

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the  
whole counsel of GOD

Vol. 112

August 2022

Num. 8

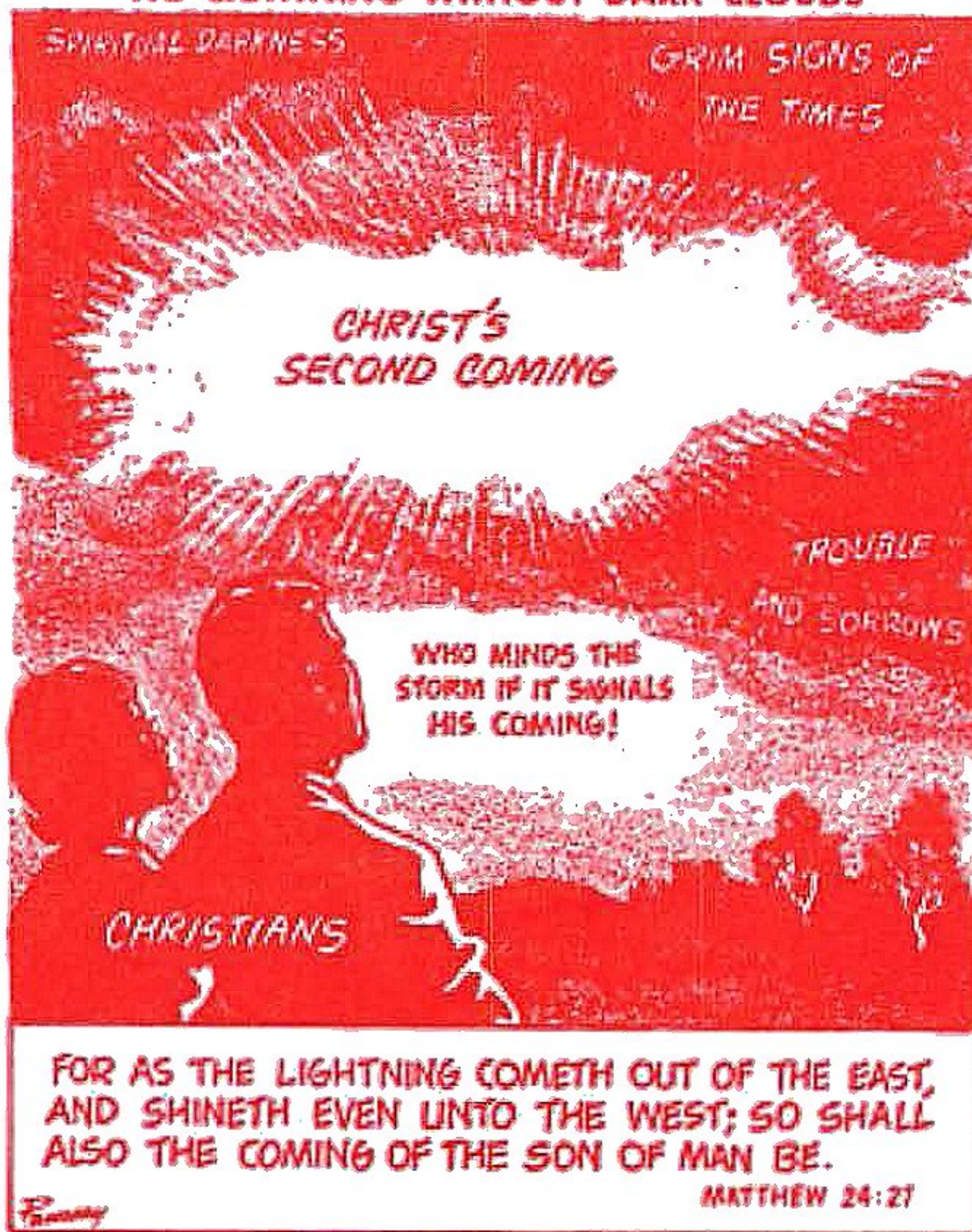


**Y**ea, thou in  
Judith:  
for I shall yet  
praise him, who  
is the health of  
my countenance,  
and my God.  
PSALM 43:11

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### NO LIGHTNING WITHOUT DARK CLOUDS



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

PERIODICALS postage is paid at Grandview, Missouri.

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

Telephone: 816-618-3306. E-mail [gjhawk1@msn.com](mailto:gjhawk1@msn.com) Print Shop # 816-322-2257

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

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

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

Editor: Gene Hawkins

# Definite Sign Posts Of The End

Gene Hawkins

“...**B**lessed be the name of God:...he removeth  
...**B**kings, and setteth up kings:...” Dan. 2:20-21

Leadership is paramount to the trajectory of this world. It always has been so, even from the time that God committed world government into the hands of the Gentiles in 606 B.C. The above text asserts that God “...setteth up kings,...” but men must also realize that those who reign are not always **God’s CHOICE**. That fact is clearly illustrated by Israel’s choice of Saul, the first king in Israel. When the elders of that nation came to Samuel, demanding one, he issued a solemn warning in regard to the things that would be demanded of them, and then prophesied that “....ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye **shall have chosen you;...**” I Sam. 8:18 The prophet would later declare upon Saul’s removal that “...the **LORD** hath sought him a man after **his own heart,...**” I Sam. 13:14 That worthy man was of course, David. God’s choice had always been David, but He simply gave Israel exactly what they wanted at the time then present. According to Hosea, that same scenario was repeated a number of times in Israel’s history and it is surely manifest in nations around the world at this present time. Not every king can at this hour be designated as being “chosen by God” but He has most assuredly set such men up as rulers, whom He will move around as chess pieces to complete His Own Purposes. 3

Scripture is also very clear that this same pattern will prevail when the man of sin comes to power. John is emphatic in describing Jesus as The Judge Who declared plainly “...behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; **and have the keys of hell and of death.**” Rev 1:18 However those same keys are found in the hand of Satan **after** he is cast out of heaven, for John “...saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit,... And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth:...” Rev. 9:1-3 The antichrist must of necessity be a part of that smoke and locusts because, “The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and **shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition:...**” Rev. 17:8 That “...

beast..." is none other than the man of sin who will be raised from the dead to begin his 1260 day reign of terror. Thus, the choice of the antichrist is that of Satan rather than God. Still, God is greater than all, for scripture is very clear that Jesus will wrest those same keys from His arch enemy since He is the "...angel come down from heaven, **having the key of the bottomless pit** and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, ...And cast him into the bottomless pit,... that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled:..." Rev. 20:1-3 The glorious news for all those who love Jesus' soon appearing is that regardless of the liberty which God has temporarily bequeathed to the nations He still exercises power over them Isaiah very poetically conveys. "Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance:... All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity." Isaiah further explains God's control, proclaiming that He "...bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity." Isa. 40:23

4 God's assault against these nations begins with a series of questions as they are asked, "Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?" Isa. 40:12-14 God at this point defines all nations as just "...**a drop of a bucket,...**" in comparison with Himself but again asks more questions. "Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?" Isa. 40:21

The essence of all these questions is that all nations must give account for their assessment of God and His creation. Paul concludes that all men are without excuse in obtaining the knowledge of God, "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"

Rom. 1:19-20 The reason that so many powers around the globe today insist on eliminating God's account of creation is because they falsely assume that if they can get rid of the "evidence" they can justify the idea that there is no God.

