

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the  
whole Counsel of GOD

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

Hebrews 11:1.



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**ALL OUR  
WAYS  
ARE KNOWN**

**1 Peter 5: 7**

**A**LL our way is known to the Lord; every turn in the path is noticed by Him. Yesterday's trial He knew; today's difficulty is under His eye; tomorrow's care is seen by Him. Our God is a very present help in trouble, and how graciously He invites us to cast all our cares upon Him. We are to bring all our cares to Him because He cares for us.

*—Henry C. Spence.*

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**Editor: Gene Hawkins**



# Definite Sign Posts Of The End

Gene Hawkins

“**W**hen the Son of man shall come in his glory, ...then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, ...And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:...Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:” Matt. 25:31-41

The day is quickly approaching when Jesus will take His throne to rule as God for one thousand years. All nations shall be gathered before Him and will be divided into two major categories designated as “the sheep and the goats.” The following verses of this chapter conclude that each nation will be judged according to their treatment of Israel. “And the King shall answer and say unto them, **3** Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.....” Matt. 25:40

This separation of sheep nations from goat nations will come to pass before the millennium, and thus the sheep nations will remain a nation in that time of utopia, but the goat nations will depart into oblivion. Scripture is very clear, however, that All nations, be they sheep or goat, will be ruling in usurpation from the very time that Jesus takes His throne in heaven as recorded in Rev. 4-5 Paul declares plainly that “...he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.” I Cor. 15:25 The fulfillment of that decree will begin in the tribulation when all those rebellious nations will eventually be forced to bow before Him in total submission.

Though Jesus has not at this present hour taken that promised throne, present day nations are most assuredly beginning to take their places. The determining factor for their survival as a nation will be their attitude toward, and treatment of, Israel as noted above, but scripture is very clear in declaring that all nations of the earth will not be willing to lay down their arms and surrender to King Jesus at the outset of the tribulation. “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was



called Faithful and True,.. 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 The “...wrath of Almighty God...” is most assuredly manifest here, but it is King Jesus, reigning in His stead, Who will pour it out upon these rebellious nations.

4 God spoke very clearly through Jeremiah to all nations that, “...the LORD hath a controversy with the nations,...” Jer. 25:31 The context of that controversy seems to be that since “...I begin to bring evil on the city (Jerusalem) which is called by my name, ... should ye be utterly unpunished? Ye shall not be unpunished: for I will call for a sword upon **all the inhabitants of the earth**, saith the LORD of hosts.” Jer. 25:29 This same text continues, explaining that, “...he will give them that are wicked to the sword, ...Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation,...” Jer 25:31-32 The nations are in fact guilty of the same offenses as Israel, and God would be very unjust if He did not force those nations to “...Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it.” Jer. 25:15

These same nations are also addressed in Psalm 2. “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. 2:2-3 This is, at least in part, the same wickedness of which Jeremiah spoke. It is a reference to the ungodly conduct and wickedness of rebellion, the refusal to bow before God and His decrees, as these “...rulers take counsel together **against the LORD and against his anointed...**” The anointed here is none other than Jesus Who, once again, will have been anointed “King of kings and Lord of lords” at the beginning of the tribulation period. Though Scripture is emphatic, as seen in Daniel 2:20-21 that “...God...removeth kings, and setteth up kings:...” these same kings give Him no credit for it nor do they bow to His authority. Thus, “He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto



them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.” Psa. 2:4-5 John reflects this same pattern as he describes, “...the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the **face of him that sitteth on the throne**, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” Rev. 6:15-17

The nations of the earth at this present time have not learned the lesson, that God is still in control, for they are still intensely occupied with trying to control and rule this earth according to their own purpose and desire. All present day nations of the earth will also endure the above stated consequences of God’s “...controversy with the nations,...” which is judgment, for all of them are guilty of the defiance against Him described in Psalm 2. Iran, along with some Palestinian nations, is very vocal in their intent to literally drive Israel into the Mediterranean despite God’s decree that, “...After the glory hath he sent me 5 unto the nations which spoiled you: (Israel) for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.” Zech. 2:8 One day all nations will acknowledge that Israel is God’s Chosen People.

There are other prominent nations emerging at this present time who are also in open defiance of God’s Word. Both Russia and China have boldly declared that they would rule the world, even though that place will very shortly be given to “...his anointed...” which is Jesus. Another area of expertise and ability belonging only to God is the overall temperature of planet earth. The myth of man-made climate change has in fact become a world-wide doctrine among the majority of nations over the past few years. The Paris accords actually sealed this idea in concrete insofar as a great number of world powers are concerned. The result of that has been that the use of fossil fuels has been tremendously curtailed, bringing great hardship to multiple nations around the world.

When Jesus takes His throne, it will be as both King and Judge. Revelation 5 declares that He alone is worthy to open the book containing 7 seals of judgment. Six of those seals are opened in Ch. 6, the third one commanding “...see thou hurt not the oil and



the wine.” Rev. 6:6 It has been previously written numerous times in these pages that such a declaration was a decree from the Judge to preserve the oil as a tool in order that nations could continue their quest of warfare. Russian Pres. Putin surely seems to confirm that assessment, for it is widely reported that his ungodly invasion of Ukraine is primarily funded by the sale of Russian oil. Attempts to stop such oil flow have not proved successful at this hour and some indicate that such measures have only enriched this tyrant. Not only so, but nations such as Germany and others in Europe are now in bondage to Russia because of their dependence on this mandatory energy. This is surely a tactic which will eventually be used by the antichrist to force all other nations into servitude.

