

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole Counsel of GOD

Volume 109

January 2019

Number 1

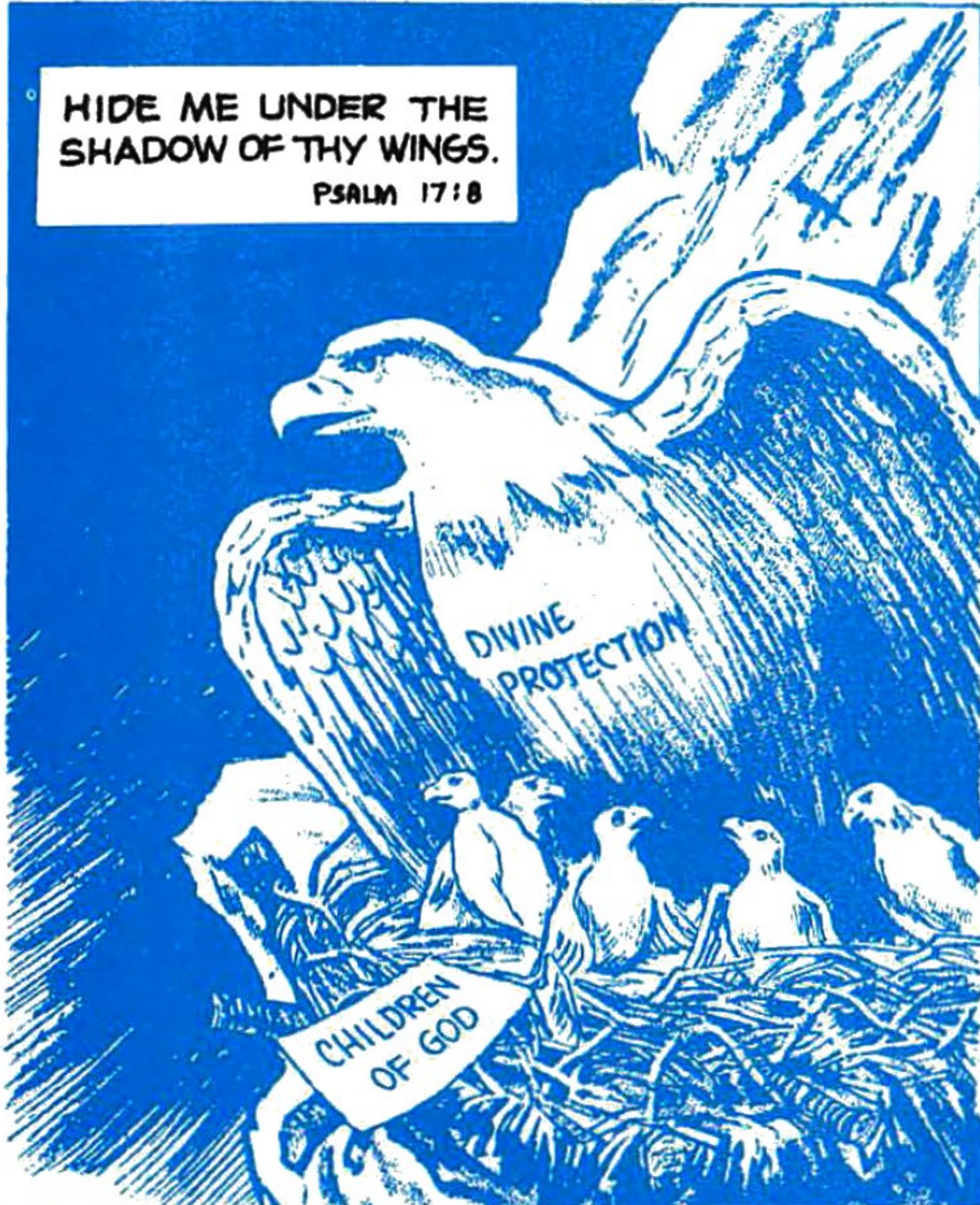


The Lord
is my light and my
salvation; whom
I shall I fear?
the Lord is the strength
of my life; of whom
shall I be afraid?
PSALM 27

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SAFE HIDING PLACE



"Grace & Glory" (USPS # 224-300 ISSN # 279-6996) is published monthly by Grace & Glory Gospel Society, 13011 Grandview Rd. P.O. Box 831, Grandview, Missouri 64030.

PERIODICALS postage is paid at Grandview, Missouri.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to "Grace & Glory" P.O. Box 831, Grandview, Missouri 64030.

Telephone: 816-618-3306. E-mail gjhawk1@msn.com Print Shop # 816-322-2257

Web site: www.gracegod.org. Bible lessons and audio sermons are downloadable.

GRACE & GLORY is published for the purpose of proclaiming God's Holy Word. We believe that the Scriptures are inspired of God and were given to His holy apostles and prophets by the Holy Spirit. (II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21)

GRACE & GLORY has had continuous publication without subscription price since 1910. We are able to continue this ministry by your kind financial support.

Editor: Gene Hawkins



“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word;... exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;” II Tim. 4:1-3

“...the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine;...” and that time has most assuredly arrived with a vengeance! This prophecy for these last days was written around Paul’s opening charge to Timothy, and put forth in view of Jesus’ second coming, wherein He “...shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;...” The previous chapter of this book also begins by announcing “...that in the last days perilous times shall come.” II Tim. 3:1 The apostle then proceeds to name a whole host of very specific characteristics which will prevail even in the era just prior to the time when Jesus will set up His righteous kingdom. He concludes this list declaring that men are “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.” II Tim. 3:7-8

This rebellious rejection of truth has already ushered in the period when men will simply “... not endure sound doctrine.” The words doctrine, truth, and “...the faith,...” are all references to God’s Word and man’s response to It. One might be prone to conclude that they who “.... will not endure sound doctrine...” would refer only to religious folk. However, it is quite clear that men in all walks of life are constantly violating the tenets of God’s Word. Paul used “...Jannes and Jambres...” as an example in the above citation of those who “...resist the truth:...” These two would undoubtedly have been among Pharaoh’s **political** advisors when God sent Moses to the latter with the command: “...Let my people go...” Ex. 5:1 Jude likewise details many characteristics of ungodliness which will prevail in “...the last

time..." V. 18 One of those reveals the fact that "...these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise (disesteem, neutralize, violate) dominion, and speak evil of dignities." V. 8 What an example of those who "...will not endure sound doctrine!" That term literally signifies those who "will not put up with" the teaching of God's righteous principles and standards of righteousness set forth by the scriptures. God's Word or "...sound doctrine..." plainly exhorts "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. **For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.**" Rom. 13:1 Daniel proclaims this same truth, crying out, "...Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: ...he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings:..." Dan 2:20-21 It seems that men simply do not accept or even know this point of doctrine, and thus they "...despise dominion and speak evil of dignities." We would reiterate that the signs of Jesus' coming are legion in our day, but **if men refuse to believe God's Word, those signs will mean absolutely nothing to them!**