The answer to all these queries for the nations is; "It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:" Isa. 40:22 God is Sovereign in His creation, yet men still try to find excuses to deny it. One of the greatest is the assumption of some that, "scripture teaches the earth is only six thousand years old." The fact is that such a teaching is NOT found in God's Word. Paul plainly asserts that "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that **things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.**" Heb. 11:3 This declaration simply means that God took NOTHING "...things which do not appear," and made something "...things which are seen..." out of it. Genesis 1:1 confirms that account. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." However, a decided change takes place in V. 2. "And the earth was without form, and void;..." 5 It is an absolute certainty that God did not create it that way, for His creation always has a purpose. Furthermore, this same verse declares that "...the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Genesis 1:9 also confirms that both water and land were present BEFORE God began the six days of creation described in these opening chapters of Genesis. "And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so." The point is that God did not create "something out of nothing" at this point because both the waters and the earth are already in existence. The question is, "how long had the land been under these waters? None can answer that question, but God's facts confirm that the earth is most assuredly more than 6,000 years old, and could be measured in the millions or billions as suggested by science. Thus, man's excuse of questioning time is removed.

God also asks these nations "To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?" Isa. 40:18 The answer is idolatry, for "The workman melteth a graven image,..." Isa. 40:19 Simply stated, idolatry is attributing to others what only God can do. Aaron beautifully illustrates it by

his declaration after he had fashioned a golden calf in Exodus 32. "...These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." Today idolatrous nations still insist that they can do what only God can accomplish, but as noted also in Isaiah, God will challenge them to prove their abilities in order that they may be likened unto Him. "Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons,.. Let them bring them forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, ... and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come. Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods:..." Isa 41:21-23

6 It seems that some world leaders are trying to answer that challenge at this present time. Some have assured their followers that they will eliminate fossil fuels by a certain date in order to ensure that planet earth is not destroyed by global warming. Some media pundits have actually labeled global warming as being "a religion" to its proponents and their attitude does have those characteristics because such idolatry surely attributes to others an ability that only God can claim. Nations such as China and Russia have also assured the world of "...things that are to come..." insinuating that, by certain dates they would be able to take over the world. No nation on earth can actually "Shew the things that are to come hereafter..." for again only God is able to declare the status recorded by Isaiah. "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:" Isa. 46:10

Psalm 2 presents a beautiful summation of Isaiah's discourse, first asking the question, "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?" Psa. 2:1 The heathen refers to the nations who are at this present hour "raging," or being "tumultuous." The American College dictionary defines it as meaning "noisy, disorderly, confused, violently agitated," all of which graphically describe the national chaotic atmosphere around this entire world. The "...people..." are the Jews who have imagined "...a vain thing,..." that is, of peace being delivered through the promise of the aforementioned antichrist. The nations are again addressed, as "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed,..." V. 2 One key word here is "...counsel..."

Isaiah had asked the question, "Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him?" Now it is asserted that these nations are bringing forth their own counsel but it is **"...against the LORD, and against his anointed,..."**

National counsels confronting Christians today after this manner are legion, even as Paul warned Timothy concerning the perilous times of these last days, "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away... Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.... so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate (unapproved, worthless, rejected) concerning the faith." II Tim. 3:5-8 The doctrine of "global warming" is prevalent among current counsels, but many other messages which are directly contradictory to the very principles and core of God's Word or "...the faith," must be added to it. These ungodly men literally promote legalizing same sex marriage and relationships which God had pronounced an abomination. Cohabitation outside the confines of marriage is deemed fornication by God's Word, but the practice is rampant among the nations. Taking the lives of innocent children has been put front and center in America since the Supreme Court of the U.S. reversed "Roe V. Wade," and men insist on unrestricted abortion on demand. It is appalling that some Christians at times try to justify this practice using natural reasoning and circumstance. Over the last number of years, some have even justified their opinions, declaring that "God performs abortions," which indeed He does. However, God can do many things from which men are cautioned to abstain. He is a God of wrath and declares emphatically, "...Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Rom. 12:19 However, the first part of this same verse states plainly "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath,..." (God's wrath) teaching us once again not to interfere in business which belongs only to Him.

Rebellion pervades society everywhere and government polices promote it due to the fact that wickedness is not prosecuted as it should be. It was appalling to see the images on T.V. of young children in diapers actually accosting police, lashing out at them with their tiny hands and uttering revolting words which should never be heard by a two year old, let alone repeated. The transgender doctrine has just recently become dominant but has created tremendous problems in regard to fairness and equity.

Still it is aggressively pursued. These are but a few of the lessons taught by a society whose teachings are diametrically "...against the LORD and against his anointed,..." and though God's people can in no wise turn the tide, it is imperative that they follow Paul's counsel and "...from such turn away..." meaning that they cannot embrace and practice such policies though they be promoted by the government.

8 The attitude of these rebellious kings is next revealed in this Psalm as they cry out, "Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us." V. 3 Rebellion against God is the underlying motive couched deep in the hearts of these ungodly nations who are trying desperately to replace Him with their own counsel and actions. That will in no wise succeed and God's response is one of great and enjoyable levity. "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision." V. 4 This is the same Grand Personage "...that sitteth upon the circle of the earth,..." as reported by Isaiah. The term indicates absolute Sovereignty, again conveying the message that "...the nations are as a drop of a bucket,..." and God is in no wise threatened or endangered by them. This should serve to bring forth great encouragement to God's people, especially those who are truly looking for Jesus' soon appearing. Most nations around the globe are bringing great hardship on their citizens, due in great part to the horrendous counsel and policies being implemented to accomplish their own ungodly goals and agendas. It is imperative to remember that God is surely greater than all and He will most assuredly minister to His Own both in their spiritual prosperity and their physical well being. It is, therefore, imperative that those who are indeed walking by faith both embrace and practice God's counsel and principles in their own lives. The ungodly counsel outlined above will eventually come to nought, but present day life must continue, and as noted above, even the spiritual of this world will not be able to stop it. Scripture does, however, command that the faithful simply stand their ground at this present hour. Paul explained the process when he wrote to the heavenly minded Ephesians. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord,... Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **stand** against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, ... Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **withstand**



**in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand** therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,..” Eph 6:10-14

