revealed in the glory of God. Christ is God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God. He is co-equal with the Father. He stands in the nearest possible relationship to the Father. A relationship of intense love and delight, so that the Father says of Him, "This is My beloved Son..." Yes, He is One with the Father. When the Son of God spoke, it was God Himself Who spoke. The prophets spoke merely as mouthpieces. Paul goes further to point out more of the superiorities of the Son over the prophets, by explaining how God appointed Him heir of all things. Adam lost all through his fall into sin. But the Son of God regained everything through His incarnation, vicarious death, and victorious, bodily resurrection. In the future Messianic Kingdom, the Lord Jesus as Messiah will reign over a perfect earth and a glorified humanity, heir of all things. And this makes Him better than the prophets. He is the outshining of God's glory, the expression of the nature or essence of Deity, the sustainer of the universe He created, along with the Sacrifice that paid for sin. The Son is superior to the prophets because He is the brightness of God's glory. The Son is the out-raying of the divine glory, exhibiting in Himself the glory and majesty of The Divine Being. God lets His glory issue from Himself, so that there arises a Light-Being like unto Himself. The Son of God is, in this His essential majesty, the pre-eminent expression of Divine Light. The glory spoken of here refers to the expression of the divine attributes collectively. He is the express image of His person. The words "...express image..." are the words of an engraver. One who mints coins, a graving tool, a die, a stamp, a branding iron, a mark engraved, an impress, a stamp on coins and seals. It meant "a distinctive mark or token impressed on a person or thing, by which it is known from others, a characteristic, the character of." It was a Greek idiom for a person's features. It was used of the type



or character regarded as shared with others. It meant also an impress or an image. It referred to an exact reproduction. Then Paul brings out another quality. The Son "...upholds all things by the word of His power,..." The word "upholds" signifies maintaining, which is a better translation than "upholding." The Son is not an Atlas, sustaining the dead weight of the world. But while the word implies the idea of sustaining, it also includes in itself the idea of movement. It speaks of the act of sustaining something that is in constant movement. This act is associated not only with sustaining the weight of the universe, but also with maintaining its coherence and carrying on its development. Paul speaks of this same act of the Son of God in Colossians 1:17 where he says, "...by Him all things consist." That is, all things maintain their coherence in Him. The Lord Jesus holds all things together and in their proper relationship to each other by His Own Power. The oceans are held in their beds. The rivers run down into the sea. The heavenly bodies are held in their orbits. It is the *Logos* (Word,) the bond of the universe. The Son of God accomplishes this sustaining of the universe, maintaining its coherence in all its parts, "...by the word of his power,..." The universe was called 25 into being by the Word of God, and is sustained by that same Word. God willed it. His Power brought into being that which He willed. Jesus asked the question, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" What is the answer we must give? What was the Apostle Paul's response? It was to preach the revelation of Jesus Christ! This was the subject of the Apostle Paul and the ministers of his day! "Daily in the temple and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." When Philip went down to the city of Samaria, he "...preached Christ unto them." When he sat with the Ethiopian eunuch in his chariot, he preached unto him Jesus. As soon as Paul was converted, "straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues." For once we count the importance of our Subject well worthy of mentioning, we shall not be ashamed to preach what the apostles preached --- Christ! We hope to proclaim this glorious Gospel of the blessed God as long as we live! And we hope that when this generation of preachers shall have passed away, unless the Lord shall come, there will always be found a succession of men who shall determine to preach



nothing "...save Jesus Christ and Him crucified." The revelation of Christ is what men need most. They may have cravings after other things, but nothing can satisfy the deep real need of their nature, but Jesus Christ and salvation by His precious blood! He is the bread of life which came down from heaven! He is the water of life of which, if a man drinks, he shall never thirst again! Hence, it becomes us to be often dwelling upon this theme, for it is most necessary to the sons of men. This is the subject which God the Holy Spirit delights to bless. I am sure that, other things being equal, He honors preaching in proportion to the savor of Christ that is in it! I may preach a great deal about other things, but the Holy Spirit does not take of the things of Christ to glorify that which is not of Christ. I may preach doctrine or practice apart from Christ and that would be giving the husk without the kernel. But where Jesus Christ sweetens all and savors all, there will the Holy Spirit delight to rest upon the ministry and make it quick and powerful to the hearts of men! I am sure the preaching of Christ is always sweet in the ears of His own people. "Your name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love You." And this theme is most pleasing to God the Father, who loves to hear His Son extolled and exalted. He delights in His Son. When Jesus Christ is lifted up, it is as God the Father would have it! It is as the Holy Spirit would have it and, where this is the case, the love of God is shed abroad in the hearts of men. But how is this to be done? We let Jesus Christ speak for Himself. Shall I hold my candle to the sun, as if it needed it in order to reveal its light? No, certainly not! It is that He is my Savior, the only Savior; the Savior who saved me or else I should have perished, "for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby I was saved." It is the revelation of the Son of God to my heart. Who is "The Savior" to you? He is "His Son," God's Son; "whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power." That is who Jesus is! Then, note what Jesus did. "...when He had by Himself purged our sins..." Then, thirdly, what He enjoys. After He had finished His great work of salvation, He "...sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high." It is not possible that any language can fully express WHO



