

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the  
whole counsel of GOD

Volume 111

May 2021

Number 5



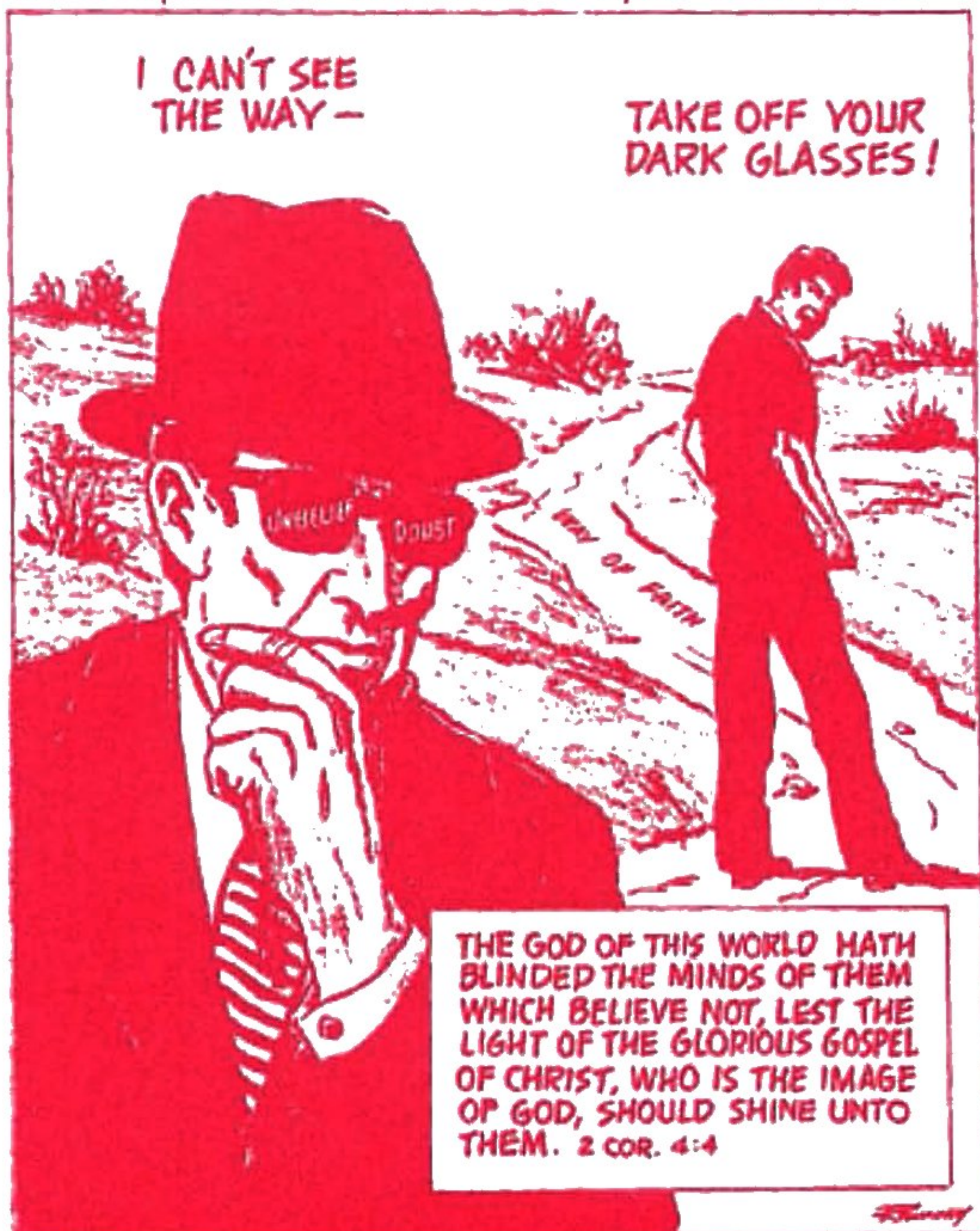
**I**n returning  
and rest shall  
ye be saved: in  
quietness and  
in confidence  
shall be your  
strength.

ISAIAH 30:15.

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## 'We Grope As If We Had No Eyes Isa. 59:10



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

PERIODICALS postage is paid at Grandview, Missouri.

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

Telephone: 816-618-3306. E-mail [gihawk1@msn.com](mailto:gihawk1@msn.com) Print Shop # 816-322-2257

Web site: [www.gracegod.org](http://www.gracegod.org). Bible lessons and audio sermons are downloadable.

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

Editor: Gene Hawkins

# Definite Sign Posts Of The End

Gene Hawkins

“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.” Psa. 2:1-3

Psalm two is a very familiar portion of scripture to diligent students and teachers of prophecy and it has been the subject of multiple prophetic writings around the entire globe down through the ages. The fullest expression of these verses will not be realized until this world has been plunged deeply into the tribulation period as set forth by such texts as Rev. 17:14, wherein we read that, “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.” This same confrontation is also graphically portrayed in the following description of Armageddon. “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; ...And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” Rev. 19:11-15 3

Though the fullness of this war against the Lamb is yet to come, the overall global atmosphere which prevails at this present hour clearly reveals that the elements of rebellion couched in Psalm 2 have already begun. Ungodly men, drunken on the desire for power, are already gathering together “...against the LORD, and against his anointed,...” Who is none other than Jesus Himself. It is extremely significant that the above text from Rev. 19 clearly identifies Him as “...The Word of God.” John is also very precise in declaring that Jesus is the Personification of God’s Word, “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. “ I

4 Jo. 5:7 Men today are openly defiant against "...his anointed..." due to the fact that they soundly reject His Word. Numerous and very prominent politicians in America, supposedly a "Christian Nation," loudly boast of their deep faith, and that they are "guided and controlled by that same faith, but those same politicians are proposing policies that are totally against the righteous principles of God which scripture repeatedly defines as "...the faith..." Contrary to popular opinion around the world, the little word "...the..." (singular) signifies that there is only ONE faith and that is "...the faith of the son of God..." Gal. 2:20 Hebrews 11 enlarges on it, asserting that "...faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." V. 1 Furthermore, it is plainly stated that, "...without faith it is impossible to please him:..." Heb 11:6 Scripture combines the Word and faith, emphatically declaring that "...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom. 10:17 The question must then be posed today: "If those in power are being motivated by faith as some have claimed, how do the policies of lawmakers today please God? Can men conscientiously affirm that shedding the innocent blood of unborn babies is pleasing to Him? Men are, even at this present time, boldly taking "...counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed,..." Jesus, The Word of God, when they reject or ignore such pointed scriptures as Psa. 94:21. "They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood." Shedding such innocent blood drew God's strongest condemnation against King Manasseh who, "...shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another;..." II Kings 21:16 Can anyone deny that taking the lives of innocent and defenseless babies is among the greatest examples of shedding "...innocent blood...?"

