

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the  
whole Counsel of GOD.

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*"And the  
angel answered  
and said...He  
is not here:  
for he is risen,  
as he said!..."*

*Matt. 28:5,6*



“The Blessings  
of The Lord  
be upon you.”

Psa, 129:8



"The Lord is risen indeed!"  
Then justice asks no more;  
mercy and Truth are now agreed,  
Which stood opposed before.

"The Lord is risen indeed!"  
Then all His works performed;  
The captive Surety now is freed,  
And death, our foe, disarmed.

"The Lord is risen indeed!"  
He lives to die no more;  
He lives, His people's cause to plead,  
Whose curse and shame He bore.

"The Lord is risen indeed!"  
And hell has lost its prey;  
And with Him all the ransomed seed  
Shall reign in endless day.

Thomas Kelly

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Editor: Gene Hawkins



## Definite Sign Posts Of The End!

Gene Hawkins

“**T**his know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, (out of control) fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:...For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth....as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith...their folly shall be manifest unto all men,...But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” II Tim. 3:1-13

These verses have appeared multiple times in these pages over the years, and by many writers, but the validity of them has never waned. Contrariwise, they have simply become much more pronounced and intense as the wickedness of these last days continues to increase, even beyond the imaginations of righteous men. Daniel issues this same summation of wickedness regarding this same period of time, declaring that, “...in the latter time of their kingdom, **when the transgressors are come to the full**, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up...his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power:...through his policy also he **shall cause craft** (fraud, deceit) **to prosper** in his hand;...” Dan. 8:23-25

Daniel’s prophecy concludes that the aforementioned, “...king of fierce countenance...” which is the false prophet will emerge when men have been permitted to reach the pinnacle of wickedness or “...when the transgressors are come to the full...” His major tools will be fraud and deceit, and he will be empowered by Satan.

Paul’s instruction to Timothy reveals that “...perilous times shall come,...” due at least in part to the ungodly acts of men described in the verses which follow. A close inspection of this text reveals that there are no less than 30 terms or scenarios used to portray those engaged in the multiple transgressions which



shall prevail in these end times. It is also quite apparent that most of these attitudes and actions come forth directly because "...men shall be lovers of their own selves,..." This truth can especially be applied to world rulers at this present time who are literally obsessed with their own desires and self aggrandizement or greatness.

There is one major theme emphasized both in Paul's account and that of Daniel which stems from this self obsession. Paul plainly declares that such men are "...false accusers...resist (stand against, or oppose) the truth...seducers...deceiving...and being deceived." The apostle also described such an one when he wrote to the Thessalonians, declaring that "...the mystery of iniquity doth already work:... And then shall that Wicked be revealed,...Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and **lying wonders**, And with all **deceivableness** of unrighteousness...because they received not the love of the truth,..." The one described as "...that Wicked..." once again refers to the same false prophet with the exact same credentials as the ungodly man whom Daniel identified.

4 It is imperative to realize here that Paul asserted, **at the time then present**, that "...the mystery of iniquity doth **already** work:..." II Thes. 2:7 John likewise confirms "...every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even **now already** is it in the world." I John. 4:3

Both the antichrist and false prophet are yet to be revealed in these last days, but the Satanic spirit controlling both of them has been in this world since the beginning of this Church Age. The difference today is that Satan is increasing that intensity in these last days as prophesied numerous times in scripture, and thus this theme of deception is becoming far more prominent than in previous generations. Jesus clearly prophesied that, "...there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, **if it were possible**, they shall deceive the very elect." This pinnacle of "iniquity" will not occur until deep into the tribulation period, but these signs of deception are becoming more intense and prominent by the day.

The first evidence of the false prophet is found in the chapter above quoted from Daniel. "Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, (Christ) and by him (this same



false prophet) the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.” Dan. 8:11 The simple fact is that, time wise, the daily sacrifice will be taken away exactly 30 days BEFORE the 7 year week of tribulation even begins. After that, the false prophet, along with the antichrist, will increase their deceptive ploys and the less truth men know, the more vulnerable they will be. Therefore, there is no substitute for measuring the words and actions taken by world leaders today by the prophecy and truth of God’s Word.

There is a host of difficulties prevailing world-wide directly because men absolutely refuse to be forthcoming with the truth about them. When men deliberately withhold truth, or “twist” the facts in an effort to mislead others, or when they are vague in their answers, often trying to deflect the issue to the doorstep of someone else, it can only be termed deception. Some of the more prominent examples of these tactics which have emerged in recent months and days are global warming aka “climate change,” China’s balloon flying unmolested over U.S. soil, China’s threat against Taiwan, Russia invading Ukraine, Russia shooting down a U.S. drone with no reprisal from the U.S. as of this date, world-wide inflation, and the battle currently raging in Washington over all the restrictions and lockdowns invoked because of Covid-19, along with its origination.

5

The fact is that any of these things can, and must, be measured against the authority of God’s Word. This is an “art” that all God’s people must develop in their own individual lives. Hopefully, the following examples will illustrate how that may be accomplished.

It can be stated unequivocally, on the authority of God’s Word, that man-made climate change due to the use of fossil fuels is an absolute myth. The first thing to look at is the purpose for which men have purported this idea. They have stated repeatedly that if fossil fuels are not eliminated the entire planet will be destroyed in X number of years. Many of their “prophetic” days for this to occur have come and gone but still some hammer, even with children, the idea that destruction is eminent. What does God’s Word say about such delusional destruction? “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them,... and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” Rev. 20:4 This is a reference to the scriptural fact that Christ will reign as God over heaven and earth for 1000 years, “For he must reign, till he hath put all



enemies under his feet.” I Cor. 15:25 He will begin by conquering those enemies during the seven year tribulation which is now at the door, after which the entire world will enjoy the remainder of those 1000 years in peace and tranquility rather than eminent destruction. After that, the world will indeed be destroyed but not by ANY effort or lack of it from man. “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea....And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new....” Rev. 21:1 & 4

6 Another scriptural fact is that truth will ALWAYS eventually prevail. “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both **will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts:...**” I Cor. 4:5 The opening text from II Tim. 3 also proclaims that “...their folly shall be manifest unto all men...” There are times when The Master of Truth chooses to make such counsels known quickly, as witness Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Mr. Putin lied repeatedly, even while building up troops on the borders of Ukraine, that he had no intention of invading them. He seemed to be emboldened after the U.S.’ botched withdrawal from Afghanistan and his lies were graphically exposed. However, it also seems clear that, he too, experienced the promise of God in this matter. Paul specifically warned that “...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, **deceiving, and being deceived,**” meaning that those who are intent on deceiving others will leave themselves vulnerable to the same deception. The apostle further added in his message to Thessalonica that “...for this cause (denying truth) God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:” II Thess. 2:10-11 Mr. Putin fully expected that this “his war” in Ukraine would be short lived, but that certainly proved to be a virtual lie insofar as his own purposes were concerned, and the cost to Russia has been astronomical.

