

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole counsel of GOD

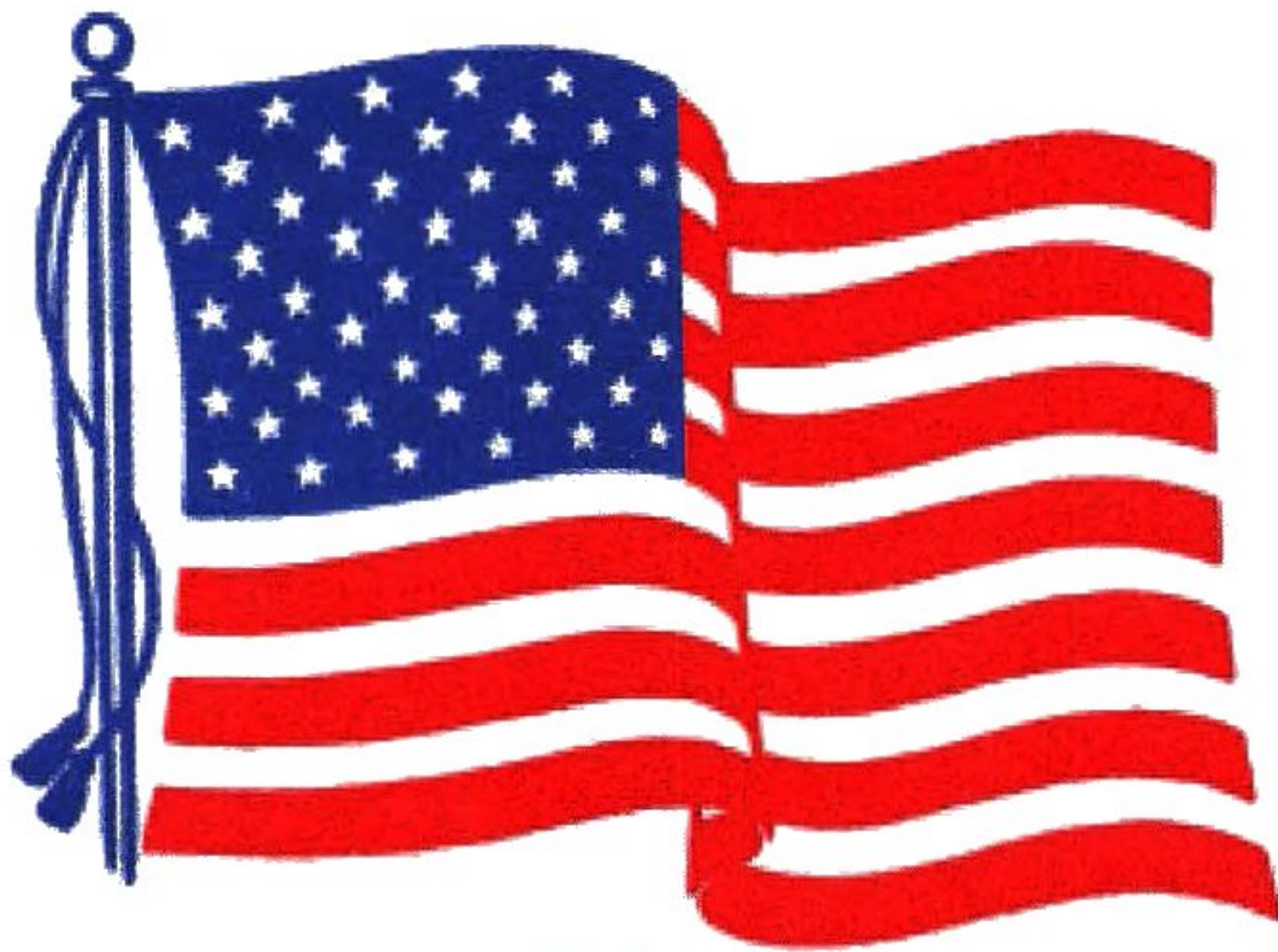
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Stand fast
therefore in the
liberty wherewith
Christ hath made
us free. GALATIANS 5:1



**God is our refuge and
strength, a very present
help in trouble.**

**"Therefore will not we
fear, though the earth be
removed, and though the
mountains be carried into
the midst of the sea;**

**"Though the waters
thereof roar and be troubled,
though the mountains shake
with the swelling thereof.**

**"There is a river, the
streams whereof make glad
the city of God."**

- Psalms 46:1-4

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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)

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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, ...what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.” Matt. 24:3-4

“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.” Matt. 24:11

“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;” II Tim. 3:13

It has been noted numerous times in these pages that Jesus’ very first answer to the disciples’ question, “...what shall be the sign of thy coming....” is “...Take heed that no man deceive you.” Paul likewise urgently warns of “...evil men and seducers...” in II Tim. 3, where he vehemently warns of the “...perilous times...” coming on this world. However, the apostle also specifically instructs his son Timothy HOW to avoid such deception, declaring plainly that he “...continue in the things which thou hast learned....knowing of whom thou has learned them.” This same instruction applies to all those today who would avoid the rampant deception massively pervading our world in these last days. Men must be shrouded in truth to avoid deception. 3

“4 Plain Proofs America is Babylon...” shouts an online headline from a web site founded by Tim McHyde. It calls attention to a book which he had written entitled “Know the Future,” which was published in paperback as early as 2005, wherein he identifies “Mystery Babylon” as “New York.” This book came to the fore recently when Mr. McHyde was interviewed on national T.V. in an attempt to gain his insight into the war raging at that time between Israel and Hamas. It seems that all men realize Israel is most assuredly at the center of God’s plans for the end time and try to ascertain if the world is coming to an end when wars break out in the Middle East. Though the author of this book, by his own admission, has made multiple predictions of the “end” which did not materialize, some still seek him out for his opinion.

The information following the above headline includes feeble attempts by the author to refute the scriptural references which criticize him. He apparently concludes that there are at least “60 reasons” that America is Babylon the Great based on the fact that “... a researcher by the name of Rick Coombes has put together a book of his research on these prophecies, called America the Babylon.” He then lists four major “proofs” of his claim that America is the Mystery Babylon defined by Rev. 17-18. His crowning argument is found in this statement: “Babylon Must Have A Recognizable Mother Country Perhaps the strongest proof of all is how Jeremiah calls Babylon “Daughter Babylon” with mention of her “mother.” Jer. 50:12 (HCSB) — your mother will be utterly humiliated; she who bore you will be put to shame. Look! She will lag behind all the nations— a dry land, a wilderness, an Arabah.”