6 However, present circumstance in our world may indicate an additional application of the declaration, “...hurt not the oil...” It does not negate the aforementioned scenario, but simply presents an added possibility. Every dispensation has ended in judgment, but God has often shown forth great mercy in the midst of it. Such “grace” was manifest in the days of Noah when God produced the rainbow as a symbol of His testimony and promise that, “...neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.... This is the token of the covenant... I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.” Gen. 9:11-13 That same rainbow surrounds the throne of Jesus’ coronation in Rev. 4 and is manifest again in Ch. 10, wherein great judgment is poured out. “And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven,...and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:” Rev. 10:1 Thus the cry “...hurt not the oil...” could very well be a plea for the nations to relax their ungodly restrictions on fossil fuels for the sake of the so-called “green new deal,” which is in their estimation designed to save the planet. The record shows very clearly that only God is responsible for the “heat” permeating planet earth and that is only one of the judgments which will prevail during the tribulation. “And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, **which hath power over these**



**plagues:** and they repented not to give him glory.” Rev. 16:8-9 Can anyone even begin to imagine the misery inflicted upon men during this time, if nations withhold the energy from fossil fuels necessary to run their air conditioners? Those complications are already manifest in such American states as Texas and California. California is said to be setting the pattern for the entire nation with their clean energy policy, yet that state is literally plagued with energy shortages to the degree that rolling blackouts have been implemented and Californians have been exhorted to refrain from charging the batteries on their electric vehicles. It must be understood here that the seals of judgment recorded in Rev. 6 have not even been opened yet. All the “signs” that are manifest at this present time are simply precursors of that which will fully arrive vehemently after the days of tribulation have actually begun. It is gratifying to know, regardless of the fact that news media has tried to stifle their voices, many esteemed scientists simply do not agree with the premise of man-made global warming. However, it is no secret that God will use even the foolishness of men to accomplish His Own purpose of hastening them into judgment even by their own efforts. 7

It should also be very clear that neither China nor Russia has any intention of scaling back their use of oil, thereby joining the efforts put forth by the Paris climate accords. Both of these countries are, in fact, escalating their use of it in creating new power plants, which will by no means use nuclear energy. Jesus declared plainly that “...nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:...” Matt. 24:7 Armed warfare is not the only way to do that, and even now both of these nations are trying desperately to get the upper hand without really going to war against other super powers. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has produced outrage among the nation, but none has really done that much to stop it. America has belatedly given certain arms to them but has been very very careful not to enter the fray. Pres. Putin, on the other hand, has suggested that if anyone dare interfere with his plans, he might resort to using nuclear weapons. Most observers think that is only a threat, but none has, as yet, called his bluff and the only resistance to Russia has been the staunch and surprising efforts of the Ukrainians.



Meanwhile, it seems that China is “standing by” trying to ascertain specifically whether or not the U.S. would intervene should China invade Taiwan. Both Russia and China undoubtedly took inventory of the botched U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and her reserved assistance to Ukraine. Signals have also been extremely mixed out of Washington in regard to Taiwan, as one message is often directly contradictory to another. Jesus described this same current overall earthly atmosphere in Luke 21:25. “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth **distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;**” The “...sea...” bespeaks these same nations which are distressed or anguished as well as perplexed or in “a quandary.” They are also most assuredly “...roaring,...” which signifies making a “a loud and confused noise” a “reverberating” noise, which absolutely does reverberate around the world.

8 Changes in any government also produce a bit of uncertainty and confusion. The U.K. not only has a new Prime Minister of whom the rest of the world actually knows nothing, but this nation also has a new king since Queen Elizabeth met her demise. One report from a believer in the U.K. concludes that, “...her longevity and consistency brought stability and as Head of the Church of England she held great influence.... As monarch her vow was to be “Defender of the Faith” whereas our new monarch King Charles III wants to be “Defender of faiths,” There is also another report indicating the Queen’s Christian stand, for she is said to have had a very close relationship with American Evangelist Billy Graham for over 40 years. She was in one recent article maligned as being anti-Semitic because she did not visit Israel in her long tenure, but others quickly affirm that she was in total sympathy with God’s Chosen People.

King Charles III’s desire to be a “Defender of the faiths” would surely indicate that he would follow the same pattern as a great many national leaders to promote any religion despite God insistence that, “There is **one** body, and **one** Spirit,...**One** Lord, **one** faith,...” Eph 4:4-5 The King is also a proponent of climate change restrictions as is indicated by this headline from the Salt Lake Tribune: “**Commentary: King Charles should continue speaking about climate change.** If the royal family



is going to be relevant for the 21st century, it needs to help the world face the most important crisis of the century. This commentary continues, declaring that, "At last year's COP26 meeting in Scotland, he warned, "The scale and scope of the threat we face call for a global-systems-level solution based on radically transforming our current fossil fuel-based economy to one that is genuinely renewable and sustainable." The New Yorker also quoted then Prince Charles as saying at the Glasgow climate talks last year that climate change is an "existential threat" that requires the world to go on a "warlike footing."

The role of the U.K. monarchy seems to be only a position of influence, and it remains to be seen what impact the new king may have on world affairs, but these reports indicate a faction in our world who do wish to challenge God's authority in this matter of global warming. However, scripture is once again very clear, asserting that the temperature in this world will without doubt become unbearably hot as seen above, when "...the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire," 9 and there is not one thing the efforts of men can do about it.

The glorious hope for all those whose hearts are looking daily for Jesus to come is found in Psalm 2. "Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion." Psa. 2:6 Despite all the desires of the nations to occupy this place upon the earth, Jesus will reign supreme as He squelches any attempt of men to challenge Him. The hope of the true overcomer, however, is to be far removed from this earth BEFORE that day of judgment upon the nations even arrives, for Jesus emphatically promised the Church at Philadelphia, "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." Rev. 3:10-11

So let us not be occupied all the negative and hurtful things which have come to pass in our day due to the unwise governmental policies of the nations. Rather "...Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid....Ye have heard how I said



unto you, I go away, and come again unto you....” Joh 14:27 Just a surely as Jesus did come again unto them after the resurrection, so also His promise for those at the end of this age is “...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” Acts 1:11

### Waiting, Only Waiting

We are waiting, only waiting  
While the days are going by,  
We are longing, longing, longing  
For the meeting in the sky.  
Christ may come at early morning,  
Ere the sun rise in the East,  
And catch up the overcomers  
From the greatest to the least,  
While the dawning Star is glowing  
With the promise of the feast.

We are waiting, only waiting;  
All our toiling days are done.  
We are patient on the highway:  
For our race is well nigh run.  
O the rapture of that moment,  
When we rise and upward soar,  
Soon to greet our precious Lover  
On that glorious, shining shore,  
Where He'll fold us to His bosom  
Just inside that opened door.

We are waiting, only waiting;  
There is nothing else to do.  
Christ has said, “You've kept my patience;”  
And this fact we shall not rue;  
For He'll make of each a Pillar  
In His temple in the air,  
And His Name He'll write upon them;  
All His Kingly rights we'll share,  
As His Own choice one forever,  
He will seal His Love so fair.