There are also a great number of mysteries surrounding Covid-19, or the so-called “China Virus” or “Coronavirus.” There have been multiple and often contradictory reports of how people are to deal with it. Masks were at one time mandatory, along with complete lock-downs of entire nations. Vaccinations were likewise demanded in many cases and caused tremendous hardship to some, along with adverse effects on certain organs in various individuals. Some guaranteed that if the shots were taken



recipients would not contract the virus, would not spread it, and most assuredly not die from it, all of which has proven to be false. It is now coming to light that many contrary voices were silenced during this time because they advocated an opposite view. Some of those reports came from doctors and other scientists but their opinions were widely suppressed, thus contributing greatly to mass confusion and deception.

It has been stated for many years that when great mysteries are to be uncovered, the investigator would do well to “follow the money.” That surely fits with the opening text of this article, asserting that those who are “...lovers of themselves....” will do everything in their power to preserve their own interests first. James addresses “the rich” in regard to these last days with this warning. “Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you....Your riches are corrupted,... and the rust of them shall be a witness against you,...Ye have heaped treasure together **for the last days**....the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.” Jas 5:1-5

The connection of money with the proponents of the lies published in our world today must not be overlooked. Many who have trumpeted the climate change myth have become wealthy because of it. Not only so, but those same individuals have no compunction about flying around in their own private jets while insisting that everyone else must comply with their demands to cease using fossil fuels.

That same monetary connection should also be considered when making decisions about the Covid-19 virus, because it has been reported that some very rich men in America who are actively defending China have a definite financial tie to them. These same people seem to give credence to the idea that bats from some “wet market” caused this ungodly pandemic. However, some “experts” from China, whose voices have also been greatly suppressed by mainstream media, have not only declared unequivocally that the virus came from this Wuhan virology lab but also that the “leak” was intentional. So, “Why should these assertions of the rich be chosen over those who apparently have no personal agenda at all, but rather face severe reprisal if they are caught by China? Why is it not plausible that China could have unleashed this virus on purpose?”



The scriptural order of end time events must be called to account in an effort to perhaps aid God's people in making decisions for their own lives. "...I 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: and unto them was given power,...And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing,... but only those men **which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.**" Rev. 9:1-4 The above text reveals that Satan will be cast out of heaven and will immediately open the bottomless pit. A hoarde of wicked spirits will then be unleashed upon the earth, inflicting intense pain and suffering on those "...which have not the seal of God..." This means that only **unbelievers** will suffer from the plagues inflicted on men by these wicked spirits which are here called "...locusts..."

8 There is currently ongoing controversy and deception surrounding Covid-19. If this virus truly is a precursor of the above plagues which will prevail in the midst of the tribulation, as suggested by the following comments, is there perchance a difference already manifest in its effects on **believers** strong in the faith, versus **unbelievers** with no faith at all? Many of the "plagues" coming upon this world will be brought forth only by God, but there are numerous maladies which will be the result of one nation trying to achieve dominion over another. Thus, those recorded in the above text may indeed be the product of man's own ingenuity. Both Russia and China are of that ilk, for both have demonstrated that they will jeopardize their own citizens in an effort to achieve the goals of leaders who are most assuredly "...lovers of their own selves..."

However, in the midst of all these lies, supposition, speculation, and intended deception, God's people must know how to conduct themselves. Their first endeavor must be to avoid being deceived and according to God's Word, that comes only by knowing Truth, which must be applied to any given circumstance as is illustrated, in part, by the foregoing examples.

There is no doubt that the effects of Covid-19 are real and cannot be taken lightly. However, God's people must not succumb to fear, something that is very likely intended by those promoting it because it constitutes a means of power



over others. Make no mistake, fear is a tool which will be used incessantly by the antichrist and scripture is very clear that "...fear hath torment..." and thus must have no place in motivating true believers. Though some leaders try to make a distinction, "Why should this ungodly virus be considered any different than the flu, cancer, polio, T.B., or any other disease for which believers are instructed to believe God?" It has already been pointed out that many of the restrictions and firm proclamations concerning Covid have proven to be false. Thus, everyone who has submitted his life to The LORD must realize that "My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me." Psa. 31:15 Job likewise affirmed "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10 He knows the way that I take because He chose it for me. Job also declared "If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come." Job 14:14 It is only God who knows what that "...appointed time..." is and He is the One Who must make the decision of how, where, and when such a time will be realized. Our only obligation is to accept His choices, and thus the decisions every believer makes regarding this ungodly plague must be motivated by God's instruction rather than all the fears prompted by men. Our first order of business must be to put all the many different dilemmas noted above into the perspective of truth prophesied for these end times. The overall promise is clear, "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book" Rev. 22:7

9

Those prophecies mean the entire compliment of Scripture, not just the book of Revelation. One such prophecy noted above is that the first official appearance of the false prophet will be when "...by him the daily sacrifice was taken away,..." Dan. 8:11 There are those in times past who knew that the tribulation would begin 30 days after this sacrifice was removed and thus concluded Jesus must come during that 30 day period because His promise to the Philadelphia Church was to "...keep thee from (out of) the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." Rev. 3:10 The fact at this hour is that the daily sacrifice has not even been reinstated let alone removed. It is also quite **unlikely** that those represented by the Philadelphia Church, known as the Bride of Christ, **will still be here** when that very momentous event takes place. Since Jesus is



coming as “a thief,” it is extremely doubtful that He would give a 30 day notice of His arrival. Thus, this full overcoming band will undoubtedly be in glory BEFORE the deceptive false prophet officially appears to induce Israel to give up this momentous sacrifice.

10 Therefore, those looking for the soon coming of Jesus in these last days must make no mistake. The failure to declare truth is rampant in our day and from the accounts above, men are doing it on purpose to achieve their own advantage, quite simply because they truly are “...lovers of their own selves...” True believers can do nothing about those conditions except, as Paul instructs, hinder the mystery of iniquity invoked by Satan until they “...be taken out of the way.” II Thess. 2:7 What a joy to know that Paul ended his warning about “...perilous times...” concerning “...evil men and seducers...” with these encouraging words to his son Timothy, for they do impart valuable counsel on how to avoid this deception. “But **continue thou** in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, **knowing of whom thou hast learned them**; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee **wise unto salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, **thoroughly furnished** unto all good works. II Tim. 3:14-17

### Our Heart Cry

Come Lord. Thy foes are increasing.  
With taunting of lips they say,  
“Where now is Christ’s promised advent?  
`Tis years since He went away.”

