

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the  
whole Counsel of GOD

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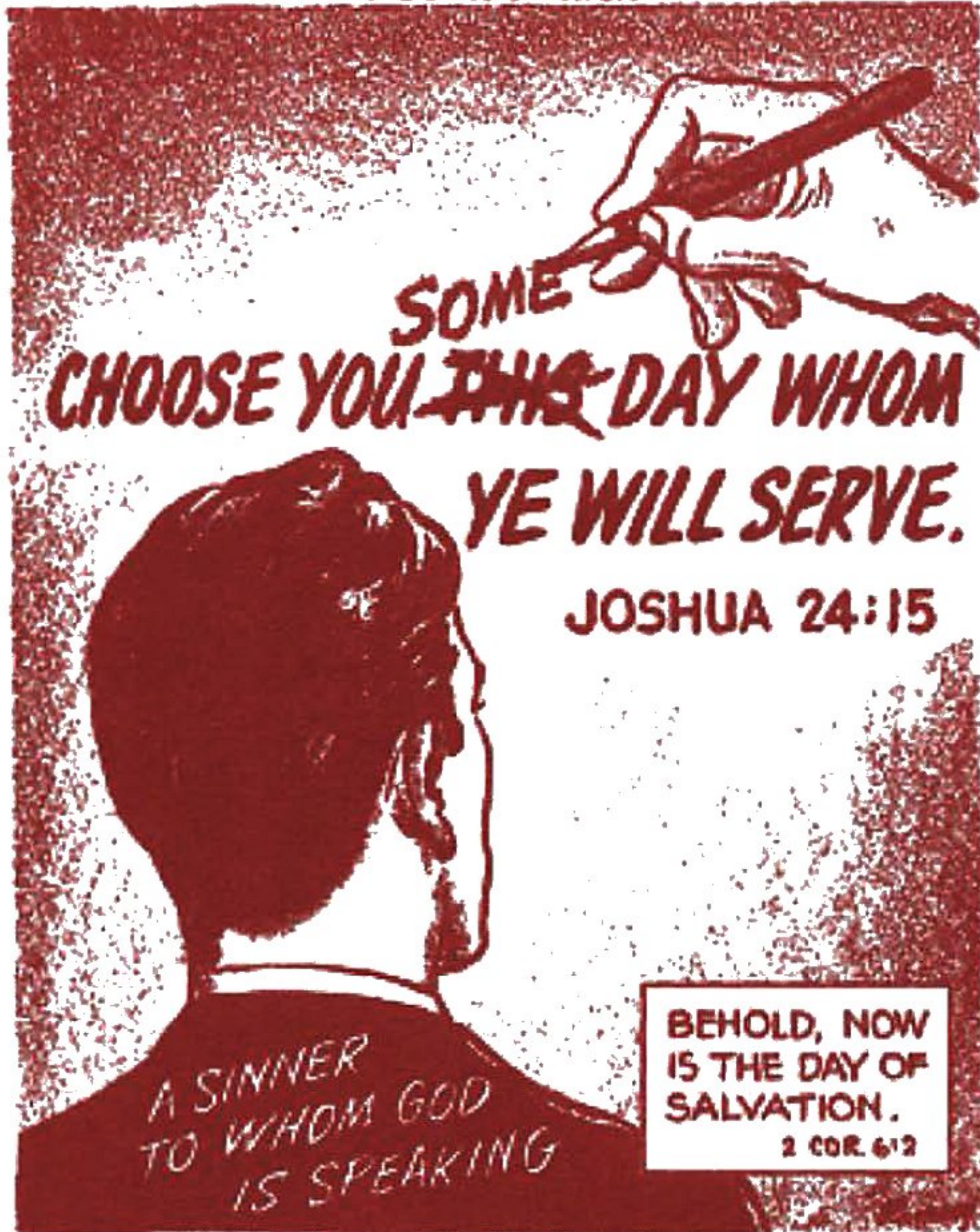
Now faith is  
the substance  
of things  
hoped for,  
the evidence  
of things  
not seen.

*Hebrews 11:1.*

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### THE DEVIL'S TRICK



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Editor: Gene Hawkins

## Definite Sign Posts Of The End

Gene Hawkins

“**A**nd there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication,... So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast,...having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls,...And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” Rev. 17:1-5

These verses present detailed elements of three prominent players who will appear on the world's stage at the end of this present Church Age. They are clearly emerging during this period which Jesus defined as “...the beginning of sorrows,” in Matt 24:8, but they will not come to full fruition until AFTER the seven years of tribulation prophesied in Dan. 9:27 has begun.

Revelation 17:9 states emphatically that “...The seven heads (of the scarlet colored beast above) are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.” Furthermore, “...there are seven kings:...” V. 10 These kings are exactly the same as the seven heads who lead a seven nation coalition of rebellion against Jesus once the tribulation has started. John further informs us that “...five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space,” meaning simply that the seven nations and their leaders will be reduced to two because “...five are fallen.” One of those remaining two rulers will be the antichrist.

The second set of players is that of the “...ten horns...” These are specifically identified in Rev. 17:12. “And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.” The criteria ascribed to the ten horns, which symbolize power in scripture, could well describe the characteristics identifying multiple terrorist groups around this entire globe. Note first that

they "...have received no kingdom as yet;..." but that desire is well documented among a number of very prominent terrorist groups such as the Palestinians in Israel who are demanding their own state. Some in the U.S are also demanding that "antifah" be declared a terrorist group, while others are adamant that such a move would be against the constitution. However, Wikipedia describes them as "... an anti-fascist political movement in the United States comprising a diverse array of autonomous groups that aim to achieve their objectives through the use of both non-violent and violent direct action rather than through policy reform." This surely seems to agree with the scriptural description of the above ten kings who have not yet gained the kingdom they so desire. Antifah would like nothing better than to take over this country and establish their idea of a kingdom. There are also a great number of other terrorist organizations including Al Quaida, Isis, The Taliban, Hezbollah and Hamas who are operating worldwide with the same objective of owning their own kingdom in mind.

4 The kings described in V. 14, specifically "...make war with the Lamb,..." indicating that they are of some religious persuasion, such as Islam, which blatantly denies The Lord Jesus Christ even at this present time. They call it "Jihad" or holy war, and all these groups are **even now** waging battle directly against the principles of godliness set forth by The Lamb of Calvary! The text in V. 12 also states that they will "...receive power as kings one hour with the beast," meaning simply that they are in total sympathy with the antichrist, having been filled with the very same spirit. They not only wage war against the Lamb but also against His People and most notably against Israel. Multiple sources over the past few years have published the fact that Christianity is the most persecuted religion throughout the world, as is seen in this headline from the Huffington Post published in 2013. **"The Most Persecuted Religion in the World"** This announcement is then followed with the assertion that, "In early November, German Chancellor Angela Merkel declared that Christianity 'is the most persecuted religion in the world.' Although met with predictable criticism, Rupert Short's recent research report for Civitas UK confirms Merkel's claim — we may not want to hear it, but Christianity is in peril, like no other religion."