# The Bride

L. Charlton (England)

“**A**nd the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;” Gen. 2:21

## A Mystery In A Body

Who is she? Some say the **WHOLE** Church — cleansed, removed from earth and glorified — will form His Bride. Others assert that a body of believing Israelites are to find a peculiar and separate corporation and organism and be presented as such. We have no space, neither have we any desire, to enter into any controversy with the many views held, but to simply state and confirm by His Word, truth made abundantly clear to us by His Word and personal revelations.

Israel is God's divorced earthly wife (Jer. 3:8), divorced because of her adultery (Jer. 3). Her national life is now suspended. The Church dispensation marks a suspension of God's dealings with her as a nation; yet, He Whose eye neither slumbers nor sleeps, yet keepeth, sustains, holds them in judgment, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. The Heavenly Bridegroom has now transferred His affections from His earthly wife to His virgin Heavenly Bride, the earthly wife being set aside until the true marriage in heaven has taken place, when she will again be restored to His earthly favor (Hosea 2:14). 11

She might have come in before, but refused, and one cannot fail to see in these days how God is again working on similar lines, but this time in His own Church. The offer of a full salvation has been given to the Church, in the sacrifice, death, resurrection, ascension, and priesthood of Jesus Christ, made experimentally real by the infilling of the Holy Spirit, sufficient for every believer to stand perfect and complete in all the will of God; Col. 4:12 In other words, in full bridal attire. Rev. 19:7,8 Many have deliberately refused it. Others in sinful ignorance rejected it. Even now these are being passed over by God — they came in later, but have lost God's best.

God has His best things for the few  
Who dare to stand the test.  
He has His second choice for those  
Who will not have His best.



And others make the highest choice  
But when by trials pressed,  
They shrink, they yield, they shun the cross,  
And so they lose His best.

### **The Bride In Figure**

We turn to Gen. 2:21 to find the first Bride of Scripture, and find she was first body, then made (builded, margin, Heb.) into a Bride: so that side by side on earth is seen both body and Bride — the body of the first Adam, and the Bride of the first Adam. So in heaven will appear the body of the last Adam (the Church), and the Bride of the last Adam, or that portion of the body taken out of the Church to form His Bride. The body figure is never seen in heaven, only the Bride; but it is quite evident that although John was not permitted to see in vision the marriage ceremony, the voice of the great multitude, as the voice of many waters, the mighty thunderings (Rev. 19:6) proceeded from those hosts of redeemed saints, who had been called to the marriage supper of the Lamb, and who are indeed blessed (Rev. 19:9), and who are loud in their acclamation of the Lamb and His Bride, but  
**12** yet are not the Bride themselves.

### **The Bride In Preparation**

God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and then in the hours of his unconsciousness, He took out a rib from his side, out from the place nearest his heart, his deepest affections, and builded her in the night into a Bride for him.

As the morning began to dawn, Eve would begin to be conscious of her separate existence; and as God finished His work upon her, and brought her unto Adam (Gen. 2:22), Adam also recognized the work of God, and although God had closed up the flesh of his body from whence He had taken her, he immediately recognized her, and knew where God had taken her from — "This is now bone of (out of--orig. Gr.) my bone, and flesh of (out of) my flesh." God is again at work; upon a Bride for His Son, and is again **TAKING HER OUT OF THE BODY** (the Church) of the last Adam; and like Adam, who was altogether unconscious of what God was doing, because of sleep, so the present Church is absolutely unconscious that God is taking out from among them a body of believers and building them into a Bride for Christ. They



are unconscious because they are asleep as Adam. God put Adam into a deep sleep, but the Church has gone to sleep of her own will; she knows not what God is doing. As, however, Eve became conscious of her existence toward the morning, so as the Morning Star is about to appear (Rev. 2:28; 22:16; II Peter 1:19) the Bride is becoming conscious of her bridal relationship, hitherto hid in deepest mystery. Eph. 5:32

The Holy Spirit is wonderfully at work on this mystical body of the Bride, preparing her in every way, but as He prepares, He also gives revelation, and the members individually are coming to know, with no uncertainty whatever, the Bridal relationship. The witness of the Spirit is quite distinct as to this; it must ever be so, first, shall they know it individually, and then collectively. Then at the very first stage of our Lord's second Advent, on the first future resurrection morning, conjointly with the first rapture, caught up to Him, to the throne of God (Rev. 12:5), when God the Father will present a Bride to His Son, who will recognize her as "bone out of His Bone, flesh out of His flesh." As Eve was presented to Adam, so Christ will receive a Bride, made from His Own body, taken out of His deepest affections nearest His heart. 13

### **The Bride in Mystery**

The Bride has always been a mystery. She will remain so to the great bulk of Christians. She is still veiled, and like the Eastern bride, her veil is not taken off until she arrives at the Bridegroom's house. It is significant that not any direct statement is made in the epistles regarding her. Paul desired to present a chaste virgin to Christ; but he nearly despaired of doing so, when he saw the inward weakness of the saints. II Cor. 11:2,3 This, with Eph. 5:25,33, are the only references to the Bride. In the latter Scripture, the sentiment of brideship is clearly seen, but Paul is careful not to say in any of his letters, "the Church which is His Bride;" but instead, "the Church which is His Body." Yet, he hints that there is a deep mystery underlying this, for when he would speak of the Bride, he declares it is a mystery CONCERNING (in connection with) Christ and His Church. "This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Eph. 5:32

The mystery of the Body is clearly seen and understood (Eph. 2, 3,) but God has some deep purpose in concealing the identity of the Bride down here. Yet, if we would be willing for



God to reveal this deeper mystery to us, He would. The literal explains the figurative for just what God did to the literal body of the first Adam, He is doing in the spiritual body of the last Adam.

It is easy to see that there was a further and distinct work of God upon that portion of Adam's body which God builded into the bride. She was Adam's complement, making up that which was lacking in himself. She was identified, yet not identical. In her, God's highest point was reached; for as stated, she was greater than body, as there had been additional work upon her. There is nothing higher than love. I Cor. 13 God knew Adam needed a helpmeet. It was not good that he should remain alone. Adam could not love his own body, or at least there could be no reciprocation of love. There is something in the nature of woman lacking in man; and there is something in the nature of man lacking in woman. The two are the complement of each other — "these two shall be one flesh." In a true earthly union, where souls are truly united in the Lord, it is a union of love.