Standing in faith is the order of the day for the overcomer, but the next verse of this Psalm bespeaks the fact that God is not done yet. “Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.” V. 5-6 A glorious day is just on the horizon when all these rebellious nations will receive their due from the Hand of God, during the tribulation which will be consummated by the battle of Armageddon. However, God’s doctrine of replacement comes to the fore once again, because King Jesus will now fully occupy all the kingdoms vacated by these nations. The disciples asked Jesus just prior to His ascension into heaven, “...wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” Acts 1:6 Given all the signs of our day, that time could well come to pass at any moment. So despite the hardship endured by so many at this present time, our hearts absolutely must embrace Jesus’ Own Promise, “Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.” Rev. 22:7

***Rise, Cherubim, Rise***

9

Spread your wings, catch the wind of the Spirit

Move in the power of an endless turning life

Join your wings in the new creation

Wheels a turning, hearts a burning, with His fire, God’s Holy fire

Burning high, burning high, burning higher, burning higher

Oh Cherubim, full of eyes

Far seeing, believing and heeding

Feel the rain --- join in the rainbow of His love

Lift your voice in adoration

Spirit leading, moving, fulfilling His Will

Hear His --- rustling wings announce His coming

Time --- time is come

To rise above the rebellion

And take your place in Holy union with the Bridegroom

Approach the sanctuary --- make your way to the throne

God reigns --- God reigns and hath need of thee

Spread your wings --- cover over the mercy seat

Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy --- Cry Holy, Holy, Holy

(Based on Ezek. 1, Isa.6, Psa. 99, & Rev. 4)

Lois Pieper

## *Life Of Faith*

Carson Richards

“**B**ehold...the just shall live by his faith.” Hab. 2:4,  
Rom.1:17, Gal. 3:11 and Hebrews 10 :38.

The Just shall live by faith, simply a few words but they have great meaning. This is a scripture which everyone who is born again needs, and to understand it we must have it in our hearts and grasp it. It is mentioned four times in scripture and, therefore, it must be important as God does not repeat Himself for nothing.

10 These words are found once in the Old Testament and three times in the New. Habakkuk reveals that the time of the prophecy coincides with the judgment upon this earth. He saw the judgment and did not want to be here. We better be glad we are going to be translated and get out before it is poured out. God always gives a warning, a little insight to what is coming, and today we have an insight of what is coming. Habakkuk saw the end of the age, the end of man's, day, the end of man's rule. There will be a full culmination of the evil which will center in one man, the antichrist. If man's soul is lifted up and he does not know God, it will not stand upright before God. It will take a terrific shaking to make man yield to God. The just shall live by his faith, by God's faith, by the faith that God gives him, and it becomes ours. Faith then is the way that is God's way for His people. It always has been, and God's way is opposed to man's way. Man senses the things about him, the things he has contact with. He likes to go off in vain reveries, things too high for him and see into the future. He likes to see a great world of his own making, but that is not God's way. This is a time of humbling. So, the way of faith is God's way and the only way to get anything from God is by faith. So we have nothing at all by strength, but by faith which is the way of life. To refuse life by faith is eternal death, forever separated from God. We cannot walk with God without faith because without faith it is impossible to please Him.

Well, the just shall live by faith but just who are the Just? Paul declares in Romans that Abraham had righteousness imputed to him, a righteousness which is by faith, something

he received free of charge. There is nothing anyone can do to merit righteousness, they have to receive it by faith as we read in Romans 4:23-24. "Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on Him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead." Where does righteousness come from? We must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ Who was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification. Those who believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the just people. Today man looks on us as only people, but in God's sight we are the just people and in eternity the just people will be quite different from just the people of today. God is not showing off the glory of His Son on earth today or His people, for this is the time of humbling. And God knows well how to humble His people. Jesus Christ went the humble way and we, too, must learn that path by experience. He knows what to do to work out His purposes in us. We realize this is not the day of exaltation. God's people must go together. I am glad to be with the people of God, I get with them whenever I can and God has been gracious to me ever since I have been in the army. I thank Him I have had the privilege of being with the saints at Springfield, Denver, Tulsa and several places in Texas and I might never have seen them if I had not been in the army. They are all members of Heaven's aristocracy. As far as our own everyday lives are concerned and as far as we are seen, we are just people, but we are The Just People, so we have a different testimony than the rest of the people. We have to believe in Christ to be just. It took a sacrifice to make a man just before God. Job said, "Can a man be just before God?" The only way to be just is to be justified through a sacrifice, and that sacrifice is the Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself to justify us from all of our sins and give us a new life. 11

In the sixth chapter of Judges we read of Gideon, how the angel called him a mighty man of valor. He was made to realize he was chosen of God. "And there came an angel of the Lord, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah that pertained to Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the Lord appeared

unto him and said unto him, the Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor." Gideon did not act very bold, trying to hide from the Midianites when threshing wheat, and to the enemies of God he did not look very strong, an ordinary farmer. Gideon said, "Why then is all this happened to us? We are delivered into the hands of the Midianites, we are forsaken, etc." Yet he is a mighty man of valor. God considers His men a little differently than others do, but the power comes from God. He knows His power and he is willing to bestow that power on His people. Strong in God and weak in themselves. God always comes in for you when you need Him. The world always likes to have everything ready before time, but the just people can act when they don't see anything. The battle the just have to overcome is more or less the things within themselves and the power of Satan working in the human spirit. Christ overcomes through us, and we have something at last. The victories we gain are victories that will last forever. The things we come in contact with in this life are not so important except as they give us a spiritual value. The casting down of strongholds  
**12** of Satan are greater in the eyes of God than marching into Berlin.

What is the end of the Just? Solomon says that "...the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Prov. 4:18 The just are going to have a perfect day. Even now somehow the light of God shines in the path of the just, to lead us and we know where we are going. I believe the things that God gives in this life give us an insight of eternity, and we realize the things of this life are a little earnest of that life of spiritual blessings and a foretaste of eternal blessings. It makes our hearts ache to think of the Christ rejecters, but we realize there are great things ahead for them that love God. It is wonderful to receive Christ and to help others receive Him. In Hebrews Paul speaks of the just, referring to the spiritual maturity of spirit, soul and body. Some Old Testament saints were raised with Christ before the others arose from their graves. We take that by faith because it is written in the Word of God. We like to think of the resurrection glory and it says we are going to come into God's purposes. It is an inspiration, something to lift up the spirits in the time of trouble. Provision is made for the great

eternal perfection of the just, the spirits of just men made perfect. We have been talking about the just. What happens to the just. The just shall live, referring to this life. God's truth for the men in this body is that they shall have some kind of activity, even in this life. Their source, sustenance and strength are from God. The just life, the whole life, its activities in this body are according to faith. We are guided by faith, so we Christians cannot be defeated if we cannot say where he will be tomorrow or a year from today. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Heb. 11:1 What happens to us may not be great or what we think is favorable. If we deal with eternal truth, we say some things that sound pretty bold and they hurt when they begin to come to pass, notwithstanding we cannot speak except what God gives us. God is so great and we are so weak, so helpless, if we just realize it, but most people do not know that. I do not care how strong they are in the natural, they are dependent creatures. Some who live by faith may suffer quite a bit while doing God's work because it may be far reaching, but we haven't any other way to go, we cannot go any other way. We have to take God's Word that He is doing something for us, something good, and something in us. We love to acknowledge God, His guidance, His leadings. The just shall live by faith, born of faith and live by faith, and receive everything by faith. Praise the Lord for the way of faith.