It remains a great mystery as to why American policy would fund abortions around the world under the guise of "...protecting life in global health assistance,..." but that fact is confirmed by an article following this headline from The Wall Street Journal on Feb. 5, 2021. "Biden signs executive order allowing US fund global abortions" The explanation then follows that, "President Biden has signed an executive order reversing the Mexico City policy, permitting US aid money to fund groups that provide or promote abortion around the globe. The policy was first put in place by President Ronald

Reagan in an effort to ensure that taxpayers were not required to indirectly fund abortion procedures performed in other countries. The policy has been undone via executive order by every subsequent democratic administration and reinstated by each republican one. The Trump administration expanded the policy to include not only family planning funds distributed by the state department and the US agency for international development, but also all foreign-health assistance provided by government agencies, including the office of the US global AIDS coordinator, and the defense department. That expanded policy, protecting life in global health assistance, increased the amount of US funding covered by the abortion prohibition from about \$600 million to nearly \$9 billion."

Political leaders of our day also insist on same sex marriage and gay relationships which "...his anointed..." Word has most assuredly forbidden. Paul explains in the first chapter of Romans that ungodliness and violence begin when men refuse to acknowledge The Word of God. "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator,...For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet." Rom. 1:25-27 The order recorded here then seems to indicate that the following catalogue of evil literally escalates into the many ungodly maladies on display in our world today directly because men reject God and His truth. "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. Rom. 1:28-32 Paul specifically lists a number of these traits when he warned "...that in the last days perilous times shall

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come.” II Tim. 3:1 Here in Romans it is perfectly clear that all this downfall stems from the fact that men refuse to heed God’s Word, indeed the anointed of God.

It is also quite clear that those who do claim and observe godly principles of “the faith” are persecuted for it. Some businesses, for example, which have refused to produce a wedding cake for a gay marriage, were forced into court to defend themselves just because they would stand up for God’s Word. It should come as no surprise that many of God’s people may indeed pay the price simply because they adhere to the principles Scripture. Paul was very clear when he said “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” II Tim. 3:12 Jesus likewise asserted “...In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” Jo. 16:33

6 There are also a host of other examples wherein the policies of those who claim to be people driven by faith promote that which is strictly contrary to the fundamental requirements of “the faith.” Scripture is very clear that when God created mankind, He “...created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female, created he them.” Gen. 1:27 The words of “...his anointed...” are clear: “...male and female created he them,...” yet men are determined to try and legislate a transgender state. Some are pressing for laws that make no distinction between male and female and the sports community has literally been “rocked” recently because men are portraying themselves as women and insisting on the right to participate in sports designated for women only. God created men differently than He did women, and thus these “men perceiving themselves as women” still have a decided advantage due directly to the male traits which God specifically gave them.

The message from Psalm 2 must also include religious leaders among “...the rulers...” who “...take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed,...” for they too participate in the denial of God’s Word. Catholicism surely leads the charge in this matter for much of her catechism is based on tradition rather than the pure doctrine of God’s Word. The Catholic regime rightfully boasts that she is the only Church which can trace her roots back to the beginning of the Church Age, but since that is absolutely the truth, she is the only one who can claim Jesus’ indictment against the woman riding the

political beast of Rev. 17. “And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.” Rev. 17:6 This must of necessity refer to the Catholicism because by her own admission and boast, she was the only one there during the dark ages when this martyrdom took place. Not only so, but this infamous woman is said to be “...the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:” Rev. 17:1 The angel which spoke to John then specifically identifies those waters declaring that, “...The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” Rev. 17:15 No other religious entity (woman) throughout the entire globe can boast of the political and religious influence over all nations of the world as that commanded by present day Catholicism. One great problem with that dominion in light of scripture is that her teachings are contrary to Christ and His Word. Catholic doctrine denies Jesus of His rightful place when she claims that salvation comes through Mary and the Church. God’s Word declares emphatically: “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 That Name is Jesus, but Catholic followers are taught that priests can forgive sins when the anointed Word proclaims “...that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins,...” Lk. 5:24 Even the self-righteous Pharisees knew “...Who can forgive sins, but God alone?” Lk. 5:21 Neither are the followers of this religion given instruction on how to be born again, as Jesus informed Nicodemus. “...Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Jo. 3:3

Jesus is likewise robbed of His glory by statements like unto that which Pope Benedict made as quoted in the Kansas City Star on Apr. 21, 2008, when he urged his followers “...to become living stones in that spiritual realm that is the Catholic Church.” Those living stones are found in but one Church and that is The Body of Christ wherein Christ Himself is the Head. Religions around the world deprive Him of that identity, as they “... take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed,...”

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, speaking at an international conference in Islamabad, recently urged “...Western governments to criminalize any insulting remarks against Islam’s

Prophet Muhammad and treat offenders the same way they do those who deny the Holocaust.” (VOANEWS) Such a statement is simply an attempt to place Islam on the same plane as Israel the Chosen People of God, and there is no way such oppression against Islam can be compared with the destruction inflicted on God’s People during the holocaust.

8 Scripture defines Islam, and any other religion which denies Christ, as antichrist. “Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.” I Jo. 2:22 This is exactly the same message as that set forth in Psalm 2. Furthermore, God has challenged all false prophets or “gods” to “Produce your cause, saith the LORD;... Let them bring them forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be,... or declare us things for to come. Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together. Behold, ye are of nothing, and your work of nought: an abomination is he that chooseth you. Isa 41:21-24 This challenge still prevails today for all those who think they can do what God does, but as noted in God’s final analysis, “Behold ye are of nothing....” Those who deny Christ today can in no wise measure up to the above criteria of predicting that which will come and then bring it to pass, but God can, even as His Anointed Word has proclaimed. The following verses from Isaiah are surely an answer to Catholicism and every other false doctrine proclaimed by men today. “For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it;...I am the LORD; and there is none else. I have not spoken in secret,... I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right. Assemble yourselves and come; ...they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save.... who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.” Isa 45:18-22

Present day nations are also becoming very bold in their attempt to claim a place that was long ago promised to Jesus, the Anointed of God. He will rule as “...Lord of lords, and King



of kings:..." in accordance with the above text from Rev. 19. National leaders in today's world have no intention of complying with that decree, for all of them are even at this hour preparing to claim that rule for themselves. Four nations are emerging in that arena, especially taking advantage of the current American Political upheaval and chaos. Both China and Russia have long had aspirations of ruling the world and it seems that they are becoming much more transparent in that endeavor over the past few months and years. China has even given various target dates as to when such a plan would be implemented. Both nations are becoming more aggressive at this time as Russia once again encroaches on Ukraine and is apparently waiting for the U.S. to make any attempt to intervene. China is likewise making her move especially in regard to Taiwan, which has looked to the U.S. as an ally for quite some time. Various "experts" do not seem to have a clue as to how America will respond. North Korea is also flexing its own muscle, and most nations consider this regime as a "loose cannon" and totally unpredictable in using nuclear weapons. Iran likewise is becoming much more bold and belligerent. Thus far, this godless regime is unwilling even to rejoin the nuclear agreements from which the former American Administration had withdrawn. Once again, "many experts" are persuaded that Iran is much closer to obtaining a nuclear weapon than many would like to admit. 9

"Why do the heathen rage..." or "tumultuously assemble" enquires Psalm two, and the answer is that they are gathered together not simply against other nations, but primarily "... against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us." What a picture of this entire tumultuous world, which has ripped asunder God's bands of loving restraint and His cords (chains) of authority over them! The result is total lawlessness which will eventually control this entire planet, and that spirit of antichrist has already begun. These nations have no intention of submitting to the New Regime which will conquer this world, and God's response follows immediately.