It is also no accident or coincidence that these same

kings will “turn on” the third player in this trio, which is “the “...woman...” which sat “...upon a scarlet coloured beast...” She is none other than Catholicism, and these “...ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.” Rev. 17:15 What better way to destroy religion than with religion? It is also quite revealing that Pope Francis has vehemently defended these terrorists, declaring in “Express News” that “Islamic jihadis are not terrorists:” Despite such adamant defense in their behalf, scripture teaches that the Catholic hierarchy will be brought down by these kings.

Catholicism vehemently detests, and has often rejected, the idea that the Roman Catholic Church is identified as this “woman,” but facts are facts. She is the only “religious woman” anywhere in the world today that can even come close to meeting the characteristics outlined in Scripture. First, there is no religious entity which can rival her political clout and influence over all nations of the earth. This is expressed by the fact that this woman “...sitteth upon many waters:...” which is interpreted in V.15 as being “...multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” No nation on earth has been excluded from Catholicism and she boasts of such greatness. She is also the woman who is said to “...sit upon a scarlet coloured beast,... having seven heads and ten horns.” History is very clear that only The Catholic Church has had her finger in the political pie from the very beginning of The Church Age, because by her own boast and admission, “she was the only one there.” That power has not diminished down through the ages to this present time. 5

Likewise, V. 6 of this same chapter declares that John, “...saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus:....” This unequivocal fact of scripture is likewise confirmed by the repeated and boastful assertion from Catholicism that no other Church can trace their roots to the time of the early Apostles, and she is absolutely correct. Not one of them can be held accountable for the atrocities inflicted on “...the martyrs of Jesus...” during the dark ages because no other religious organization was even there. These unspeakable acts of violence are well documented in Foxes’ Book

of Martyrs, which insists that they were carried out because men would not recant their faith and accept Roman Catholic Doctrine.

This infamous “woman of religion” is also described as being “...arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls...” Once again, no religion on earth can come anywhere near possessing the riches found in the Vatican. She is further exposed, as many of these ways are reiterated in Rev. 18:1-7 “For all nations...” [confirming again that only she has this universal influence,] “... have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her...” [political rulers have been in the same camp with her as they deny the headship of The Lord Jesus Christ.] “...and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.” This is another reference to her lavish wealth, and verse 7 adds: “How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously,... for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen,....”

6 Another fact of Catholicism which must not be overlooked is found in this declaration. “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins...” Rev. 18:7 This simply means that there are within the ranks of this woman genuinely saved believers who have indeed been born again though that doctrine is foreign to Catholic Catechism.

The truth surrounding the aforementioned ten kings seems to be taking center stage in the drama unfolding before our very eyes in these days just prior to the tribulation period. The following headline from National Review tries to explain the horrific explosion which took place recently in Beirut, Lebanon, linking Hezbollah to it. “Help Lebanon: Remove Hezbollah’s Stranglehold — and Its Dangerous Missile Stockpiles” Then follows this explanation: “Beirut has been ravaged by a massive explosion, likely caused by careless handling of ammonium nitrate stored in a warehouse at its port.... Yet looming over Beirut even now is the presence of the terrorist group Hezbollah with its network of 150,000 missiles, many stored in civilian areas throughout the country. While Hezbollah has not been blamed for the August 4 warehouse fire that led to the massive explosion, it is alleged to have imported and stored similar stockpiles of dangerous munitions and chemicals, such as

ammonium nitrate, used in explosives. Hezbollah also helped create the corrupt and negligent political system whose lack of accountability enabled the careless storage of these deadly chemicals for years."

This is simply one more example of a terrorist group trying desperately to achieve their own objectives in gaining a political kingdom. Other reports out of Beirut indicate that demonstrators took to the streets demanding that present political powers which were so influenced and controlled by Hezbollah be removed, and thus the P.M. and his cabinet were forced to resign. According to scripture, such "kings" of terror will one day rule a short period of time with the antichrist, but let the world make no mistake, they are presently at work in an endeavor to receive a kingdom of their own making.

Another "bombshell" sign of these end times, which is also related to terrorists, exploded recently but has been largely ignored by the mainstream media. Haaretz News published this eye catching declaration. "Israel suspends West Bank annexation in deal to normalize relations with the UAE" This is a major peace agreement between Israel and the UAE (United Arab Emirates) which has been named "The Abraham Accords" because all three major religions in the Middle East, Christian, Jew, & Muslim, trace their roots back to Abraham. Some of the conditions of such an historic agreement are as follows: "Israel and the United Arab Emirates reached a historic peace deal... that will lead to a full normalization of diplomatic relations between the two Middle Eastern nations in an agreement that U.S. President Donald Trump helped broker. Under the agreement, Israel has agreed to suspend applying sovereignty to areas of the West Bank... The joint statement said the three leaders had **"agreed to the full normalization of relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates."**

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu also offered these rather startling comments. "Today marks a new era in Israel's relations with the Arab world" and that the two countries agreed on "a full, formal peace. For years, Israel has been portrayed as an enemy...**now more countries will join us in this circle of peace.**" Added to that is another comment from Haaretz News, declaring that "The agreement links Israeli annexation of the West Bank to negotiations with Palestinians. It also gives the green light to Bahrain, Oman, and Qatar to advance

their own private deals with Israel.”

One major advantage to Israel, which was undoubtedly the incentive to surrender P.M. Netanyahu’s persistence in continuing annexation in the West Bank, is that “...over 3,000 Iranian businesses operate in the UAE, and Iran and the UAE have a joint defense agreement. Israel and Abu Dhabi see eye-to-eye on putting the brakes on Iranian influence in the region....Iran has already expressed anger over the agreement, but it can live peacefully with many countries that have diplomatic ties with Israel without demanding that they cut those ties.” Thus, the UAE effectively becomes a buffer between Israel and Iran, which has vowed to remove that nation from the face of the earth.

8 It is unknown at this time when, or if, other Arab Nations will follow the example set by the UAE and pursue their own peace treaties with Israel, but it is extremely important that this blockbuster peace agreement be not confused with the “peace and safety” era prophesied by God’s Word. It most assuredly does correspond with the first sign which Jesus mentioned in answer the disciples’ questions, “...Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” Matt. 24:3 His immediate reply was “...Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.” Matt. 24:4-5 That deception lies in the fact that many would come, purporting to do what only He can accomplish, and one of those things is to bring elusive peace to this world. Such deception is just a precursor to the real era of peace and safety which is yet to come, and which will give way to sudden destruction. This current agreement surely does have the potential to bring a number of other nations into such a fold of peace, but the timing for the genuine fulfillment of the peace and safety era to officially begin has not yet arrived. Daniel 9:27 prophesies that this covenant, will be made between Israel and the antichrist, and the day it is signed will mark the first day of the 7 year tribulation period. Likewise, the same era of peace depicted by the rider on the white horse after Jesus opens the first seal of judgment in Rev. 6:2 has not yet come. We know this because King Jesus has not yet been crowned. Once that happens all national rulers on this earth will be ruling in usurpation, and the 2520 days of tribulation will have begun.