13

(Reprint 1945)

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“Yes, God is good—in earth and sky,  
From ocean depths and spreading wood,  
Ten thousand voices seem to cry:  
God made us all, and God is good.  
For all Thy gifts we bless Thee, Lord,  
But chiefly for our heavenly food;  
Thy pardoning grace, Thy quickening word  
These prompt our song, that God is good.”

—John Hampden Gurney

The Abiding Faith  
Orville A. Freestone

**“Y**e have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.” Jn. 15:16.

Previous to this, Jesus finished speaking of Himself as the Vine and likening His disciples to branches of that Vine. It was a lesson full of instruction to all concerning our dependence upon Him for strength, daily. Then, He had continued teaching them, saying that as they had hitherto been called servants, He would now call them friends. Servants are not taken into their master's confidence as to why they are to do His bidding, but simply do as he orders without questioning. Friends enjoy fellowship with each other and explain their reasons for their actions. Jesus later proved Himself to be not only their Friend but also a Friend to all men in that He laid down His life for them all.

Then said He, "Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you" . . . This is no contradiction of John 3:16 wherein  
**14** He said, "Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." God purposed in Christ to have a people with whom He could have fellowship. Adam failed to walk in obedience to God and lost this right and the right of his offspring to enjoy that fellowship. Nevertheless, God is not to be thwarted. He provided a means to bring men into fellowship with Himself and still satisfy His Holy Nature of justice. Jesus, His Son, was given to the world that they of the world might come unto God. Jesus, the guiltless, took the place of the guilty, that they might go free from guilt. This is accomplished by a new birth when men believe. As we were born of the flesh, we may also be born of the spirit. We have nothing to do, but to believe God's Word and the Holy Spirit moves upon those who believe and imparts unto them a spiritual life by making the Word of God a living reality. Jesus said, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." Jn. 3:6. There is a spiritual creation as well as a natural creation. "The last shall be first, and the first last: for many shall be called, but few chosen." Matt. 20:16 The natural creation was the first to be manifested, and then the spiritual. Even so, God purposed to bring forth spiritual creation of sons before he brought forth Adam and his race. We

had nothing to do with God's plan for this spiritual creation so Jesus could rightly say, "Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you." He was with the Father before ever the world was. Col. 1:10,15,16 The triune God purposed this spiritual creation after the counsel of His own will. Eph. 1:11 The disciples to whom Jesus spoke and we who are His followers today, are among the chosen of the Lord because we have believed His Word and have been born of the spirit. Herein God allowed us to exercise our own will. For this we will praise Him forever.

"...and ordained you..." The Greek word rendered "ordained" means to place, to put in an upright or active position. Before Jesus saves a man he is dead in trespasses and sins. Eph. 2:1 Of course, such a one is spiritually dead or cut off from God and is helpless to do anything to please Him. But after we are born again a great change takes place. We are quickened, given a never-ending life and have access unto God. In this condition we are able to act in faith. That is the position of a child of God. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Eph. 2:10.

"...and ordained you, THAT YE SHOULD GO..." It is not enough to be placed in a position ready for action, but that we should ACT. God made it possible for us to act in the spirit. If we are not active in the spirit, then our old flesh life will be active. "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Gal. 5:25 "...and BRING FORTH FRUIT..." Spiritual activity is bound to be fruitful. If we obey the Word of God, we walk in the spirit. God is honorbound to fulfill His Word to those who obey it. Therefore the faithful child of God will manifest the fruit of the Spirit which is, "Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." Gal. 5:22,23 Moses walked in obedience to God's Word and was especially noted for his meekness. Elijah was noted for faith. Enoch is remembered because He walked with God and he pleased Him. Paul was more active than any other. He walked; he ran; he wrestled ; he fought; he contended; yea, he suffered physically and spiritually. All this he endured in order that he might please Christ Who loved us and gave His life for us. "...AND THAT YOUR FRUIT SHOULD REMAIN..." As long as a child of God continues to walk in the spirit, spiritual fruit will be manifest, but if such a one should walk after the flesh

then no spiritual fruit will be manifest. It was the desire of the Lord that all of His disciples walk continually in the Spirit, that their fruit might be continually on display.

"...THAT WHATSOEVER YE SHALL ASK OF THE FATHER IN MY NAME, HE MAY GIVE IT YOU." If we are walking in the Spirit, we are moving in His will. When we are in His will it will be impossible to ask anything of Him contrary to what He would desire for us to ask. Needless to say, we would unquestionably have confidence and boldness and faith to ask that which our hearts desire of Him. "If ye abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you." Jn. 15:7. They that are born again are in Christ, having eternal life, and therefore abide in Him. Those that are saved and live as obedient to His Word are letting His Words abide in them. Therefore they shall ask what they will and they shall receive of God the desires of their hearts.

---

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

16

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

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

They cannot cause Him panic,  
Nor cut off His supplies;  
They cannot take His kingdom,  
Nor hurt Him with their lies.

Tho' all the world be shattered,  
His truth remains the same,  
His righteous laws still potent  
And Father's still His Name.

Dr. Murray



# **WE ARE GOING THE WAY WE LOOK**

Claude. B. Neidholt.

**“**The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!” Jn. 1:29, 35-36

Oh, that Jesus would fill our vision entirely throughout our earthly journey till he lands us in the sun glory. By faith we take our place in glory with Jesus from the beginning of our Christian life to the time we are His Bride. Rev. 19:7-8. We are glad to say John was true to God in his ministry, his cry ever was "Behold the Lamb of God." Note the 19 times in John 1, we find "See and Behold." Paul, the chief apostle, declared "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision." Acts 26:19 Some 29 years later he wrote "We see Jesus..." Heb. 2:9 As we keep our eyes on the Lamb of God He will become our Bridegroom. "Where there is no vision, the people perish..." Prov. 29:18 Legality would get us occupied with our perfections or imperfections. God doesn't tell us to look at ourselves, but "Unto Jesus." Some ministers purpose to get the saints occupied with themselves or with those in ministry, but all true ones cry "Behold the Lamb of God."