"He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision." V. 4 God and His Anointed are at rest on His throne in heaven, with no trace of anxiety or unease due to the efforts of rebellious men. He is undoubtedly laughing at the

puny attempts of men to control the temperature of the world and other elements of the environment which only He can do. He is surely deriding them in scorn for their futile attempts at reforming sinful humanity while ignoring Christ's redemption and the new birth. Such rejection will then be met with much harsher language for, "Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure." V. 5 Sadly, many Christians look upon the second coming of Jesus in fear and dread because they associate it only with judgment. However, all men are to heed the last admonitions of this glorious and informative psalm. "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little..." Psa. 2:12 Some, even among Christians, perceive God as only a God of judgment and punishment, but every believer must be controlled by Divine Love and "Kiss the Son,... with the deepest expression of affection. Paul is our example in this matter declaring that "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." Tim. 4:8 Those who deeply

**10** love Him will not be concerned in the least with coming judgment but will rather, enthusiastically claim the final promise of this Psalm. "Blessed are all they that put their trust in him." The cry of all those who "...love his appearing...." will be crying out in great anticipation, "...Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Rev. 22:20

### ***The End Is Near***

Our redemption draweth nigh.  
Flash the news o'er earth and sky.  
Soon we'll lay our armour by  
At His call, and upward fly.

Soon we'll hear the angels sing.  
Join their song; make heaven ring,  
As we greet our Bridgroom, King,  
Joy cometh in the morning.

Anon

## MARY OF BETHANY

Giuseppe Petrelli

“When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me. For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always. For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial. Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her. Matt. 26:10-13

Jesus had and has enemies. But He also had and has friends, such as no one ever has had nor ever will have. Among those persons tied with devotion to Him, the Gospels record none more tender than Mary of Bethany. To concern ourselves with her during troubled times like these is like traveling through the desert and coming to an oasis for a moment of refreshing and rest. Bethany, which now carries another name in memory of the resurrection of Lazarus, is a village situated on the east slope of the Mount of Olives. Both the village and the mountain are remembered historically for a time of repose granted to Jesus - the Son of Man.

11

The incident we are about to meditate upon happened toward the end of our Lord's life, just after He had set His face to go to Jerusalem. Lk. 9:51-58 While He was on the way, He entered into an inn where quite a different gathering attended Him. Says Luke, the Gospel writer: "And they did not receive Him ..." ..... But Bethany ...

Bethany was for Jesus a sweet and serene stop set against a background which daily was becoming more ominous and hostile. Bethany - it was the only quiet retreat He knew. For the Lord, it provided an atmosphere of friendship to temper the bitterness of the day at Jerusalem.

Bethany. It serves to show us that even Jesus strongly felt the need for human sympathy. In Bethany, "A certain woman named Martha received Him into her house." Lk. 10:38 The art of Scripture in introducing new people is unique. At the beginning of almost every narrative, the principal figures seem to be placed in secondary light. In allowing these two women to pass before us, the Gospel writer presents them here as they were known in Bethany. Martha is the owner of the house and is mentioned first,

since she is actually the hostess; while Mary is given almost a mere incidental mention. Then, as the narrative continues, it is the secondary character who becomes the prominent one. Later, as the plan of impressions is reversed, the one who appeared to be greater (or of most unique importance) hardly is remembered. She is seen then only in reflection to the one who at the beginning seemed to be neglected.

Here, then, is Martha. She is to receive a singular Guest - Jesus of Nazareth. After her, almost in the shadows, and perhaps hardly expressive in motion and word is her sister, who is presented to us simply thus: "Now Martha had a sister called Mary."

12 Martha began the preparations. If we read well in what follows, Mary went after her sister to help; but at a certain point left the preparations which she believed to be sufficient and hurried to seek out the Guest, who had been left alone. As was the disciples' custom, Mary took her place and sat at His feet to hear His words. There are those who have exercised a great influence upon others - not so much for what they have accomplished, but for what they have NOT done or have NOT said - because of their passive work of forgetting themselves.

One of the greatest exercises of our souls is to find someone who understands us. Everyone, as a rule, likes to speak; but there are very few who are prepared to listen. The Son of Man, more than anyone else, strongly desired to be understood - so much so that He defines LIFE ETERNAL as the knowledge one has of Him, and of the Father who has sent Him. Jo. 17:3

Of the two sisters, Martha was intently preoccupied with the Guest's material comfort. And that surely is needed! But the world laid heavy upon His soul. Mary, the second sister, without doing those external things, read upon His forehead those deep cares and His most urgent need - a need immeasurably greater than for food. A few little preparations had been made and Mary believed them to be enough. Then she sat at His feet to listen to His words.

She LISTENED. It is not said she began to discuss, nor that Jesus answered questions. Mary simply listened - "to His words." We would want to know what He said, but that would be useless curiosity. Every soul who wants to sit at those feet to listen will hear all that will be necessary to hear.

Jesus was misunderstood by almost everyone. But now before Him is a friend who, without questioning or discussing, took the place of an attentive listener. To LISTEN is a rare virtue. At times, listening requires that we renounce our own ideas - be emptied of self - in order to receive what others say. Mary was silent. She listened with admiration. On her meditative face could be read, as if reflected in a mirror, the plan of redemption that filled the soul of the Master. More than anything else, Jesus would have us spend more time at His feet listening to Him. "But ..." The Scripture writer warns that a contrast, is before us. "But Martha was cumbered about much serving." Lk. 10:40

We hear a noisy discord now, as the peaceful harmony of that calm scene is disturbed. Passing brusquely about the Master and His disciples is the grating sound of earthly affairs. What Martha was doing, we are not told. Certainly her hurried activity had an immediate relation to the reception of the Guest; but her preparations were beyond the proper measure --- they lacked proper proportion. To give Him a bit of food, was it necessary to turn the house upside down? She did not understand that Jesus would be pleased with just a simple reception. She did not know that elevated natures take only the necessities from the good things of this world. All He needed was a certain comfort for His soul. Then Martha, too, would have gained from His visit.

13

Charitable wisdom knows how to put first things first. What would we say of a mother who, in the fury of a fire, would be concerned about gathering up the household furnishings; but would not seize her baby who before long would be overcome in flames? What we would have admired in her at another time and would cause us to call her a good homemaker, now would make us judge the mother as wrong and cruel.

Jesus needed quietness. Not noise! He longed for sweet communion - rest and friendship - not a lot of food!