Come Lord. Thy saints are all calling,  
While error stalks on its way,  
And scoffers are mockingly asking,  
“When now is the judgment day?”

Come Lord. Thy reign then beginning,  
Over the earth and the sea.  
Bring peace to this world of sorrow.  
Come Lord and make all men free.

Author Unknown



## **One Passover** **An Easter Feast of Long Ago**

Mary M. Bodie

“**A**nd when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,... they crucified him,... And set up over his head his accusation written, **THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**” Matt. 27:33-37

Matthew gives us more details concerning the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ than the other Gospel writers. The history of those days, from the day of his crucifixion to that of His resurrection, is filled with mighty happenings. Those were the most momentous days of all the ages. Jehovah witnessed to this fact by eight stupendous miracles. More far-reaching purposes were based upon the death and resurrection of Christ than upon any other happenings of all history. God emphasized this fact in the most unusual and vivid manner. He positively marked those days by mighty miracles. He wanted every individual in that little land of Palestine to note the spectaculars of those days. He wants all the people to realize the wonder of those days when Jesus died, was buried, and arose from the dead.

The natural creation came into being with little disturbance. God came on the scene as we read in Scripture (Gen. 1 and 2) and out of the ground formed a man. We are not told of anything strange in that creation except that Jehovah "breathed into his nostrils and man became a living soul." But when God would bring the spiritual Man, the Head of a new creation, upon the scene, He advertized the fact in a most pronounced and emphatic series of phenomena. And each of these signs proved in a special and peculiar manner that Christ was the Son of God and the Redeemer of mankind, which He had declared.

Great men of the world die and nature is not disturbed in any supernatural manner. Let us think back on some of the famous men of the past, both wicked and good — their passing was not noted by nature. Even the very best, the worthies of faith, Abraham, Moses, David, Samuel, Daniel, the prophets, Apostles, and even Paul; all went to their graves in silence as far as the supernatural was concerned. The great rulers, Julius Ceasar, Napoleon, Washington, etc., scientists, musicians, philanthropists and what have you, of the human race died; and neither heaven nor earth indicated any great miraculous concern in their death in



the way of demonstration. There were no convulsions of nature below, or above.

There was only one Man whose death called forth the most stupendous and tremendous signs, that was Jesus Christ. He was accounted by some while He lived on earth a most remarkable character, a Prophet, a Holy Man ; and by others, an eccentric fellow, a madman, a deceiver, a falsifier, and many other titles of ignominy and derision. But when He died, every part of nature owned Him Lord and Creator, greater than all men. His death was advertised by God then and has been analyzed by man ever since more than that of any other of the human race. That day God witnessed to the world the Deity of the Man that hung upon a cross upon a little hill outside the city of Jerusalem. Miracle after miracle attested that more than a mortal passed away when Jesus dismissed His Spirit. Eight mighty super-naturals advertized Him as the Son of God. Let us notice these.

**12** **One.** "Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour." Three hours of dense darkness was creation's first witness to the fact of the passing of Jesus out of this world. The Light of the earth hung limp in death upon the cross and the sun, the natural light, which He had placed in the heavens was hung with crepe. That was not simply the darkness of the night such as we know when the sun sets. That was a miraculous darkness, a little foretaste, or fore-feeling of the outer darkness of the lost. It began as we would say, at twelve o'clock and was removed instantly at three o'clock. Who could do that but God? It was not an accident, or a happen so, but an actual demonstration of the power of nature being not only in sympathy with the Man on the cross, but was made to acknowledge the darkness that He felt, and others felt it too. It caused the infidel Sadducee, the self-righteous Pharisee, and the worldly-minded Herodian to squirm. It made them tremble in amazement; and panic seized hold of them.

"Who was that Man?" they questioned in their hearts. He had often made them afraid, but now nature agreed with Him, confounding and dumbfounding them. What does this phenomena mean? They cannot understand, though a notable miracle has been performed and they cannot deny it. God has answered their rejection of His Son and their Saviour by revealing to them their state — outer darkness forever. They had turned away from the



light; their sun had set, because they had closed their eyes to its brilliancy ; therefore for them it was darkness.

**Two. "And behold the veil of the Temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom." Matt. 28:51.** Here is the second witness of God to the Son of His love. He manifested by that rent veil the great result of the death of Christ on the cross. It opened the way to God for mankind. They had been shut out of God's presence because of Adam's sin. There was distance between a holy God and sinful men. God desired to come out to man and be in fellowship with him, but it was impossible. Man was not only a sinner, but an enemy. He did not desire fellowship with God. He was a rebel in God's government; therefore a way had to be made to bridge the chasm and bring man back to his Creator. And God Himself opened the way. It is infinitely touching to read these words, "**God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son**" to the death of the rugged cross that man might be reconciled to Him. And when Jesus died, the curtain between the Most Holy Place and the other part of the Temple WAS RENT FROM THE TOP TO THE BOTTOM. God was propitiated when Jesus cried, "It is finished and bowed His head and died." The sword of justice cut the curtain in answer to that work of atonement. God was satisfied and glorified by the death of His holy Son on Calvary. Notice, the rent began at the top and came down to the bottom. It was not done by the hand of man. God made the way that man might come back to Him.

13

There is a legend that tells of the fear that overtook the priests who were attending to the service of the Temple when that great miracle happened. They ran out in a panic as the parting in that veil was made by a sword wielded by a hand from above. No doubt many of them believed when they saw the miracles; but alas the majority closed their eyes and their ears to the witness of God to His Son and His work of atonement.

**Three. "And the earth did quake..." V. 51** Oh the supernatural was in evidence that day when Christ died! There was a convulsion of nature and the shaking of the earth was felt in all the land of Palestine. It was known around about that something strange had happened. The people were in anguish; terror gripped them. "What have we done?" Many no doubt cried out in fear. Imagine such advertising upon the death of this Man. We say no other man ever had such wide publicity when he died, and this on the part of nature and God. That was a message which



ought to have been heeded. The power of God was felt that day, a little hint of the manner in which He will shake the heavens and the earth at the second coming of Christ. The whole world will feel this latter shaking.

14 But oh what sorrow, pain, terror and tears the Jewish people would have escaped if they had heeded those supernatural signs. Today they are suffering even as they have suffered ever since they rejected their Messiah — and they are to suffer greater pangs yet in their own land during the great tribulation. It is so prophesied — and so it shall be. No man, or nation can reject the Son of God and expect to escape sorrow. The Scriptures determine everything. Woe and wailing are appointed for Jew and Gentile because of their attitude toward Jesus Christ. God will shake the foundations of everyone who is not in Him. He has appointed Him as Redeemer and Head of the human race. Christ is the Second Man, the Last Adam and has stepped into the shoes of the first Adam who failed and brought humanity to wreckage and ruin. He is the Source of life, incorruptible, eternal life to all those that trust in Him. He is the foundation, the Rock that cannot be moved. No other foundation can be found that will stand the testing time that is due to fall upon the world and all it contains. I Cor. 3:11.