### **The Bride in Relationship**

14

Yes, the bridal relationship is one of love. It is easy to see, that, as there was an additional work of God upon Eve, there will be an additional work of grace in and upon those who form the Bride of Christ. God loves all, but He does not love all with the same degree of love. He loves those who more nearly resemble Him, and who return to Him the full measure of love. Furthermore, as the Bride is God's highest figure on earth, she will be the highest in heaven, for as we see in Psalm 45:9,14, the queen, the Bride is standing at the King's right hand. The throne is her future position. Rev. 3:21.

(Reprint 1956)

### **Injuries:**

"Draw the curtain of night upon injuries, shut them up in the tower of oblivion and let them be as though they had never been."

The Body of Christ grows with Divine growth and by Divine power. It will be finished in Divine order.



## *Paul's Three Opponents*

Ethel Cooper

“**I** have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 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.” II Tim. 4:7-8

This message is about the Apostle Paul, and the three great opponents he met in his Christian career. Now, this man was a fighter, even before he was converted, as we read in Acts 9:1-2. He thought that he was doing the right thing by getting rid of the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. He had been bringing great persecution against them, and at this particular time he was on his way to go before the high priest to have others bound. But, he met his first opponent, the Lord Jesus. He did not try to argue with this man of authority, or try gentle persuasion, but He knocked him cold, striking him in both eyes. Saul was blind for three days. He was conquered, and arose, trembling. He heard a voice saying, "Saul.. Saul, why persecutest thou me?" And immediately he replied, "Lord, what will thou have me to do?" As we stated before, it took more than gentle persuasion to conquer this proud, egotistical, self-righteous Jew; and the fight was over in the first round. Paul learned the things of the Lord the hard way, which prepared him to be a real soldier, as he fought this good fight of faith.

His second great opponent was Sin, which yet dwelled in his flesh. Rom. 7:17 He could not understand what was wrong with him. He knew that he was saved, and filled with the Holy Spirit when Ananias laid his hands on him. Now he was finding out that when he wanted to do right, evil was present with him, hindering him from doing what he was desiring to do. Well, it took three and one-half years of schooling in Arabia to teach Paul the mystery of all this. He learned, though he was a saved man, his flesh had to be brought into subjection, and he was being tempted to do wrong in ways that he had never been before he was saved. He said in. Rom. 7:7, "I had not known lust, except the law had said. Thou shalt not covet." But Paul learned through



many experiences, that the same Lord Who had conquered him, was able also to conquer this enemy in him. We hear his shout of victory in Rom. 7: 24-25, "Oh, wretched man that I am. Who shall deliver me from this body of death?" Then he answers, "I thank God, through Jesus Christ our Lord." Praise God, we learn to conquer in the same way.

Sin in our flesh is a terrible enemy. Many people think that by certain experiences, it is taken out root and branch, but according to the Scriptures that is not true. Sin will remain in our flesh as long as we are in this body, but by faith we learn to take the victory over it, and we are no longer bothered by its demands. Sad to say, many Christians never come to this place, but are continually occupied with their own flesh, and with the flesh of others. Thus, they never become useful to God. This victory prepared Paul to meet his third great opponent.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Eph. 6:12 Paul's fight now is against Satan himself, who is occupying the place that is ours in Christ, with Whom we are seated in the glorious heavenlies. That place has to be taken by faith. Paul learned to fight, not only for his own rights, but for the rights of others. He said that he fought with beasts at Ephesus — two legged beasts. There were people there to be delivered, and Satan opposed through evil men. Well, God has fighters today, as the Apostle Paul, who keep a straight course, and who fight a good fight to the end. He wrote in his letter to the Philippians that he had not attained, but was pressing toward the mark for the Prize; but when he wrote this letter to Timothy, he knew that he was ready to be offered. He knew that he would receive the crown. Oh, I thank God for the teachers who have faithfully given out the truth for years. There is no other place in the whole world that has given out more of the Truth than has gone from here. Many preach the Truth in part, but not all of the Truth as we have received through Grace and Glory. For many years, I was in legality and did not know the truth of the grace of God. After learning the Truth, we have never had the least desire to turn



aside from the teaching that we received. We felt that it was right then, and we feel that it is still the only straight course that will lead us on, and prepare us to reign with Christ in the eternal ages. It makes our heart sad as we look back for only a few years, and think of the many who embraced the truth, but now have detoured a little here and there, and have failed to keep the straight course. Thus, the sweet fellowship that was once enjoyed has been broken, and the saints are scattered. But, the coming of the Lord is at hand, and as Jesus said to the Philadelphia church, "Thou hast a little strength." By His grace we want to be faithful to the charge He has left us and be ready to go at the first trumpet blast.

(Reprint 1956)

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## “Under an Oak”

Though you are tired, do not loiter or linger when the Lord bids you move on. An old prophet heard about the man of God, and went after him. He “...found him sitting under an oak...” I Kings 13:14 He invited him home and persuaded him against his own convictions by lying to him that an angel had spoken to him to take the man of God with him. On his way from the home of the old, lying prophet, a lion met him and killed him. What a warning. Even the aged may not always be trusted. Prophets are not all true prophets. Why did God let the old, retired prophet live on, but allowed “the man of God” to be slain? Perhaps the former was not worth killing and the latter was too noble to let live and get into greater entanglements. We may not explain all God’s providences; but we may believe Him implicitly and obey Him strictly and constantly. May we profit by the failure of the one and the falsity of the other. 17

\* We may not like to live with ourselves, but we may get rid of that unlovely person by simply taking Christ to live IN us.

\* Every Christian should be a workman for God, but no one can be a workman until he is the **workmanship** of God.



# REFLECTIONS

*...From the Editor*

“**B**ut thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” I Cor. 15:57

Paul drew this glorious conclusion after producing multiple proofs of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead. The exact context of this declaration centers around Christ’s tremendous dominion over sin and death. “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.” I Cor. 15:55-56 The apostle defined this victory over sin when he wrote to the Hebrews as being completely “... put away...” rather than just covered for a while by the blood of atonement, declaring “...but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.” Heb. 9:26 The “...end of the world...” or age, marks the finality of the age of law, and while this victory will not be fully realized until AFTER the millennium is over, the foundation has been laid and God’s people today are privileged to enjoy its benefit at this present time. “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.” Rom. 6:6-7

Death and Satan likewise have also been conquered by the resurrection because “...he also himself likewise took part of the same; (flesh & blood) that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;” Isaiah also prophesies it beautifully. “He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces;...” Isa. 25:8

The greater news in the assertion that God “...giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ,” is that such victory is all inclusive. Hear Paul once again shouting triumphantly: “...in **all these things** we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” Rom. 8:37 This mighty declaration of victory follows a specific definition of “...all these things...” listed in the previous



verses. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Rom. 8:35-36 All such victory is once again attributed to the fact that "... It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." Rom. 8:34

Jesus also announced an added victory for us today, warning that "...In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Jn. 16:33

Samuel also prophesied this same victory in the O.T. "And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent." I Sam. 15:29 The word "Strength" should be translated "Victory or Eternity," for God is the Personification of both. There are numerous times in scripture where it is stated "The Lord wrought a great victory." He is "Victory" and will not "...repent..." or relinquish that role regardless of any adversary we may face today, as once again, we join Paul exclaiming "...thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

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### REMINDER!