4 This sign of men who "...despise dominion..." and thus reject the leader whom God has chosen is manifest world-wide. Those who lost the recent election in America have been consumed with trying to overturn the results of what God ordained using every legal maneuver and avenue available to them in that endeavor. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has also felt the pressure of numerous scandals as those who oppose him have tried more than once to drive him from power. England likewise experienced this same governmental turmoil, as seen in the following headline from NBC News. **"U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May survives no-confidence vote amid Brexit turmoil."** This announcement is followed by the explanation that, "Prime Minister Theresa May survived an effort to oust her as head of Britain's ruling Conservative Party on Wednesday, leaving her standing but wounded as the government scrambles to negotiate Brexit just months before the U.K. is due to leave the European Union.

A majority of Conservative lawmakers chose to support her in a secret ballot that was triggered when at least 48 of her colleagues wrote letters demanding a vote.

If she had lost, May would have been forced to step down amid anger at her handling of the crucial Brexit talks and widening chaos over the manner of the U.K.'s divorce from the 28-member European bloc.

Instead, she now cannot be challenged again for a year."

The tactics used to undo what God has done bring nothing

but chaos and unrest around the world, but still men persist in ruling their own way and denying the very sound doctrine of God. Jude also vividly describes the very attitudes of such dissenters, declaring that they "...speak evil of dignities." The word dignities is a reference to those who should be esteemed as being worthy of respect or reputation. It would be equivalent to our word "dignitary." Today, news reports are filled with horrendous criticism of those who should be accorded respect for the office they hold. Such is not the case in our day. Character assassination has become commonplace in world society as men grapple for power and try to sway public opinion in their own favor to achieve their objectives. The tactic is not new. Korah most assuredly did everything in his power to speak evil of Moses in an effort to turn the congregation against him. "Now Korah, ..and Dathan and Abiram,..rose up before Moses,... And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you,...wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?" Num. 16:1-3 Verse 10 of this same chapter concludes that Korah actually wanted the place which God had given to Aaron. 5
"And he hath brought thee near to him, and all thy brethren... and seek ye the priesthood also?" Thus, he must find fault with Aaron to advance himself. Horrific judgment followed for Korah and his band and God will also judge those today who employ these same schemes and attitudes of heart. Jesus will "... judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;"

Religionists around this entire globe are also guilty of refusing to "...endure sound doctrine," but Catholicism leads the way in this matter. She will absolutely be held more accountable for this action because she, by her own admission, is the only one who had access to such truth from the very beginning of the Church Age. When Jesus addressed the Church at Thyatira, (Catholicism) He specifically accused her of calling "...herself a prophetess, to teach and to **seduce my servants** to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols." Rev. 2:20 The term Catholic and Christian are synonymous around the world but that does not mean God has approved her. She plasters the crucifix all over her church walls but she denies the Christ of that cross, and robs Jesus of His glory by attributing the salvation of men to Mary and the church rather to the risen

Christ. She will not endure the sound doctrine that, "...there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12 Verse 10 of this same chapter loudly shouts out the fact that the Name of which he speaks is none other than that glorious "...name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead,..." We would also note that Mary herself attributes her own salvation to Jesus. "And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my **Saviour.**" Lk. 1:46 Are we now to assume that God saved Mary in order that she would then have the ability to save the rest of mankind? Preposterous!

6 Catholics are also taught to shout repeatedly, "hail Mary full of grace..." thus denying sound doctrine which states that "...the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,... **full of grace and truth.**" Not only so, but Catholic doctrine encourages and instructs followers to pray directly to Mary as a mediator, thus adamantly contradicting the "...sound doctrine..." introduced by Jesus Himself that, "...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6 Sound doctrine further concludes that "...there is one God, and one mediator (not two) between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" I Tim. 2:5

She further seduces people into believing that any one of her multiple priests can forgive sins, but even the rebellious Pharisees asserted "... who can forgive sins but God only?" Mk. 2:7 Furthermore, those same priests often exact a price on such forgiveness with their confessionals and penance, thus robbing Jesus of inviting all men to "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will **give** you rest." Matt 11:28 Isaiah also specifically declares "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath **no money**; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk **without money and without price.**" Isa. 55:1 John also instructs Christians to trust Jesus rather than some earthly priest to gain absolution from sin. "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:" I Jn. 2:1 Finally, Rom. 3:24 stands as a mighty beacon shouting out the message for all men that we are "...justified **freely** by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:"

Jesus is the center of all sound doctrine. According to John, "...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 Jn. 4:3 This simply means that any religion which does not recognize and accept that Jesus is the "...Christ..." or Anointed of God is most assuredly "...not of God..." regardless of their claim. Thus, national religious Pharisaical Israel, which has rejected their Messiah even from the time of Jesus, along with such religions as Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, or any other gods adopted by the nations which do not accept the sound doctrine of Jesus being The Son Of God, will suffer the consequences of God's judgment!

Society in general has also elected not to "...endure sound doctrine." God's Word plainly declares "... that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and female created he them;..." Gen. 5:1-2 Yet even young children of our day are being taught that they can "choose" whether they will be male or female regardless of the stark differences in physical characteristics wherewith God created male and female. When men refuse to accept themselves according to the pattern after which God formed them, they are essentially saying that "He made a mistake," and that is absolutely impossible. He knew, and knows, exactly what He is doing and it is man who must assume responsibility for that which God abhors. The gay lifestyle is an abominable practice in the eyes of God and according to much teaching of men today, God is blamed for making them the way they are. Sound doctrine from Rom. 1 transfers that responsibility to men. "For this cause (rebellion against God V. 23-25) God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men... And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind,..." Rom. 1: 26-28 This follows exactly the same pattern as that found in our opening text. When men will not endure sound doctrine they will pursue "...their own lusts..." which in turn will prompt them in heaping "...to themselves teachers, having itching ears;" This is for the purpose of justifying these ungodly thoughts and actions, indeed the product of a reprobate mind.