4 The above author offers no scriptural record that God ever refers to one country as the mother of another. Neither does the text from which he quotes teach such a thing. Men must also understand that scripture designates nations or political powers as horns and kings. Both cities and women are used to portray a “RELIGIOUS state,” both good and bad. The bride of Christ is described as “...new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” Rev. 21:2 The false church is likewise pictured as a harlot committing fornication with “...the kings of the earth,...” and also as a city. Rev. 17 Israel, too, is personified as a woman and called the wife of Jehovah. Hos. 2 Furthermore, Ezekiel’s message from God clearly references both cities and women in regard to religion. “Son of man, there were two women, the daughters of one mother: (National Israel) And they committed whoredoms in Egypt;... And the names of them were Aholah the elder, and Aholibah her sister: and they were mine, and they bare sons and daughters. Thus were their names; Samaria is Aholah, and Jerusalem Aholibah.” Eze 23:2-4 This is exactly the same pattern manifest in Rev. 17, wherein religious Babylon is described as both a city, and a woman which is also defined as a whore. Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, is likewise cast as a city, and a woman named Aholibah, and Samaria the capital of Israel (10 tribes) is Aholah.

Aholah means “her own tent,” and Aholibah “my tent is in her,” both of which portray the spiritual declension of Judah and Israel. The tent speaks of that which is temporary, and of their

own making, as opposed to a house with solid foundation. They are guilty during this time of committing spiritual whoredom, or idolatry, denying the headship of God in following the nations, depending on them to meet their needs rather than God. Contrariwise, after Israel is restored as one nation with Jerusalem as its capital, Isaiah declares that, "For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness,....the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, ...thou shalt be called by a new name... Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land (both Judah and Israel) Beulah:..." Isa. 62:1-4 Hephzibah means "my delight is in her" and is a reference to Israel's restored capital city of Jerusalem, while the land or nation of Israel is now called Beulah, meaning "married," signifying the fact that Israel as one united nation will be married to her former Husband, Jehovah. Hosea declares this same story of restoration, adding the fact that it will come in process of time. The faithful remnant in Israel and Judah are instructed to "Plead with your mother (national Israel,) plead: for she is not my wife, neither am I her husband: let her therefore put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts;" Hos. 2:2 Such a prayer for repentance will eventually be proven effective, for after much trouble described in the next few verses of this chapter, God brings forth this conclusion: "And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea,... I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD.... And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel. And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God." Hos. 2:19-23 Such will be the state of National Israel in the Millennium, but it begins with the religious state of this nation demonstrated by the transformation of Jerusalem, identified as a woman, "...Hephzibah..." Paul confirms this same order in Rom. 11, triumphantly shouting his conclusion that, "...all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: " Rom. 11:26

The above text from Jeremiah 50 presents this same scenario wherein Babylon is the subject. Just as Jerusalem is defined as a daughter of Israel, so also this city is most assuredly portrayed as a woman with a mother, but rather than that mother being another nation, Babylon is the daughter of the first world empire that God ordained in 606 B.C., which is commonly known as the "Babylonish Empire." This portrait of Babylon follows exactly the same pattern of mother and daughter as that of Israel and Jerusalem. "O thou inhabitant of Lachish,... she is the beginning of the sin to the daughter of Zion: for the transgressions of Israel were found in thee." Mic. 1:13 Notice here, not only the mother---daughter relationship but also the religious reference to the "...transgressions of Israel." Babylon likewise is first indicted for her religious state, in that "...Bel (Babylonish Baal) is confounded, Merodach (Babylonian idol) is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces." Jer. 50:2 Daniel graphically portrays the actual fall of Babylon, as sacred vessels which Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem are desecrated by Belshazzar, her last ruler.

6 "Belshazzar the king made a great feast... Belshazzar, whiles he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein." Dan. 5:1

Political Babylon, the first world empire, was completely destroyed and replaced by the Medo-Persian Empire. It has never been restored, and never will be. Religious Babylon, however, as portrayed by the woman of Rev. 17-18 is yet to be destroyed after the same pattern as political Babylon, but it can never be portrayed by America or any other nation as the writer above indicates, for his "...strongest proof of all..." is severely flawed when he declares: "Of course, unlike all the other countries named above, America has a clearly recognizable mother country.... Yes, Great Britain is the "Mother Babylon" of Jeremiah 50:12 which "Daughter Babylon" came from. Great Britain will watch as her closest and most powerful ally is destroyed in a single day, a single hour." The reasoning here seems to be that since no other country on earth has a mother, which is man's idea, not God's, then "daughter Babylon" has to be America, which completely contradicts the principles of

God's Word outlined above. It is simply one more example of a person trying to "adjust" the Word of God to coincide with his own reasoning mind rather than allowing his thoughts to emanate from The Truth Of Scripture.

Not only so, but most Christians would heartily disagree with "his opinion" that "Great Britain will watch as her closest and most powerful ally is destroyed in a single day, a single hour." If that be so, America, which has befriended Israel for multiplied years, can never claim the status of being a sheep nation and thus lay hold of Jesus' promise "...Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:" Matt. 25:34 Again, most American believers familiar with God's Word whole-heartedly embrace the idea that their beloved country, despite its departure from the edicts of God's Word, is still a sheep nation and will still be a nation during the Millennium. She will in no wise fulfill the prophecy accorded the real infamous woman of Rev. 17,18 which declares that "... in one hour is she made desolate." Rev. 18:19

The author of this book also announces another stark fallacy directly contradictory to Scripture. "The End In 2026? It's 7
Now Possible. Since learning in 2001 that Yeshua must return in a Sabbath year, I've had to rule out three Sabbath year cycle windows for the final 7 years (2003-2009, 2010-2016, 2017-2023). With the next window (2024-2030) less than 7 years away, I'm ready to share why I believe, based on the real end time sign of Mt 24:14, that this can be the one..." Mr. McHyde also excuses himself, and this disclaimer is issued because his many predictions of "the end" have not materialized. "Apr. 13, 2019. No need to be scared of Tim McHyde's dreams about 2022 and 2026 ... Tim McHyde is another end times predictor who says himself he has made previous failed predictions. And rather a strange one. He claims he is not a false prophet, despite saying many times that the world will end with nothing happening, because he always retracts his prophecy just before it is due to happen."