Bible College Classes have begun. The weekly schedule is as follows:

Monday....Doctrine

Tuesday.....Exposition

Thursday....Synthesis

Friday....Prophecy

All classes are being streamed as [www.gracegod.com](http://www.gracegod.com)

from 7:00 P.M. To 9:00 P.M. CDT.



## *Mystery of the Bride*

(Continued)

Dr. Vicky Moots

“**A**nd the rib which the Lord God had taken from man made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.” Gen. 2:22

Perhaps by now you are wondering why God would choose such a small and seemingly insignificant part of the human body, such as a rib, to fashion a bride for Adam. Maybe it's simply because a rib could be removed and not even be missed by the rest of the body. In order to explore this further, I would like to discuss this from a medical standpoint, since this was a surgical procedure. Let us examine the various characteristics of the ribs and their purpose and position in the physical body, and then apply that information to the spiritual body, the church.

20 First of all, ribs are a hidden part of the body. They are covered with fat and muscle and are therefore not noticeable unless a person is malnourished. They don't even make any noise to attract attention to themselves. No one ever brags on how beautiful or how big their ribs are. They seem to be less important than the rest of the parts of the body. However, the work that they do continues day and night, and it is necessary for life. We could not live without our ribs.

Keep in mind as we study the ribs that the rib is a spiritual picture of the bride of Christ and that all of this has a spiritual meaning, which I will discuss as we go along. In the spiritual body, the bride is also unnoticed because she does not brag or boast concerning her beauty or her works. She desires that all the glory be given to Christ, so she quietly and humbly continues to do the work that she was called to do without any fanfare or desire for recognition. She does it as a labor of love for Him.

Our ribs form a cage called the thoracic cage around our heart, lungs and major blood vessels to protect them from harm. But that is not all they do. They are necessary in order for us to breathe.

There are twelve pairs of ribs, which vary in size and



type of movement in order to allow equal expansion of both lungs at the same time. The number twelve in Scripture is God's governmental number: there were twelve tribes of Israel and twelve apostles.

All of the ribs are connected to the spine. The upper ten pairs are also connected in some fashion, by bone or cartilage, to the breastbone (sternum). The lower two are only connected to the spine. The number ten in the Bible speaks of responsibility according to ability, as in the Ten Commandments. The spine symbolizes our ability to stand. We must recognize that our ability to stand before a holy God is only in Christ. The breastbone speaks of affection, for we read that John, the beloved, leaned on Jesus' breast.

The ribs are also connected to each other by muscles so that they will all move together in harmony when we take a breath. Underneath each rib there is a groove which contains a nerve, artery and vein (a trinity). In order to breathe, the brain signals the rib muscles to cause the chest wall to expand as the ribs move outward. At the same time, the diaphragm muscle, which is attached to the inside of the lower ribs, pushes downward. This creates a negative chest pressure which causes air to flow into the lungs. 21

This whole process is called "inspiration". In II Tim. 3:16 we read that "all scripture is given by inspiration of God..." This means literally that it is "God breathed." God breathes life into us through His Word as we read it in the same manner in which He breathed life into Adam.

During inspiration, all of the ribs must move out at the same time, in one accord, together as a group. Spiritually that would speak of the Holy Spirit who gave the breath of life to the church on the Day of Pentecost, when they were all in one accord in the upper room.

Inspiration in the physical body is an active process that requires muscle contraction, or work. But then the brain sends a second signal, which causes all those muscles to relax, and the air flows out of the lungs carrying the waste products with it. This is called expiration, or exhalation. It is a time of rest, because it does



not require any muscular contraction. This cycle of work and rest, inspiration and expiration, continues until we take our final breath, which ends in expiration. The ribs work together, consistently, persistently, always yielding, never tiring, even when the rest of the body is asleep, but they must also do an equal amount of rest.

What does this mean to us spiritually? I mentioned previously that the bride performs a labor of love for her Bridegroom. However, she also takes time to sit and rest at Jesus' feet and hear His Word, as did Mary in the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42. Jesus performed many good works, but even He took time out to rest and commune with His Father in order to be strengthened. The bride also is strengthened for her labor as she sits at His feet and studies His Word.

We are not told in Genesis which rib was removed from Adam to prepare a bride for him, but it wouldn't surprise me if God, the Great Physician, who performed that first surgery had chosen the fifth rib on the left. That particular rib lies immediately under the breast and directly over the mid-portion of the heart.

**22** That location is certainly an appropriate position in the body of Christ for the bride: close to His heart, which speaks of love, and next to His breast, which speaks of nourishment. The bride of Christ loves Him supremely and hungers and thirsts for Him. She is completely satisfied with His love. The number five in Scripture is considered to be the number of grace. The bride understands that she was chosen, not because of her beauty or accomplishments, but because of His grace.

In the natural, when surgery is required on the lungs, a special procedure, called a thoracotomy, is performed. During this procedure, an incision is usually made over the fifth rib since it is in the middle of the chest. If a lobe of a lung must be resected because of cancer, or other disease, then a portion of the fifth rib may need to be removed in order to provide more room to work inside the chest cavity. Surgeons choose that rib because it has been discovered through years of experience that removal of the fifth rib does not interfere with the mechanics of breathing.

When Adam's surgery was complete, he had a bride, but he also had a scar, for surgery always leaves a scar. I believe that



both the first Adam and the last Adam, Christ, have a scar on the left side of their chest, under the fifth rib, at the location of the heart: Why do I think this to be so?