At a certain point, Martha forgot the purpose of her own preparations. Impatient and almost angered, she came to Jesus and said to Him, "Lord dost Thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me." What had begun as a reception now was changed to reproof. According to her words, Martha made Jesus responsible for her excessive work! Even a good soul can reach such a place. Involved in too much - in too many services (even for Jesus) - one cannot appreciate

a balanced contemplative life; nor can one then appreciate the communion of others who are with Him. Blessed is the one who knows how to maintain a proper balance.

The Marys of Bethany are not idle. His true disciples are diligent; they properly measure their time. The Lord does not disapprove of work. Work is sacred - even in the most humble things; but anxiety reveals a lack of knowing or understanding what is most immediate and important at every step. We need an intelligent preparation of love to understand what others urgently need most.

Jesus' answer is a warning to all those who, like Martha, are laborious but who have an excessive busyness. "And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

14 Martha was concerned with many things, though life needs so little. It was not necessary, for example, for the dinner to have so many courses as to require the long service of two women. "One thing is needful" before the many things.

Paul, in his old age, wrote: "This one thing I do ..." That is not to say he was not occupied with other things. Rather, his heart and mind were intent on the "one thing," which is to run the race of the high calling which is in Christ Jesus - to be the Bride of Christ (Philippians 3:3,14). All must be subordinated to this supreme purpose. ONE THING - an undivided heart - an inner growing communion with Jesus, to understand Him as Son of God and never to forget Him as Son of Man.

Mary had chosen. We must not excuse ourselves by saying we do not have the temperament. We need the WILL to do it. Mary chose, from among various good things, the ultimate thing. She chose the ONLY THING which is eternal. And the scene closes.

When we hear of the two sisters again, it will be on the occasion of the sickness and resurrection of their brother Lazarus. Now it is not Martha who is placed in the forefront, but Mary. This time, the most contemplative one also is tending to the house. Who knows how the Lord loved to call there! Rather than busying herself as Martha did, Mary gave attention to the Master. Here is how the Gospel writer describes the event: "Then Jesus six days

before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom He raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with Him" - John 12:1,2.

The feast was the occasion of Lazarus' resurrection. But one soul at the feast was not in a festive mood. She neither was able to take part in the banquet --- nor to serve. Mary's spirit was concerned with something quite different.

Feast! Banquet! It seems we hear her say to herself: "Before long He is going to die!"

At a certain point in the festivities, Mary entered in and without saying a word broke an expensive bottle of sweet-smelling genuine perfume, then poured the oil on Jesus' head. The oil perfumed the anointed one. Uniting the Scriptural accounts of the narrative, we read that she did not stop with anointing just His head; but with the remaining oil anointed His feet and dried them with her hair. The house was full of the oil's fragrance. That singular scene could not hardly have attracted attention. The disciples were indignant. They fretted about her, because it seemed so extravagant. That oil (or balsam, as others translate it) could have been sold for a good price, they said, and the money could have been given to the poor.

15

There is always someone who, even if he does not incite a thing, ably carries a multitude by his voice. This time, the one who translates the murmur into open attack is Judas Iscariot. Until now, this one has remained in the shadows. Said Judas: "Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?" Judas was not a friend of the poor!

John, the evangelist, with an exceptional light (as if in parenthesis) adds this of Judas: "He was a thief, and had the bag." For Judas, just a few words from Jesus are enough. Without a reproof, He said: "Let her alone. Against the day of My burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you; but Me ye have not always."

There is a message in this for everyone: "Why trouble ye the woman? For she hath wrought a good work upon Me" (Matthew 26:10). Mary did it. Only she, of all the guests at the banquet, had done a good work. "Why trouble ye the woman?" So many do not know how to do good, and even disturb those who do. "Why trouble ye? ... ye have the poor always with you ..."

When you would, you could do good to the poor. "... but Me ye have not always." Those who love Him always will be benefactors to the poor. "Let her alone: against the day of My burying hath she kept this ..." As if to say, "You are having a feast. You do not know what Lazarus' empty tomb means. Before long a tomb will be open to receive My body. Mary has understood this. She has prepared this sweet smelling ointment. She has done the most she could do. Instead of waiting to embalm My dead body, she has spilled the sweet smelling oil now. She has anticipated My death. Only she has prepared something toward (or against) My death." When had Mary prepared it? Perhaps not long after she had seated herself at His feet. From that moment, she had understood Jesus would go to His death. After the resurrection of her brother Lazarus, with contemplative insight, she understood that the end was imminent for Jesus. She went to the richest seller of perfumes, asked for and purchased the best. Perhaps it was from the time her brother was raised that she began to put money in reserve. Possibly it was all the money she had - all she was able to save. She asked for the best and did not care about the price, though it was a small fortune. Three hundred pence! It is equal to three hundred days of labour for workers of those times! (Anyone who cares to can add up how much that perfume would cost today, at three hundred days of work per labourer.) The most and the best for Jesus!

One day she heard they wanted to have a banquet for Him. She invited not only the disciples, but a few friends as well, since the resurrection of Lazarus - a man who had been dead and buried for four days - was an event which should not be without a feast. When the banquet was set, she smiled sadly and said nothing, but merely excused herself from serving at the banquet. Then, when she saw everyone was at the table and notice that none understood Him - or even sensed His death was imminent - she decided it was better to anoint Him just then. Just while others did not understand - just while they banqueted - she granted her Lord a bit of pleasure on the way to His sacrifice. Let Him be embalmed now. That bottle, with its valuable contents of perfume, is broken now.

Mary's broken container is a picture of her heart broken with devotion and sorrow. And the house was filled with its perfume.



Mary said nothing before she spilled the perfume; she said nothing afterward. Nor is it recorded that she shed any tears. Perhaps her tears were shed before that hour. She had to make a true feast for Him. Her composure had to be serene - as if to express to Him: I must do this now. Courage, Master, before the end of Your mission. It must be this way. Oh, Son of Man, You must finish in just the way You have said.

In Mary of Bethany, there is no carnal pity. No. Her behaviour is far different from Peter's, who said: "Lord, pity Yourself." Silently, she was saying to the Lord that He **MUST** go to the Cross. She understood this so well that she anticipated His embalming. That perfume must have been with Jesus until the end. After His death, others would prepare for His embalming. Not Mary. Others would go to the tomb. Mary did not go. It is not recorded that Mary of Bethany went to the tomb - not even to the Cross! In her great spirit, she was there **BEFORE** the day of His crucifixion.

"Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this Gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her" (Mark 14:9).

17

**THIS** Gospel. That scene, as told, **IS** the Gospel. The Lord did not have a book in His hand when He said those words. **THIS GOSPEL** refers to what He was seeing just then, in Mary of Bethany. What will be told about her causes us to remember her. She remembered the Son of Man on the way to the Cross. And the Son of Man will cause Mary of Bethany to be remembered. He permitted what is recorded of Him to be attached to the record of what she did for Him.

Mary of Bethany is a figure of the Bride of Christ. She who listened long, who secretly prepared perfume and then anointed Him --- while others attended noisy feasts --- cannot be forgotten. Mary of Bethany's story will be tied to that of the Son of Man.