Though the tumultuous signs of Jesus' soon return will, in fact, escalate over the next several years, this 2026 prediction of "the end" misses the mark by at least 1000 years. Matthew 24:14 to which he refers, clearly states, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. The little word "...

then...” emphatically indicates that the first part of this verse must be fulfilled BEFORE “...the end...” arrives. That time is simply a reference to Israel’s national occupation during the 1000 year Millennium. Restored National Israel, of which Hosea, Isaiah, and other prophets proclaim, will be the head and not the tail of the nations. They will be God’s political leaders as well as instructors in spiritual things. Isaiah reports it thus: “And strangers (Gentiles) shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But ye (Israel) shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.” Isa 61:5-6 This scenario is the real fulfillment of the great commission which will come to pass during Jesus’ 1000 year reign as King of kings and Lord of lords, wherein Satan is also bound 1000 years. “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:” Matt. 28:19

8 Finally, the above author tries desperately to “adapt and apply” this dire warning to America. “Revelation 18:4 (HCSB) — Then I heard another voice from heaven: Come out of her, My people, so that you will not share in her sins or receive any of her plagues.” He then gives this instruction: “The only good news about this prophecy is that we are assured that God plans to call out the righteous before the destruction happens. However, I cannot stress enough that nobody needs to leave the USA early,... To do so now would probably be a mistake....”

God’s instruction for any deliverance or salvation is far different from that which is advised here, for scripture boldly declares, “We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For he saith,... behold, *now* is the accepted time; behold, *now* is the day of salvation.)” II Cor. 6:1-2 Paul further admonishes in V. 17 of this same chapter “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.” God’s pattern for following His commands has always been one of urgency rather than convenience as suggested above, “...nobody needs to leave the USA early,...” Joshua also was adamant, in challenging Israel, “...choose you *this day* whom ye will serve;...” Josh. 24:15

Mystery Babylon is not America, and the aforementioned “66 reasons” declaring it would easily be refuted by Scripture. That is because Truth will always confound error, and Light never ceases to dispel darkness. However, if some are deceived into believing the above “66 reason lie,” they will rob themselves of knowing the true identity of Religious Mystery Babylon, “... because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:” II Thess. 2:10-11 There is no indication of Mr. McHyde’s “religion,” but one might wonder if he is trying to steer men away from discerning the genuine Mystery Woman in question. Furthermore, many devout Christians already associate Jesus’ Second Coming only with judgment, the overall theme of the above “prophecy.” Sadly, many of them literally cringe when this glorious event is even mentioned, and God never did intend for men to live in fear. It is no secret that this Church Age will end with the wrath of God being poured out, for all seven dispensations follow that same exact pattern. Even the Millennium will end in such a manner. However, the major response of all believers should be great anticipation, joy, and rejoicing at the very prospect of embracing Jesus Himself, rather than being obsessed with judgment. Peter puts deliverance and judgment in perspective with these marvelous words. “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:” II Pet. 2:9 Paul likewise admonishes, “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, (tribulation) 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. 5:9-10 Our deliverance must most assuredly take on an air of urgency. Therefore, all believers who truly love Jesus must realize “...that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.” Rom. 13:11-12

NIGHTTIME WITH JESUS

Jack Bannister

"Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve." Matt. 26:20.

This seems like an insignificant verse, doesn't it? But as I began to check, I found that there were many significant things that happened at night when Jesus was here. Jesus was born at night. "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night" -Luke 2:8. He began His life on earth at night, yet He is the Sun of the day. He was a Light in the night. Later, Joseph took Mary and Jesus, and fled by night into Egypt - Matthew 2:14. God could have protected Him in a fantastic miraculous way, but that was not God's purpose. Jesus became a human, and subjected Himself to all the vicissitudes of life.

Jesus healed at night. "When the even was come, they brought unto Him many that were possessed with devils: and He cast out the spirits with His word, and healed all that were sick." Matt. 8:16 Every time we read of Jesus ministering at night, something significant happens. This particular night, some Scripture was fulfilled, proving that He was the Messiah - "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." Matt. 8:17.

Jesus walked on the sea at night. "And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered Him and said, Lord, if it be Thou, bid me come unto Thee on the water." Matt. 14:25-28 I noticed something here that I had never noticed before. Jesus walked on the sea, but Peter walked on the water. What is the difference? The sea represents the nations. At the time that this fourth watch of the night represents, Israel will be in their time of tribulation and they will be afraid, because the anti-Christ will be flexing his muscles; but Jesus will be controlling the sea. Israel will see Him taking control. They will say, "Lord, give us faith." They will be able to walk in their place in victory without sinking.

"And the same day, when the even was come, He saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. And when they had sent

away the multitude, they took Him even as He was in the ship. And there were also with Him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And He was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake Him, and say unto Him, Master, carest Thou not that we perish? And He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm" - Mark 4:35-39. There are two more interesting words here. First, He rebuked the "wind," and then He stilled the "sea." The wind represents demon power that will be blowing against that Jewish remnant in that part of the night; and the sea represents the nations which the devil is trying to control. Then the Lord will rebuke the devil and the nations, and protect those people of Israel. "Asleep on a pillow" speaks of Him being away, out of sight, in the Throne Room. But they will know He is around, and they will call out to Him. They will begin to read their Scriptures.

Now we will read of the Night of Treachery. "Now when the even was come, He sat down with the twelve. And as they did eat, He said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray Me. And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto Him, Lord, is it I And He answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with Me in the dish, the same shall betray Me. The Son of Man goeth as it is written of Him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed!" - Matthew 26:20-24. This night of treachery is a fulfillment of Scripture. This was fulfilled when the apostles cast lots to see who would take the place of Judas, who by transgression fell away from his apostleship - Acts 1:25. There are also two companion verses that correspond to this - "And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly. He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night." Jn. 13:27,30.

We want to always remember that Jesus is never defeated. Although there was a traitor in their midst, and though he did exactly as it was written of him, and though Jesus knew exactly who it was all along --- He waited until right at the last moment and told him to go ahead and do what was in his heart. "Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him." Jn. 13:31 "All things work together

for good" --- for Jesus, for us, and for all the people of God. Praise the Lord!