We can only imagine the lethargy and complacent satisfaction which will arise in the hearts of men when this momentous agreement is actually reached. They will honestly think they have achieved world peace; however, that counterfeit tranquility will quickly give way to "sudden destruction," as is seen by the red horse of war which will come forth when Jesus opens the second seal of judgment as recorded in Rev. 6:4.

The instruction for us, in order that we be not deceived by any of the deceptive demonstrations taking place at this time, is found in Paul's exhortations to the Thessalonians. We currently live in a day of chaos and unrest, but there is every possibility that the effects of the current coronavirus and its devastating effects may soon be a thing of the past. If the aforementioned peace agreement brings other nations into some semblance of a peaceful coexistence in the Middle East, some Christians may indeed think since there is no real and eminent threat, they can simply relax. We must not fall into that trap. Rather let us be warned, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them,... But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day **9** should overtake you as a thief....Ye are all the children of light,... Therefore let us not sleep, as do others;..." These others must of necessity be Christians rather than sinners who are always said to be DEAD in trespasses and sins. We must at all costs, "... watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." Such salvation at this juncture does not mean salvation from sin, or any other bondage, but rather our journey literally and physically out of this world, "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, (the wrath of the great tribulation soon to begin) but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him." I Thess. 5:3-10

**"For yet a little while, and he  
that shall come will come, and will  
not tarry."  
Heb 10:37**

## THE VEIL REMOVED

### The Experience of a Jewess

**10** The object of the following true narrative is not to speak of myself, but as a testimony of the marvelous power of God's Word and of prayer. I was born of Jewish parents in prosperous circumstances. Everything that a loving father could give to his only daughter was mine. A wise mother watched over me, never allowing me to go unattended where there was any peril to her daughter. She dressed me modestly, though in good taste. She would have been afraid of my being stolen from the streets in broad daylight, had she allowed me to go out like some of the young girls of today. We both liked good music, and to drive out in the country; thus, we spent many pleasant hours together when I was not at my studies. Surely any girl, living for this world alone, should have been contented; but my heart was not at rest. I remember, when but a child, wondering how anyone could keep the commandment in Deuteronomy 6:5 - "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." I knew well that my love for my earthly father was greater than that for my Heavenly Father. There was at the High School a teacher whom I loved and admired exceedingly. She was a devout Christian, very kind, but never said anything to me about Christ; however, her life spoke to me. She was a living testimony to the power of Christ in a life yielded to Him. Before finishing the course at the Normal and Training School, preparatory to teaching, I broke down in health and my parents sent me to recuperate in the country. In the Lord's providence, I boarded with a Christian family. There was a well-used Bible on the parlor table. Daily family prayers were the order in that home. I, being of the Jewish faith, did not take part in this service. One day a Bible Colporteur came to the home. When he found that I did not believe in Christ, he urged me to read the New Testament. I told him that my people looked upon Jesus as an impostor, and that my mother would not wish me to read that book. The man then said he would pray for me. I laughed, and said that his prayers would not hurt me - thinking they would be of no avail.

I thought at the time that people were born into their religion, falling heirs to that of their parents, and under obligation to keep it. We felt quite superior to the "Goyim" (Gentiles) who, we said, had two Gods but knew no better. The Jewish people, being God's chosen people, worshiped the one true God, we believed. I seemed to have forgotten about the Bible Colporteur; but, a week after his visit to that country home, I suddenly had a desire to read from the Bible on the parlor table. I owned a Leeser's Translation of the Old Testament, but the only book I had brought was Mrs. Browning's Poems. Never shall I forget that Sunday morning in July when I opened to the third chapter of Malachi - "Behold, I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple." At the heading of the chapter were the words, "Of Messiah's Kingdom"; and at the top of the page I saw the Name of Christ. Is it possible, thought I, that these Christian people - many of whom are so intelligent - should look upon Christ as the Messiah of the Jewish people? Then I thought of that High School teacher whom I admired so much. She, too, believed that Christ was the Savior of all who believed in Him. Well, thought I, surely it would do no harm to read that New Testament which she and so many others believed to be true and see for myself what it said. So I turned to the Gospel according to Matthew. When I came to the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7), I reasoned: "Surely these are not the words of an impostor;" and suddenly I had an irresistible desire to get down on my knees and pray. I had never seen any of my people kneeling in prayer. How could they do as the Greek and Roman Catholics, who had persecuted them for generations and never had a service without kneeling? But now I went up to my room and fell down on my knees! There the Holy Spirit revealed Christ to my heart. Oh, the love for Him that filled my whole being! It seemed almost like heaven. How long I was there on my knees transported with joy I cannot tell; but when I returned downstairs to that New Testament, I was a new creature, born of the Spirit, washed in the blood of Christ - the spotless Lamb of God. I finished the Gospel according Matthew that day - devouring it, as I never did any other book. I read Mark

the next day, and Luke the following, continuing to read a book a day, filled with a hitherto unknown joy; but wondering what would happen when I told my parents of my new-found faith in Christ our Messiah, my Lord and Master, the One altogether lovely! "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness" was the Lord's word to my heart. When I got to the epistles of Paul, I found them very difficult; but a schoolmate came for a time to board where I was staying, and we read these letters together. It threw some light on these books; but it was not until some years after that I comprehended the difference between law and grace. Searching the Scriptures day by day, I saw the difference between the Old and New Covenants; and I joined my brethren in Christ everywhere in observing the first day, the Lord's day, in memory of Christ's resurrection and our death to the old life and resurrection to the new. But I am ahead of my story. My joy in the Lord hastened recovery to health; and, I returned to my home and parents, determined by God's grace to show my people first of all by my life that I had found peace with God. I bought a Bible containing both the Old and New Testaments, and pored over its pages mostly in secret, going to a Sunday School at times. My mother soon saw that my tastes had changed and anxiously watched me. In the meantime, having completed my course at the Normal and Training School, I received an appointment to teach. Although my father was able to support me without my earning a living, I foresaw that it would hardly be possible for me to remain at home when I confessed Christ openly; so I was very happy at my parents' permission to begin teaching in the Public Schools of our city. One evening, about a year after my conversion, my mother asked me outright whether I was a Christian. I walked out of the room. A week after this she again asked the same question. During the interval I had been much in prayer, so was able to answer fearlessly: "Mother, I have found our Messiah, the Christ of God." Oh, the bitterness of those words to her! She was ill for several days, and pleaded with me to give up Jesus. With a heart aching for her, I told her that this was impossible; that He had sought me, that I could not help believing in Him!