When Christ died on the cross, the soldier wanted to be sure that He was actually dead, so he took his spear and pierced Him in the side. The spear had to enter into the left chest cavity, into the heart, and not into the abdominal cavity, or the contents would not have been blood and water. Soldiers knew their anatomy well. Their target was the heart. They knew that the heart was located under the fifth rib. We read in II Sam. 3:27 that when Joab killed Abner, that he “smote him under the fifth rib, that he died...” Smiting someone under the fifth rib to kill them was common practice in Old Testament warfare (read II Sam. 2:23, 4:6 and 20:10). How did soldiers know where to find the fifth rib if they couldn't see the ribs to count them? Very simple: the fifth rib is the one that is right under the breast, just below the nipple.

The last part of Gen. 2:21 tells us that after God removed the rib from Adam, He “closed up the flesh instead thereof.” He is a very thorough Surgeon. The Bible provided us this very important medical detail. The final part of any surgery is to close up the wound. God is always faithful to finish a work that He has started.

If your desire is to be a part of the bride of Christ, then you can be sure that God will continue working in you to make you ready, as long as you are willing to let Him. He will not close up the flesh until He is through with the cutting. The work will not be complete until your life is ended or until Christ returns, as Paul tells us in Phil. 1:6: “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Little by little, whittle by whittle, with each skillful cut of the unerring scalpel of the Word of God, in the hands of the Master Surgeon, we are being changed into the image of His dear Son, as He prepares us to become a spotless bride, like unto the spotless Lamb, so that we may be ready to reign with Him.

If you were to have chest surgery similar to what Adam had,



which required the removal of a portion of a rib (most likely the fifth rib), you would experience a very painful post-op recovery period. Why is that? What would make it so painful? Do you recall that I stated previously that there is a nerve that runs in a groove underneath each rib? Well, to remove a portion of a rib would require cutting through that nerve twice, leaving raw nerve fibers on each end. There is, of course, no pain during the surgery because the body is asleep, but when you wake up, you are in extreme pain each time you move or take a breath.

Adam would also have experienced severe pain as a result of the surgery which God used to prepare him a bride. This has important spiritual significance, for Christ, the last Adam, likewise experienced severe pain in order to have a bride. He had to endure the suffering of the cross.

24 Heb. 12:2 reveals to us the reason that Jesus was able to endure such agony: “Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross...” What was the joy which He looked forward to? What could possibly bring Him so much joy that it would enable Him to look beyond His sufferings? I believe it was more than just knowing that the work of redemption would be accomplished. I believe that He, like the first Adam, looked forward to the joy of having a bride.

So, we see that both Adam and Christ had to endure suffering and bear scars in their bodies in order to have a bride. What about the bride of Christ? Will she suffer also? The apostle Paul had a desire to know Christ more intimately and was willing to suffer for Him and with Him. He stated in Phil. 3:10, “That I may know him...and the fellowship of his sufferings...”

He wanted to actually enter into the emotional sufferings that Jesus experienced, which included the pain of being hated and rejected, as well as being betrayed, denied and deserted by His friends when He needed them the most. Jesus also experienced the frailty and pain of a human body that was beaten beyond all recognition and the emotional pain of bearing the weight of all our sins.

It wasn't because Paul wanted to suffer. He simply wanted to know Jesus so intimately that he could understand and share



His pain with Him. When you love someone deeply, you are able to experience the pain that they experience. When they hurt, you hurt, for you have become one with them. This is the true heart of a bride who is united with her Bridegroom.

But after the cross comes the crown. Paul warned Timothy that he would have to suffer many things, just as he did for preaching the gospel, but also told him that there would one day be a reward. He stated in II Tim. 2:12, "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us [the right to reign]." This is not referring to salvation, only to reigning with Christ.

Paul states in Eph. 5:31, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh." This is quoted from Gen. 2:24 regarding Adam and Eve becoming one. In Genesis we see that Adam was not joined unto his whole body, for Eve was only a small part of him, a rib, which was separated out from the rest of his body and then specially prepared by God's hand and presented back to him, to be joined again to his side, and once again become a part of him. 25

And so it is with Christ and His body, the church. Christ was willing to leave His Father and His home in heaven in order to become a man and to be joined to His bride; but he will be joined only to those believers who have yielded to the cutting, the separation and the preparation to become a bride. The espousal and the opportunity to become the bride of Christ is open to all who will respond to the wooing of the Holy Spirit as He calls us to live a life that is separated unto Christ alone.

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### **The Rock**

Sometimes on the Rock I tremble,  
Faint of Heart and Weak of Knee,  
But the Steadfast Rock of Ages  
Never trembles under me.



## IN FAITH

“These all died in faith....” Heb. 11:13.

This Scripture is in connection with God's overcoming witnesses of Old Testament times. They confessed God's Name while on earth, and now He confesses their names. He has left to us the record of a few of these worthies. He has declared some of their achievements. Their names are written, not upon the sands of time, but upon the eternal shores of the New Jerusalem. God remembers their faith through all these centuries and their names are known and revered by others of like mind, while unbelieving men of their day (though many were great and famous) are all forgotten.

But there are some worthies of faith today. They have not all passed off the scene. God knows who they are. They are leaving their mark on human hearts. Lives are changed because of the emphatic witness which they bear to those around them. And while their names are not written down here, they are engraved upon God's Hall of fame upon the corridors above. These also die as they lived —IN FAITH. "...God is not ashamed to be called their God.... He has prepared for them a city." Heb. 11:16

Anon

### TREASURES

One by one He took them from me.  
All the things I valued most,  
Until I was empty-handed;  
Every glittering toy was lost,  
And I walked earth's highways grieving  
In my rags and poverty,  
'Till I heard His voice inviting,  
"Lift your empty hands to Me!"  
So I held my hands toward heaven,  
And He filled them with a store  
Of His own transcendent riches,  
'Till they could contain no more.  
And at last I comprehended  
With my stupid mind and dull  
That God could not pour His riches  
Into hands already full!

—Selected



## *Hosea Chap. 9*

(Continued)

**T**he next generation of Israel is also at risk for, “Though they bring up their children, yet will I bereave them, that there shall not be a man left: yea, woe also to them when I depart from them!” V. 12 The reason for such a plight is because Israel will have failed to instruct their children in the ways of The LORD. This same dilemma confronted Nehemiah after the Babylonish captivity. “In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab: And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people.” Neh. 13:23-24 God had already stated that the glory of this people might soon fly away, due to their departure from Him into idolatry, but the rest of this verse indicates an even greater loss as He declares, “...woe also to them when I depart from them!” Sadly, this same scenario will prevail in the end of this age when God will leave Israel to their own devices and they will be free to make their league with the antichrist in accordance with Dan. 9:27.