**Four. "And the rocks did rend..."** V. 51 Christ, the Rock of ages was dying and nature voiced its disapproval, as it were, when the Creator bowed His Head and died. The rocks which He had made were torn by the sharp convulsion which rent them apart. He could stand the shaking; but those earthly rocks could not take it. The great stones in the mountains were torn asunder. Nature even was aroused in sympathy with its Lord. He is the Rock that the church is built upon which the gates of hell cannot shake. He will stand eternally, the true Stone, Elect and Precious to God and men who believe. The builders rejected Him, but God made Him the Head of the corner. Those that are built upon Him are safe and secure forever and ever.

**Five "And the graves were opened..."** V. 52 Here was another testimony to the worth and work of Christ. The graves wherein the dead had been buried were opened when Jesus died. But notice that the record does not say all the graves; only some of the saints arose. But the power of death and the grave was broken, as this fact witnessed. "O death where is thy sting?" the saved can sing. What a victory! It was God's signal to men that sin



was judged and death annulled by the death of Jesus. The opened graves is God's answer to Satan's envy and malice. **"Where sin abounded grace did much more abound."**

**Six. "Many bodies of the saints which slept arose..."**

V. 52 Observe the accuracy of the Scriptures, as well as the witness to the work of the Son of God. Those saints (holy ones) who arose from the opened graves came forth after the Lord. He was "the First Fruit of them that slept." No one could come forth except in anticipation of His resurrection. Those risen saints went into the city. What a testimony to Christ and His resurrection. They were an earnest of a great harvest that will rise into newness of life when the Lord comes again. He will raise all of His own people from their graves and give them places of honor and responsibility in His Kingdom. None need fear who has trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ. He will lose none of those whom the Father has given Him. The ultimate triumph of the Lord Jesus Christ is assured as all those miraculous happenings prove. He will shake the whole earth when He comes to show Himself to Satan and rebellious men who will be gathered against Him. The graves will burst asunder in far greater number to release every one of His blood-bought saints. God has announced, by these mighty 15 supernaturals that Jesus Christ was His Son. The next two witnesses are further proof of this fact.

**Seven. "There was a great earthquake;** for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven and rolled back the stone from the sepulchre and sat upon it." Matt. 28:1,2 This was the second earthquake. The first quake was upon the earth when Jesus died. This latter was when He arose three days afterward. That surely was some loud advertising which God gave to His Son. The people were in terror no doubt; for even one little earthquake keeps folk trembling long after the quake has stopped. It drives them wild with fear. But the devil had those Jewish rulers hearts so seared and hardened and their ears so deafened that they did not hear the loud reverberations of His signals. They passed away without any effect upon them.

The two Marys had come to the sepulchre to anoint the dear body of the Lord whom they supposed still in the embrace of death; but instead the grave was empty. An angel of the Lord had rolled away the stone and sat upon it, showing the utter defeat of the darkness of death in the case of Jesus. He had risen. That was



the eighth proof that Christ was the Son of God.

**Eight. "And the angel answered and said to the women, "Fear not ye; for I know ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here. He is risen, as He said." Chap. 28 :5,6.**

Christ's resurrection was the greatest advertisement of all, the most astounding miracle of the ages, the mightiest witness to the Deity of Christ. The other miracles proved Him more than an ordinary Man; this announced Him very God. It was the answer of God to Satan. He had wielded his greatest power in putting Christ to death, played his trump card, as men would express the case, did his uttermost to defeat God and man, and now the sequel. The Christ and His saints arose and triumphed to the uttermost over the devil and all his power. "He tore the bars of death away," as the poet sang, and arose from the grave. A new Man came out of that tomb. He brought into being a new humanity, the proof of which was that those saints came forth from their graves after His resurrection.

**16** We say, that was the gala day for Christ. It was the day to which God had looked and for which all creation were longing, the day of their emancipation from Satan's thralldom. It was the day of their loosing, of their independence and deliverance from the effects of the sin of Adam. The Seed of the woman had stepped on the serpent's head (Gen. 3:15) and the victory was in evidence. It was complete. He arose — oh glorious news — and proved He was the Son of God.

But we do not yet see all the results of that victory in manifestation. God has yet some purposes to work out before the glorious perfection of that victory will be seen. Nevertheless it will come. Death will be gone. The grave will be no more. The corruptibility of man will be a thing of the past. This corruptible will have put on incorruption and this mortal will put on immortality — and death shall be swallowed up of life-1 Cor. 15.

And even the animal creation waits for this glorious consummation when mankind shall come into their own place as the sons of God. "Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." Oh! what a happy consummation! What a glorious hope and outlook awaits us because of Christ's death and resurrection. Hallelujah! Let us praise Him!

(Reprint 1938)



## Resurrection

**“B**ut now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruit of them that sleep. For since through a man came death, through a Man comes a resurrection of dead ones; for as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all (believers) be made alive; but every man in his own order (or rank): Christ the firstfruit, afterward they that are Christ's in his coming.” I Cor. 15:20-23 (Greek)

Jesus died in hope of being raised from the dead. He arose and ascended in hope of coming back some day. Our offenses necessitated His death. A righteousness for us necessitated His resurrection since He “...was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.” Rom. 4:25 His death dealt judgment to the whole old creation. His resurrection headed an undying new creation. It was no guarantee against the dissolution of our frail bark; but it is a guarantee of the resurrection of all the sainted dead. Christ's resurrection is the climax of redemption; and the resurrection of believers will be the climax of the results of redemption, our full salvation. 17

As to our justification and new birth, we are saved by faith now, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:” Eph. 2:8 As to our glorification, we are “...saved by hope...” Rom. 8:23-25 Our salvation will be complete when we receive our glorified bodies. Hence, perfection awaits the resurrection of the dead and the translation of the living. Praise God, the glorification is assured. We hope not in vain. Paul says “...we are always confident...” of the resurrection some time (II Cor. 5:5-8); for Jesus went to prepare a place for us and He will come again to receive us unto Himself that where He is, we may be also. John 14 Hallelujah for the hope! Since the advent of Christ will cover a period of several years, and since there are several grades of Christian experience on earth, believers will be raised and translated in different orders, or ranks. Beloved, what rank are you choosing and qualifying for? Enoch, who was translated before the flood, “...had this testimony, that he pleased God.” Heb. 11:5 Anon.