Then I was sent to the most prominent Rabbi in our city. He told me that he had read the New Testament through, and found nothing in it for the Jewish people; that I was very foolish to allow such things to influence me. At last, as I remained unmoved, my father who had loved me so devotedly told me that if I could not take Jesus out of my heart this home would no longer be mine. My clothes and trunk were put out in the hall, ready for packing; and I went out that afternoon not knowing where I would sleep that night. A schoolmate, a devoted Christian, took me in until a suitable boarding place could be secured. My parents thought that by sending me away I would, as they said, come to my senses, as I had never been robust in health and would not be able to hold out. Several years after this I had a severe attack of influenza, which left me so miserable in health that it seemed I could go on no longer. I confess that I was worried. I went to the mountains for a summer vacation, however, and met there a lady who had just returned from some fruitful revival meetings she had held in Switzerland. Through her teaching I gave myself more completely to the Lord; and in answer to prayer, was restored to health and much encouraged in the Lord, later on doing considerable Christian work among the Hebrew people. Through the faithful prayers of this devoted servant of Christ also I was, by God's grace, kept from marrying a Jewish man who professed faith in Christ and was then working among our people; but he was really a wolf in sheep's clothing. About twelve years after my conversion, my dear father, being very ill, sent for me by letter - written for him by the family physician. When I arrived, my father sat up and talked with me as though there had been no separation. He was willing that I should return. My mother, however, wished me to hide my faith in Christ and live as though I had given up the Savior. This was impossible; so I visited my father as frequently as possible. For a time he grew better; but a week before his death the doctor ordered him to be taken to the hospital. Then, at last, my opportunity came to speak to him of Christ unhindered. The nurse had told me that he had been crying out about his sins for hours. The Lord had indeed heard my prayers; and I needed but to tell my dear father that Jesus Christ, the

promised Messiah, the Lamb of God, loved him, and had shed His precious blood for his sins. Oh, the joy on my father's face, as his heart said, "Yes," to the Lord who had so long sought him. My mother knew nothing of this. Several years afterward, my brother found my poor mother dead in bed; she had died suddenly of heart failure. Whether she had found peace with God at the last moment, I cannot tell. That she had seen a change in my life, there is no doubt. For one day, when I was visiting my sick father, she said I must have been cured of my quick temper; that, no doubt, it was because I was older. How I longed that she could see it was Christ ruling in my heart, and that He brought peace.

In sickness or in health, God has never failed in his promises: "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up." Psa. 27:10 And, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Heb. 13:5

As I behold Him - the spotless Lamb of God - and then look within, the marvel to me is how the Lord ever chose me and revealed Himself to me through His precious Word; for I have seen increasingly what a wretched sinner He saved in me. But does **14** His Word not say in I Corinthians 2:27-29 - "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in His Presence"?

In closing, may I quote from one of my favorite hymns by J.E. Hall:

"The love that Jesus had for me,  
To suffer on the cruel tree,  
That I a ransomed soul might be,  
Is more than tongue can tell.

The joy that comes when He is near,  
The rest He gives so free from fear,  
The hope in Him so bright and clear,  
Is more than tongue can tell."

C.R.R.

(Reprint 1978)

THE LORD'S PRAYER  
A Pattern Prayer (Part 1)  
Dr. Vicky Moots

“**A**fter this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen” Matt. 6:9-13

This portion of scripture is commonly known as “The Lord’s Prayer” and is given by our Lord solely as a pattern of the manner in which we should pray. It was never intended to be simply memorized and repeated in place of a personal prayer. Jesus strictly told us in v.7, “But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do.” “Vain” means “empty, having no value.” A prayer that is memorized and repeated frequently is worthless to the soul and has no spiritual meaning, serving no purpose to the individual or to God. Prayer must come from the heart and is intended to be direct communication between us and the Lord, even as Jesus communicated with his Father. We are given a heartfelt example of that in John 17, which is Jesus’ personal intercessory prayer for all believers prior to his going to the cross. 15

Most people who have memorized and repeat the prayer given in Matthew 6 have no real understanding of its meaning and application to us as Christians. In this study, I am going to break it down phrase by phrase in detail in the same manner as if we were chewing our food prior to swallowing, so that we may be spiritually nourished thereby.

V.9: “Our Father,…” shows our personal relationship with God as sons, as members of His Family. Only His children have the right to call Him “Father.” So how do we have the right to do that? The answer is found in John 1:12-13. “But as many as received him [Jesus], to them gave he power [ability] to become sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh [not an earthly,

fleshly birth], nor of the will of man, but of God.” It requires a spiritual birth to enter the family of God. Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:7, “...Ye must be born again.” You were born once in the natural, but you need a new birth to be born of the spirit. Just as the birth of Jesus was conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit, so is our new birth when we accept Christ as Savior by believing on His Name. When we are born again, then God is our Father.

In the Old Testament, God was not known as Father in the sense of a family relationship. The term Father that was used, as in Isa. 64:8, refers to God as creator. “But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.” Under the Law, the relationship was that of a master to servant. Blessings were based strictly on obedience, and therefore disobedience resulted in the curse of the Law. But after we are born again, then God is no longer just the Creator of the universe Who is way out there somewhere, but He becomes our loving Father Who cares for us and about us as individuals. I John 3:1 declares, “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath  
**16** bestowed on us, that we should be called the sons of God...” After we are born again, He considers us His sons just as much as He does Jesus. The term “adoption” is used in Gal. 4:4, which means “son placing” in reference to our relationship and privileges as mature sons rather than merely children. The full understanding of this term would require a separate Bible study. But, basically, it means that not only did we choose Him and accept Him, but God chose us and accepted us. Just like his Son, Jesus, we have the same rights and privileges to call him “Father”. He places us alongside His Son.

In addition, we are informed in Gal. 4:6-7 “And because ye are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.” “Abba” is a term of endearment like “Daddy,” and shows a loving personal relationship. Only children, not servants, could use that term. What is your relationship with the Lord today? Are you a son or a servant? A son who loves the Father will gladly serve him out of love, not out of fear. Only grace, not law, gives us the privilege



of calling God our Father; we cannot earn that relationship by our good works. It is by grace that we are saved and become sons of God by accepting God's Son, Jesus, as the sacrifice for our sins. May the Holy Spirit help us to fully comprehend and accept our relationship with God and our position in His family as sons, and not servants.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **BE YE SEPARATE**

I am told that in Africa a whole tribe of natives was converted and taken into the church by the signing of the name of the chief of that tribe. In India very similar attempts are being made. Here in America we have very scholarly leaders who are not content to wait on the slower processes of personal salvation. They are now contending that we should all get together as a great whole --- Jews, Gentiles, Catholics, Protestants, Mohammedans, Buddhists, Confucionists --- and, loving each other, gradually work our way toward the truth and righteous living. They talk union constantly.

17

But God's processes are not in union. He teaches division. "Be ye separate." "Come out from among them." You cannot "serve two masters." Neither can you walk two paths.

Christ was content to attack the individual heart and life. Slow as it would appear to be in its march toward the solution of the "world's" problems, that plan has never been improved upon. The larger substitute at times appears inviting, but it does not work.

Dr. Bob Shuler

\* **Every step of faith** not only takes us forward, but leaves a footprint behind for others coming after us to see.