(Reprint 1950)

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## **CHASTISEMENT**

I went to the chrysanthemum show last autumn. What wonderful blooms. Not only were they wonderful for their variety of color and form, but in their size. I was amazed. I said to one of the gardeners: "How do you manage to produce such marvellous blooms, of such wonderful size and perfection?" "Well, sir" he said, "you see we concentrate all the strength of the plant on one or two blooms. If we allow the plant to bear all the flowers it would, not one of them would be worth showing. If you have a prize bloom, you must be content with one instead of a score." Thus, God cuts away our useless blooms of self and popularity and comfort and ease that He may bring to perfection the exquisite white blossom of holiness, and make the immortal spirit "meet for the inheritance of saints in light," a flower fit to be planted in the Garden of God.

# REFLECTIONS

*...From the Editor*

**“It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed,  
...They are new every morning:...” Lam. 3:22**

18 What a glorious statement of comfort for us today, but the record is quite clear that Jeremiah did not reach this conclusion without reason. His story begins in this same chapter with what might be considered by some as “accusations” against God, but in reality they simply refer to certain paths that God has chosen for him. It is the same pattern as Job experienced when he declared “...he knoweth the way that I take...” Job 23:10 The record shows that God knew such a way because He is the one who chose it for his servant Job. Likewise, when Jeremiah follows God’s path for him, he attributes it to God. “My flesh and my skin hath he made old; he hath broken my bones.” V.4 Note further the many references to what God hath done. “He hath builded against me,...compassed me with gall and travail....set me in dark places,... hedged me about, that I cannot get out:... made my chain heavy.” V. 5-7 The prophet then asserts that “... when I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer,” indicating that from his point of view, God simply would not hear him. V. 8 Furthermore, He hath inclosed my ways with hewn stone, he hath made my paths crooked.” Hard paths of stone and perversity are now the order of the day and Jeremiah opines that God had attacked him, for “He was unto me as a bear...and as a lion in secret places....hath turned aside my ways,...pulled me in pieces: ...made me desolate... bent his bow, and set me as a mark for the arrow...caused the arrows of his quiver to enter into my reins.” V. 10-13 All this brought great misery to this prophet, and God’s piercing arrows indicate a pain which penetrated deep within.

The opinions of others because of these things also affected him, for “I was a derision to all my people; and their song all

the day.” V14 Once again, the responsibility for all these things is laid at God’s doorstep. “He hath filled me with bitterness, ...made me drunken with wormwood...broken my teeth with gravel stones,...covered me with ashes.... removed my soul far off from peace:...” V. 15-17 But, Jeremiah’s testimony henceforth bespeaks a very favorable result for all these calamities in order for God’s purposes to be completed. “And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the LORD:.... Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall. My soul hath them still in remembrance, and is humbled in me.” V. 18-20 These are statements of true humility, then comes that glorious declaration, His “...mercies are renewed every morning.” It was actually the times of “...mine affliction...misery...wormwood and...gall” wherein Jeremiah learned by experience that these sustaining mercies were renewed day by day. It was directly because he could no longer depend on “...My strength and my hope....” to deliver him. Such a path loudly proclaims the age old message, “...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble,” even renewing them every morning.

19

We need not be surprised when God also leads us down this same path of adversity in order that we, too, may learn by experience that these same glorious mercies are still made “...*new every morning...*”

GH

### **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

There will be no Labor Day Fellowship Meeting this year at Gospel Fellowship. We do rejoice that a number have contacted us expressing their desire to come, but we simply do not feel that The Lord leading in that direction. Bible School classes, however, will resume shortly after Labor Day and all four classes will be in session. The schedule will be announced at a future date.

## *God's Timing and Purposes* (continued)

Dr. Vicky Moots

"...a time of war..." Ecc. 3:8c:

Besides the spiritual war, which we are fighting against Satan and his evil forces in this world, there is another war in which we, as Christians, are engaged. It is the war between the two natures within each believer: the new creation and the old creation. Paul tells us in II Cor. 5:17, that "...if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." (creation)

We are given a new life in Christ when we are born again, the very life of Christ in us, but we are still living in a physical body with its fleshly desires. Our new nature is called by Paul, "the new man", and our old nature, "the old man." These two are at war with each other.

We can only overcome the desires of the flesh by walking in the Spirit and yielding to the new creation life of Christ in us, the new man, as we are instructed to do in Gal. 5:16: "...Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

20 Paul explains in V. 17 that the flesh (our old nature) wars against the Spirit: "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." The word "lusteth" means "a strong desire." In this context it means that the flesh and the Spirit each have a strong desire to suppress each other, as enemies in warfare, and to gain control of the strong hold, which is our body.

The apostle Paul described his own struggle in this warfare in Rom. 7:18-24, before he learned the way of victory in Christ: "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me [the sinful old nature]. I find then a law [principle], that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man [the new nature]: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body this death?" But, praise God, the battle doesn't end there. Paul then

proclaims the way to victory in v. 25: "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord..." But how do we actually claim that victory for ourselves?

Let me answer that question by using an example in the Old Testament of twin births of Jacob and Esau, which gives us a spiritual picture of the battle of the two natures within us. Isaac's wife, Rebekah, became uncomfortable during her pregnancy, and so she went to the Lord to ask the reason why. She was apparently not aware that she was carrying twins. We find this recorded in Gen. 25:22-23: "And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger."

We see that Rebekah went to the Lord regarding her struggle, as did Paul, and so should we, for only He has the answer. The struggle between Jacob and Esau in the womb is a type of the two creations who are at war within us; "the new man" and "the old man." God told Rebekah that the elder would serve the younger, but the elder (the "old man", our flesh) rebels against serving the younger (the "new man.")

21

Before we can have victory over our flesh and its desires, we must first agree with God that "the elder shall serve the younger: that we are not to be enslaved to the desires of the flesh, the "old man." In Rom. 6:6 Paul tells us something important to know regarding this: "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him [Christ], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." This is a provisional fact, but we must accept it by faith to make it a reality in our lives.

Paul stated his assurance of that fact for himself, in Gal. 2:20: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me..."

Paul admonishes us to also accept that fact to be true for us personally, in Rom. 6:11-13: "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead,

and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

Yes, we are in “a time of war”, in combat with our old nature, but we can have the victory when we, like Paul, reckon our “old man” to be dead, to be crucified with Christ; and therefore he has no authority over us, and yield instead to the resurrected life of Christ in us, so that it is no longer “I, but Christ that liveth in me.”

Don’t keep feeding the “old man”; let the enemy starve. Don’t keep trying to resuscitate him. Make him a “DNR.” Instead, feed the “new man”; feed on the Word of God daily instead of the things of the world. Our way of victory is in Christ alone.

Ecc. 3:8d: “...and a time of peace.” A time of peace is always the desired result after “a time of war,” but it comes at a great price: the blood of those who fought the battle. Spiritual peace is also the result of precious blood that was shed. It is the result of the battle that was won on the cross by Jesus Christ.