“Translated from IL FIGLIUOLO DELL' UOMO...3rd Ed.

Sent in by one of our Readers”

(Reprint 1980)

\* Life is a like a ladder. Every step we take is either up or down.

\* Be ready for your last moment by being ready every moment.

# REFLECTIONS

*... From the Editor*

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ... To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: ... I have remembrance of thee in my prayers ... Greatly desiring to see thee, ... When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.” II Tim. 1:1-5

Scripture clearly states that God created man as the head of the woman, but He imparted the tremendous power of influence and persuasion to “the weaker vessel.” The implication in Paul’s message to Timothy is that he too was greatly influenced in the faith by both his mother and grandmother despite the fact that his father was a Greek. Acts 16:1

**18** This tremendous power which God has imparted to the woman is most assuredly manifest even from the Garden of Eden, for Eve took of the forbidden fruit “...and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” Gen. 3:6 Adam ate that which was offered him with his eyes wide open, for “... Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.” I Tim. 2:14 Eve simply “persuaded” him and Adam’s defense before God was likewise “...The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.” Gen. 3:12

God created Eve to be an “...help meet...” for Adam, that is, one to “help, aid, or succor” him. However, this God-given influence can be used for both good and evil. King Ahab was one of the most wicked kings in Israel, but the record is very clear that he was greatly influenced by his wife, for he surely did “... sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.” {stirred...: or, incited} I Kings 21:25 Contrariwise, God has used godly women throughout the ages to exercise their God-given power as He intended. Though both of Moses’ parents are commended for their faith in Heb. 11, His mother Jochebed undoubtedly established his identity with Israel, for she was the one who hid him, put him in an ark, placed him

in the river, and was eventually chosen to nurse him in his early years. Thus Moses, "...when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;" Heb 11:24-25

Hannah is another who had tremendous influence on both a godly son and her husband. She had made a vow to surrender Samuel to the Lord but when it came time to fulfill that vow, at least in the eyes of Elkanah, "...Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, ...And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; only the LORD establish his word.... And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her,... and the child was young." I Sam. 1:22-24 It is then said of Samuel, "...And he worshipped the LORD there." V. 28 Hannah's connection is further seen in his life as she "...made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband..." I Sam. 2:19

Sarah was likewise used of God in persuading Abraham to comply with His purpose in the matter of Hagar and Ishmael. She had firmly demanded "...Cast out this bondwoman and her son:..." Gen. 21:10 She was in perfect agreement with God, for He "...said unto Abraham,... in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called." Gen. 21:12

Finally, the virtuous woman of Prov. 31 is a primary example for every godly woman who would righteously employ the influence with which God has endowed her. "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her,... She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life." V. 11-12 "She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens." V. 15 "She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy." V. 20 "She looketh well to the ways of her household, ...Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." V. 27-28

These verses surely indicate that the life of this exemplary woman had a tremendous positive influence on all those with whom she came in contact. That same power must be employed by the godly mothers and wives of today.

## Psalm 23 Continued

Dr. Vicky Moots

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.” Psalm 23

“...thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” V. 4c A shepherd’s staff was a long rod with a crook on one end to lean upon or to use to hook around something, such as a lamb that had fallen into a hole, in order to rescue it. I know personally that my Shepherd has reached down and rescued me many times when I had fallen, and He lifted me back up to continue following Him. The rod portion was used for correction and protection. I think that the rod and the staff were both parts of the same thing which was used for different purposes, depending on which end was in the shepherd’s hand. It was an important piece of equipment that served multiple needs.

Sometimes a shepherd had to discipline, to correct, to teach a stubborn sheep that kept straying by using the rod for the purpose of keeping that sheep safe from harm. The shepherd did this because he loved that sheep and didn’t want anything to happen to it. Our Shepherd also loves us enough to search for us when we stray and to chasten us with His rod to teach us to stay on the right path. “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth...” Heb. 12:6

Wise King Solomon gave the same advice to fathers in Prov. 13:24: “He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes [at times]”. And again in Prov. 29:15, we read concerning the rod of correction: “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame”. We can be comforted by the fact that our Shepherd loves us enough to chasten us with the rod.

So, what do the rod and staff represent spiritually? How does our Shepherd use them to both bring comfort to us and

correction at the same time? The answer is found in II Tim. 3:16: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”. The Word of God is both a rod and a staff, depending on what is needed at the time. As a rod it can correct us and teach us wisdom. Then it instructs us in the way of righteousness, and thereby works in our lives to perfect us (to bring us to maturity) that we may bring glory and not shame to God, that our actions will be pleasing in His sight.

Jesus, Himself, is the living Word, and we can lean upon Him, upon His breast, as a place of comfort and love, even as John, the beloved disciple did in John 13:23: “Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved”. In Song of Solomon 8:5 we see a picture of the bride leaning upon Christ the Bridegroom: “Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved...”. Whether we have just come through our wilderness experience of trials or the valley of the shadows, He will comfort us as we lean upon Him.

In addition to finding comfort by leaning upon Him, we can also lean upon Him (the Word) when we are weary and too weak to stand. He is able to keep us from falling by leaning upon Him and His Word instead of upon our own strength or understanding. Jude assures us regarding this in verse 24 of his short epistle. This verse is actually a benediction: “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy”. How does He keep us from falling? Through the staff of the Word of God as we lean upon it. How does He present us faultless before God? By applying the rod of correction, the Word of God, to let us know when we are headed in the wrong direction. His Word cleanses us from all unrighteousness and declares us righteous in Christ, and we can safely lean upon it.

All these things are accomplished in our lives as we allow our Shepherd to apply the Word to us personally in order to correct us, and to instruct us, and to thereby perfect His will in us. Truly, His Word, the rod and staff, will comfort us in all situations, as we read it and trust in it.

Another important function of the rod and staff is for the protection of the sheep. A shepherd could use it to fight off wolves

or other wild animals that might attack the sheep. The Word of God is our weapon, our defense against our enemy, Satan. Jesus, Himself, used the Word as a weapon against Satan when He was tempted by him in the wilderness after fasting for forty days before He began His ministry. Jesus specifically told Satan, "It is written..." Matt. 4:4 He then quoted other Scriptures to Satan in order to overcome him.

Paul also tells us in Eph. 6:17 that our weapon in spiritual warfare against Satan is the Word of God: "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God". Our words will not stop Satan's attacks and his lies but the Word of God will. We do not have the ability to rebuke Satan in our own power when he attacks us with fear and doubt and lies. It takes the power of the Word of God to do that.

22 The Word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any twoedged sword (Heb. 4:12). If Satan is attacking you, then get out your Bible and start reading it out loud so Satan can hear you. Also, when you hear the Word audibly it builds your faith, for the Scripture says, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God". (Rom. 10:17). Hearing the Word of God teaches us to trust the Shepherd as we hear His voice and to follow His leading. His Word, the rod and staff, brings us comfort, protection and correction as we journey through our valley. Through the Word, our Shepherd will bring us safely to the other side as we lean upon Him.