\* We tire of the pleasure we take; ---- but never of the pleasure we give.

\* **One good word** can warm three winter months. ---  
Chinese Proverb

# REFLECTIONS

## REFLECTIONS

*... From the Editor*

“The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.” Prov. 21:31

“Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night;... Nor for the pestilence (plague) that walketh in darkness;... A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.” Psa. 91:5-7

“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall....they shall speak with new tongues;... and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” Mk. 16:17-18

18 Some have found great comfort in claiming these words as they simply believe God for His protection, even in the midst of an atmosphere wherein some political leaders worldwide have used the current pandemic to instill and promote fear in the hearts of men, often trying to establish control over them. Due to such fear and chaos, we wondered how those of faith may have responded or reacted to the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918. There is precious little to be found in the pages of Grace and Glory during that period of time to indicate that either comfort or counsel may have been offered.

No sermons enlarging on that global tragedy were found, but comments on the “Editorials” page of the last two issues of that year clearly indicate that numerous difficulties had been encountered. This short article in the Nov. issue, begins with the declaration, “But the word of God is not bound.” II Tim 2:9 Then follows a very familiar refrain with which we are confronted in our day. “In spite of the “ban” on public meetings in this city and others, the Lord has enabled us to move on without let or hindrance. We were ordered to close our hall, but God had another place, a private home, commodious and comfortable, ready for us. The very night we were ordered to lift the public meeting, three people were gloriously filled with the Spirit.... This “ban” restriction of Divine worship is simply an earnest of

what is coming on the earth....Now, no public worship can be allowed while men in authority are fighting God's judgment in endeavoring to control and conquer a deadly disease." Sounds like history is surely repeating itself!

The second "snippet" is found in the Dec. issue where we can only assume that the term "flu" is a reference to the Spanish Pandemic raging at that time. It is again on the "Editorials" page under the bold headline: "Revival Fires Flaming. The Lord is enabling us to take advantage of the "flu" conditions, and people are getting saved and healed. By night and day we're called to pray for the sick;...More and more, 'simple and sure,' becomes the power of God to save and heal because of the completed provision of the Cross. "Are you afraid to come in?" said a sick one. Was Christ afraid to touch the leper? Whose Life have we? Rather, Who is our life? 'Fear only Him that has power to destroy both body and soul in hell.'"

It surely does seem that fear was not allowed to control the activities of those warriors of faith as they endured circumstance like unto that which prevails around the world in our day. They were apparently ready to enter the "sick room" without hesitation or anxious concern. Thus, it is so very imperative for our own wellbeing that we too stand up and proclaim the glorious sufficiency and protection of God's Word. Unrestrained confidence must also prevail in our hearts as we boldly believe and assert in our own hearts that "...safety is of the LORD." Prov. 21:31

19

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Covid - 19 restrictions have been extended in the Kansas City area, until Jan. 15, 2021. However, we would repeat this reminder that services from Gospel Fellowship will continue to be streamed through our web site. That address is [www.gracegod.com](http://www.gracegod.com). Just click on the center box at the top of the screen. Service times are 10 A.M. and 11 A.M. on Sunday Morning along with 7 P.M. on Wed. Eve. All are CDT.

### **Bible College Streaming**

Bible College classes will begin on Sept. 14, 2020 These sessions will begin at 7 P.M. CDT and generally last about 2 hours. The order of those classes have not yet been established but all four courses of Synthesis, Exposition, Doctrine & Prophecy will be streamed following the same pattern as described above.

## REBEKAH'S PREPARATION

E.L. Sexton

20 “And they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse, and Abraham's servant, and his men. And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them. And Rebekah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man: and the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahairoi; for he dwelt in the south country. And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming. And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel. For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a vail, and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done. And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.” Gen. 24:59-67

“And they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse.” Gen. 24:59. There were five groups who were instrumental in Rebekah's preparation for the long journey. Beloved, we who know the Pauline Message can see that Paul is our nurse. If we were to write down the things which Paul teaches us that nobody else said anything about, we would see what an impoverished bunch we would be if we did not have his writings. I have found thirty-one things which Paul wrote that are very important and essential in our spiritual welfare, that no one else gave us in the Word of God. I repeat, what an impoverished company we would be, if it were not for the writings of Paul.

This is what struck me so peculiarly as I read the next verse --- that a woman old enough to get married needed a nurse. That is illogical. She had said, "I will go." She had just gotten started on the trip. She needed somebody to give her real spiritual food on that long journey. So it is necessary for Paul to teach us the things we need to know. The Holy Spirit, through Paul's Gospel, will equip us fully to be the Bride of Christ.

"And they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse, and

Abraham's servant, and his men." Most will agree that the servant represents the Holy Spirit. But what about the next company, "his men"? Who were they? These figure the well-developed grownup saints, who know how to handle and expound the Word of God. We need such men of God. We are all one in Christ. I love the men and women who know how to wield the Sword of the Spirit that will cut to the quick of our hearts and make us know there is much land to possess. I certainly do praise God for these men of God who have jagged me, cut me, and have done me good. They are Divine instruments that we need to qualify us for the Bridehood. God knows what we need, and the very instruments that should come our way.

"And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them. And Rebekah arose, and her damsels." Who are the damsels? These are folk who are not yet developed, or grown up. They are not yet qualified to handle the Word of God; but they are essential. These are the carnal Christians as you might call them. They are sincere and honest. They long for God's best. But how they do cut, scratch, and talk about each other, and so many unpleasant things. They are the accompaniments that went with Rebekah.

21

We are God's people. He is seeking to perfect us on the way. We may trust Him to work, and He will do the thing that needs to be done in our lives. "But speaking the Truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the Head, even Christ: From whom the whole Body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the Body unto the edifying of itself in love." Eph. 4:15,16 How necessary these damsels are in the assembly, for every joint to supply something in the building up of the Body. A good many things have been said about the suffering route. It is the way to the throne. We are called to suffer for Christ's sake - not only to believe on Him. The damsels, as well as the men in the assembly, cause us to develop and bring us to the realization of our need.

Praise God for all the members of the Body of Christ. We may not like some of God's people --- their manners, dispositions, or methods. We cannot help this; but we can trust God to teach us to love everybody. He will cause the love of Christ to fill us,

and we will be surprised at the change in our affection for God's people.

What are the camels? Somebody says, "The providences of life." This assembly is one of the camels. An assembly is an essential providence. Beloved, let us stay on the camel until God says, "Get off." Because of a big hump or a big lump, somebody flies the coop. They will not get over the hurt. That assembly was where you heard the Grace Message, or maybe you received the Holy Spirit there. Did God lead you to that assembly in the beginning? Well, you had better stay there, where God brought you in the first place. It is a great privilege, regardless of what city. If you are sometimes buffeted and hurt, you need to take the grace of God. We need to stay on the camel.