(Reprint 1935)



# REFLECTIONS

*...From the Editor*

**“B**ut we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:” II Cor. 1:9

Any deliverance which God brings forth is predicated on the resurrection of Christ. Paul captured the majesty of this great truth when he wrote to the Romans declaring, “(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he (Abraham) **believed**, even God, who quickeneth the dead,...” Rom. 4:17 Abraham is also called “...the father of us all...” (V.15) and sets the example for anyone who would likewise believe “...God who quickeneth the dead,...” Paul then gives  
**18** two major examples of how this man, “...against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, ...” Rom. 4:18 First “...he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old,...” and secondly his faith was not moved by “...the deadness of Sara's womb:” Rom. 4:19

This Patriarch believed God when he first departed out of Ur of the Chaldees when God promised that he should be “...a father of many nations...” The fulfillment of that promise was not immediately forthcoming, however, and therefore Abraham complained, “...Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This (Eliezer) shall **not** be thine heir; **but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.**” Gen. 15:3-4 Even after God reiterated His promise and had given more detailed assurance of the Abrahamic Covenant, Isaac would not be born until, **AFTER** his “...own body was now dead,....” Thus, the opportunity arose for this man of faith to believe God in giving life to a “dead body” insofar as



fruitfulness was concerned.

Hebrews 11 credits Sarah with her own faith in this matter, but Paul's account of Isaac's birth centers around Abraham, who was not intimidated by the "...deadness of Sara's womb," which had plagued her from birth. He rather "staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God." Rom. 4:20 Furthermore, despite these natural complications which are simply the product of "old age," Abraham was still "...fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness." It was not the experience of Isaac's birth that imputed righteousness to our father of faith, but rather his unwavering belief in the "...God who quickeneth the dead."

Paul then asserts that "...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;**" Rom. 4:23-24 The pattern that Abraham set charted the course for the lives of all believers. The object is to implicitly believe the God of Resurrection regardless of opposition and circumstance. Men must believe in this Jesus "Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification," (V. 25) but believing the "...God who quickeneth the dead," must not be confined to initial salvation. **Every circumstance** which believers encounter must, like unto the pattern set by Paul, be considered an opportunity to make practical the reality "...that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God **which raiseth the dead:**" II Cor. 1:9

19

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### ANNOUNCEMENT:

Grace and Glory was recently given several copies of Bro. Jesse Franklin's book entitled "A.S. Copley." It is a beautiful account of Bro. Copley's life and ministry in spreading this glorious gospel of Divine Grace. Those desiring a copy, please submit the order to Grace and Glory, P.O. Box 831, Grandview, MO. 64030. Orders may also be submitted by phone at 816-618-3306 or e-mail. [gjhawk1@msn.com](mailto:gjhawk1@msn.com) These copies are very limited.



## *Prepared for Battle*

(Continued)

Dr. Vicky Moots

“**A**bove all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked [wicked one].” Eph. 6:16

Notice that Paul says that we “shall be able to quench all”, not “possibly” or “perhaps” might be able to quench “some” or “most” of the fiery darts. This is a complete and definite victory which we are promised through faith.

This verse starts with “above all”. “Above all” means “in addition to all.” All what? All the pieces of the armor which we have been commanded to wear, those things which we have already taken up and applied to ourselves personally: the girdle of truth, the breastplate of righteousness and the gospel of peace shoes in which we stand.

20 The word “shield” used here refers specifically to “the shield of the heavy infantry”, which is used on the frontline of battle. The Roman shield was heavy and large, approximately 4 ft. by 2 ½ ft., rectangular in shape and usually curved to deflect objects more easily, such as a spear or arrows. The soldier always carried it in his left hand, leaving his right hand free to use his sword. The shield was considered the most important part of a soldier’s defense from attacks by the enemy.

The shield was fabricated from layers of thin wood which were glued together, much like plywood, and sometimes covered with leather. The layers allowed the wood to be curved, as well as stronger, and therefore more effective for defense than just a thick, flat piece of wood.

This same principle of layering for added strength applies to our spiritual shield as well. Our faith increases as we use it. It builds up, layer upon layer, as we go through various trials. Paul refers to that process as going from “faith to faith”, in Rom. 1:17: “For therein [the gospel of Christ] is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith.”

The faith of which our spiritual shield is composed is not just the initial faith of salvation (“by grace are ye saved through faith”), but faith which brings victory over our present daily circumstances: victory over sin, the flesh and all of Satan’s evil



forces. John declares this in I John 5:4-5: "...and this is the victory that overcometh the world [world system], even our faith..."

It is the kind of faith which brings victory in the midst of a fiery furnace or a lion's den, because that's where we need it the most. Faith does not always bring deliverance, but it always brings victory, as you will discover by reading the entire eleventh chapter of Hebrews. The shield of faith is given to us by God, but it must be laid hold of and lifted up to be of any value. This is done in much the same manner in which we are to lay hold of and lift up Christ in our life, for the Lord is also our shield, as David declares in Ps. 33:20: "...he is our help and our shield."

In I Pet. 5:9, Peter joins Paul in telling us that faith is our defense against our adversary the devil: "Whom [the devil] resist steadfast in the faith..."

In the last part of Eph. 6:16, Paul explains that the purpose of the shield of faith is to protect us from the fiery darts of the wicked one. However, he does not say that we are to merely deflect them, but to quench them.

The term "fiery darts" is a reference to flaming arrows which were used in battle in those days. The tips of the arrows were coated with a flammable substance such as tow or pitch and then set on fire prior to aiming and discharging them. Since a shield was made of wood, it would burn if an arrow penetrated into it.

So, then, how could a wooden shield quench a flaming arrow? It could do that only if it had been soaked in water prior to going into battle.

What does this mean to us spiritually? What are the flaming arrows of the "wicked one", and what is the water that quenches them? The "wicked one" is, of course, speaking of Satan himself. The flaming arrows are the words which he speaks, his lies. He does not personally speak to us, but he speaks through people, through social media, the news, the internet and even through religious organizations.

Isa. 5:20, 23 clearly reveals some of the lies of Satan which are prevalent today: "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness...Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him."

James tells us plainly that the tongue is used as a tool of



Satan and can only be tamed by God. He calls it a fire in James 3:6: "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity...and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell." Verse 8 then states, "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."

This means that the arrows which Satan is firing at us are not only flaming arrows, but poison arrows, which he uses to try to poison our minds and our hearts. He uses lips like bows and tongues like arrows which are set on fire to speak his lies to attack us.

Water is what we need to quench his fiery darts. Water in the Scripture is a symbol of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, and there is an abundant supply available to us. The lies of Satan are only able to be quenched by the truth of the Word of God, which reveals them to be lies.

22 If you find that your faith is getting too weak to quench the enemy's fiery darts, then it's time to drench your shield with the Holy Spirit and the water of the Word! Faith is strengthened by hearing the Word, as Paul tells us in Rom. 10:17: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Let your soul soak up the water of the Word and make your shield fire proof, so that you are ready for battle.