Paul tells us in Col. 1:20 that Jesus “...made peace through the blood of his cross...” We receive that peace by faith in His atoning sacrifice, as Paul declares in Rom. 5:1: “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” By accepting Christ as Savior, we have peace with God, and no longer need to fear His judgement.

But, as Christians, did you know that we can have peace even in the midst of our battle, even in the foxhole while surrounded by the enemy, even in the midst of our stormy trial? Sometimes the battle is raging all around us, and at other times it is raging within, but we can still have peace. Not only can we have peace with God through salvation, through the blood of Jesus, but we can also have the peace of God, through Christ.

Jesus speaks peace to us through His Word, as He stated in John 16:33: “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace...” He spake peace to the wind and the waves, as well as to the troubled disciples, in Mark 4:39, when He said, “...Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.”

His Word still speaks to us today and brings peace to our troubled hearts, if we will but read it and heed it. David, who had faced many trials and battles, found this to be true in His own life and exclaimed in Ps. 85:8, “I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his

saints..." There is power in His voice, and yet it brings peace when we are fearful and under attack by the enemy.

Are you willing to listen and to hear what the Lord is speaking to you from His Word? Faith comes by hearing what God is saying. Let His Word speak to your heart personally, and you will discover the peace of God which Paul referred to in Phil. 4:7: "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep [guard] your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

The peace of God is not like the peace of this world. The word "peace" means "the absence of conflict," but that only applies to natural peace. The peace of God safe-keeps, or guards, our hearts from conflict in the midst of the conflict, both physical and spiritual, which is all around us. This peace is beyond all human comprehension. It is not a state of mind; it is a state of the heart. Unbelievers cannot understand it, for it must be experienced spiritually.

The peace of God is the peace that Jesus promised to His disciples, and to us, shortly before going to the cross: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

23

So, we see that we are now in both "a time of war" and "a time of peace" during these end-times. Satan is attacking us from all sides, and there are many things currently happening which are causing people to fear. However, we need not fear the things that are coming to pass, for we can have peace in our hearts, no matter what happens, if we keep our minds and our eyes focused on the Lord, and not on the world or our circumstances. God promised this to us in Isa. 26:3: "Thou [God] wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee..." The word "stayed" means "fixed; established; unwavering." This means that if we unwaveringly fix our minds on the Lord, then we will have an unwavering, perfect peace in spite of the circumstances. Are you still looking for "a time of peace" in your life? There is no way to have true peace, the peace that passes understanding, other than through the blood of His cross. His blood has made peace between God and man, and Jew and Gentile, and can give us peace in our hearts. Now is the time to stop your struggling and to claim your "time of peace" through the Prince of Peace who was sent by God to bring "peace on earth, good will to men."

## *The Four Freedoms*

Paul N. Smith

**“Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”** II Cor. 3:17

Today in this world of conflict, nation is fighting against nation for what is called the "Four Freedoms." Many people have lost their lives, deceived by the cry that is ringing throughout the nation. "Fight for democracy! Fight for your country!" and people are so blind that they cannot see the futility of warring against one another. They will never gain that for which they are striving. Never will they have the four freedoms which are so loudly proclaimed. It would be ideal to have them, and it is a great gesture for men of this world---but as long as the master deceiver, the devil, is running loose, man will never be free. The whole human race has been bound by Satan. Only those who believe on the Son of God can ever enjoy real freedom. One of these days, Jesus Christ will come from heaven with His people and set up the only righteous and true reign. Then shall the earth know freedom for a thousand years.

24

For those who believe the Gospel of Grace, God gives the four freedoms that the world advocates and more. They are everlasting. Freedoms that the world cannot give and the god of this world cannot take away. God, through His Word, offers these four---"freedom from fear, freedom from want, freedom of religion and freedom of speech." In II Timothy 1:7, we read, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." After we accept Jesus Christ and what He has done for us on Calvary, we receive His Spirit which does not fear. Instead of fearing, we are set free, entirely free from all fear and condemnation, and we begin to know God as our Father and love Him as such. "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." Rom. 8:15. It is the rare privilege to be able to call the God of the universe our Father. We are loosed from all fear once we are made a new creature, and we come into the relationship of sons of God. There need be no fear that our Father will cast us off. He has loved us with an everlasting love and He so loved us in the beginning that He sent His only Son to die for our sins. And the love that is put down in our hearts cannot fear God. "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear."

**We also have freedom from want.** "The Lord is my



Shepherd, I shall not want." Psa. 23:1 There is a lot of truth in that short verse. We can say, "Since the Lord is my Shepherd, I have no want. He is my all in all." If anyone is in need, it is because he has not believed God in that respect. It is not God's fault when he wants for something. He has spread out a great spiritual feast for him and if he stands back and is afraid to partake of what is provided, he is the loser. What God has promised in His Word, He will surely perform. One who trusts in the Lord will find that He is faithful. His grace and mercies are unlimited. "But my God shall supply ALL your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus"—Phil. 4:19. The wonders of God's grace that reaches down to us, such lowly creatures, and nourishes as and takes care of our every need astounds those who realize some of its depths. Surely we are freed from any want if only we believe His Word.

The United States claims freedom of religion, but thanks be to God we have **freedom FROM religion**. Instead of religion, we have salvation. Let us read what the Apostle Paul says about this so-called religion. "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world and not after Christ." Col. 2:8 Also 25 the eighteenth and nineteenth verses, "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding the Head from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God." These words are plain and to the point. There is a possibility that someone could rob us of a heavenly inheritance thru the philosophies and the traditions of men. Most of the large religious systems today are spoiling thousands of people by teaching some dead person's philosophy that has been handed down from generation to generation, teaching things which are of no profit for the hearers.

Everything that we take which is not according to the Word of God, is to our loss. If we listen to those who are not preaching the Gospel of Grace, we are allowing them to spoil us of riches which we would otherwise receive from hearing and taking in the Word of God. In Phil. 3:2, Paul calls these men dogs and evil workers. He tells us to beware of these dogs who are not preaching Christ. Isaiah also gives us a picture of these evil workers. "His watchmen are **blind**, they are all **ignorant**,

they are all **dumb dogs**, they cannot bark, sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are **greedy dogs** which can never have enough, and they are **shepherds** who cannot understand. They all look to their own way, everyone for HIS GAIN from his quarter." Isa. 56:10, 11. Do you see a picture of those who call themselves true shepherds and servants of mankind? Isaiah knew a lot about them and we of today do also. The blindness and ignorance among religious professors is truly sad. If only they would receive salvation and read the Word of God, this world would be a better place in which to live. How rightly many of these professors who add a D. D. to their names applies to their real titles---dumb dogs. Let us beware of these evil workers and seek the Lord with a whole heart and study His precious Word. We who are free from this religiousness are able to shout aloud our praises to God for delivering us from the bondage of false religions. Many of God's people do not shout enough. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Jn. 8:36.