It is one thing to say, "I will go." It is another thing to do it. Stay on the camel, beloved. No difference whether you are on the hump between the humps or off the hump - you stay where God puts you. Rebekah had not gotten to her Isaac yet when she said, "I will go." She had just made the decision, but she arrived there. Any time, any step of the way, she could have gotten off that camel if she had a mind to do so.

22

How many people run from the Word of God? How many refuse to take the training? Brother Copley once told me, "It is easier for you to take the train than the training." Let us yield to God. Many folk talk about yielding to God; but, when God tries to bend them this way or that way, they won't bend. There are times when folk find that they are not where they belong, and then they come back home.

"Isaac came from the way of the well Lahairoi; for he dwelt in the south country." This is the sunny land by the well of living water. It is going to be pleasant, yes, wonderful and glorious when we meet our Isaac. The bumps will be a thing of the past --- no more rough and difficult places to journey.

Paul tells us that every joint supplies something and is necessary. How essential then that we do not hurt some joint and, as a result, someone is lame all his days. We must do everything in love. Several years ago, a certain young lady who lived across the street from us got into a quarrel with her father-in-law. She kicked her father-in-law and broke his little toe. This man still limps. We might hurt some saint and cause him to limp all his life. We need to watch out how we handle the Word of God.

Therefore, let us take all the bumps as direct admonitions from God. Since I saw and began to rejoice in the fact that everything which came my way was ordered by the Lord and was a direct answer to my cry --- I now cry out, "Lord, fit me for the place in the glory that you want me to fill!" I have had a victory in my life that I never had before. So, today, I can shout with glad joy "in" and "for" all things. Amen!

So let us do as Rebekah did, stay on the camel. Bumps and lumps and all else will soon disappear, as we learn to hold still and let God.... Then the bumps will be seen to be Divine tools to fit us for glory; and these assemblies, where we are humbled and taught, will be as set apart and dedicated by God for the declaration of the whole "counsel of God." Careful, friend! Do not let any bumps or lumps jar you from God's perfect will.

"Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac ... she took a veil, and covered herself." The veil speaks of humility and self-abnegation. As she gets a clear unobstructed vision of her Beloved, a realization sweeps over her of her inability to properly fill the place of the Wife of the Son of God. Hence, she realizes it is not her beauty that He desires; but an empty yielded vessel in which to display His Own holy superlative glory and beauty. She becomes fully enlightened to the fact that now, then, and always, it is only through appropriated grace that she is able to act, move, walk, talk, and show the excellencies of His holy character. So today God's saints, who are qualifying for a great place in the glory, are learning not only their need of the grace of God but how to appropriate and use it. Then, as we learn this, as we breathe in air for our natural lives --- so we breathe in the Spirit for our spiritual lives, and God works in us and fits us for the Wife of the Lamb. We are thus enabled to say like Paul - "Not I, but Christ." Amen and Amen!

23

(Reprint 1980)

**\* You cannot tell by the honk of a car how much gas is in the tank; likewise in the spiritual, some people can shout and boast who never pray and never pay.**

**\* When we are in the wrong place, our right place is empty!**

# The Eyes Of Faith

Ray Quintana

“I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear: but now  
mine eye seeth Thee.” Job 42:5

What did Job signify by this? Obviously his words are not to be interpreted as being literal, “...for there shall no man see me, and live.” Ex. 33:20 No, by employing a common figure of speech, he meant that unbelief (often occasioned by self-righteousness) had now been dispelled, and faith perceived The Being of God as a glorious and living reality. Psalm 25:15 explains that, “Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord...” which means faith was constantly in exercise. Of Moses it is also said that “By faith he forsook Egypt,... for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.” Heb. 11:27 That is, his heart was sustained through faith’s being occupied with the Lord.

24 Faith is frequently represented in Scripture under the semblance of bodily sight. Our Lord said of Abraham, in John 8:56, “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it and was glad.” This means that Abraham’s faith looked forward to the day of Christ’s humiliation and exaltation. Consider also that Paul was commissioned unto the Gentiles to open our eyes, in an endeavor to turn us “...from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God.” Acts 26:18 This was the Divine instrument of our conversion through preaching to us the Word of Faith. Then Paul wrote, Gal 3:1. “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently (plainly) set forth, crucified among you.”

When scripture speaks of faith under the idea of bodily sight, it is more than just a figure of speech. God is the Author of Scripture and is the One who first formed the eye. What a marvelous organ of vision! Our eyes play such a prominent part in our dealings with the invisible. Everything in the material world shows forth some reality in the spiritual realm. Observe the eye of the body as it symbolizes the faith of the heart.

The eye is a passive organ. The eye does not send out any light from itself, nor does it give anything unto the objects



it beholds. What can the eye communicate to the sun, moon, and stars, when it gazes upon them! No, the eye merely receives the print or image of them into the mind (on the retina, which is then transmitted to the brain) without adding anything to them. Just so is it with faith. It gives nothing unto God, or to what it beholds in the Word of His grace. It simply receives or takes them into the heart as they are presented to the soul's view in the light of the Divine revelation. But faith pleases God as we take in the things of God!

The eye is a directing organ. The man that has the light of day and his eyes open can see his way, and is not so likely to stumble into ditches or fall into a precipice as a blind man, or one who walks at nighttime. So it is with faith: "The way of the wicked is as darkness, they know not at what they stumble," but "...the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Prov. 4:18, 19 We Christians walk by faith, not by sight. II Corinthians 5:7 By looking unto Jesus, (faith's viewing our Standard) we are enabled to run the race which is set before us.

25

The eye is a very quick organ, taking up things at a great distance. Within a fraction of a moment, I can turn my gaze from things lying on the ground and focus it upon the mountains which are many miles away. I can look away altogether from the things of earth and look up to the stars, and in a second view the entire expanse of the heavens. What an optical marvel is that! Equally wonderful is the power of faith. It is indeed a quick-sighted grace, taking up things at a great distance, as the faith of the patriarchs did, when they saw the things promised "...afar off..." Heb. 11:13 So, too, in a moment faith may look back to an eternity past and view the everlasting springs of electing love, active on its behalf before the foundations of the earth were laid, and then, in the same breath, it can turn itself towards an eternity yet to come, and take a view of the hidden glories of an invisible world yet to come.

The eye, though it be little, is a very spacious organ. The man that has the light of day and has his eyes open may see all that comes with the range of his vision. He may look around and

see things behind, forward and view things ahead, downward upon the waters in a well or a stream at the bottom of a deep ravine, upwards and gaze upon bodies in the distant heavens. So is it with faith. It extends itself unto everything that lies within the vast compass of God's Word. It takes knowledge of things in the distant past; it also apprehends things that are yet to come; and looks with penetration into Heaven. It is able to discern the vanity of the world all around us.

It is true that there may be a genuine faith that takes in but little of the light of Divine revelation at first. The eye of an infant takes in the light and perceives external objects, but with a good deal of weakness and confusion, until it grows, and more vision extends further and further. So it is with the eye of faith. At first, the light of spiritual knowledge is but dim. The babe in Christ is unable to see afar off. But as faith grows deeper and deeper into the Divine mysteries of the Word of God, the Holy Spirit by revelation brings about this growth of sight and the knowledge of God.