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies..." Psa. 23:5 That seems like a strange thing for God to do: prepare a table and to tell us to sit down and eat when we are surrounded by our enemies. But if we are going to be going into battle, we need strength to fight or we will faint. We need to feed upon the Word of God in order to have the strength to overcome Satan.

God provided a table in the presence of the enemies of the prophet Elijah in I Kings 19:1-8. Elijah was running from Jezebel, who sought to kill him. He became discouraged because of this, and fearful, and even asked the Lord to take his life. He fell asleep in the wilderness under a juniper tree and was awakened by an angel. In verses 5-6 we read: "...an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And

he did eat and drink, and laid him down again". I imagine he thought he was dreaming. Perhaps this was the first "angel food cake", or where the name came from. Verses 7-8: "And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights..."

The number forty in Scripture speaks of the completeness, or full measure, of testing. The Lord knew exactly how long His trial would last both physically and spiritually, and He provided sufficient food for strength for the battle He would face. The Lord is also faithful to provide something from His Word, exactly what we need, that will encourage us and strengthen us when we go through our trials.

He wants us to arise, wake up out of sleep, and to eat. We must partake of His Word daily and whenever we feel weak or discouraged. Reading self-help books or something like "easy steps to overcoming" is not sufficient. There is no substitute for the nutritious banquet He has provided for us in the inspired Word of God. We need the "Word of His grace" to build us up, so we must feast at the table that the Lord has provided for us. Sometimes we even need to take a second helping, as Elijah was told to do! 23

There is another example given in the Old Testament in which God provided the necessary food for strength for the battle in the presence of enemies. This is found in I Sam. 14:24-29. The people of Israel had gone to battle against the Philistines, but King Saul had commanded them to not eat anything at all until evening, until he was avenged of his enemies. As a result, the people in the army had become very weak and faint. Verse 25 says: "And all they of the land came to a wood; and there was honey upon the ground". None of the people ate it because they were afraid of the King's command. But Jonathan, the King's son, had not heard about his father's oath and so "...he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened" (v. 27). After they told him about the command he said, "...My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey" (v. 29). Honey represents the Word of God. We read in Psa. 119:103: "How

sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”. Just as the honey enlightened Jonathan’s eyes so that he could see and think clearly, so the Word of God enlightens our minds and hearts and enables us to see clearly who our enemy is, and to see the Lord, who is leading us. Satan disguises himself as a wolf in sheep’s clothing and tries to seduce us to go down the wrong path. Many churches today have become places of entertainment instead of true worship. They try to make you feel good with the music and the social gospel they preach but they provide no food for the soul. The sincere milk of the Word of God has been watered down by man’s ideas and so the sermon is void of spiritual nutrition. No real food is actually being served at their table.

24 But if we are following our Shepherd, he will prepare us a table that is filled with exactly what we need to strengthen us for battle. God does not remove our enemies. Instead, He provided the strength to overcome as we partake of the food that He has prepared for us. We will be able to go on in the strength of that meat for “forty days” or until our trial is complete and the victory has been won.

Even Jesus, shortly before He was arrested and crucified (the same night) had a table prepared for Him in order to strengthen Him for what lay ahead. He sat down with His disciples to eat His last Passover meal, which we now call the Last Supper. At that table, He was in the presence of His enemy, for Satan had entered into Judas who would soon betray Him. They all partook of the Passover lamb together as a remembrance feast of that first Passover lamb that had to be slain by each household of the children of Israel when they were in bondage in Egypt in order that the blood could be applied to the doorposts so that the death angel would pass over their house that night, and their firstborn would escape death. Then they roasted the lamb and ate it so that they would have the strength to leave Egypt that night when Pharaoh finally let them go.

Jesus then explained to His disciples while they were eating, as He took the wine and the bread that it represented the new covenant in His own blood and His body that was broken just like the bread, and given for them, and that they were to all to partake of it in remembrance of Him. Even then, they did not understand that He was soon to be sacrificed, to shed His blood,



just like that first Passover lamb.

Why would Jesus, the Son of God, need to eat the Passover meal before going to the cross? It was because He was also a man and needed strengthening for what He would soon face. When He partook of the lamb that had been prepared, it was to strengthen Him to be able to be in full agreement with His Father's will, to die on the cross as the Lamb of God that would take away the sin of the world, and to become sin for us to finish the work that He was sent to this earth to do. He was also identifying with the lamb that they were eating, knowing that it represented Him.

Shortly after supper, Jesus took His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. He left them and went on further to commune with His Father privately, and there He prayed in agony alone, to let the cup pass from Him if at all possible. After the third time of intercession, Jesus said to His Father, "Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done". Immediately after rejoining His disciples, the soldiers came to arrest Him, and Judas betrayed Him with a kiss. But Jesus went with them willingly to do the Father's will. He had won the victory in the Garden, for He had been strengthened by the table that was prepared for Him.

Each of the disciples was also in need of strengthening by partaking of the Passover lamb and the life and blood of Jesus symbolically at that table to prepare them for the battle they didn't even know they would soon be facing. After Jesus was arrested, they would be in fear of their own lives too. They did not yet know the victory of the resurrection. Even Judas was given an opportunity to partake of the wine and the bread at that table as Jesus passed it around. Did the disciples have to be worthy to partake of the Passover meal? No! It was the lamb that had to be worthy. The Lamb had to be perfect, without blemish or spot. None of us are worthy of that sacrifice that Jesus made for us but His blood makes us worthy. As Christians we do not observe Passover. Instead, we partake of communion in remembrance of the Lord's death, but also to celebrate His resurrection and second coming. This was explained to us by the apostle Paul in I Cor. 11:23-26 as it had been revealed to him: "For I have received of the Lord that which I also delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying,

This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lords death till he come". This is not only to show his death because it says, "till He come". He could not be coming back for us if He had not risen from the dead. Each time we partake of communion we remember not only that He died for us but that we live because He lives and that He is coming back.

We are strengthened as we feed upon the Bread of Life that was broken for us. Everyday we face our spiritual enemy, Satan, so we must also feast on the Bread everyday by reading the scripture, thus eating from our table that our Shepherd has prepared for us in the presence of our enemies.

(To Be Continued)

## A Christian Mother

26

What can I say about Mother,  
That hasn't already been said,  
How can I tell, like no other  
The way through my life she has led?  
Singing God's praises whilst dusting,  
Blessing His Name, making tea,  
Reading His Word; ever trusting  
Jesus, to help her with me.

Now, though my childhood is finished  
I still remember the things  
That she has taught, undiminished,  
And, in my heart, she still sings.  
What can I say about Mother,  
A trophy that Jesus has won;  
Perhaps I can show to another  
The things she has taught to her son.

-- Frank Roberts

## *The Call For A Virtuous Woman*

Paul N. Smith

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies ... She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all." Prov. 31

Godly mothers are honored in the Bible as they fulfilled God's purpose. When God saw Adam's need for a helpmate, He built one especially for the man, and Adam was well pleased. There can never be a suitable substitute for a wife and mother, and when this woman is a Godly woman, her value increases many fold. There is a lot of evidence which proves a mother's worth in a home is invaluable, and her influence necessary.