There was a night of treachery at the Passover. It was a most solemn and holy occasion. Jesus had witnessed the foolishness of the Jews. The Lord's Passover had become the Jews' Passover. It became a ritual to most of them, as religion has become a form to Christendom today. Easter has become a form, but it is supposed to be a living reality. To Jesus, the Passover was real. He knew what it represented. He knew that He was the true Passover. So, even in the face of treachery, Jesus is the Conqueror.

12 Next we will look at a Night of Temptation. "Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of Me this night: for it is written, I will smite the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee. Peter answered and said unto Him, Though all men shall be offended because of Thee, yet will I never be offended. Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny Me thrice. Peter said unto Him, Though I should die with Thee, yet will I not deny Thee" - Matthew 26:31-35. Peter was very bold, wasn't he? People call him impetuous, and I guess he was; but he was showing forth his love for Jesus. Peter was not the only one who made such a declaration. "Likewise also said all the disciples." They were showing their love. This was a temptation for them now. They were with the Lord, and this proves something. You can be in the Presence of the Lord and be strong in yourself and have a failure, even if the Lord is around. The Lord does not force us to be overcomers, whether it is day or night. These men swore up and down that they would not run from Jesus. Jesus quoted to them the Scriptures, and they were saying, "Oh, no. That won't happen." Scriptures are always fulfilled. We read in the book of Galatians, "The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the Gospel unto Abraham." Gal. 3:8 The Scriptures see ahead. Some think that the Bible contains only words. It is the living Word of God! God knew that they would forsake Him, and He did not hold it against them.

What a night this was! Matthew 26:69,70 describes the action --- "Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. But he

denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest." All of a sudden, fear crept into Peter's heart. Where was his boldness? "But all this was done, that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook Him, and fled." Matt. 26:56 Sometimes that is the time when we flee, in the nighttime of our experience whenever we are having a rough time of it. These men were wrestling with their consciences. They loved the Lord, but they did not have the inner strength to stand. You know, it takes strength to stand with the Lord, in the time of hypocrisy and ridicule and mockery. That is the reason there are times when we should call other saints and ask them to pray. We need faith to be joined with ours, so we can stand the test.

"And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the Man. And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the Man. And immediately the cock crew." Matt. 26:71-74 He forgot what Jesus had told him. He was concerned with self-preservation. Peter was not a coward. But where was all his courage? We find out here that the devil is more powerful than all our resolve and our bold declarations. "And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny Me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly." Did Peter fail? Do you remember what Jesus had said to him? "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not." Lk. 22:31,32 Peter's flesh failed. Peter was tottering in his faith. But he did not actually fail in his faith, because he was sorry for his denial immediately and wept bitterly. This was a nighttime experience.

The night shows us what we are when we are alone. When you are alone in a painful experience, you find out just what you are and how much faith you really have. Trials locate us. They show us where we really stand with God. That is the reason the Lord allows these night times to come upon us, that we may learn to lean on Him. When there is no one else in the universe but God and us, that is when we reach out in communion and faith; and, though we may not even have the faith to pray, we can say, "Lord,

I know You are faithful." We may be too weak to run, but we can stand. The nighttime experiences have a deeper voice than the daytime experiences. The blessings are daytime experiences. They are easy to have. We like the blessings. We like to be in meetings where the "Hallelujahs" are. We like to have God meet our needs and perform miracles for us. But it is in the nighttime experience, when the chips are down, when things are going wrong, when God, does not seem to answer, when it seems like no one understands, when no one is coming into the meeting, when people are having troubles, not just the preacher but other people are having hard times, and we really have to exercise faith ---that we really learn God. That is why we need to be with Jesus in the nighttime. He does not desert us. Isn't that wonderful? This speaks to our soul, with a solemn emphasis, that God is on the throne.

14 The men of faith all had their nighttime experiences: Joseph in the dungeon, and David in caves in the wilderness. This was where they learned to trust the Lord. The Psalms are the results of these experiences. We become rich in spiritual blessings, as we pass through nights of suffering. Through the Spirit, David said, "Even the night shall be light about me." Psalm 139:11 We read in Genesis 1:16: "And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: He made the stars also." This thought came to me: A Christian is never in total darkness. Only the sinner is in darkness, and will go to outer darkness. The Christian, even in the nighttime, has the lesser light that rules the night. We have both the daytime and the nighttime. The light may not be shining as brightly at night, but it is there and in its element. It is never totally dark for us. Nighttime with Jesus is no defeat, because we know the sun will shine the next day. Always remember this - the night and the day are divided up into equal time.

We now read of a Night of Trouble. "Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith He unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with Me" - Matthew 26:36-38. Jesus was going through the anguish of knowing now that He would be made sin for man. He knew the

value of redemption, but He also knew the cost of redemption; and His soul was being exercised. Notice the difference between His meditation and that of the disciples. "And He went a little farther, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt. And He cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep." Matt. 26:39,40 Where does He find us in the nighttime, when He wants our fellowship and understanding? Are we alert to the things of God, or are we asleep like the disciples?

There is no need for us to be this way. We have the Holy Spirit, we have the Truth, we have the Revelation of Paul's Gospel. Where are we when Jesus needs us? He is not in the Garden of Suffering any more, but a lot of His people are; and Jesus said that when we have done it to the least of these His brothers, we have done it unto Him. If someone is in a trial, then Jesus is in their trial. Are we watching with Him? The promise is to those that watch and wait. "And He cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. He went away the second time, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done. And He came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. And He left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then cometh He to His disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners." Matt. 26:40-45 Jesus is saying, "I have already gained the victory." Wasn't that a sad thing, that they missed a chance to watch with the Lord? In the nighttime, when the Lord wants to speak to us, let us not miss out on the chance to watch with Him. It is easy to miss the little things. It may be just something small, but let us be alert to the things of God. Paul said, "Buying up the opportunity, because the days are evil." Eph. 5:16 RV The Lord needs you! To pray! And stand! And withstand! Yes, there would probably be more victory in the world, if people would really pray; but there are so few who pray. We need to fight the battle for the Truth of Paul's Message. If we do not stand for the Truth, how are people going to know? How are people going to get the victory, if we do not pray? We do not know how many times our

prayers for somebody have gained the victory for them. But, the point is, to watch with Christ in the night of temptation.