26 Sight of the natural eye is very assuring. Of what are we more sure than that which we see with our eyes! If a man sees the sun shining in the heavens, he knows that it is day. In like manner, faith carries in its very nature a great deal of certainty. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Heb 11:1 Skeptics may deny the Divine inspiration of the Scriptures, but when the eye of faith has gazed upon its supernatural beauties, the point is settled once and for all. Others may regard the Christ of God as a myth, but once the saint has really beheld the Lamb of God, we can say with all assurance, "I know that my Redeemer liveth."

The eye is an impressing organ. What we see leaves an impression upon our minds. That is why we need to pray often, "Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity." Psa. 119:37 Then Jeremiah declared, "Mine eye affecteth mine heart..." Lam 3:51 If a man looks steadily at the sun for a few moments an impression of the sun is left in his eye, even though he turns his eyes away from it, or shuts them. In like manner, real faith leaves an impression of the Sun of Righteousness upon the heart. "They looked unto

Him, and were lightened...” Psa. 34:5 Even more definite is II Corinthians 3:18 “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, as by the Spirit of the Lord.” Christ will soon transform the bodies of His people from mortality to life and from dishonor to glory, so also does the Holy Spirit now exert a moral transforming power on the character of those who are His, and that by calling faith into exercise, the activity of which more and more conforms the soul to the image of God’s Son.

The eye is the most wondrous and remarkable part of the human body. So, too, faith is a grace that is curiously and wondrously wrought in the soul. There is more of the wisdom and power of our Lord discovered in faith than in any other part of the new creation. II Thessalonians 1:11 declares plainly that it is a “...work of faith with power.” This is the same exceeding great and mighty power which was put forth by God in raising Christ from the dead. This same power is exerted upon and within all believers. Eph. 1:19

Then the eye of the body is a very tender thing. It is easily damaged. A very tiny cinder will cause pain and make it weep, and it is very interesting that it is the very way to recovery. It weeps out the dust that gets into it. So, too, faith is most delicate, thriving best in a pure conscience, as the Apostle Paul exhorts us to hold “... the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.” I Tim. 3:9 Faith can be marred by the dust of sin, or by the vanities of the world getting into the heart where it is seated. And wherever true faith is, if it be hurt by sin, it vents itself in a way of “...godly sorrow...” II Cor. 7:10

Faith is to the Christian an eye both quick and sharp, an eye which discovers sin, an eye which discerns the Lord’s will, an eye which looks forward, and down a lengthy racecourse to the reward which awaits all those who so run as to receive the prize, looking unto Christ Jesus. Faith peers across the stream of death, as it descries and scrutinizes the rest which remaineth for the people of God. Faith has indeed, so sharp a vision, that it sees the glories which God has prepared for them that love Him; faith beholds the face of the crowned Redeemer in happiness, and bows

before Him in adoration. Faith, then, is the eye of the believer's soul.

Paul prayed earnestly, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints." Eph 1:17-18 What will it be to be there to see the Lord in all His beauty? The Psalmist declared it thus: "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to enquire in his temple." Psa. 27:4

### **There Always Will Be God**

They cannot shell His temple,  
Nor dynamite His throne;  
They cannot bomb His city,  
Nor rob Him of His own.

They cannot take Him captive,  
Nor strike Him deaf or blind,  
Nor starve Him to surrender,  
Nor make Him change His mind.

They cannot cause Him panic,  
Nor cut off His supplies;  
They cannot take His kingdom,  
Nor hurt Him with their lies.  
Tho' all the world be shattered,  
His truth remains the same,  
His righteous laws still potent  
And Father's still His Name.

Tho' we face war and struggle,  
And feel their goad and rod,  
We know above confusion  
There always will be God!

*Anointed to Reign*  
Margaret Keener

“**F**or if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.” Rom. 5:17

All the promises in Revelation are "to him that overcometh." Jesus was Victor over every temptation and became the greatest Emancipator of all times. When He arose from the dead, "He led captivity captive" and ascended through all the forces of evil that sought to oppose Him to the very throne of God. There, high above all principalities and powers as absolute sovereign, He is able to assist all who desire to live an overcoming life. His strength is mighty "...to the pulling down of strongholds;... and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." II Cor. 10:4-5 As we govern imaginations, our actions are of secondary importance; for "thought is parent to the deed," as one writer has stated. "A man is the result of all that he has thought." As we meditate upon and believe the things of God, we are gradually conformed to the very image of the One Who fills our vision. II Cor. 3:18

29

The Christian's training is a progressive affair. God wants to fit each of us to reign conjointly with His Son upon an eternal throne. In order to rule wisely upon a temporal throne, the heir to the crown receives special training. From earliest childhood, he is educated for the place. The thought of his future responsibilities causes him to govern himself as befitting an heir-apparent and apply himself to gaining the knowledge he will later need. We are chosen for a higher place than any earthly monarch. Until we attain that for which we are "apprehended," our lives will continue to be those of instruction. Phil. 3:2-14

God gave us record of Saul and David that their lives should serve us as examples. Their history has been recorded by Samuel, the first of the writing prophets, for our instruction. God saw the way His people were yearning to imitate the heathen nations round about. Although Samuel had served them faithfully

for forty years as prophet, priest, and judge, Israel desired a king like the nations. In their theocracy, God was their King, and Samuel, His divinely appointed administrator.

Although outnumbered many times by their enemies, God fought for Israel all the days of Samuel. However, the unseen forces of heaven failed to impress the Lord's people as did the visible kings who rode before their troops to battle. No doubt they were spectacular in their war bonnets and their shining armor. The showy things of earth are so contrary to the things of God. As their horses pranced forth in gay trappings, their pomp so impressed Israel that they failed to appreciate the power of angelic forces about them. Horses in Scripture speak of power, and we still determine strength by so much "horse power." "The Chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels." Psa. 68: 17 While "the legs (strength) of a man are a poor thing to trust in," Israel lacked faith to visualize the mighty power at their disposal. By God's strength alone can any nation or individual hope to prevail against odds. Lk. 14:31.

**30** The Lord has never allowed anyone to make a mistake without plenty of forewarning, even as in the disobedience of our first parents, who knew exactly the penalty before they had ever sinned. God had warned beforehand of the outcome. Samuel was sent to rehearse their history from the time God led them forth from Egypt. Not once had the Lord failed them in any way. He warned of how a king would take the best of everything for himself and would literally "enslave the nation. I Sam. 8:12,13 They had been delivered from the tyranny of Pharaoh, and yet were asking for more bondage. Instead of God receiving their tithe, a king would exact it as tribute, for indeed he would be supplanting God. I Sam. 10:19 Still their answer was, "...Nay, but we will have a king over us." I Sam. 8:19

Knowing the vanity that prompted their desire, God allowed them a man of their own choosing. Although Kish, the father of Saul, was a "mighty man of power," his son did not inherit the father's strength. Outwardly, Saul was every inch a king. Doubtless he stood out in any crowd for his great height and distinguished appearance; but circumstances later proved the

weakness of his character. As associated with the Prophet, Saul "fed upon the shoulder" to equip him with strength to carry the responsibility of a nation. (Heavy burdens are carried upon the shoulder.) In the beginning of his career as the first king over Israel, Saul was very humble and appreciated the honor conferred upon him. Had he remained so, his reign would have been successful and the nation blessed.