Man-made global warming better known as "climate change," is also contrary to sound doctrine, and is simply a concoction of men. These predictions are based only on computer

models and are thus subject to whatever information is fed into those computers. The effects and times of disaster are extremely erratic and highly inconclusive when considering the multitudinous accounts found on the internet. One report assembled by U.N. scientists and published by the Washington Post declares that **“The world has just over a decade to get climate change under control.”** The article then continues with the statement that, “There is no documented historic precedent for the sweeping change to energy, transportation and other systems required to reach 1.5 degrees Celsius, the U.N. intergovernmental panel on Climate Change (IPPC) wrote in a report requested as part of the 2015 Paris climate agreement.” Other uncertainty is found in this article from “OUR WORLD Brought to you by United Nations University.” The leading headline is “Climate Change: What Happens after 2100?” The question is then asked: “...when we say ‘future’ just how far should we be thinking ahead? As far as 2050? 2100? Or a little bit further, maybe as far as 2500 and beyond?” More uncertainty in regard to the long term future of the earth is unveiled by this assessment concerning CO2 emissions, the reported major cause of climate change. “Regardless of future emissions trends, the CO2 footprint from our brief passage on Earth is going to remain in the climate system and impact the well-being of all terrestrial life forms for what could almost be considered an eternity.” The many disasters currently taking place in our world have been attributed to climate change. However, the sound doctrine of God’s Word has already prophesied that all these things would come to pass, and the history found in scripture well informs us that He does not need man’s efforts to accomplish His Sovereign Works. Men are looking far into the future for the coming apocalypse, predicting earth’s destruction in far reaches of time, but God’s Word declares that the destruction for which they look has already begun and their timelines are bogus. We do not know when Jesus will be enthroned in heaven. We are confident that such an event is coming quickly, and when it does, all the prophesied signs currently manifest in our world today will escalate into that period known as the tribulation. Once that 7 year period has begun, the sound doctrine of prophecy concludes that it will be completed about 250 days before those seven years have been finished. After that, this entire world will benefit from the 1000 year reign of King Jesus, and we can guarantee there will be no threat of fear to the atmosphere due

to carbon emissions or any other hazard. Thus, the threat of global warming will not exist for indefinite periods of time or “an eternity” as some predicted above. After the 1000 year reign of Christ is over God’s Word of sound doctrine declares plainly: “... Behold, I make all things new.” Rev. 21:5 John saw the results of that when he “...saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away;...” Rev. 21:1

It is also quite interesting to note that the threat of “climate change” has caused riots in France, which is rather ironic due to the fact that Paris is the birth place of the Paris Climate Change Accords. This is just one more example of the fact that man’s unwarranted restrictions designed to gain control over humanity produce great pain and hardship. We cannot change the downward trek of this world which is speeding toward destruction. That which is written in stone according to Divine Prophecy is unalterable. We must, however, follow the same pattern which Paul outlined for Timothy after he warned him of the dire consequences of unbelief outlined above which are even now descending upon this world. “But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suffering, charity, patience, Persecutions,... Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution..... But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;” II Tim. 3:10-14 Jesus also admonished us in view of these same last days, “...take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.” Lk. 21:34 We must carry on with the endeavors with which God has charged us, but we must also make sure that our own lives follow the sound doctrine found in God’s Word. Thus Paul closes this entreaty declaring that “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” II Tim. 3:13-17 This is the way in which we ourselves may be fully prepared and ready for Jesus soon coming!

“...Yuen so, come, Lord
Jesus.” Rev. 22:20

The Bride In Preview, In Preparation

And In Prospect

Alice S. Mooneyhan

“**A**nd the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone: I will make an helpmeet for him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man.” Gen. 2:18,21,22.

"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy; for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ"—II Cor. 11:2.

"For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church"—Eph. 5:20-22.

10

We have been asked to show where "bridal truth" can be found in the Scriptures. The truth concerning God's purpose to obtain a bride for His Son is to be found throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We will call your attention to some Scriptures which pertain to this pre-eminent purpose.

Preview

Eve is a wonderful type of the bride of Christ in the fact that she was only a small portion of Adam's body, which the Lord took and "builded" into a woman, a wife for Adam, "who is the figure of Him who is to come"—Rom. 5:14.

Genesis 24 shows a type of the bride of Christ in another phase, in her kindness and willingness to serve others, even submitting herself to every providence as unto the Lord, by which even the trials (camels) are made to serve in bringing her to her Bridegroom, for which purpose they are sent.

In the "Song of Songs" is given a beautiful picture of the compelling power of the ardent love, the patience and faithfulness of the Bridegroom, which arouse the admiration, evoke the confidence, and awaken the adoring love of this woman of destiny for Him who "is altogether lovely."

Preparation

But let us get a close-up view of this desirable woman in her "every-day clothes," instead of just gazing at her "pictures." In Romans, we see her taking her first step in overcoming the flesh, by laying hold of God's provisional truth of our death and resurrection with Christ, "and yielding unto God as those that are alive from the dead"—Rom. 6:13.

In First Corinthians, she is the one who recognizes Christ alone as her all-sufficient Head and Lord, glorying only in Him, as she reads the Spirit's revelation of Him in the word of God, and follows the example of the Apostle Paul, God's ordained apostle to the church, the body of Christ which is made up of all believers during this age of grace.

Second Corinthians shows her ministry as a priest in worship and service, pouring out her life that others might be enriched thereby. The announcement of her betrothal is given in 2 Cor. 11:2, and though Paul's fear lest the church should be turned from her dependence upon Christ was not without cause, yet the Lord will "build" a woman out of that small portion of the church who will heed the word of God and yield to the inward working of the Spirit. In Galatians, we see her standing fast in the liberty of Christ, and not being "entangled again with the yoke of bondage"—Gal. 5:1. She boldly opposes "legality," "knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ"—Gal. 2:16. She bears the fruit of the Spirit by Walking in the Spirit, and restores in the spirit of meekness such as are overtaken in a fault, considering herself as being subject to temptation also.

Ephesians opens up to view the riches of God's grace and the vast inheritance in Christ which were marked out (predestinated) in God's purpose before the world began, and which this "builded" woman will inherit, according as she has walked in the "good works, which God hath before ordained." In this book we see her walking "worthy of the vocation" (calling), "walking in love," "walking as children of light," and "walking circumspectly," (or wisely), realizing her destiny, that for this purpose Christ loved her, and gave Himself for her: "that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish"—Eph. 5:27. Though Satan and his wicked hordes in the heavenlies contest her claim to this inheritance, yet with the whole armour of God upon her, and the sword of the Spirit in

her hand, she can not only wage defensive warfare but aggressive, as well, in behalf of others.

Like the virtuous woman of Prov. 31, this one also has diversified activities, with garments suitable for each undertaking. Now she is stripped, as seen in Philippians, of every weight which would impede her progress in the race to win the supreme Prize, "having no confidence in the flesh," but suffering the loss of all things and counting them refuse that she "may win Christ, and be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ"—Phil. 3:9, praying even to share His sufferings, thru the power of His resurrection, "If by any means I might arrive unto the resurrection out from among the dead"—V. 11, to be raised ahead of other dead saints, who are content to stroll aimlessly around instead of running so as to win.