Last, we read of the Night of Triumph. "At the last came two false witnesses, and said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days. And the high priest arose, and said unto Him, Answerest Thou nothing? What is it which these witness against Thee? But Jesus held His peace. And the high priest answered and said unto Him, I adjure Thee by the living God, that Thou tell us whether Thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: Nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of Heaven." Matt. 26:60-64. That high priest knew what that was. Jesus was telling them that He was going to sit on the right hand of God. He was to become the strong arm of the Lord. This is a nighttime testimony.

16 "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you." Jn. 20:19 This is the first appearance that Jesus made to all the disciples at nighttime. He came to dispel the fear that was in their hearts. Soon these nighttime experiences will be over, and an eternal day will dawn. "And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever." Rev. 22:5

(Reprint 1973: This sermon was transcribed from
an audio recording.)

The Lord Our Refuge

The Lord is our Refuge
None other we know---
A rampart of safety,
Where else shall we go?

Tho' long lasts the conflict
Till its destined end,
God's promise can't fail us;
But help it must lend.

Anon

HOW I ASCERTAIN THE WILL OF GOD

George Mueller

SURRENDER YOUR OWN WILL

I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to a given matter.

Nine-tenths of the trouble with people is just here. Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever it may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what His will is.

DO NOT DEPEND ON FEELINGS

Having done this, I do not leave the result to feeling or simple impression. If I do so, I make myself liable to great delusions.

SEEK THE SPIRIT'S WILL THROUGH GOD'S WORD

I seek the will of the Spirit of God through, or in connection with, the Word of God. The Spirit and the Word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone without the Word I lay myself open to great delusions also. If the Holy Ghost guides us at all, He will do it according to the Scriptures and never contrary to them.

17

NOTE PROVIDENTIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Next I take into account providential circumstances. These often plainly indicate God's will in connection with His Word and Spirit.

PRAY

I ask God in prayer to reveal His will to me aright.

WAIT

Thus, through prayer to God, the study of the Word, and reflection, I come to a deliberate judgment according to the best of my ability and knowledge; and if my mind is thus at peace, and continues so after two or three more petitions, I proceed accordingly.

In trivial matters, and in transactions involving most important issues, I have found this method always effective.

REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” Jo. 8:36

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.” Rom. 8:2

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” Jo. 8:32

Freedom! What a wonderful word! This is the time of year when most Americans hearken back to 1776 when “...this nation under God...” celebrated its freedom from England. It is sad that today’s America is doing everything in its power to eliminate God and His entire influence.

18 However, truth is truth, even when men deny it and the truth of freedom still stands for all who will believe and follow God’s pattern to obtain it. Though men in general may denounce His Ways, God still holds out the glorious promises above and nothing can negate them except unbelief. Godly men cannot reform the entire country and world as some seem to think, but all people of faith can surely believe God for freedom in their own lives by simply appropriating the glorious promises recorded above.

First, freedom centers around a Person, for the Son has indeed come to earth to literally buy such freedom for us with His Own Precious Blood. That was, and is, an eternal work and none can remove its power and effectiveness to those who believe. Note here that the Son “...shall make you free,...” meaning that freedom is often a process rather than always being instantaneous. Everyone who accepts Christ is freed immediately from the guilt of sin but some are not able to rest in the total peace and satisfaction, that they are freed eternally from death and hell because they do not really know the truth of God’s Word. It seems they have never actually experienced being made “...free indeed...” which means “really or actually,” and implies that which is experimental. Paul describes the battle

to that end in Romans 7 crying out “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” He then answers immediately, “...I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord...” Rom. 7:24-25 Freedom comes experimentally when men appropriate the very life of Jesus as the motivation for their own practical existence.

Paul continues this same discourse in the next chapter announcing forcefully that “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus...” Rom. 8:1 This verse is unequivocal, announcing that the reason for freedom from condemnation lies in the fact that believers are “... IN Christ Jesus...” This freedom from condemnation is a direct result of faith rather than conduct. Thus, only those who actually believe it will reap the glorious practical benefit of feeling “...no condemnation...” thus being made “...free indeed.”

Finally, truth itself, which is in fact Jesus Himself, follows this same pattern “...ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.” Jn. 8:32. Men often quote this verse saying “... the truth shall SET you free,” implying once again, instantaneous, and perhaps often expected, miraculous deliverance. Learning truth, however, is a process. Knowing Jesus in a practical sense comes only by spending time with Him. Thus, when Paul declared that “...the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death,” he asserted that he had discovered a new “...law...” or power in his life and that power was the very life of Jesus upon which he had learned to depend. It is that power which literally made him free from the power of sin and of death and brought true freedom both for now and eternity.

19

GH

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Labor Day Fellowship Meeting, Sept. 4-5 at Gospel Fellowship in Grandview, Missouri. Food and Lodging Provided. More information to follow. Please contact us at 816-618-3306 or by e-mail: gjhawk1@msn.com

Fruit Bearing

Dr. Vicky Moots

“So God created man in his own image, ...And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply,...” Gen. 1:27-28

Fruit bearing is an important topic in Scripture, and as noted above the first commandment given in the Bible was to be fruitful. Prior to that, scripture clearly states that God created the fruit tree to bear fruit. The physical creation gives us a picture of the spiritual, so as Christians, we are also to bear fruit.

John 15:1-8 records Jesus’ discourse on the vine and the branches, and V.8 plainly states, “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.” These words were spoken on the way to the Garden of Gethsemane, wherein Jesus was speaking specifically to His true disciples. They had just finished eating the Passover, and Judas had left during supper to proceed with his plans to betray Jesus. Jn. 13:27-30 Thus, he was not with them.

20 The most important thing to know about Jesus’ discussion of the vine and the branches is that it refers only to fruit bearing, not to salvation. He desired that after His death and resurrection, all of His true disciples would bear fruit. If you are born again, then you can consider yourself one of His disciples, so He is also speaking to you.

Jesus often taught spiritual truths by using common earthly examples. In this case, He uses the example of a fruit bearing vine, most likely a grapevine, which would have been familiar to them.

He begins in V. 1 stating that, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.” What is a husbandman? It is a farmer or the one who takes care of the crop. This example shows that it would be the vine dresser, the one who prunes and cares for the vine and its branches in order to enable them to reach their maximum potential for fruit bearing. That means that if God is the husbandman, then He is the One who will do the pruning. The vine’s branches cannot prune themselves. Nor should they be carelessly pruned by someone who is not trained to do it properly, and who might do more harm than good.