**JESUS IS!** Yet, by the Holy Spirit's gracious teaching of the revelation of the Son of God, I must tell you some of what I know of Him. First, Jesus is God's Own Son. The Sonship of Christ is accepted as a truth of Revelation and to be apprehended by faith, though it cannot be comprehended by the understanding. Then, Jesus Christ is the "...heir of all things..." In the Person of Jesus, there is God, and in that same Person there is most surely and most truly, Man. Christ has everything in His hand that is needed in order that He may save us and provide for us if He tarry. The Father has committed all things into His hand. Christ is not lacking in power to save us! And if you come and trust yourself in His hands, He will never have to look about to find the balm for your wounds, or the ointments or liniments with which to bind up those sores of ours! No, He is "heir of all things." So again I say, "Hallelujah!" as I preach Him to you as the blessed Savior of sinners, the Son of God, the "heir of all things." Christ is then the brightness of His Father's glory. When that glory reaches its climax, when God the Ever-glorious is most glorious, that greatest glory is IN Christ. Oh, this wondrous Word of God, the very climax of the Godhead; the gathering up of every blessed attribute in all its infinity of glory. We find all this in the person of the revelation of the Lord Christ Jesus! There is a whole sermon in those words, "...the brightness of His glory." There is all power laid up in Jesus and there is all of the Father's love concentrated in Jesus, so come and trust Him! If you will but trust Him, you will prove that He has given Himself for you! That simple trust is the secret mark that distinguishes His people from all others. "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." May we have that blessed mark of faith! May we even now hang out the scarlet line as Rahab hung it out of her window. It is the scarlet line of confidence in the crimson blood of Jesus! And while Jericho falls, while all the earth shall crumble in one common ruin, your house, though built upon the wall, shall stand securely and not one who is within its shelter shall be touched by the devouring sword, for all who are in Christ are in everlasting safety! This is the love of the Revelation of Jesus Christ!



## **Our Incomparable Christ**

F. M. Eagleson

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord." Lk. 2:11 His name shall be called wonderful." Isa. 9:6. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." II Cor. 9:15.

He took young children in His arms, ate with sinners, and washed His disciples' feet; yet He was before all things; created all things; upholds all things; is Head over all things; Heir of all things; will subdue all things; and by Him are all things held together.

28 He left the glories of heaven; made Himself of no reputation; and took upon Him the form of a servant. He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. He gave His back to the smiters; His cheeks to them that plucked off the hair; and hid not His face from shame and spitting. He was despised, rejected, betrayed; mocked, smitten, scourged; made a curse for us, and executed as a criminal: yet He is the Rock of ages, the sure foundation, the Creator of the Universe, the living Word, the Bread of life, the true Vine, the unspeakable Gift, the Prince of Peace, the Chief Shepherd, the one altogether lovely, the mighty God, the Victor over death, the Savior of the world, the Judge of all men, and the coming King.

He was born in a stable; yet angels announced His birth. He had nowhere to lay His head; yet He offers His followers prepared mansions. He lived in poverty; yet He has blessed millions with unsearchable riches. He was often weary; yet He offers rest to all who are heavy laden. He was often hungry; yet He could say: "He that cometh to me shall never hunger." He was often thirsty; yet He could say: "He that believeth on me shall never thirst." He had no home of his own; yet He could say: "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

He was crowned with thorns; yet His followers shall receive crowns of glory. Few grieved at His death; yet the sun put on mourning at noon-day and the earth shook with anguish. He was buried in a borrowed tomb; yet to all who receive Him, He will give eternal life. He was put to death as a criminal, yet He now



sits on the right hand of the Majesty on high. He held no office or position of authority; yet at His name, every knee in heaven and earth shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that He is Lord.