26 Those of us who have freedom from religion have, or should, have **freedom of speech**. We need not be empty-mouthed when it comes to telling about our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and what He has done for us. In Psa. 81:10, the Lord says, "Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it." When we have our hearts full of the Word our mouths will not be empty. We are told in II Timothy 4:2 to use our freedom of speech to preach the Word. We need not always preach from the pulpit, but we can preach anywhere and anytime that the Lord leads us to do so. Our ministry is not confined to a pulpit, but when our mouths are open to proclaim God's Grace, we are exercising our freedom of speech.

Not only has God given us the freedom to speak, but He has given us a gift of speech, by which we may glorify God, edify the Church and ourselves. The 120 received this gift of speech on the day of Pentecost and many have received the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues since. The world may talk about freedom of speech, but we have the most glorious freedom of anyone. To be able to talk to God is wisdom and knowledge far above the greatest minds of this world. God has given us freely of all things to enjoy, including these four freedoms. Not only these are ours, but many more freedoms. If we take our place in Christ, we will be free. So, with the liberty we have, let us shout our freedom, for we are free, free, **FREE!**

(Reprint 1945)

## Reason For Rejoicing

L.H. Donelson

**“N**otwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” Luk. 10:20

We sometimes remark that we do not know whether so and so is even saved. Someone, if he heard us say that, might think we were belittling salvation. No, indeed. We simply mean that the person in question does not show by his speech or actions that he is saved, and we cannot see the record in heaven. In the scripture verse given above, Christ exhorted His followers to rejoice because their names were written in heaven. Who is able to rejoice in salvation? The one who knows he is saved eternally because of faith in Jesus Christ. I praise the Lord that I can rejoice in a salvation that came from God and is not dependent on whether I "hold out faithful to the end."

Now let us look at the last few words of our scripture—"written in heaven." Our names have been written in the Lamb's Book of Life. The Supreme Court of Heaven has decreed that our names be placed in the Book. And we may be sure that this Book is protected by all the power of God. I wonder how that Book would appear if some people's names had been scratched out and written again as often as they thought they were lost and saved over?

We have records of God's writing from almost the first of the Old Testament. In Ex. 32:16, God wrote the Ten Commandments on tables of stone. In that same chapter, it is recorded that the Israelites sinned and in verse 32 it is said Moses offered himself as a substitute, asking God, "...blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written." Of course, God did not answer his prayer. Though we may act as priests by interceding on behalf of others, Christ was the only one who could ever be our substitute. Moses had the sacrificial spirit of Christ.

In Mal. 3:16, we read that a book of remembrance was written before him (the Lord) for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name." What a statement, that God looks into our hearts and writes down even our thoughts when we

meditate upon Him! He knows them afar off. In Phil. 4:3, the apostle Paul mentions fellow laborers "whose names are in the book of life," which can never be blotted out.

28 We have many references to Books in Rev., but let us consider only a reference in Chap. 21:27. Earlier in this Chapter, John sees the glorious city, the holy Jerusalem, the Bride, the Lamb's wife. The beauty of this city, which describes God's people in glory, is symbolized by the most gorgeous materials known to man --- gold, pearls and precious stones of every hue of the rainbow and a light that outshines the sun. How could God impress us any more strongly with glory and beauty that await us? In addition to telling us about it, he lets us experience a taste of it now through the Holy Spirit dwelling in us—Eph. 1:14. But to return to our study of Books, Rev. 21:27 says, that no one will be in the glorious new Jerusalem but "they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." What a cause for rejoicing ! Whenever the enemy oppresses us and tells us we are nothing and getting nowhere, or attacks us in the weakest point of our armor, we can still say, "My name is written in the Lamb's Book of life." There is victory in remembering what the Lord has done for us, than in remembering what we have done for Him. "Rejoice because your names are written in heaven." Hallelujah! Glory and honor unto Him who has made this rejoicing possible by writing our names in the Book of Life. Rejoice always and again I say. Rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory"—Phil 4:4, 1 Peter 4:8.

(Reprint 1945)

\* Our study of Scripture should not be for the training of memory, but for the up-building of the inner man.

\* There must be always a seeking after God, a continuous, conscious seeking, or there is an unconscious, inevitable drifting from God.

\* Our difficulties should be food for faith. Let us convert every difficulty into a blessing by taking it to God.

\* He that does good for Jesus' sake neither seeks praise nor reward, but he will get both.

## *Hosea Ch. 8*

**“Set the trumpet to thy mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law.”**  
Hos. 8:1

There are quite a number of purposes for which the trumpet is used in scripture, but overall it is to proclaim an announcement from the LORD. That message here is judgment for “...He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD,...” “He...” could be a direct reference to enemy nations who would come against the temple in Jerusalem, but it does without doubt apply to God. He has most assuredly used nations of yesteryear to punish His Chosen People and will do so again in the end time as His wrath will be poured out upon them “...because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law.” He has already stated unequivocally in the previous chapter that, “When they shall go, I will spread my net upon them; I will bring them down as the fowls of the heaven; I will chastise them, as their congregation hath heard.” Hos. 7:12 The reason for such a decree is directly because they have broken His law. That is a rather comprehensive statement, but the primary indictment against them throughout this book of Hosea is their idolatry and whoredom against God. Hosea’s primary target is also Israel, the ten tribes, but Judah is included for the major thrust of this judgment is “...against the house of the LORD,....” which was in Jerusalem.

The prophet then declares that “Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know thee.” V. 2 They may cry unto Him and proclaim knowledge of Him, but it is in name only. They did not actually enter into a relationship with Him, because they transgressed against His covenant and “Israel hath cast off the thing that is good:...” V. 3 That would be the goodness of God along with His commandments for them, and such an action does have severe consequences for “...the enemy shall pursue him.” All this did come to pass at the time then present but these prophetic words are yet to be fulfilled in their entirety, and will include all 12 tribes. It is quite evident at this present time that nations such

as Iran, and other Palestinian peoples are even now pursuing them with the threat of driving them into the Mediterranean.