Verse 2: “Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he [God] taketh away...” This designates a dead branch, because it

is not capable of bearing fruit. It is physically attached to the vine but is not tapped in to its life source and therefore has no life in it. A living branch will always produce some fruit, even if it is only a small amount.

Verse 6 continues along this same line and again refers to the branch that was removed because it was dead. That branch was not actually a part of the vine, and thus Jesus asserts that, "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered...". Judas was that dead branch. He was attached to the vine symbolically but had no life. He was a disciple in name only. Jesus called him and he followed Jesus around, but he did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. He followed Him only for the money. He was used as a tool of Satan to betray The Master, and was never a believer or a true disciple. In the pruning process, all dead branches must eventually be cut off.

The dead branches are also all those who profess to be Christians but have never been born again. They may be members of a church but are not members of the body of Christ. The life of a vine must flow through its branches in order to provide life and the ability to bear fruit. We are not even a part of the vine until we accept Christ as Savior. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son hath not life." I Jn. 5:12

21

A grapevine that is not properly pruned will not produce much fruit, or the fruit will be of smaller size and lesser quality. If left to grow on their own without being pruned, the branches will over grow and cover up the grape clusters, preventing them from receiving adequate sunlight and air flow which are needed for the grapes to mature. If the branches are cut back too harshly, then the fruit will become sunburned. The grapes need the proper amount of sunlight and air to mature to their fullest and sweetest. Additionally, in order to prune properly, the pruning tool or knife must be very sharp so that it will make a nice clean cut and not damage the branches.

Jesus explains in v. 5 that He is the vine and we are the branches, and V. 4 commands, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me." Verse 5 then continues this thought: "...He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." What does it mean to abide in the Vine, to abide in the Lord? The

word “abide” means to stand fast; to remain; to stay; to submit to.” When we submit ourselves fully to the Lord, we stand fast on His Word, and submit to His will in our lives, which means submitting to the pruning even if we don’t like the pain of cutting. However, the final result is that we will be able to bear much fruit. The amount of fruit we will bear depends on the amount to which we are willing to submit ourselves into the hands of the Husbandman. We must keep our minds stayed on the Lord, not on the things of the world.

22 Since the branches of a vine are a living out-growth of the main vine stem, and they receive their life from the vine itself, they have no life within themselves, and therefore would not be able to bear fruit without the vine. In order for a grapevine to bear good quality fruit it must be pruned on a regular basis which is also true for us spiritually. Spiritually speaking, the sharp pruning tool that is used to do this is the Word of God. Heb. 4:12 reveals that, “The word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword...” God does the cutting in our lives through His Word when we read it or hear it. It is able to penetrate to the depths of our hearts and purge out our dead works and the overgrowth of self in order that we can become fruitful.

The farther a branch grows outward away from the main vine stem, the less fruit it will produce, which is why pruning is necessary on a regular basis. This is true spiritually also. The closer we abide in the vine, the sweeter and better will be the fruit that we bear.

Jesus is very clear in V. 1 of this chapter that, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman,” and V. 5 identifies us as “...the branches...” It is also apparent that fruit bearing is the object, but just what is that fruit? Paul defines it as the fruit of the spirit. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance:...” Gal. 5:22-23 As you can see, we now have the whole Trinity involved here, working in our lives to produce fruit. God the Father is the Husbandman (or the farmer, the vine dresser), Who is responsible for the crop; Jesus is the Vine and the Holy Spirit is the fruit. That means that all of the work of fruit bearing is done by the Trinity, the God-head, and not by us. The branches do not do any of the work of pruning. It is not of our works lest we should boast, and therefore we cannot glory in our own fruitfulness. Our part is to

yield to the cutting of the Word of God, which is the pruning tool, and allow the Holy Spirit to produce the fruit in our lives.

Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit as being 9-fold in the above text, which is 3 times 3, or a trinity of trinities. The number three not only speaks of the Trinity, but also of resurrection, for Jesus was raised on the third day. It is the power of the resurrected life of Christ in us, manifested through the Holy Spirit, which produces the fruit. Fruit bearing requires the very essence of the life of the Vine, the life of Christ, which Paul, calls "...Christ in you, the hope of glory." Col. 1:27 He is abiding in us, and we are abiding in Him.

This text from Paul's letter to the Galatians states that, "... the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no Law." Notice that he did not say "fruits" but "fruit," singular not plural. There is only one fruit of the Spirit. A fruit tree or vine can only bear one kind of fruit, but that fruit will have various characteristics which can be described in several different ways in order to clearly differentiate it from other fruits, as for example, an apple. How would you describe it? Round, red, shiny? Well, so is a tomato or a cherry! Therefore, it needs further clarification. Is it soft or firm in consistency? Is it juicy? Does it smell good? Some characteristics of a fruit can be described by examining it from the outside, by feeling it, by looking at it or by smelling it. But other characteristics can only be discovered by looking inside it by cutting it or crushing it. So, you must bite into the apple and tear it with your teeth before you can tell if it is juicy or crisp or tastes good and sweet. And if you continue biting it, or if you cut into the heart of it with a knife, you will find something different in the middle: there are seeds, and if you plant them, you will get more fruit. That is the resurrection life of the fruit.

Of course, all of this has a spiritual meaning. The fruit of the Spirit is love itself, God's love, Agape, a selfless love, a divine love that expects nothing in return but freely gives everything. The rest of Gal. 5:22-23 describes in more depth how that love is manifested in us as the fruit of the Spirit. The love of God, Agape, is "...shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost..." Rom. 5:5 It is demonstrated outwardly in our lives when we go through times of crushing, trial and testing. The intensity of God's love was shown to the world when He sent His Son to die

for us, for greater love has no man than to die for another. If we are not manifesting God's love in our lives, then we need more pruning, more cutting, more crushing.

The amount of fruit we bear depends on the degree to which we are abiding in the Vine. Since "abiding" means "to stay, to remain, to submit to", the closer we stay in fellowship with the Lord, the more fruit of the Spirit that will be produced. We do this by submitting to the pruning of God's Word which cuts away our own desires, our showy production of long branches full of leaves and self-works.