Instead, when Saul had reigned but two years, his selfish, jealous disposition began to manifest itself. Later his son Jonathan, with half the number of men that his father had at his command, wrought a great victory over the Philistines. Saul "tooted his own horn" as though he were the conquering hero---not willing to "give honor to whom honor is due." I Sam. 13 Nothing so arouses the enemy as a partial victory, and the Philistines rose "enmasse," but as for Saul, "he was yet in Gilgal," taking his ease, instead of leading his troops to battle. Realizing the weakness of their leader, "the people followed him trembling." Hiding in thickets, behind rocks, in pits and high places, for they were afraid to expose themselves to the enemy. A people never rise higher than their leader. As their future history proved, when Israel had a godly king, Israel did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord; but when she had an evil king, then Israel did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord.

31

When Saul realized that he had lost the confidence of the people, he intruded into the priesthood, offering burnt sacrifice, (a priestly rite), incurring the wrath of God in a vain effort to gain favor with the people. Having received his office through popularity, Saul continued to seek the approval of men rather than God. Such presumption and self-will cost him the kingdom. I Sam. 13:13,14 In due time, Samuel arrived and found Saul as sanctimonious as though he had never sinned. In fact he was so far from getting the mind of the Lord, that he never realized when he missed the will of God altogether. For this brash foolishness, Saul was set aside and his prayers were hindered from that time forth.

God sought a man after His own heart. Unlike the people of Israel, God cared nothing for outward appearance but looked

upon the inward quality of the heart. God's ways are usually just the opposite of those of men and His thoughts are higher than theirs. In David, the youngest son of Jesse, He saw true humility and reverence for the things of God. As a shepherd boy, alone in the hills, he had much time for meditation and his psalms express the thoughts of his heart. Content and faithful in a small place, God knew that he could trust him with a greater responsibility. At the jeopardy of his life, David had guarded the few sheep that his father had entrusted to his care, delivering the helpless from the jaws of a lion and a bear. His eye that "runs to and fro throughout the earth" was not unmindful of that shepherd boy.

Samuel was sent to anoint David as the future king over Isarel and the anointing rested upon him from that time forth. There were times of temptation and discouragement in the life of David when he failed miserably. But when he earnestly repented, God was able to forgive and forget. The anointing rested upon David through the grace of God.

32

Saul realized that David had been chosen as his successor and hunted him to slay him, in direct opposition to the will of God. Fleeing as a fugitive from Saul and his band, hiding in caves and forests, David became familiar with every inch of the enemies' territory as well as that over which he was to rule. He even lived for some time in the enemies' camp and learned all his tactics. Crossing the brook Kedron (poured out,) David surely emptied himself of all pride and self-will, and took spoil from the enemy which he later used to God's glory. Although he was denied the privilege of building the temple because he "was a bloody man," David not only drew the plans but also gathered most of the material that went into the "Temple of Solomon." Yet his son received the glory.

To love a bitter enemy is certainly a real test; and David felt a compassionate love for Saul to the very last. When he had an opportunity to slay Saul and was urged to do so, he refused to lift his hand against "God's anointed." He had learned to govern his desires and wait upon God for the fulfillment of His promise. Through many hard trials he had learned self-control. It was no novice that God intended to set upon the throne. Regardless of the



age, He is going to have a "tried people."

Saul's followers were chosen as he himself was --- for supposed ability to "put it over." "When Saul saw any strong man or any valiant man, he took him unto himself." I Sam. 14:52. David's little band of six hundred were just the opposite; instead of self-sufficient folk, it was composed of "everyone that was in distress, and everyone that was in debt, and everyone that was discontented," Those who through sheer love of David were willing to share every hardship. Such loyalty could not be bought by Saul even though he promoted many to places of honor, setting them as captains over fifties and captains over thousands. David had nothing to offer but the promise of ruling conjointly with him when he should gain the throne.

Of those who followed David, there were three more outstanding than the rest. These obtained more honor and a greater place in the kingdom for having followed more closely than the others during his rejection. Jesus had three disciples, Peter, James and John, who were a little closer than the rest. They had blessed fellowship that not all enjoyed. The privilege is optional to any who will pay the price. As one star differs from another in glory, so the one who walks closest to the Coming King will shine with a little more radiance than the others farther away. Remember, not one of David's faithful little band was forgotten when God saw fit to place him upon a throne. **SO SHALL IT BE WITH CHRIST!** 33

### **TRUE RELATIVITY**

Before the beginning, God Was.

And after the ending, He'll Be.

For He is the Base on which all things rest,

And the Apex also is He.

He created heaven and earth.

No science is true without Him.

For He is the Core all science swings round,

And He is its circling Brim.

Ev'ry discovery of man

Was one of God's works or His laws.

Behind and before, above and below,

Without or within: He's the Cause.

Hattie T. Moore

*“...The time is at hand.”*

Rev. 1:3.

34 **T**hat the end of this age is near is very evident. But it is just as evident that those who announce that they know the day and year of Christ's coming are mistaken. Three parties gave public notice that Jesus was to come in Sept. two or three years ago. Did he come? It is impossible to determine the exact year of His advent by chronological calculations, because the best known chronology is defective. It has pleased God to allow one or more links in chronology to be missing that His people may be occupied with His Son rather than with dates. Scripture precedent discourages such speculation. It may please the Lord to reveal the exact day very shortly before He returns to certain ones who can keep secrets. Noah knew the flood was coming: but he knew the exact time only seven days before. “For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights;...” Gen. 7: 4. Elisha knew that Elijah was going up; but he only knew the exact moment when it occurred. II Kings 2:11 Both Anna and Simeon were informed of the soon-coming of the promised Anointed One; hence they were in daily expectation; but the exact day was not made known, at least others did not know it. Lk. 2 The nearest notice that Jesus gave of the descent of the Holy Spirit was, “...not many days hence.” Acts 1:5 Beloved, we have far more need to be wise about matters plainly revealed than we have to be “wise above what is written.” We are clearly instructed, to “...occupy,... watch,... be sober,...stand fast,...be patient,... look up.” Even if a bride is informed by her bridegroom of the exact time of His coming, she does not blaze it abroad. So my friends, be not disturbed by men's visionary speculations; but be comforted by God's plain facts. “**Looking unto Jesus the Author and Perfecter of the faith,..**” Heb. 12:2 is the happy healthy attitude to maintain. Thus, we shall miss nothing worth seeing, not even the “**door open in heaven.**” Rev. 4:1

Anon

(Reprint 1918)



# Our Corn Crib

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

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