27

Waning natural prosperity in Israel is next considered from God's point of view. “Ephraim, as I saw Tyrus, is planted in a pleasant place: but Ephraim shall bring forth his children to the murderer.” V. 13 Ephraim is here compared to the Gentile city of Tyrus, which according to Ezekiel was a very prosperous place. “And say unto Tyrus, O thou that art situate at the entry of the sea, which art a merchant of the people for many isles, Thus saith the Lord GOD; O Tyrus, thou hast said, I am of perfect beauty.” Ezek. 27:3 God intended for Israel to follow that same pattern. However, due to the fact that they are steeped in idolatry this fallen nation shall now “...bring forth his children to the murderer.” This is in perfect agreement with the decree of V. 12, “..., yet will I bereave them, that there shall not be a man left:...” “Give them, O LORD: what wilt thou give? give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts.” V. 14 This plea seems to come from Hosea and is like unto that of Elijah as he, too, is said to have made intercession to God “...against Israel...” “God



hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God **against** Israel, saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.” Rom. 11:2-3 Paul continues in this chapter with God’s answer and promise to Elijah that, “...I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.” Rom. 11:4-5 The frustration of both Elijah and Hosea is very clear, but the glorious news is that God will never cast off his people and when faithful men like these pray in such a manner as these two did, it is for the purpose of creating great hardship in order that they might bow before The LORD. However, Hosea continues to be rather adamant in his indictment against Ephraim, declaring that “All their wickedness is in Gilgal: for there I hated them: for the wickedness of their doings I will drive them out of mine house, I will love them no more: all their princes are revolvers.” V. 15 Gilgal was a very notable place in Canaan for it marked the first encampment of Israel after they crossed the Jordan. It was here that they took 12 stones out of the river and set them up for a memorial of that crossing. Gilgal means “a rolling away” and God signified that meaning, declaring that, “...This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.” Jos 5:9 The reproach of Egypt simply testifies of their bondage to that nation, and it is only after they have crossed the Jordan and have been circumcised that true freedom is realized. Hosea seems to be furious here because that freedom has been squandered by their idolatrous behavior. His own personal feelings are reflected by the fact that “...I hated them:.... I will drive them out of mine house, I will love them no more:...” thus indicating that he did not even want any kind of fellowship with them. Harsh words perhaps, but those of an honest man. However, the following words seem to be God’s response to Hosea’s cry. Just as He answered the “intercession” of Elijah so also it seems that Hosea’s cry has been heard.

“Ephraim is smitten, their root is dried up, they shall bear



no fruit: yea, though they bring forth, yet will I slay even the beloved fruit of their womb.” V. 16 Hosea had prayed for an unfruitful Ephraim and God seems to have answered. One can only wonder whether Elijah or Hosea came to understand God’s pattern of privation and hardship in order to bring the rebellious to their knees, but scripture is very clear that such a pattern will prevail in regard to this nation. Hosea does prophesy that “My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be wanderers among the nations.” V. 17 Quite a number of prophets have made this same prediction and it has happened throughout this long period of the Church Age. It will become even more intense as Israel trusts in the false promises of the antichrist and is further isolated during the time of Jacob’s trouble. The glorious news is once again found in Paul’s prophecy concerning his own people when he unequivocally proclaims that, “... all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:” Rom 11:26 The future of this idolatrous nation is very bright, but the next chapter of this book clearly indicates that the effects of whoredom and idolatry are still rampant at the time then present. 29

### *Hosea 10*

“Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images.” Hos. 10:1

Hosea’s cry for Israel to become unfruitful in the foregoing chapter seems to have been realized. The prophet had cried out, “Give them, O LORD: what wilt thou give? give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts.” Ch. 9:14 The text above indicates that the fruit which they did produce was “...unto himself...” furthermore, though such fruit “...hath increased the altars...” those altars could not have been built unto the Lord but rather the increase in Israel was used to make “...goodly images.” Those would have been idolatrous images due to the fact that “Their heart is divided;...” V. 2 Those hearts were



divided between God and idols, which is something which God will never endure, for He is ONE God demanding total devotion. Thus, this verse continues announcing that "... now shall they be found faulty: he shall break down their altars, he shall spoil their images." This is a direct prophecy which God will shortly bring to pass.

Another consequence is couched in the next verse, which declares that "... now they shall say, We have no king, because we feared not the LORD; what then should a king do to us?" V. 3 The record in I & II Kings is quite clear on this matter. The time in which these things took place is AFTER the 10 tribes were separated from the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin. That history clearly reveals the names of the kings reigning simultaneously in both Judah and Israel, but there were periods of time when it is quite clear that Israel did not have a king ruling over them. One reason for all this dilemma with Israel is that "They have spoken words, swearing falsely in making a covenant: thus judgment springeth up as hemlock in the furrows of the field." V. 4 This 30 undoubtedly means that while they made "...a covenant..." with God they were "...swearing falsely..." because they had no intention of keeping it, since they were already steeped in idolatry. Judgment then follows "...as hemlock in the furrows of the field." Hemlock is a poisonous plant according to Deut. 32:32 where the same word is translated "gall." Their promised land was supposed to be a land of milk and honey, but that same land now produces poisonous plants due to Israel's most intense idolatry.

Her capital of Samaria is next assailed, for the inhabitants thereof "...shall fear because of the calves of Bethaven: for the people thereof shall mourn over it, and the priests thereof that rejoiced on it, for the glory thereof, because it is departed from it." Bethaven is undoubtedly the same as Bethel and would thus be a repeated reference to I Kings 12:28-29, where Jeroboam set up the two calves of idolatry in order to keep the ten tribes from going to Jerusalem for worship. Bethel means house of God but it seems that Hosea has taken the liberty to change it to "Bethaven" which means "House of Vanity," due to the rampant



idolatry described in this verse. The people would eventually "...mourn over it,..." that is the idolatry of these two calves, even though "...the priests....rejoiced on it...." The results for all such idolatrous conduct would be the departing glory of it. Note further that Hosea specifically prophesies Israel's coming captivity, declaring that "It (Bethaven) shall be also carried unto Assyria for a present to king Jareb: Ephraim shall receive shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his own counsel." V. 6 Those two golden calves could well have been carried away into Assyria as a present for the king just as the treasures in the House of The Lord at Jerusalem were carried away as a "present" to Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. It is here emphasized again that Israel and Ephraim refer to the 10 tribes of Israel and they shall indeed be "...ashamed of his own counsel," which was to follow this path of gross idolatry that started with the two calves produced by Jeroboam.