The feminist movement has done more to tear down the family structure than any other force. These advocates picture a wife/mother career as something akin to slavery. They call for the liberation of all women, whatever that means, but in reality these "liberated" women become slaves to a certain life-style, and walk to a definite tune. 27

A truly liberated woman is one who follows the path God has chosen for her. She will be fulfilled, knowing that she has a husband who will love and care for her. A husband will have much more self-confidence when he knows that his wife holds him as her head and provider. Her joy will be unbounded when her children tell her how glad they are that she loved them, corrected them, and sacrificed for their well-being.

The spiritual application of this virtuous woman is the Bride of Christ. What is said of a wife and mother who obeys her calling and receives the benefits, is typical of the wife of the Lamb. She is satisfied to follow her Husband, not depending on any other head, and seeks to help her "children" -- all those her life will touch and bless. This is real! Jesus Christ is blessed by those who follow Him in this way and depend upon Him for guidance and protection.

Attempts have been made to fix a monetary value to all a wife and mother does in the home. If each daily task were done

by a hired professional, it would take a wealthy man to afford it. I've witnessed mothers who have taken pride in being a "homemaker" and they are contented and feel fulfilled as a person and a woman.

There are some mothers, who for one reason or another, find themselves sole providers for their family. My own mother was left a widow with four children and I was "on the way." It was a struggle, but God gives added strength to such mothers. She would not have made it without the help of the church and Christian friends. The mothers who are forced to fill the role of both mother and father, as well as provider, deserve special honor, and to them, God is able to make all grace abound.

**GOD BLESS GODLY MOTHERS!**

(Reprint 2001)

## **My Mother's Bible**

My Mother's Bible -- cover frayed,  
Some pages torn, some others loose;  
Her constant help, unfailing aid --  
Worn not with age, but daily use.  
This book twicfold is dear to me.  
Words she marked, voiced by her Lord  
I hear each speak when these I see;  
His words that she had underscored.  
Endorsed, His Message comes to me  
By one who lived it day by day;  
Important parts marked carefully  
To guide me safely on my way.

Author Unknown

## **The Crowd May Be Wrong**

Anon

Adam Thompson of Cincinnati, Ohio, filled the first bathtub in the United States during the year 1842. Doctors predicted rheumatism and inflammation of the lungs from such a newfangled idea. A ban on bathtub exercise was published by Philadelphia from November 1 to March 1. Providence and Hartford set up extra heavy water rates. All these facts are right out of the records. The crowd was wrong!

In 1896, England still had a law prohibiting any power-driven vehicle from traveling over four miles an hour on the public highways. Furthermore, it required that such a vehicle should be preceded by a man bearing a red flag. The crowd was wrong once more!

Samuel Morse had adverse criticism from the press and Congress. But today the click of the telegraph is heard the world over. Wrong was the crowd!

Alexander Bell was called a fool in Philadelphia when he exhibited his telephone at the Centennial Exposition. Today, however, we talk around the world over his invention. Once more the crowd was wrong!

McCormick's first reaper was derided the country over as a cross between an Astley chariot, a wheelbarrow, and a flying machine. McCormick was right; the crowd was wrong!

When Westinghouse proposed to stop a railroad train with wind (the Westinghouse Air Brakes), he also was called a fool. The crowd was wrong; he was right.

Goodyear was "booed" by everyone but his wife as he worked for eleven years on vulcanizing rubber. Today we use his invention. Again the crowd was wrong.

Jenner, who discovered vaccination, was jeered at. Some serious-minded men went so far as to say that all the animal diseases would be transferred to the human race. Horns had actually grown out on the foreheads of innocent people, some said. Yet Jenner eliminated the smallpox

scourge by using his vaccine. The majority was mistaken!

Robert Fulton had only words of discouragement from the crowd as they watched him work on his steamboat. They derided it as "Fulton's Folly." Today steamboats cross the seas. Mistaken was the majority!

Madame Curie sorted through tons and tons of waste material in search of radium. The crowd laughingly asked, "What is radium?" Today, it is a valuable asset in fighting disease. The crowd was mistaken!

Did you ever think that the majority may be wrong about their attitude toward Christ? Did you ever think that you are part of the crowd that is ignoring the rights that Christ has on your life? Are you sure that the smart crowd is right in their attitude toward Jesus and His salvation?

The crowd, as a whole, is ignoring Jesus Christ. Do you believe that they are right in doing so? If no, why are you forming part of that crowd?

30 Think a moment. Tell me frankly --- what better One is there to follow than Christ? What better person is there than He who was to be called "Jesus," because He would "save His people from their sins"? Is there a better invitation than His? His invitation states: "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28 Is there a simpler formula for any plan than Christ's, which reads: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" - John 3:16.

Why the follow the ungodly crowd? The crowd as a whole is wrong. Will you not be a Christian and join the crowd that is not wrong but who knows the Truth, and the Truth has made them free? John 8:32.

(Reprint 1978)

\* Never forget that you are a part of the people who can be fooled some of the time.

\* The best way to succeed in life is to act on the advice you give to others.

**THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS  
THE KEY EVENT IN HISTORY,  
ATTRACTED ALMOST NO ATTENTION AT THE TIME**

One of the crucial events in human history, the crucifixion of a Jewish prophet and teacher named Jesus, is one of the most difficult Biblical events to document outside the Bible.

In recent years archeologists have made many discoveries in the Bible lands of the Middle East which corroborate to an astonishing extent many of the Old Testament stories.

A book about these findings, "The Bible as History" by a German journalist named Werner Keller, lists event after event in the time of David and later kings of Judah and Israel which were taken to be fairy tales but which have been backed up by archeological diggings in Palestine and Mesopotamia.

But this has not proved to be the case concerning the events of the life of Jesus.

Our best authorities on that subject remain the four Gospels of the New Testament and the letters of the Apostle Paul in which he talks of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

31

Why is this? Perhaps the best answer is given in a book, "The History of Israel," by a German historian, Professor Martin Noth.

Noth writes, "World history at the time took no notice of Him (Jesus). For one short moment His appearance stirred men's minds in Jerusalem; then it became an episode in past history, and people had to concern themselves with what seemed more important things. Yet this was a final and decisive crisis in the history of Israel. It was only when the numbers of His followers made them a force to be reckoned with in terms of world history that His Name began to be mentioned at all."

In his book, Journalist Keller lists three passages in ancient history relating to Jesus.

The Jewish historian Josephus, who lived at the time of Jesus, referred in his "Antiquities of the Jews" to the early Christian community in Jerusalem. He spoke of "Jesus who was called Messiah."

Tacitus, the great Roman historian, mentioned Jesus specifically in his "Annals" while explaining the meaning of the word "Christians:" Christ, from Whom they derived their name,

was condemned to death by the procurator Pontius Pilate in the reign of the Emperor Tiberius."