“They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew it not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off.” V. 4 Daniel is very clear, declaring “...Blessed be the name of God... he removeth kings, and setteth up kings:...” Dan. 2:20-21 However, all the kings whom God “...setteth up...” are not necessarily those of HIS choosing, as is clearly manifest in Israel’s first king: Saul. Samuel was greatly offended when the nation came to him, more or less demanding, “...now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.” I Sam. 8:5 Samuel had been a faithful judge over them from his youth, and now at this juncture warns them, according to God’s decree, “...This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself,... and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest,...And he will take your fields, and your vineyards,... he will take the tenth of your seed,...He will take the tenth of  
30 your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.” I Sam. 8:11 All of these things did come to pass and as Samuel prophesied, “...ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.” I Sam. 8:18 Though God did indeed “set up” Saul as king, he was not God’s choice for the nation, and they surely suffered hurt because of it. Hosea likewise asserts that Israel’s error in choosing Saul apparently became a pattern, for “They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew it not:...” The root cause of this dilemma lies in God’s assessment “...they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.” I Sam. 8:7

It is quite clear that God did choose Jeroboam to rule over the 10 tribes of Israel after the reign of Solomon. However, according to the text here, this rebellious people continued to follow the pattern set when they chose King Saul. Such choices seem to result in the fact that “...of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off.” These words agree with God’s scathing rebuke earlier wherein Israel took

the tremendous provisions God had given them and surrendered them to idol worship. “For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal.” Hos. 2:8 The result is “...that they may be cut off.”

God’s assault against this idolatrous nation continues as He declares, “Thy calf, O Samaria, hath cast thee off; mine anger is kindled against them: how long will it be ere they attain to innocency?” V. 5 This calf is once again undoubtedly a reference to the sin of their first king Jeroboam who introduced these ten tribes to idolatry. He made such whoredom “convenient” in Samaria, which was their capital and thus represented all ten tribes, by creating for them two calves of gold. “And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam ... Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.” I Kings 12:26-29 Such idolatry had become rampant throughout the ten tribes and God’s anger was kindled against them, thus prompting the question, “... how long will it be ere they attain to innocency?” The only path to “...innocency...” or true justification is through the new birth, which will come to pass just prior to the millennial reign of Christ when all 12 tribes of Israel will bow in total submission as they accept their Messiah. However, at the time then present, God continues to level His charges against them, “For from Israel was it also: the workman made it; therefore it is not God: but the calf of Samaria shall be broken in pieces. For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up.” V. 6-7 The idols were made by their own hand and God would have no part of it. The result would be destruction as the calf would “...be broken in pieces.” All of this judgment is reflected in the lack of natural fruitfulness in Israel, as the land “...hath no

stalk: the bud shall yield no meal:..." If it does it will be quickly consumed by "...the strangers..." who shall swallow it up." All these things did come to pass throughout Israel's history but it will be repeated on an even greater scale during the tribulation period, as indicated in the next verse.

32 "Israel is swallowed up: now shall they be among the Gentiles as a vessel wherein is no pleasure." V. 8 The term "...swallowed up..." is a rather poetic expression of the fact that Israel will be totally dominated and consumed by the nations. Jesus likewise prophesied: "Then (at that time during the tribulation) shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake." Matt. 24:9 These ten tribes had already in Hosea's day "... gone up to Assyria, a wild ass alone by himself: Ephraim hath hired lovers." V. 9 This simply indicates that Israel of that day put more confidence in Assyria than they did in The LORD. It is rather ironic that the same nation in whom they trusted later took them captive, and that same pattern will prevail in the end time. The cause will be exactly the same for the prophet here refers to them as "...a wild ass alone by himself,..." which bespeaks an attitude of total rebellion against God. Note further that "... Ephraim hath hired lovers..." even as Israel at the beginning of the tribulation will seek to "buy" help from the nations rather than put their trust in God.

However, this nation is not lost, as some might insist, for they are forever God's Chosen People and He declares His own intention, crying out, "Yea, though they have hired among the nations, now will I gather them, and they shall sorrow a little for the burden of the king of princes." V. 10 Despite all their rebellion and infatuation with the nations, God's purpose is "... to gather them..." Yes, they will "...sorrow for a little..." a reference to the horrendous time of Jacob's trouble during the tribulation period but it will also be "...for the burden of the king of princes..." meaning that this burden, this hardship, will actually bring them to the place of accepting their Messiah, Christ Jesus. The reason for the need to travel down this path is reiterated in V. 11. "Because Ephraim hath made many altars to sin, altars shall



be unto him to sin.” Though Ephraim or the ten tribes are singled out here, this message also applies to Judah for they too bowed to the same path of idolatry.

“I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing.” V. 12 God was faithful to warn His people of their idolatrous ways but they turned a deaf ear to Him. His Voice became “...a strange thing...” to them, therefore, “They sacrifice flesh for the sacrifices of mine offerings, and eat it; but the LORD accepteth them not; now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins: they shall return to Egypt.” V. 13 They may have offered such offering “in the Name Of The LORD,” but God was in no wise obligated to receive them. Instead they will now reap the harvest of idolatry which in this case is captivity to Assyria. The text here declares that “...they shall return to Egypt,” but that must of necessity be a symbolic term describing their bondage to that land. Egypt is also used consistently in scripture to portray the world as a whole and so it will be in the end time when Israel will be in bondage to the nations as noted above, “swallowed up...among the Gentiles.” 33

This chapter then closes with a summation of the overall reasons for this plight which has come upon both Israel and Judah. “For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof.” V. 14 The opening statement of this verse could well be said of the entire world as outlined by Paul when he wrote to the Gentiles in Rome. “Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:” Rom. 1:19-20 God left creation as a proof and testimony of Himself, but men have soundly rejected that witness, and have thus like Israel “...forgotten his Maker.” Such a rebellious response by Israel or the entire world will not be tolerated, and regardless of “religious endeavor” such as building “...temples,...” God will not be pacified and ignore the idolatry of men.

It is also quite clear that Judah is included in this indictment. History is very clear that she, too, bowed to idolatry even after Israel had been taken captive by Assyria and now even though she tries to ward off the nations by building fenced cities in an effort to protect herself from enemy nations, God insists that He will "...send a fire upon his cities." Judah likewise succumbed to captivity when Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem in 606 BC, but these verses will not be fully realized until all twelve tribes of Israel endure the sorrow outlined above in the Great Tribulation. Thus the opening verse of the next chapter begins with "Rejoice not O Israel,...."

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**We are....**

- Born of God.....Jn. 1:12-13
- Clean.....Jn. 15:3
- Free.....Gal. 4:31
- 34 A New Creation.....II Cor. 5:17
- The Called/Beloved/Saints.....Rom. 1:6-7
- Peculiar (special purchased).....I Peter 2:9
- Light of the World.....Mat. 5:15 & Phil. 2:15
- Bought with a Price/Valuable to God.....I Cor. 6:20, 7:23
- Sons of God.....I Jn. 3:2
- Saved/Delivered by Grace.....Eph. 2:8-9
- His Workmanship.....Eph. 2:10 & Psa. 100:3
- Confident.....Phil. 1:6
- More than Conquerors.....Rom. 8:37
- Winners --- Now.....I Cor. 15:57
- Espoused to Christ.....II Cor. 11:2
- Looking for His appearing.....Titus 2:13
- Loving His appearing.....II Tim. 4:8
- Ambassadors.....II Cor. 5:20
- Not of this World.....Jn. 17:14,16
- The Body of Christ.....I Cor. 12:27



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