Hosea once again targets Israel's capital city directly, prophesying; "As for Samaria, her king is cut off as the foam upon the water." V. 7 This prophecy was fulfilled during the reign of Hoshea when Israel as a nation, represented by Samaria, was indeed "...cut off as the foam upon the water..." and taken into captivity by Shalmaneser king of Assyria.

The prophet then turns attention to the idolatry which began at Bethel. "The high places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us." Bethel, Bethaven, and Aven are all synonymous, in reference to the two idolatrous calves made by Jeroboam, which began Israel's downward trek into gross idolatry. These "...high places..." of idol worship absolutely became the "...sin of Israel..." but would soon be destroyed and replaced with thistles. These judgments would then give way to Israel's cry for deliverance from the wrath of God, reminding us of tribulation days which are yet to come upon the entire world. "And the kings of the earth, and the great men,... hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of



his wrath is come;...” Rev. 6:15

32 Hosea’s next assault against this nation hearkens back to the days of Gibeah, which was also referenced in Hosea Ch. 9. “O Israel, thou hast sinned from the days of Gibeah: there they stood: the battle in Gibeah against the children of iniquity did not overtake them.” V. 9 This account of Gibeah, which is taken from Judges 19, reveals a civil war between Israel and Benjamin. They seemed to have learned absolutely nothing from that battle, but still God did not intend to destroy either Judah or Israel, thus the determination that, “...the battle...did not overtake them. The prophet then makes it very clear that, “It is in my desire that I should chastise them; and the people shall be gathered against them, when they shall bind themselves in their two furrows.” God’s objective is to simply correct the wayward path they had chosen. Such chastisement evidently comes in the form of other nations or “...the people shall be gathered against them...” Those people undoubtedly refer to their national enemies at the time then present, but this same scenario will also apply to their experience in the end time when many nations which will be gathered against Israel as a whole.

The last phrase of this verse, “...they shall bind themselves in their two furrows,” is better translated “I shall bind them for their two transgressions or in their habitations.” Those two transgressions would be their sin in Gibeah and the idolatrous calves set up by Jeroboam in Bethel. This same pattern will also prevail during the coming days of tribulation, when God will hold Israel to account for these same two transgressions of idolatry and the rejection of their Messiah, the real Levite pictured by the aforementioned incident at Gibeah detailed in Chap. 9.

Hosea next asserts that, “...Ephraim is as an heifer that is taught, and loveth to tread out the corn; but I passed over upon her fair neck: I will make Ephraim to ride; Judah shall plow, and Jacob shall break his clods.” V. 11 The “...heifer that is taught...” seems to describe a very gullible nation that were easily taught the ways of idolatry. They also loved “...to tread out the corn...” indicative of the idea that they actually prospered when engaged in idolatry. Paul warns of such an idea, warning



Timothy against those who would suppose that "...that gain is godliness:..." I Tim. 6:5 Thus, God "...passed over upon her fair neck..." signifying that He would overlook her transgressions, at least for a time. However, He would "...make Israel to ride..." meaning that Ephraim would be broken for someone else to ride him. Judah is likewise guilty of idolatry, therefore it is written, "...Judah shall plow..." or be subservient to others. Jacob is then addressed, the name being another term for the ten tribes of Israel who "...break his clods,..." putting a double emphasis on the fact that they would be assigned to "force labor." However, God follows an oft repeated pattern in scripture where He does offer mercy in the midst of judgment as recorded in the following declaration.

"Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you." V. 12 Israel as a united nation will one day learn this glorious lesson when they discover true righteousness in their Messiah. They will seek and indeed "...reap in mercy..." the only path to God's unlimited provisions of redemption. They are here exhorted to "...break up your fallow ground..." a reference to ground that had once been plowed and broken for planting but has long since been left dormant. Therefore, the process must be repeated in an effort to produce a crop. The rains must then be restored, but that will happen only after they "...seek the LORD,..." Who is, in fact, their Promised Messiah. 33

"Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men." V. 13 Spiritually speaking, Israel as a whole could be described as the aforementioned "fallow ground," but while they neglected the ground that could have been fruitful they instead "...plowed wickedness..." in idol worship. They would also reap the harvest of "...iniquity..." because "...ye have eaten the fruit of lies..." Only the truth of God's Word can bring forth genuine fruit, but the lies of idolatry became the sum and substance of their lives instead. They substituted their own way for that which God had chosen and



just as it will be during the coming tribulation, they trusted "...in the multitude of mighty men." Such actions will always produce disastrous results, and "Therefore shall a tumult arise among thy people, and all thy fortresses shall be spoiled, as Shalman spoiled Betharbel in the day of battle: the mother was dashed in pieces upon her children." V. 14 The tumult here is only a type of the greater tumult Israel will endure at the end of this Church Age, wherein "...thy fortresses shall be spoiled..." There will come a day when all their defenses will be totally decimated and there will be none to help. The reference to "...Shalman..." is found in II Kings 17:3, where Assyria invaded Israel during the reign of King Hoshea. "Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria; and Hoshea became his servant, and gave him presents." This is the beginning of the end for the ten tribes of Israel, for they were shortly thereafter carried away into Assyria. According to this 17th chapter of II Kings, Hoshea was the last king of Israel before they were fully dominated by the Assyrian regime. Assyria then put their own people in cities such as Samaria, and

**34** Israelites were placed in Assyrian cities. It was because of such interrelationships with the Assyrians that the woman at the well said to Jesus "...the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans." Jn. 4:9

"So shall Bethel do unto you because of your great wickedness: in a morning shall the king of Israel utterly be cut off." Hosea closes this chapter with a reference to Bethel, which must be held accountable for her downward trek into idolatry. All the difficulties for this nation described above have come upon them directly "...because of your great wickedness:..." which began at Bethel when Jeroboam created the two golden calves. I Kings 12:32 Now, "...in a morning shall the king of Israel shortly be cut off." Their bondage to Assyria has begun.

\* The Christian's reward is something like a purse, a cake, or a dinner. We get just what we have *put into God's Service.*





# Our Corn Crib

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whoever calls on the name  
of the Lord shall be saved.'