Eph. 6:17a: "And take the helmet of salvation..." The main purpose of a helmet of any kind is to prevent head injury, especially traumatic brain injury, from a hard blow to the head. Helmets are used by people of all ages, depending on their occupation or what sport or activity they are engaged in. Even babies or small children who have frequent seizures are sometimes given helmets to protect their heads. Soldiers in combat also need helmets for protection. Helmets that are used today are required to meet certain specifications to show that they are effective in preventing injury and that they are durable.

The Roman soldier's helmet was called a galea. Their helmets were initially made of rawhide which was allowed to harden and conform to the shape of the head, covering the ears and the back of the neck. Later on, they were made out of metal, and feathers were added to signify rank.

If a helmet is so important in the physical realm, then we certainly need one for spiritual warfare. We need a spiritual helmet to protect our mind, because one of Satan's main targets,



besides the heart, is the mind.

Paul warns us in Rom. 12:2 that the world system, society today, under the influence of Satan, will try to conform our minds by squeezing us into its mold, to make us think the way it thinks, rather than to be guided by what God's Word says. Paul tells us, "And be not conformed to this world [spirit of the age]: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..." We need to protect our minds from the crushing and squeezing of Satan by wearing our spiritual helmet, for Paul plainly tells us that we are to be transformed to the mind of Christ, and not to be conformed to the mind of Satan.

God has provided us a perfect helmet to protect us, but we must be sure to wear it. It has been thoroughly tested and found to have no flaws, and it is guaranteed to last forever. Our helmet is called "salvation."

The Greek word which is translated "salvation" means "deliverance; safety; preservation; healing and soundness." When we are born again, we are saved, or delivered, from destruction in hell, but that is only the beginning. Salvation includes all of the other benefits which are part of the definition. In order to be fully protected from the attacks of Satan upon our mind, we must lay hold of the fullness of salvation, not just a part, the complete helmet, and let it cover us. 23

In order to better understand salvation in its fullness, I am going to discuss each part of its meaning, starting with "deliverance."

Paul informs us that we can trust God for His deliverance throughout our Christian life, not just for initial salvation. Our deliverance has a past, a present and a future. He states it this way in II Cor. 1:10: "Who [God] delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us." This means that He has delivered us (past) from the penalty of sin (through initial salvation), and delivers us daily (present) from the power of sin in our lives. Then one day, He will deliver us (future) from the presence of sin (when he takes us out of this world).

David knew firsthand about God's deliverance, and stated in Psa. 56:13, "For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?" Of course, the answer was, "Yes!" He



will deliver and does deliver!

Put on your helmet! Don't let Satan cause you to become discouraged and to have a fear of falling. The same God who delivered David from the hand of Goliath will deliver you from Satan and from all the giants in your life that you may be facing. Next after deliverance, comes "safety." King Solomon declares in Prov. 18:10 that safety is found in the name of the Lord: "The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." When we are saved, we take the name of the Lord because we are part of His family. Towers at that time were considered a safe place to take cover from the enemy. The Lord becomes our high tower and we are safely hidden in Him. Our enemy, Satan, cannot destroy us after we claim the name of Jesus for salvation.

24 "Preservation" is mentioned third. In Prov. 2:8, Solomon assures us of the preserving power of God: "He [the LORD]... preserveth the way of his saints." "Preserve" means to keep safe from injury, harm or destruction. That the Lord will indeed do this for us is stated emphatically by David in Ps. 121:7, which says, "The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul."

This means that the Lord not only saves us from sin, through initial salvation, but also preserves us. We are His, preserved: sealed and protected from evil. Our helmet seals and protects us from the evil one when he tries to make us think that we lost our salvation. It is God who does both the saving and the preserving. We are saved by His grace and kept by His grace.

(To Be Concluded)

"The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and the third day rise again." Lk.24:7

"Then He said unto them, O fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken. Ought not Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" Lk. 24:25,26.

"Then opened he their understanding, (heart) that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:" Lk. 24:45-46

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Anointed." Acts 2:36.



## **THE GOD OF THE LIVING**

**"I** am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." Matthew 22:32

This was Jesus' invincible answer to the Sadducees, who taught that there is no resurrection. He began by quoting Jehovah's words of comfort to Moses, which were confirmed to him by adding, "This is My Name for ever, and this is My memorial unto all generations" (Exodus 3:6, 15). Then Jesus gave the interpretation of those encouraging words, because He Himself is the "resurrection, and the Life" (John 11:25).

Though the bodies of the patriarchs were still in their graves, their spirits were alive, because they were a new creation. The new creation will never die. Though while on earth, the Christian may die daily by being poured out in sacrificial giving for others, yet he is alive forever and can never die. Jehovah is his God. He knows no other, needs no other.

They who have a form of godliness and deny its power, are lifeless. The living God is not their God. They are still dead in trespasses and sins, despite their profession of righteousness. The "god of this world," the devil, is their god. He, too, is dead to the things of the Spirit of the living and true God. 25

How blessed to be born again, born of incorruptible Seed of divine Truth, and know the Scriptures and the power of God, and live in sweet fellowship with Him forever! It is wonderful to be alive unto God and know it; to be so assured of it, that we never can be mistaken about it. Hence, if our bodies go to the grave, we know that they will not remain there; for our God is the God of the living. It is not possible that they should be holden of death, because they belong, to Him who is "THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE."

Our bodies are asleep in Jesus (John 11:11; I Thessalonians 4:14), while our spirits depart "to be with Christ" (Philippians 1:23; II Corinthians 5:8), awaiting the trumpet sound (I Thessalonians 4:16). Paul's experience of being "caught up to the third heaven . . . whether in the body, or out of the body" (II Corinthians 12:2-3), also demonstrates that our God is the God of the living.