12 In Colossians, this is the one who receives correction by the word, through which alone she arrives at an exact knowledge of the will of God, walking "worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing . . . strengthened with all might according to His glorious power, unto all patience and long suffering with joyfulness." Col. 1:11. Thus, she is forearmed and forewarned of all Satan's deceiving emissaries who would beguile her of her reward by seeking to make her take a lesser place than that which God's love and grace have given—even "the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you the hope of glory"—V. 27.

In First Thessalonians, this select company, whose faith is perfected and whose love has increased and abounded "toward one another and toward all men," and whose hope of the soon coming of the Lord has kept her separated from defilement is seen winging her way up from the earth at the shout from the Lord when He descends from heaven that she may be ever with the Lord.

Prospect

In Rev. 19, "the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife made herself ready." This is the wedding day. The bride did not buy a "ready-made" trousseau, but garments made with her own labor of love and work of faith that she might appear pleasing in His eyes—"For the fine linen is the righteousness of saints"—V. 8,

In the 21st chapter of Revelation is given the last view of this fair woman, "the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down

from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband—V. 2. The Bride gives the name to the city of God, even the city for which Abraham looked, "a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God"—Heb. 11:10.

Bridal love is not mere sentimental, rhapsodical, fleshly emotion, but is that preeminent love which seeks the will of the Lord above all things, because He gave Himself for us. It is a reciprocal love, which counts no sacrifice for Him too great, no task for Him too difficult, no reproach for Him too costly to bear. Such love may be manifested by sitting at His feet to learn of Him, in falling as His feet in quiet submission to His will, or in anointing His feet with the fragrance of our worship, praise and adoration, yet it is manifested also in fighting the good fight, in running the race, and in keeping the faith, looking to that precious promise of our Lord: "I will also keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." Rev. 3:10

The Bride of Christ

She stays so close to the side of Him
His ointment falls on her;
Hence, what if the darkness grim
Comes her way, the smell of myrrh
Soon changes to the lavender.

Her presence breathes a heavenly scent;
And lingers as the rose
Of Christ's fragrance redolent,
As wind from the garden blows
Sweet perfume, as it goes.

And as she walks she bears along
Incense, all hearts to stir.
And memories of Jesus throng
As His holy character
Is reproduced in her.

Mary M. Bodie

Faith Journey

Paul N. Smith

“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.” Heb 11:8

These verses in Hebrews 11, coupled with Gen. 12:1-5, give us a view of Abraham's faith journey. He stepped out on God's Word alone and walked, step by step, listening for God's voice, and then making his progress. In this inspired history, we will see a correspondence with our walk in the year unfolding before us. We are entering into an unknown land—familiar landmarks, maybe, but unfamiliar steppings. We are no different from Abraham as to our dependence upon the Lord, and our walk into the future can be as rewarding and glorious as his, even more so.

First, we see that Abraham was called. God spoke to him sovereignly—aside from any seeking on his part or any good in him, and independently of all others who lived at that time. God calls the same way today. He has made a universal calling to all mankind to come and accept His plan of salvation, but He also makes **14** special callings individually, and He has a special purpose in each call.

This call to Abraham proved two things—one, he had ears to hear, and two, his ears were open to God's voice. Here was a man engaged in idolatry, but undoubtedly seeking to know the Lord. Anyway, his obedience proved that his ears were open to God's voice, and he recognized the voice when he heard it. There is a time when He speaks to us to surrender our lives and wills to Him, and then there is a continuous calling—telling us to come on, there is more ahead—yes, far more ahead than what was behind. The necessary requirement on our part is to have our spiritual ears open to His voice. How good to be called of God! That is grace displayed.

The Lord does not show partiality to natural wisdom, knowledge or strength. He acts in strange ways sometimes, by-passing some great intellectual giant and stooping to speak to some poor ignorant soul who has no other qualifications than open ears and a willing heart. But Oh! The miracle that takes place in such a one is thrilling to watch and better to experience. His callings are without repentance. He never regrets the time and effort He spends in seeking, arresting and qualifying someone to walk in His will. Of course, to the Lord this is no effort, and He has all the time eternity allows for such activity.

Abraham was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance. When the Lord called Abraham, He did not give him much information, except to go. Everything was future. There was nothing tangible for him to lay hold of, except the irresistible force of God's voice pulling him onward. He afterwards saw the land which his seed should possess, but at the time God called, he had no knowledge whatever of where he was going, nor what he would find after he arrived. And he was no stripling either when he was called. Seventy five in those days of greater age was still far from young, yet the man had a young heart, the age of a child's and just as simply laid hold of the promise—this is faith! No reasoning, no questions, no fearful withdrawing. Thus, 1959 awaits our entrance. What are we going to do? Where are we *going*? What is our program? I'm sure that we do not know. We know what, where, and when of the present, but tomorrow who knows, but God. We are glad to leave it to His care anyway.

The next step showed that Abraham obeyed. He not only assented with his mind that this might be a good thing to do, but he obeyed from the heart, and he moved. In spiritual things the heart (or soul) moves the mind, and the mind moves the body—feet, hands, mouth, etc. Most people depend on the mind only, but God speaks first to the heart of man. It is always this way. "With the heart, man believeth..."—"God looketh upon the heart,"—"they obeyed from the heart," etc. God prizes obedience to His will above everything else. Good works are fine, but obedience to His will is best. Obedience is better than self-sacrifice. Obedience proves that one does or does not love God.

Abraham's obedience caused him to take a definite step—"He went out." Many sit and talk of God's provision, and what He can do and will do, but the Lord means for us to make a definite move. He will not push us into the Promised Land in a baby buggy; we must walk. He will see to it that we have the right direction and the strength. As the little boy once said, "Lord, if you'll lift 'em up (his feet), I'll put 'em down." This man could not stay within the circle of his friends and relatives. He went out. All of God's chosen ones go out in one sense or another. There is a going-out and a coming-into experience in every walk of faith. We went out of one year into a new one, though this is but one experience. There is a continual movement in the growth and walk of Abraham's kin.

A very important point in this regard is that Abraham went out, **"not knowing."** Do you suppose that he would have gone faster, or quit altogether had he known? It is not for us to know. Some people, it seems, must have everything in order, every step outlined, detailed, and processed. That is all right for a business venture, but God is dealing in flesh and blood, and in spiritual things. If the Lord showed us in advance all the events of 1959 on it's eve, we would have clung to 1958, no doubt. But then there would be no progress. We mortals need only the assuring voice of God to lead us on—"for we walk by faith and not by sight." Another translation of this verse reads, "And he went out, and did not trouble his mind where he went." That is a good example, isn't it? Why trouble the mind with the unseen and unknown? Of course, worrying is a trait of the natural unbelieving man, and it is difficult at times to dismiss all doubts and anxieties from the mind; but faith does! So Abraham went out, not knowing where he was going, and he stayed out!