The remainder of this study will go into detail regarding each portion of the fruit of the Spirit listed by Paul in Gal. 5:22-23 in order to better understand it, and the means by which His love is displayed in our lives to others around us, with whom we come in contact. Our goal in fruit bearing is to not only bear fruit which pleases the Father, the Vineyard Keeper, as a sweet aroma to Him, but also to bear fruit which draws others to Christ when they are enticed by it, to partake of it and to taste for themselves and see that the Lord is good.

24

(To Be Continued)

I NEEDED THE QUIET

I needed the quiet, so He took me aside
Into the shadows where we could confide;
Away from the bustle where, all the day long,
I hurried and worried when active and strong.

I needed the quiet, though at first I rebelled -
But gently, so gently, the cross He upheld;
And whispered so sweetly of spiritual things.
Though weakened in body, my spirit took wings
To heights never dreamed of when active and gay.
He loved me so greatly He drew me away.

I needed the quiet, no prison my bed;
But a beautiful valley of blessing instead -
A place to grow richer, in Jesus to hide.
I needed the quiet, so He took me aside.

Anon

STRENGTH FOR TODAY

Ruth E. Smith

“...and as thy days, so shall thy strength be.” Deut. 33:25
Take note that this verse does not have any additions to it such as: "As thy days, so shall thy strength be, as long as you do not have heart disease, diabetes, cancer, hypoglycemia, thyroid disease, bad nerves, or any other ailment." How often do we read the Scriptures in this manner, and put the words "but" or "if" in the context. We must remember that God speaks only in absolute terms.

Just what does this Scripture mean? Regardless of our condition, God will strengthen us for each day. If God has given us a responsibility and has also allowed us to have some infirmity or illness which does not bind us to our beds but makes fulfilling our responsibility more difficult, He is faithful to give the strength necessary for each day. He does not intend for us to give up that place of responsibility, but to trust Him a little more for that necessary wisdom and strength to fulfill this God-given ministry. He wants to be our all in all.

25

Also, what better way to remember that we are but earthen vessels with a priceless Treasure within? Thus, "the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us" - II Corinthians 4:7. Does this mean that we all should have an affliction? Absolutely not. If you have a strong healthy body, take care of it, enjoy your health, and thank God for your physical abilities. On the other hand, if you have aches and pains and a body that does not function as it should, you still need to take care of it. In fact, God will take care of it for us; and, in this way, we can glory in the weakness we have.

Oftentimes Christians suffer from depression when there is no visible reason for it. We may not even realize that we are depressed - it may take the form of nervousness. We may seem to have an unusual appetite, or it may be that eight to ten hours of sleep are not enough. These are all symptoms of depression; but we would rather admit to any one of these symptoms than accept the fact that we are depressed. Why? Because we associate depression with mental illness, so we deny our depression and

struggle with the symptoms. We never get to the root of our trouble.

The man whom God testified to be "a man after Mine own heart" spent much of his life in depression. Many of his psalms were written as a result of his depression. Psalm thirty-one is one good example. David begins with a cry of despair - "In Thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in Thy righteousness. Bow down Thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be Thou my strong Rock, for an house of defence to save me." Note the change in the tenor of his cry in verse nineteen - "Oh how great is Thy goodness, which Thou hast laid up for them that fear Thee; which Thou hast wrought for them that trust in Thee before the sons of men!"

This same melody continues to the end of the psalm. He has forgotten his own fears and anxieties, because they have been swallowed up in the capabilities and strength of God.

26 Then we come to the inevitable "daily vexing detours that beset the ways of time." How often do we think of a target date, perhaps a week or even a month away, and visualize all the things that must be done before that date arrives? Suddenly we become weak. We may go at a breakneck speed, but seemingly accomplish little. It seems as if we are going in circles; the mind and body become so tense that we cannot operate effectively.

I was doing this one day, and complaining to the Lord all the while, telling Him all of the things that I had to get done in the next two weeks. He spoke so clearly to me, almost audibly, "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? ... Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Matt. 6:25-34.

A rest settled over me as I began to realize that I could not do all these things that I had planned for the future in one day. I was borrowing the "...evil..." of which Jesus spoke as being sufficient for the day. I had the anxieties of the next two weeks weighing heavily upon my shoulders, agitating the weight already

there. Since God had only promised enough strength for today, I was laboring under a two-week's load with only the amount of strength for one day. No wonder I could not cope with it all.

Isaiah put this truth is so aptly. "For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: AND YE WOULD NOT." Isaiah 30:15 I will cry, "Oh yes, Lord, I will."

"Oh, the joy of sins forgiven,
Oh, the bliss the blood washed know.
Oh, the peace akin to heaven,
Where the healing waters flow.
Where the healing waters flow,
Where the joys celestial glow.
Oh, there's peace, and rest, and love,
Where the healing waters flow."
(Reprint 1977)

THE GLORY OF OUR CHURCH

The glory of our church is not our lovely building, nor an elaborate musical program, nor eloquent preaching, but the Presence of the Lord in our midst. When people see Him, hear Him, feel Him, they will be saved, healed, comforted, filled, and inspired. How we do thank God for His blessed Presence in our services. It seems as if He is making Himself increasingly real from service to service. Do not miss any of these meetings. Be sure to receive your portion. "I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing."

The Chastening Of The Lord

L. H. Donelson

“Give ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech. Doth the plowman plow all day to sow? doth he open and break the clods of his ground?” Isa 28:23-24

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

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

said here, "It is easier to take the train than the training." When the Lord is chastening us and we are in a hard place, there is a great temptation to try to get out of it—to go somewhere else—if there is anywhere to go. The devil, of course, brings to our minds every disturbing thought which he can. Paul says, if we take the training the peaceable fruit of righteousness will be worked unto us.

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

When we read of God trying His people, especially the overcomers, the trial always came out all right, working good for the individual and glory to God. We find when God tries His people He provides the grace for them to overcome in these trials and be increased and helped and God will be glorified. "He knows our frame and remembers we are but dust." Christ was tempted in all points like as we are and He knows just how much we can stand. He will not allow us to be tempted more than we are able to bear. We read in the 22nd Chapter of Genesis how God tried Abraham. No one except one who has children could really enter

into what Abraham must have gone through in that demand which God made of him. What a severe thing for God to tell a man to do—indescribably severe—to offer up his son! Yet we all know the outcome. Abraham believed God and went ahead and though he did not actually have to sacrifice his son, God counted it so, because he went through all the motions right up to the point of slaying Isaac. We thank the Lord that He gave Abraham the grace that he needed for the trial.