***JESUS IS ALIVE!***

(Reprint 1989)



## Jesus Is Risen

A.S. Copley

"...he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you."  
Mk. 16:6-7

The resurrection of Christ brought a revelation and revolution. Great changes took place. The disappointed disciples were suddenly filled with wonder and exuberant joy. "He is risen" ran down the line. "He is risen" was on every tongue and passed from saint to saint. It became the familiar salute among the early Christians. Instead of saying, "Howdy" (as in the South), or "How do you do?" or "How are you?" or "Good morning, Sir;" they exclaimed, "Brother, Christ is risen, He is risen." The resurrection of their Lord gave life a new complexion. A living, supernatural miracle moved in and out among them in a mysterious manner. They were overjoyed. After 50 days rolled around and the Spirit was poured out, the fire-touched disciples preached a new Gospel, the resurrection of the Prince of men. With great power gave they witness thereof. Whatever had happened to Him before, now He is risen to die no more. They learned to live by the life of  
26 Another — by Him who died for them and rose again. Great grace was upon them all. God's throne became a "throne of grace." They began to understand the Fatherhood of God. They looked for the soon return of their mal-treated Master, to reign as King. His resurrection blossomed faith, love and hope. May it do the same for us today. It will, if we assume the right attitude thereto. Some people talk and act as if Christ were still in the tomb, or as if He had not yet died and rose again. These basic facts are only history to them. Praise God! They should be to us vital, effective realities. He died for our sins. We died with Him. He rose for our justification from all our sins. And we rose with Him. He ascended on high for our daily sanctification through His intercession. And He seated us in the heavenlies with Him. He had said, "Because I live, ye **SHALL** live also." By the enabling of the sent Holy Spirit, we are breathing in and living by, His resurrection life. All our power to pray and take healing for the sick is by His resurrection life. Our ministry to sinners and saints comes via His victory over death. In the cross is the root, and from the tomb of Christ flows the fruit of the presence and mighty operations of the Holy Spirit. May we yield to and move in and by that superlative resurrection life and power. When tempted, remember, "He is risen." When feeling discouraged bear in mind, "He is risen." "Faint, yet pursuing," because "Christ is risen and ever liveth to make intercession for us."

(Reprint 1937)



## **A REPORT OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS**

This letter is alleged to be from the old Jerusalem Sanhedrin (Congress) records by Eliezer Hyran, B. 24. Found in the mosque of St. Sophia. Translated in Constantinople, October 16, 1883, by Dr. McIntosh for W. W. Mahan.

By Caiaphas — The High Priest

The report of Caiaphas (the high priest) to the Sanhedrin concerning the resurrection of Jesus.

Sanhedrin, 89, By Siphri II, 7:

### **TO YOU, MASTERS OF ISRAEL**

As I have made a former defense to you, and you have approved the same, I feel in duty bound to communicate to you some facts that have come to my knowledge since the former communication. A few days after the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the report of his resurrection from the dead became so prominent I found it was necessary to investigate it, because the excitement was raging more heavy than before, and my own life as well as that of Pilate was in danger, and it seemed worse than if he had not been apprehended at all. I sent for Malkus, captain of the royal city guard, who informed me he knew nothing personally, as he had placed Isham in command of the guard, but from what he could learn of the soldiers, the scene was perfectly overwhelming, and it was so generally believed that it was no use to deny it. He thought my only chance was to suppress it among the soldiers, and have John and Peter banished to Crete, or have them locked up in prison, and if they would not be quiet, to treat them as I had treated Jesus. He said all the soldiers he had conversed with were convinced that he was either resurrected by some supernatural power, or he was not dead, or that he was no human being: for the light and the angels and the dead that came out of their graves, all went to prove that it was something that had never occurred on earth before. He said that John and Peter were spreading it all over the country and if it should be so that Jesus should appear at the head of a host, and declare that He was king of the Jews, he believed all the Jewish soldiers would



fight for him. I sent for the lieutenant, who gave a lengthy detail of the occurrence there that morning, all of which I suppose you have heard, and will investigate the subject by a committee. From this, I am convinced that there was something above the laws of nature transacted there that morning and can't be accounted for upon natural principles, and I find it is of no use to try to get any of the soldiers to deny it, for they are so excited over it that there is no doing anything with them. I am now sorry that I had the soldiers placed at the tomb, for the very thing that they were to prevent they have established. After investigating the soldiers and officers to my satisfaction, my mind being so disturbed that I could neither eat nor sleep, I sent for John and Peter. They came and brought Mary and Joanna. These are the women that went to embalm his body the morning of the resurrection, as it is called. They are very interesting as they relate the circumstances. Mary says when they went, it was just getting light. They met the soldiers returning from the sepulchre, and they thought nothing strange until they came to the tomb and found that Jesus was gone. The stone that covered the sepulchre was rolled to one side, and there were two men dressed in flowing white, sitting, one at each end of the sepulchre. She asked them where was her Lord: they said, "He is risen from the dead: did he not tell you he would rise the third day and show himself to the people, to prove that he was the Lord of life?"

"Go tell his disciples," said they. Joanna said she saw but one man, but this discrepancy may have been on account of their excitement, because they both say they were much alarmed. They both say that as they returned they met the master, who told them he was the resurrection and the life: all that will believe shall escape the second death. Both the women wept for joy while relating these circumstances, and John shouted aloud, which made me tremble in every limb, for I could not help thinking that something that belonged to the exclusive work of God had occurred, but what it all could mean was a great mystery to me. It might be, I said, that God had sent this message by the mouth of this stranger.

I asked John and Peter if they could give me any further



evidence in regard to this man: that I wished to be informed of his private history. Peter said the first he knew of him he passed by where he was and bade him to follow him: He said that Jesus was a man so pleasant in his character, and so like a child in innocency, that no one could help liking him after they got acquainted with him: that tho he seemed to be stern and cold, he was not so in reality: that he was exceedingly kind, especially to the poor: that he would make any sacrifice for the sick and the needy, and would spare no pains to impart knowledge to anyone that would call on him, and that his knowledge was so profound and deep that he had seen him interrogated by the most profound doctors of the law, and he always gave the most perfect satisfaction, and that the sepher or scribes, and the Hillelites and Shammaites were afraid to open their mouths in his presence. They had attacked him so often, and had been repelled as often, that they would shun him as they would a wolf: but when he had repelled them he did not enjoy the triumph as they did over others over whom they had got the ascendancy. As to his life, he seemed to be not a man of pleasure, nor of sorrow. He mingled with society to benefit them and yet took no part at all in what was going on. I had heard men tell of what occurred when he was baptized, and from what his mother told me I was watching for a display of his divine power, if he had any, for I knew he never could be king of the Jews unless he did have help from on high: and when we were attending a marriage feast the wine had given out, and his mother told him of it, and he said to some men to fill up some water pots that were setting near, and they put in nothing but water, for I watched them, but when they drew it out it was wine, for it was tested by all at the feast, and when the master found it out he called for Jesus to honor him, but he was gone. It seemed that he did not want to be popular, and this spirit displeased us, for we knew if he was to be king of the Jews he must become popular with the Jews. This spirit of his disgusted his mother, for she was doing all she could to bring him into notice, and to make him popular among the people, and people could not help liking him when they would see him. And another feeling was peculiar: in his presence every one felt safe. There seemed to be almighty power pervading the