16 The next point that we read about our faith traveler is that "he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country." This sentence stands out as an amazing statement. He went to the land promised to be his possession, yet he was a stranger there. He was only a temporary resident in the land of promise, and proved that he was by dwelling in tents. One would think that he would settle down once he arrived at this place in his experience. He had enough, why go on. Why not be content?' This was surely enough for anyone to ever hope to have. Ah, not to Abraham or to those who walk his way. He was never satisfied. The Lord kept calling him on. He was in the land, yes, but he had not really seen nor enjoyed all of his possessions.

Neither should one be satisfied with his present attainments. There is always more. Abraham had promise of something he had not seen yet, and he wasn't going to stop short of the full promise. This land was all right for his progeny, but he was a unique character—the father of all the faithful—and he exemplifies our steps today. We learn what the reason was for his stubborn refusal to quit the journey in the next verse.

"For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." No wonder he pushed on, believing the Word of the Lord. Those dusty tents did not satisfy him, nor did the fine corn and wine and honey flowing abundantly. These were all

wonderful and necessary, but he was not perfectly satisfied. Neither are we, although we are contented to be in the present will of God, yet our hearts and spirits are drawing us onward and upward. After we learn of heavenly truths, we could never be satisfied with earthly blessings, no matter how wonderful they are.

To reach that heavenly city meant that Abraham was closer to God. He was acquainted with God, and more than that he was a close companion of the Lord, and he did not want to be separated from Him. He was a real friend of God—but think of the relationship between Christ and His Bride! We are looking for the heavenly companionship for which Abraham looked, but we for a different reason. Abraham wanted to be near his Friend. We likewise want to be with our heavenly Lord and Bridegroom.

Every attainment or experience will fade into obscurity when the realization of all our hopes and dreams is come. Some look for one thing or another, mostly earthly things. This New Year offers many promises for the heart of man. What are you looking for this year? Great things, new ministries, more money, fame, war, trouble, or are you looking for Christ? This is the question for all of us to look into our hearts and find the answer. Our hopes and dreams will be manifested by our activities. We either live as though we are permanent residents of this world, or we live as pilgrims and exiles in a strange land. Our home is above. Our Lover is above. Our satisfaction is with Him. This year may bring the realization of all these—if not, we are still looking.

17

The worthies of faith in Heb. 11 had hope of a better country and their lives showed that they did look for a country to come. Read verses 10-16 and ch. 13:14. We would like to close with a paraphrase of verse 13: "These people all died controlled and sustained by their faith, but not having received the tangible fulfillment of God's promises, Only having seen them from a great distance by faith, and all the while acknowledging and confessing that they were strangers and temporary residents and exiles upon the earth."

(Reprint 1959)

* To believe Christ lives within is to abide in constant victory.

* Here is a way to get rid of your duties---Discharge them.

REFLECTIONS

...*From the Editor*

“**T**his is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” Psa. 118:24

We had hoped that by the time this New Year had arrived, The Day Of The Lord wherein Jesus will be crowned King of kings and Lord of Lords, would have already begun. Such is not the case. However, we must understand that many days which The Lord makes will indeed transpire during this coming year, and we are exhorted to “... rejoice and be glad in it.”

The text above is a reference to the time when Israel finally accepts her Messiah, and “The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.” Psa. 118:22 This will a glorious day for both Israel and the world as Jesus takes His rightful place and assumes universal reign as God for 1000 years. It also carries a personal application for every believer, because there must come that red letter day in our lives when we too surrender the full control and headship of our entire being unto Him, as the “...head stone of the corner...”

There are many days recorded in scripture which apply directly to us and which are most assuredly ordained of God. Lev. 14:2-7 describes “...the day of his cleansing...” in reference to the leper who has been healed of this dreaded disease. Two birds are taken for him, both representative of Christ. The one which was “...killed in an earthen vessel over running water:...” speaks of Jesus’ death at Calvary in the vessel of a human body offering Himself through the water of the eternal spirit. The living bird was released into the heavens showing forth the fact that both Jesus and this leper have been delivered from both death and sin. Leprosy is symbolic of sin and every person born into this world must come to his own day of cleansing.

The apostle John also describes “...the day of judgment:...” which will come a number of times in the life of a Christian. This text is written around the context of divine love, for such love must be perfected in order “...that we may have boldness in the day of judgment:...” I Jn. 4:17 The word “judgment” simply signifies “a verdict or decision” and it means that God will make

those momentous decisions in our behalf and for our good. We can be bold or confident in that day, directly because we know firsthand the power and protection of Divine love.

Zechariah proclaims the importance of recognizing "...the day of small things..." Zec 4:10 God spoke these words after the 70 year captivity of the Jews was over and they had laid the foundation for the new temple. Some compared it with magnificent structure which Solomon had created and had been weeping loudly in sore disappointment. Thus, God chided them for despising "...the day of small things..." We must likewise agree with God as to His dealings with us. If He chooses a way for us that is little, unknown, unassuming, and humble, it is the perfect way to ensure that we know the glorious way of His grace.

Solomon informs us that there must be an overall balance in the days which are chosen for us, days which may be awaiting us in the upcoming year. "In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him." Eccl. 7:14 The purpose for this balance is that God might be able to do a complete work in our lives, or "...that man should find nothing after him." Paul also picked up this same banner when he wrote: "I know both how to be abased,...how to abound:...in all things I am instructed both to be full...hungry,...to abound...to suffer need." He concludes with the lesson learned from these multiple days of experience which have been chosen for him. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil 4:12-13 Thus, all our days are also designed that Jesus might come to the fore.

19

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ANNOUNCEMENT:

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Experience With A Legalist

Lars Eidsness

" And ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free." John 8:32

When I was just a babe in Christ and new in the Christian way, a teacher of the Bible tried to convert me to his sect, that is, to keep the old covenant law. Although he did not succeed, he did disturb my peace of mind for a time and put me under a false conviction. Being of a timid nature, I did not go to any man for spiritual advice but cried out to God in my distress and read His word diligently. The Lord heard my cry and led me to the very verse of Scripture that I needed, and then to others until the light was so clear that all uncertainty was gone. God had given me the answer to the legalist. So I wrote down my findings in the form of questions and answers. I gave them to the man the next time he came to help me get under the law. He never tried since to convert me, nor did he bother me with his literature. For the help of other young Christians, I give the questions and answers below.