He never wrote a song or a book ; yet He is the theme of more songs and books than all other world celebrities combined. He never attended college; yet the world's intellects will never fathom His teaching. He went to the lowest depths of suffering and shame; that men might be raised to the highest heights of glory and honor. He took upon Him the sin that was ours; that He might give us the righteousness that is His. He was never elated by success, daunted by enemies, depressed by doubt, conquered by fear or worried over any situation. He is the central character of history; the theme of all true preaching; the source of all true life and happiness; the foundation of all true progress. He is:

### **Incomparable In His Humility**

"But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant; He humbled Himself. and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross"— Phil. 2:7,8.

29

### **Incomparable In His Love**

"Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God"—Eph. 5:2.

### **Incomparable In His Grace**

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich"—2 Cor. 8:9.

### **Incomparable In His Sacrifice**

"For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many"— Mark 10:45.

### **Incomparable In His Power**

"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth"—Matt. 28:19. "Upholding all things by the word of His power"—Heb. 1:3.

### **Incomparable In His Honor**

"The blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords"—1 Tim. 6:15.

### **Incomparable In His Glory**

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power,



and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory."  
Rev. 5:12

### **Incomparable In His Salvation**

"Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die"—  
John 11:26. "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to  
become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on His name"—  
John 1:12.

Incomparable in heaven or earth:  
Incomprehensible His worth:  
Wonders of wonders! Christ I see  
On Calvary's cruel cross — for me.



### **Bethlehem And Calvary**

There was no room in Bethlehem  
For Him who left His throne,  
To seek the lost at countless cost  
And make their griefs His own;  
But there was room on Calvary  
Upon the cross of shame,  
For Him to die, uplifted high,  
To bear the sinner's blame.

There was no room in Bethlehem;  
And in the world today  
Men will not give Him room to live,  
But bid Him turn away;  
But there is room on Calvary,  
And there He stands to give  
A home to all who heed His call,  
And look to Him and live.

There was no room in Bethlehem  
For Christ, the King of kings,  
From throne and crown, to earth come down,  
"With healing in His wings;"  
But there is room at Calvary  
For sinners to abide,  
And all who come may find a home,  
In Jesus crucified!



## Beloved Of The Lord

Mary Rice Monroe

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.” I Pet. 4:12-13

If you are in a burning furnace,  
in the midst of flames of fire,  
And you feel you can't endure it,  
for another single hour,  
And your soul is heavy burdened,  
most despairing of your life,  
Turn to Jesus, He is longing  
to console you in this fight.  
He has borne it all before us,  
He has conquered death and sin,  
That He might lead us to victory,  
as He brings His Kingdom in.  
All these "fiery trials" are needful,  
as they burn all dross away.  
Someday we shall be so happy,  
if we let Him have His way.

31

Shortly after I received Christ Jesus as my personal Savior, "I endured great fight of afflictions," being in the terrible Fear of God, which truly is "a fearful thing to fall into." All these strange afflictions almost scared me to death at first, as I could not find one person who seemed to understand them, and I think some even thought I had gone mad. This all increased my fear so, that Satan had me believing that I had committed the unpardonable sin. Through all this however, my blessed Savior never failed to comfort me, nevertheless, there are times we must "walk by faith."

"And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the Lord; remembering mine affliction and my misery, and wormwood and the gall. My soul hath them still in remembrance, and is humbled in me. This I recall to' my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness." Lam.



3:18-23 Beloved, is not this portion of Scripture written for us today, who are now enduring these strange things? I certainly know what it is to be "baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire." And believe me, the fire isn't what I have always heard it was, to be sure. It is the purifying work of the blessed Holy Spirit within us, burning up all the flesh.