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

"So he departed thence and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth; and Elijah passed by him and cast his mantle upon him." God had showed Elijah that He had called Elisha to be his successor. V. 16 We may be sure that God had already worked in Elisha and prepared him for his coming task and responsibilities. "And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, GO BACK AGAIN; for what have I done to thee? And he returned back from him and

took a yoke of oxen and slew them and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen and gave unto the people and they did eat. Then he arose and went after Elijah and ministered unto him." I Kings 19:20, 21 Elisha might have become angry and felt like giving back the mantle to Elijah. He might have said, "Here take your mantle back. I don't want it anyway." But he took the rebuff because the Lord enabled him to take it. You know Christ gave some examples in which people were called and wanted to go back. He said, anyone who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is not worthy of the kingdom of heaven. Elisha was an overcomer in this even though for the moment he was tempted to "look back." He took the Lord's best as it was offered to him. He overcame and did what the Lord wanted. "And it came to pass when the Lord would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the Lord liveth and as thy soul liveth I will not leave thee.

So they went down to Bethel. And the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Elisha and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace. And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the Lord liveth and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho. And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to Elisha and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head today? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace. And Elijah said unto him, Tarry here I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the Lord liveth and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on." II Kings 2:1-6. Elijah knew he was going to be taken up --- translated into heaven --- and it seems that a good many other people knew it, too. Elisha knew it evidently and that there was a blessing attached to him being with Elijah when he went up. It seemed that Elijah tried to discourage him from going along with him, but Elisha said, "I will not leave thee." Elijah would say, "you stay here. The Lord has called me somewhere else." But Elisha was determined to go on and get the best the Lord had for him. After the third time we read in the II Kings 2:9, "When they 31

were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me." Elisha did not let Elijah talk him out of staying with him and now he has the privilege of getting a double portion of the spirit that was upon Elijah. "And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing; nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not it shall not be so." II Kings 2:10 Just think what Elisha would have missed if he had not gone on with Elijah. It is wonderful how the Lord gives us grace to go on.

32 I am impressed with this: "They that are led by the Spirit, they are the sons of God." I am glad that the Spirit leads us, that we do not have to go out and look for a way and then tell the Lord to follow. I prefer to be one to follow behind the Lord. I praise the Lord that in every way He has gone ahead of us and praise Him for what He has done for us. Christ went to the cross and suffered. He paid the debt which we could not possibly pay. He arose in triumph and victory and is interceding for us today. The Lord has made the provision and He is actually carrying it out — the provision that He made for enabling us to overcome. I believe the Lord intends for His people to overcome; otherwise why should He give us all of this Word and all of these examples all through the Bible? He knew there would be a people who would want His best.

We have another reference in Matt. 15. Here we find the Lord Himself said some hard words to a woman and yet she overcame. "And behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts and cried unto Him saying, Have mercy on me O Lord. thou Son of David ; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and besought Him, saying, Send her away, for she crieth after us. But He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the Lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped Him saying, Lord help me. But He answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth Lord; Yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her. O woman great is thy faith; be it unto thee, even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour." First He answered her not a word. I was impressed with that. I went to a very snobbish college when

I was quite young. Some of the boys tried to act very superior. They would sometimes pretend they didn't hear when you would ask them a question which was very insulting. This woman who wanted the Lord to heal her daughter, would not be insulted. She knew Christ was not a snobbish person. She knew in her heart that this was the "Christ" that Israel had been waiting for. She recognized Him as the Son of David but she could not be blessed in that way. She was a Canaanite and calling Him "Son of David" was equivalent to saying she was of Israel. But He answered and said, "It is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to dogs." So He called her a dog, but she would not be rebuffed. She said, "Truth, Lord, yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table."

"Then Jesus answered and said unto her. O woman, great is thy faith; be it into thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour." That woman kept right on and was enabled to believe for her daughter's healing. We know these things are written for our admonition and example that we may not be overcome or offended in trials. God's grace is sufficient. I thank the Lord for that. Not long ago I had a trial and was sick for several weeks. However, it gave me an opportunity to attend the prayer meetings of the Bible School, which was a wonderful blessing. They lasted about 45 minutes every morning. What a privilege to hear the priestly prayers of intercession for people all over the world. So I was blessed in my trial. Sometimes sickness draws us closer to Him. Sometimes those of us who work may neglect prayer. Maybe we are too tired at night and cannot get up early in the morning to spend much time in prayer. Some of us do not pray as much as we should, but I thank the Lord for the times that He does give us to wait on Him. Here is another illustration. "Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool; where is the house that ye built unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord; but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at my word." Isa. 66:1,2 The Lord is mentioning big things here, prominent things. The heavens are so large that the most powerful telescope will not reveal them all. Astronomers cannot see how many stars there are because there are so many and so far away. The thickness and height of the heavens cannot

be measured by scientists. What a premium God places upon a man who is poor and of a contrite spirit and trembles at His Word. God speaks of all these wonderful things he has created, yet by comparison He seems to value a humble godly man more. Though the trials and chastenings that we go through are grievous at the time, yet we know that the Lord's way is the best and we can look back on the past trials and see that the Lord took us through the training that we should have had. We know the Lord has dealt with us in such a way that we have grown. We know He will continue to be faithful in the future. In the final analysis it is the heart attitude that counts and the Lord will enable us to reckon our old man dead if we really so desire. He made every provision for us to overcome and He is going to take us all through to victory and to a place of everlasting glory and honor at His side. "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the GLORY which shall be revealed in us."

(Reprint 1945)

34



Perhaps Today

Man's discontent would search the stellar spaces,
Urgent he wants 'midst other worlds to roam,
Perchance forgetting nothing good replaces
The world which God to man gave as his home.

Yet e'en while man explores the outer spaces,
Seeking his burning thirst to gratify,
We who are Christ's, with eager upturned faces
Wait the glad sight our hearts will satisfy.

J. Danson Smith



Our Corn Crib

"Buy The Truth, and Sell It Not"

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First Day of the Week	New Birth	Water Baptism
Five Much Mores	Not Legislation, Revelation	Wheat and Tares
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The Lord hath
comforted his
people, and will
have mercy upon
his afflicted.

ISAIAH 49:13.