1. **What was Paul's attitude** to the law after he was saved? **Answer,** He said that he was dead to the law. "I, through the law, am dead (or died) to the law." Gal. 2:19 He saw that the law had condemned him and put him to death at the cross. "I am (have been) crucified with Christ." Gal. 2:20

2. **What should be our attitude** as Christians to the law? **Answer,** We should hold the same attitude to the law as we hold to sin, namely, dead to it. "Brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body (or death) of Christ." Rom. 7:4 "Likewise reckon yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin." Rom. 6:11

3. **Are we not then** to be governed any more by the law of the old covenant? **Answer,** No, for we are now under the new covenant of grace, where "the love of Christ constraineth us." "For ye are not under the law, but under grace." Rom. 6:14 "If ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the (rule of) law." Gal. 5:18

4. **Why then was the law given?** **Answer,** "It was added

because of transgressions till the Seed (the Savior) should come, to whom the promise was made." Gal. 3:19 It was not a part of the promise to Abraham. It was added to show up the awfulness of sin in mankind, even in the most advanced and Godfavored people, Israel, "that all the world might become guilty before God," and might see their need of the Savior. Rom. 3:19

5. How long was the old covenant law to be in effect? **Answer,** Until Christ should come. "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster unto Christ," not after Christ. "We are no longer under a schoolmaster after that faith is come." Gal. 3:24,25 The coming of Christ, and His death and resurrection create faith. School is out!

6. But is not the law good then? **Answer,** Certainly. "The law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good." Rom. 7:12 But we must leave it where God put it---in the old covenant and not bring it into the new covenant, where Christians live. We must not try to make the law do something that it was not given to do. Let me illustrate. The laws of Norway were good, at least some of them, but when I left the old country and entered this good land, I came under a new administration. Therefore I no longer live under the old country laws. I have nothing to do with them anymore. Does that make me lawless? No! Far from it. I live under a new administration, with new laws, you see---laws befitting the new country. I count it a privilege to be a law-abiding citizen, for Jesus' sake. So, likewise, as a Christian, I live under a new covenant, the covenant of grace, with a new law, even "the law of faith which worketh by love." Gal. 5:6. "Love is the fulfilling of the law." Rom. 13:10. 21

7. What is the effect of the law on man? **Answer,** It leaves him more, or less in darkness. "Their minds were darkened; even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart, which vail is taken away in Christ." II Cor. 3:15 Notice that the old law came into effect under "blackness and darkness and fear and trembling" at Mount Sinai (Heb. 12:18-21), and "it was done away" under blackness and

darkness and quaking and fear on Mount Calvary. Matt. 27:45,54. "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth." Rom. 10:4.

8. **If the law is done away in Christ**, how then can a man be condemned? **Answer**, Simply by not believing on Christ, the Son, of God. "He that believeth not (on Christ) is condemned already, because he hath NOT believed in the Name of the only begotten Son of God." John 3:18 "Already....," that is, before any of his deeds, or words are considered, he is condemned because of unbelief. His sons will add "many stripes" to his punishment, of course.

9. **Who is free from condemnation?** Is it he that keeps the law? **Answer**, "He that believeth on Him (on Christ) is NOT condemned." John 3:18 A believer in Christ is therefore free from condemnation. "He that heareth my word and believeth on Him (God) that sent me,... shall not come into condemnation." (or judgment) John 5 :24 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them **which** **22 are in Christ Jesus.**" "**Who** shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. **Who** is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us"-Rom. 8:1, 33,34.

(Reprint 1943)



* The heart given to our Father; the hand given to our brother; the life given to both --- this makes life admirable. J.G. Holland

* Endeavoring keeps us from going to sleep spiritually

* Speculate about prayer if you please, but to know what it really means you must practice it.

The Law Hidden
in the Ark
Mary M. Bodie

"**T**his is the covenant that I will make with them after those days-I will put my laws in their hearts and in their minds will I write them." Heb.10:16.

The above is quoted from Jeremiah 31:33, and refers to the triumph of grace over law in the case of Israel. They are wandering upon the face of the earth today, because they did not lay hold of that grace which was manifested to them, even during the time they were apparently under the covenant of law. They had made themselves a party to that covenant and insisted that they were well able to obey its requirements. They were ignorant of their weakness and inability. Even to this day, they do not understand why they are cast out of their inheritance.

The Lord endeavored by type and shadow to reveal His grace to them, but they appeared blind, and went about to establish their own righteousness. Therefore, He must be just. He cannot clear the guilty without they acknowledge their sins and accept the atonement which has been made for them. They must come to God as suppliants, not claiming anything as far as their own merits are concerned, but claim His grace. This, Israel will do in the latter days. Then God will put His laws in their hearts and write them in their minds. They will be a new creation. 23

We have a beautiful illustration of this principle in mother love. The law of the country requires parents to care for their offspring, and there is a penalty for the willful neglect of them, but how seldom do we hear of the enforcement of that law? There is no necessity. The land is full of happy mothers, or even unhappy ones, who tenderly care for their children. They are ignorant of the existence of any law to this effect. **THE LAW IS IN THEIR HEARTS.**

In connection with this, it is instructive to note God's appointed place for the two tables of the law. **THEY WERE WITHIN THE ARK.** With them were "the golden pot that had manna and Aaron's rod that budded," all of which is fragrant of Christ. The manna speaks to us of Him as the bread of the wilderness. Aaron's rod speaks of Him as risen from the

dead and bearing fruit. These symbols all figure grace, for the tables of the law were hidden. The Ten Commandments were covered from view by the golden mercy-seat, upon which was sprinkled the blood of atonement. Man could not see the law, and neither could God. He was looking upon them through the blood which completely vindicated His justice and propitiated His wrath. He had said to Israel in Egypt, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you."

24 How do the law-keepers and law-preachers justify their conduct by insisting that the law must be obeyed before one can be saved and afterward to keep saved? God hid these laws, even from the people to whom they were given. It was reserved for these modern theologians to wrench those holy and just, yet death-dealing decrees from underneath the mercy seat and its atoning blood and erect, or engrave them upon so-called Christian Churches as the rule of the Christian's life. Such audacity and presumption is almost unbelievable. God will deal with these deceptive, deluded teachers---blind guides, leading the people into bondage instead of out of bondage. God's true ministers are declaring Good Tidings---telling men of God's grace which has provided a new creation with its law of love engraven in the heart and mind; "Epistles of Christ, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of God, not on tables of stone, but on the fleshy tables of the heart." II Cor. 3:3.

(Reprint 1936)

Thine and Mine

Of course He'll come, and speedily.
The time is near at hand.
The Father knows our urgent need.
Our hearts, tho' longing, stand.