The Lord is teaching us to "walk by faith," trusting and waiting upon Him. What a blessed, loving Lord we have who is doing everything possible to help us through this journey. Several years ago, He gave me a wonderful dream one night, after I had been through a very fearful day. It assured me, that after these hard places were all over, we would rejoice evermore. What a comfort this dream was to me in those days. And now as I look back, it doesn't seem possible that I could have gone through such seemingly dangerous places, and forget them so soon. "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

## THE DREAM

32

I dreamed I saw a city, upon a mountain high  
This was my destination, and night was drawing nigh,  
How could I climb that mountain, so very high and steep?  
Why! I could never climb it from this great valley deep;  
And as I gazed upon it, it was a cliff instead,  
I knew I'd have to climb it, but Oh, the terrible dread!  
And as I looked out westward, the sun was going down,  
I soon would be in darkness, and I must reach that town.  
I don't recall a struggle, the next thing I recall  
There I was in this city, without a single fall.  
And Oh, Praise God how thrilling, to know I'd climbed so high;  
And what I saw amazed me, therefore I breathed a sigh!  
For there was not a mountain, but just a hill of clay  
So shallow, little children ran up and down in play.  
When I was at the bottom, it seemed so high and steep,  
But after I ascended, how wonderful and sweet!  
That's thirteen years and over, most fourteen,  
Praise my God!  
And Oh, I'm much the better that I received His rod;  
Today I love and praise Him, because He leads the way;  
My fears are all forgotten, I'm in His love today.



## LOVE'S MIRACLE

Eva Laura Bond

In a book we possess is a picture of a painting by Morris Shaw's mother with hands stretched toward Jesus. Only a few feet away the Baby Jesus is walking with his little arms outstretched toward His mother. The shadow of His tiny figure made a cross as the light fell upon him.

Always, wherever He was, from His birth the power of Satan was constantly wielded toward Him for His life. His very existence was the greatest miracle that could happen to mankind; yet He was despised and hated in His infancy, being yet in perfect innocence. We so wonder how hatred can be so intensified as to want the blood of a Baby, and yet Love's Miracle Gift for all humanity even to the end of the earth, has been least understood of all happenings recorded.

The Christmas story is always fresh and beautiful. It is thus, just because it comes to us in perfect love and even more so as we realize its pure, perfect virgin birth. Nothing in the whole wide world is sweeter than a baby, in the natural we say, "Ah! perfect," yet here was one given us in perfection completely. Jesus! Our gift! My gift! Jesus is a gift to the world in that whosoever believes shall have Eternal Life; but until the individual sees his need for a Redeemer as Savior, it means nothing.

This Jesus who left perfection and came to earth to give His life that we may become perfect is left completely out of the hands of the majority. His life here was constantly hunted, despised and looked down upon by many, and always there was the reminder of the cross. Many men died on a cross in those days but it was for a crime that they went. Jesus who was from His birth overshadowed by a cross was finally one day hanged and without a single cause, for everything He did was good and perfect.

Here was Love's Miracle again, God had turned his back on His Son as the sins of the entire world — past, present, and future --- lay upon this purest, sweetest, most innocent and humble One — my sins, your sins and everyone's sins covered Jesus, and God Who is love could not look upon sin, was forced to turn His back upon His Son. May we repeat again, this was Love's Miracle being manifested again, for God could have stayed the hands of those who nailed Him to the cross. God could have



breathed upon the scene and they would have all fallen helpless to pierce Him, scourge Him, mock Him. Remember this wasn't enjoyable for God the Father of His priceless Gift Jesus, but His love for you and me caused Him to turn His Back because sin must be atoned for, for every individual, none escaping for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. There must be a perfect sacrifice. Jesus was that sacrifice, to make it possible for our redemption. Jesus, who came from a plain family, common laborers, no influential friends, no backing in this life that would have caused thousands of songs, books, poems and sermons to be written. This Jesus was not born with a silver spoon in His mouth, nor did He have a lauded funeral procession. Neither was all the time between, anything to be taken notice of by the majority. Yet He is the One Whose Name has lived these many hundreds of years on and on. He has Life and Life Everlasting, not to keep you one day only, but forever.

Yes friend, this is Love's Miracle performed by the God who loved us enough. Love's Miracle from God giving to us Love's Gift Jesus and those who believe receive all the benefits of Love's Miracle: God the Father, through Love's Gift, Jesus  
34 The Son.

(Bonds Of Peace 1951)

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### **Because God Cared**

Because God cared, a star shone bright  
And brought the wise men thru the night,  
While lonely shepherds heard a song  
That lingered in their hearts for long,  
And gave to them both hope and light.

Because God cared a Babe was born  
Within a stable, bleak and worn.  
The King of Jews in manger bared  
Was laid to sleep, because God cared—  
In Bethlehem at break of morn.

Because God cared, His robes of white  
Were changed to drabness and to night.  
He came to live, and love men too—  
The kingly One and royal Jew,  
In Him we have the Christmas light.

Mary M. Bodie





# Our Corn Crib

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

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**“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east...” Matt. 12:1**