Another Roman writer Suetonius, in his book "The Twelve Caesars," describes a Messianic movement during the reign of Claudius who was Roman emperor from A.D. 41 to 54. He wrote, "He drove the Jews out of Rome who were writing because of Christus." This indicates that, within fifteen to twenty years after the crucifixion of Jesus, there was a Christian community already in Rome.

### Sites Marked

As to sites of these events in and around Jerusalem, much is owed to the efforts made by the Roman Emperor Constantine and his mother Helena. After Constantine was converted to Christianity in 313 A.D., he made Christianity the official religion of the Roman empire.

32 The Empress Helen made a trip to the Holy Land and marked the various sites, such as Calvary, the Via Dolorosa along which Jesus carried the Cross, the Ecce Homo arch where Pontius Pilate told the rioting crowds, where Jesus was believed to have been buried. Constantine had a magnificent sepulchral tower erected in 326 A.D. over this tomb.

Biblical scholars have been more successful in recreating the details of the crucifixion itself. Here is an explanation in Keller's book:

"And it was the third hour, and they crucified Him." Mk. 15:25 According to our division of time, the 'third hour' in the ancient East is 9 A.M. 'And at the ninth hour', in our reckoning is three o'clock in the afternoon, when the tragedy came to an end. 'Jesus cried with a loud voice ... and gave up the ghost.' Mk. 15:34-37.

"What was the cause of Jesus' death? Of recent years, scientific investigations carried out by medical specialists in Cologne have attempted to answer the question.

"In the case of a person suspended by his two hands the blood sinks very quickly into the lower half of the body. After six to twelve minutes blood pressure has dropped by fifty per cent, and the pulse rate has doubled. Too little blood reaches the heart, and fainting ensues.

"This leads to a speedy orthostatic collapse through



insufficient blood circulating to the brain and the heart. Death by crucifixion is, therefore, due to heart failure." It is a well-authenticated fact, that victims of crucifixion did not usually die for two days or even longer. On the vertical beam there was often a small support attached called a 'sedile' (seat) or a 'cornu' (horn). "If the victim hanging there eased supporting himself on this, the blood returned to the upper half of his body and the faintness passed. When the torture of the crucified man was finally to be brought to an end, the 'crurifragium' followed: his legs were broken below the knee with blows from a club. That meant that he could no longer ease his weight on the footrests, and heart failure quickly followed.

### 'Crurifragium'

Jesus was spared the 'crurifragium.' "Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that He was dead already, they brake not His legs." Jo. 19:32,33.

The Jews had asked Pilate for the 'crurifragium', for it was the day before the Sabbath and also the day of preparation for the Passover. According to Jewish law, the bodies of victims after crucifixion were not allowed to remain hanging overnight. Deut. 21:23

At 6 P.M. the Sabbath of Passover week began, when all kinds of normal activity were forbidden. The imminence of this important festival explains the precipitate haste of the events that preceded it: the arrest by night, the condemnation, the execution and burial of Jesus all within a few hours," explains Keller.

It is easy to understand why almost no one present, at such a hurried and not too unusual an affair in those strife-ridden days, would have imagined that this was an event which would shape all history to come.

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*New strength for new burdens,  
new courage for old;  
New faith for whatever the day may unfold.  
As fresh for each need as the dew on the sod;  
New every morning are the mercies of God.*

*Eula Young*

## *Our Father's Care*

"Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." Isa 49:15

God has put before us in the above citation the greatest love manifested in earthly relationships—that of a mother for her child. He had created this love more irrefragable than any other. It is here shown as the figure of His love for His children, The mother holds her newborn babe to her breast, so dependent upon her for everything, with greatest tenderness. She must sustain that infant's life, care for it every minute of the day and night. With a compassion which no words can describe, she yearns over that bundle of weakness. It is hers. She never forgets it. In sickness and health, she serves her babe. Whole nights she waits upon it, losing sleep, strength and flesh to nurture that frail little creature, tho' it does not respond to, nor appreciate her wonderful love in the very least. It is worth nothing and may be nothing to others; but to her it is the dearest object on earth. She never tires of her charge.

34 The Lord does not compare His love for His child to the callous, debased woman on earth who may neglect, forget and forsake her offspring, as has occasionally been the case. It would be a little thing for His love to exceed such callousness. It is mother-love at its purest and best to which He refers. It is far more possible for even that irrefragable tie to be broken and the most tender loving mother that the earth has ever witnessed to abandon her infant, than for Jehovah to forget Zion the city of His love, or for our Father in Christ to forget, even the feeblest of those little ones that believe on His Son. They have derived their true life from Him and He cannot forsake His Own.

For see, that Mighty Hand is tightly closed over something as if it held a treasure too precious to be exposed to mortal vision; but He opens it and lo, there we are held in that invincible Hand, our names engraved upon the palms, actually cut into HIS OWN HANDS! Consider this statement carefully. Who is able to pluck us out from thence? Who can erase that engraving? It reminds us of John 10:27, where we read, "My sheep hear My voice and I know them and they follow Me. And I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish; neither shall any pluck them out of My hand. My Father which gave them to Me is greater than all and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's Hand. I and My Father are one." Let us ask our heavenly Father to strengthen our shamefully weak faith in His boundless love and infinite grace.



# Our Corn Crib

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

## Tracts

A Problem, Solution & Triumph	Freedom	Pauline Sanctification
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A Growing Relationship	Gospel Records	Predestination
Caught up with Paul	Gospels, Acts & Epistles	Preparation of the Bride
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Chaste Virgin	How to Receive Holy Spirit	Resume of What we Teach
Comfort in Time of Sorrow	It is Finished	Salvation for the Body
Death, Hell & Lake of Fire	Jesus Heals Today	Scriptural Terms Defined
Destiny of the Wicked	Judgement Seat of Christ	Words on Eternal Security
Diamonds in the Rough	Law or Grace	The Adams Case
Dying Daily	Life Everlasting	The Two Adams
Earnest but Wrong	Light on the Law	The Sin Offering
Eternal Life	Living Ones	The Unforgiven Sin
Extra! Extra!	Made Sin for Us	This is That
Faith	Man Child- Rev. 12	Times of the Gentiles
Fear of the Lord	Mercy or Judgement	Tithing
First Day of the Week	New Birth	Water Baptism
Five Much Mores	Not Legislation, Revelation	Wheat and Tares
Five Consequences	Oneness of Christ	Why am I Not Healed

## Books of the Bible

Genesis	Esther	Luke	1, 2 Thessalonians
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Leviticus	Ecclesiastes	The Acts	Philemon
Numbers	Song of Solomon-A.S.Copley	Romans	Hebrews, James, Titus
Joshua	Paul's Gospel in S.O.S.-A.Mooneyhan	1, 2 Corinthians	2nd John
Judges	Isaiah	Galatians	Jude
Ruth	Prophets-Joel, Nahum, Hab, Malachi	Ephesians	Revelation
1, 2 Samuel	Zechariah	Philippians	
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