'Tis most day-break; the shadows flee.
The rain is o'er and gone.
Hid in the clefts, we glimpse Him in
His park of nuts alone.

Hattie T. Moore

What - Knot Shelf

Once upon a time Satan announced that he was going out of business. He said he expected to renounce the past and sell his tools at public auction. He considered that there were enough fools in the world to guarantee a good market.

On the day of the auction a great concourse of people came to see the devil's stock of vices. There were malice, envy, jealousy, hatred, anger and scores of other gadgets. Apart from all the rest was a wedge-shaped device tagged with an unusually high price.

Satan was especially enthusiastic over this item. "It is called Discouragement," he said. "It is worth more in my business than anything else displayed here. Few people are aware that I have an exclusive patent on it, but I invented it myself and I control it. It has achieved the desired results in millions upon millions of cases. If I can just force this wedge within the consciousness of man, it will frustrate his Maker's plans for his life. What am I bid?"

25

But Satan never sold the wedge of discouragement. The price was far too high. He kept it and is making effective use of it today. Never allow the devil to discourage you.

(Ed. Note: The remedy for this wedge is found in I Sam. 30:6 "And David was greatly distressed;...but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.")

(Taken From Bonds of Peace 1953)

- * Satan hinders prayer, it is true, but prayer hinders Satan far more.
- * Some folk may call themselves "Jehovah's Witnesses" but they are not the witnesses of Jehovah.
- * It is impossible to straighten a board that is warped. Sin has warped the human heart and mind. Only one remedy --- a new birth, a new heart.

CHAPTER SIXTY SIX ~ REVELATION

“Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool:... For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.” Isa. 66:1 & 22

This is the first of three major ways in which this final chapter of Isaiah forms a beautiful correlation with Revelation, the final book of the Bible. God has always been the complete Master of the universe, but these verses indicate that such a glorious truth will become even more prominent in the Millennium, which is simply a springboard to eternity. John declares this same dominion and power in Rev. 21:1. “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.”

26 Isaiah reveals The Judge in verses 15-16. “For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.” John, likewise, begins the book of Revelation with very specific detail of that same Judge. “And I turned to see the voice that spake with me... one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass,...and his voice as the sound of many waters.” Rev. 1:12-15

Finally, in verse 7, Isaiah prophecies the birth of the “man child.” “Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.” John shows this same man child transported to glory before the great pain of Jacob’s trouble ensues. “And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.” Rev. 12:5

Both Revelation and this final discourse of Isaiah cover a wide range of prophesied events, but the prophet begins his prophecy with a reference to the Millennial Temple. “Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place

of my rest?" V. 1 God's glory and majesty are the subject here, as noted above, and such power and might must actually be attributed to Christ, for He will reign as God during the Millennium. The questions, "...where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?" seem to catch us to the beginning of that period wherein the Millennial Temple will be built. God had asked these same questions of David when he wanted to build a temple. "Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt,... In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?" II Sam.1 7:5-7 We wonder if this may also be a pattern for the next age. Even at this present time, there has been speculation that Jews, Christians, and Muslims would combine their efforts in an endeavor to restore Solomon's Temple. We would note in our present text however that only God will be responsible for this building. "For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD:..." V. 2 The ways of God are, in no wise, like unto the ways of men. When the temple was restored after the captivity, the dimensions were much smaller and the building far less elaborate than that erected by Solomon. That contrast was so apparent that "... many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice;..." Ezra 3:12 God was actually offended by that demonstration and His message through Haggai conveys that sentiment, adding some of the same elements contained here in Isaiah's prophecy. "Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing? Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD;... and be strong, all ye people of the land,... According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not. For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and **I will fill this house with glory**, saith the LORD

of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.” Hag 2:3-9 That house was undoubtedly symbolic of the coming Millennial Temple, wherein God will also supply the glory, and again we would wonder if it may be much smaller than that of Solomon in order to draw attention to the glory of God rather than the accomplishments of men. Not only so, but it is quite apparent that Haggai’s prophecy bears witness of the Millennium when Jesus will usher in that glorious Utopia for which the world has long sought. He will bring forth the glory of His Temple, “...and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.”

28 The latter part of this verse also puts emphasis on the way God does things, as opposed to the endeavors of men. “... but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.” V. 2 God has always been more interested in the allegiance and inner motivations of the heart, rather than the mighty accomplishments of man’s hands. He must have contrite and pliable hearts that “... trembleth at my word.” Any religious demonstration short of that would be deemed sacrilegious, for “He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog’s neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine’s blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations.” V. 3 The offerings of the oxen and lambs, required under the Aaronic priesthood, have become totally obsolete with the advent of Jesus’ Priesthood after the order of Melchisidec. God now considers such offerings as an abomination akin to offering that which was strictly forbidden by the law. Paul wrote the entire book of Hebrews trying to turn the Jewish believers away from the types and shadows, so that they might embrace the True Substance which is in Christ Jesus and His Glorious Redemption. Isaiah likewise declares the fallacy of these offerings asserting that “... they have chosen their **own** ways, and their soul delighteth in abominations.” The Millennium will bring forth a spiritual awakening in national Israel, wherein this Chosen People will delight only in Christ, but first they must forsake “...their own ways...” and learn to trust God’s Plan. Such a practical lesson

will be taught only by the bitter experience of tribulation. "I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not." V. 4 These are the indictments against Israel which will shortly manifest God's very stark disapproval. Rather than calling on the Lord, they will be deluded by the nations. Their ultimate delusion will be in making a covenant with the antichrist, and gross fear, misery, and destruction will most assuredly follow, because this people simply "... did not hear:..." when God called unto them. Now they are exhorted to rectify that situation.

"Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed." V. 5 This seems to be a reference to Jesus prophecy in Matt. 24:10. "And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another." John likewise chimes in with these words. "They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service." John 16:2 Such words began to be fulfilled in the early days of the Church Age, but they shall surely be magnified during the tribulation period, and it will be at that time when the glorious promises recorded here will especially come to fruition. "...but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed." Deliverance will arise for Israel and it will not be short lived as it may often have been in time past. Rather, there will be "A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that rendereth recompence to his enemies." V. 6 Deliverance for the entire world will begin at Jerusalem. She is, at the present time, under tremendous siege but all of that will change. King Jesus will most assuredly spring forth in victory and will render "... recompence to his enemies," and once again Israel's complete restoration will be at the very center of all God's purposes for the entire world.

"Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children." V. 7-8 One must

not assume that these two verses describe only one company of people. "Before she travailed..." is the key here, because it means that a company known as "the man child," will be brought forth **before** the travail during the last half of the tribulation period produces the infant nation of Israel, which will rule during the Millennium. The man child, the 144,000 who are exclusively Jews, along with the five wise virgins of Matt. 25, all represent exactly the same company and actually form the third rank of the Church which will be transported to heaven at "midnight" or shortly before the middle of the tribulation week. We would note that the 144,000 were sealed with the Holy Ghost in Rev. 7, just as the five wise virgins had oil in their lamps, indicating that they were filled with the Spirit before they were called to glory. Isaiah firmly asserts that this heavenly company will be brought forth **before** the horrendous time of Jacob's trouble prophesied by Jeremiah. "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he (Jacob) shall be saved out of it." Jer. 30:7 This is a direct reference to the same unprecedented time of tribulation recorded in Matt. 24:21. "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." It is a direct reference to the 1260 day reign of the antichrist, which will usher in the most horrific "travail" of that seven year period and will bring an end to the tribulation week. That is the travail which will produce the "nation born in one day," and we again emphasize that such intense "birth pangs, begin **after** the man child comes forth, for only then are the questions asked, "Shall the earth (Israel) be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once?" That nation will be New Creation Israel, and they will remain on the earth. They will not be transported to heaven as was the man child. Not only so but the declaration is also put forth "...for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children," plural, as opposed to the singular man child which has already been removed from this earth. These "children" will be dominant and prosper in Jesus' Kingdom on earth, for the next thousand years.

This time of "travail" will be a most intense time of great pain and uncertainty for this nation. Some may even wonder if such a new birth will occur at all, but God is at the helm here and the certainty is that He will finish what He has started. "Shall I

bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God.” V. 9 The answer would be an emphatic NO! for this nation shall be brought forth, and then all nations of the earth will be exhorted: “Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her:” V. 10 Next follows the result of such rejoicing including admonitions to these same nations.

“That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory.” V. 11 They were first exhorted to rejoice and then to mourn over her, meaning that there will be somewhat of a remorse manifest because the nations were guilty of inflicting such pain and difficulty upon Jerusalem. Now, they will be dependent upon this Holy City, as they are instructed to “... suck and be satisfied...” with her breasts. All nations of the world must now draw the milk from her, meaning that Jerusalem will give forth even the milk of God’s Word. These same nations will also be forced to recognize and actually delight “... with the abundance of her glory,” for this coveted city will now be the very center of all God’s government upon this earth. He will be in charge of everything that emanates from her gates, “For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees.” V. 12 This message of Gentile dependence runs like a thread through all these verses, for all nations of this world must now come to Jerusalem for their sustenance, both naturally and spiritually. There will be a special affection between Jerusalem and the nations as they “...shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees.” She will also be “... like a river.... like a flowing stream...” of life for the entire world, and counted as “... the glory of the Gentiles,...” wherein God Himself claims responsibility for such blessing. “As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I (The LORD) comfort you; (Gentiles) and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.” V. 13

“And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the LORD shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies.” V. 14 This text seems to indicate two opposite

extremes that will be present during the Millennium. It will be a time of world-wide righteousness because Satan will be bound a thousand years, but the flesh will still be present as seen in Isaiah 65. A person will be counted as only an innocent little child until the age of 100, but we know that judgment will be poured out for open sin after that, because "... the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed." Isa. 65:20 This expresses "... his indignation toward his enemies." Untold blessing is promised for His servants, but judgment against ungodliness must be swift in order to maintain the promised overall atmosphere of peace and tranquility. Thus, "... the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many." V. 15-16 Such displays of judgment will most assuredly will be used throughout the New Millennial Age, but these characteristics are clearly evident during the tribulation with the grand finale coming forth at the battle of Armageddon.

32 We also marvel at Isaiah's warning against the hypocrisy couched in the following portion, given the current atmosphere of religiousness around the world. "They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD. For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory." Regardless of all their attempts at "religion," none of those tactics will prove to be an escape for them. They are all considered "abomination," and God says "... I know their works and their thoughts...." He continues with an invitation for all those nations to "... come and see my glory." John likewise records such an invitation to the glory of judgment which will be revealed at Armageddon. "And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;" Rev. 19:17 Joel also prophesies of this same "invitation" to witness the glory of God. "I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land." Joel

3:2 God will subdue all the nations in behalf of Israel prior to the Millennium. His judgment will be severe, but scripture is very clear that there will be “sheep nations,” which have befriended Israel to the best of their ability and they will not be annihilated by the aforementioned devastation.

Instead, God declares that “... I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.” V. 19 God will get the attention of the entire world through the great feats of judgment displayed during the tribulation period, all of them reflecting His tremendous glory. The total submission of these nations is expressed in accounts such as Rev. 17:14. “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.” Jesus, reigning as God, will force all these national powers into obedience and then dictate their actions, even in behalf of His brethren, The Jews. “And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.” V. 20 Who could imagine such a thing! These same nations whereunto the Jews have been scattered, will return this people to Jerusalem, even as “... an offering in clean vessel into th house of the LORD.” He will then make them, as promised so long ago, “... a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation....” Ex. 19:6 “And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith the LORD. For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.” V. 21-22 Israel will at last be that eternal nation of God, for they will have received The Seed, Christ Jesus and will remain forever, even as the new heaven and new earth which will be created after the Millennium is over.

God’s demand for total and continued worship of Himself will finally be realized for “... it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall

all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.” V. 23 This must of necessity be a part of the eternal state, for even as wonderful as life will be on this earth during the Millennium, “all flesh” will not be converted and “... come to worship before me...” Thus, this chapter seems to close with a possible reference to the battle of Gog and Magog, which will take place at the END of the Millennial Period. It will undoubtedly be an extremely short war, quite unlike the Battle of Armageddon which marks the end of the tribulation. This pattern does, however, show forth the fact that every dispensation ends with judgment. “And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.” V. 24 Scripture is very plain that Satan will be bound for a thousand years during the tribulation period. However, “... when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.” Rev. 20:7 The millennium will provide fertile ground for hypocrisy because Satan has been confined to the bottomless pit. When he is loosed, he will go forth to do what he does best: “... deceive the nations....” He will stir up the flesh within the hearts of unregenerate men at that time just as he does today, and thus all wicked men will be gathered to this final battle. Hearts which have simply “faked it,” and actually not believed upon Jesus during this 1000 year period will be quickly revealed and eternal judgment will quickly follow.

Thus closes this long book of Isaiah, even like unto the book of Revelation with the glorious promise of eternity looming, but the reality of judgment to all who would dare resist the Very Sovereign of the Universe.

Finis

* Take personal ambition, melt it in the fire of God’s love, sprinkle with humility, bake in the oven of hardship and trial, and out will come happiness if not success.

* If absence makes the heart grow fonder, some people must really love the church.



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