air wherever he went so that each felt entirely secure, and that no harm could befall them if Jesus were present. I have some experience: As we were in our fishing boat, I saw Jesus coming toward us, walking on the water. I knew if he could make the waves support him, he could me, also. I asked him if I might come to him: he said for me to come, but when I saw the waves gathering around me I began to sink, and asked him to help me. He lifted me up and told me to have faith in God. On another occasion we were sailing on the sea, and there was a great storm. It blew at a fearful rate and all aboard thought they would be lost, and we went and awakened the master, and when he saw the raging of the storm he stretched out his hand and said, "Peace, be still!" and the wind ceased to blow, the thunder ceased, the lightnings withdrew, and the billowing sea seemed as quiet as a babe in its mother's arms — all done in one moment of time. This I saw with my own eyes, and from this time, I was convinced that he was not a common man. Neither did he work by enchantment as the Egyptian thaumaturgists did, for all of the many feats they could play, they dared not to attack the laws of nature. In vain might they order the thunder to hush, or the winds to cease, or the lightnings to cease their flashing. Again I saw this man while we were passing from Jericho. There was a blind man who cried out to him for mercy, and Jesus said to me, "Go, bring him," and when I brought him Jesus asked him what he wanted. He said he wanted to see him. Jesus said, "Receive your sight," when he was not near enough for Jesus to lay his hands upon him or use any art. He did not act as the Egyptian necromancers. They use vessels, such as cups, bags, and jugs, and many other things to deceive. Jesus used nothing but his plain speech in such a way that all can understand him, and it seems as if the laws of nature were his main instrument of action, and that nature is as obedient to him as a slave is to his master. I saw on another occasion where a young man was dead, and Jesus loved his sisters. One of them went with Jesus to the tomb. He commanded it to be uncovered. The sister said, "Master, by this time he is offensive: he has been dead four days." Jesus said, "Only have faith," and he called the young man by name, and he came forth out of the tomb, and is living today,



and he proposed that I should see him for myself.

Thus argue Peter and John. If Jesus had such power over nature and nature's laws, and power over death in others, he would have power over death so he could lay down his life and take it up again as he said he would do. As he proposes to bring hundreds of witnesses to prove all he says and much more — witnesses whose veracity can't be doubted — and as I had heard many of these things before from different men, friends and foes (and although these things are related by his friends — that is, the friends of Jesus — yet these men talk like men of truth, and their testimony corroborates with other evidence that I have from other sources, that convinces me that this is something that should not be rashly dealt with), and seeing the humble trust and confidence of these men and women, besides, as John says, thousands of others equally strong in their belief, it throws me into great agitation. I feel some dreadful foreboding — a weight upon my heart. I can't feel as a criminal from the fact that I was acting up to my best judgment with the evidence before me. I feel that I was acting in defense of my God and my country, which I love better than life, and if I was mistaken, I was honest in my mistake. And as we teach that honesty of purpose gives character to the action, and on this basis I try to clear myself of any charge, yet there is a conscious fear about my heart, so that I can have no rest day or night. I felt sure that if I should meet him I should fall dead at his feet, and it seemed to me if I went out I should be sure to meet him. In this state of conscious dread I remained investigating the Scriptures to know more about the prophecies concerning this man, but found nothing to satisfy my mind. I locked my door and gave the guard orders to let no one in without first giving me notice. While thus engaged, with no one in the room but my wife and Annas, her father, when I lifted up my eyes, behold Jesus of Nazareth stood before me. My breath stopped, my blood ran cold, and I was in the act of falling when he spoke and said, "Be not afraid, it is I. You condemned me that you might go free. This is the work of my Father. Your only wrong is, you have a wicked heart: this you must repent of. This last lamb you have slain is the one that was appointed before the foundation: this sacrifice is



made for all men. Your other lambs were for those who offered them: this is for all, this is the last: it is for you if you will accept it. I died that you and all mankind might be saved." At this, he looked at me with such melting tenderness that it seemed to me that I was nothing but tears, and my strength was all gone. I fell on my face at his feet as one that was dead. When Annas lifted me up Jesus was gone, and the door still locked. No one could tell when or where he went.

32 So, noble masters, I do not feel that I can officiate as priest any more. If this strange personage is from God, and should be the Messiah we have looked for so long, and I have been the means of crucifying him, I have no further offerings to make for sin: but I will wait and see how these things will develop. And if he proves to be the ruler that we are looking for, they will soon develop into something more grand in the future. His glory will increase; his strength will spread wider and wider until the whole earth shall be full of his glory, and all the kingdoms of the world shall be his dominion. Such are the teachings of the prophets on this subject. Therefore, you will appoint Jonathan or someone, to fill the holy place.

Selected

(Reprint 1976)

*A Scripture Acrostic*

**S**ixty six Books of the Bible,  
**C**omposed by forty writers,  
**R**eveal God to man:  
**I**nspired by the Holy Spirit,  
**P**rophesies of the future,  
**T**wo-fold teaching --- what to believe and  
how to behave.  
**U**nfolds Jehovah's plan and  
**R**eveals man to himself;  
**E**xalts the Lord Jesus Christ and  
**S**atisfies God and man completely.



## THE VICTORY OF HIS RESURRECTION

**"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. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Cor. 15:55-57

Sin came into the world through Adam's one act of disobedience. "By one man sin entered into the world." And this sin is passed from one generation to another. It is one law of nature that men cannot change. They surely have tried to eradicate sin, or cover it; but all their efforts have been in vain. Sin is found to be present in the very young, and it is still operating in the very old.

Sin brought a terrible sting to it, and that is death. This sting comes to all men — the rich and the poor, the intelligent and the moronic, the famous and the unknown. All men have sinned, and "come short of the glory of God." And therefore, "death passed upon all men." This is the one sure thing that faces all men. When a child is born into this world, even though he is sinless, yet the sentence of death already works in his little body. He is subject to death. It is an abhorrent thought; nevertheless, it is true and irrevocable.

The law of commandments were given, and men could not keep its precepts. They all failed. Neither could this law make men righteous. So, instead of curbing sin, the law brought out the sinful nature in man to the fullest. The law strengthened the power of sin. The Apostle Paul 19 declared, "When the commandment came, sin revived, and I died." Rom. 7:9. We would not know that we had sin, unless the law had said, "Thou shalt," and "Thou shalt not." It is impossible and ridiculous to try to measure up to all its righteous demands. Saul of Tarsus kept all the commandments that he could, and yet he failed to keep them all. He could never keep his heart from coveting.

From this helpless, hopeless condition, God delivered mankind. There was only one way to do this, and it was through Jesus Christ who gave the victory. He was the only holy Man who ever walked the earth. The law could find no sin in Him; and, therefore, could not condemn Him. Satan could find no weakness in His holy armor. Men could not find any fault in His holy walk. As the holy Sacrifice, Jesus died for us. He bore all our sins upon



Himself on the Cross. He allowed men to condemn Him. He submitted to the law's penalty by becoming our substitute.

But God raised Him from the grave, and forever abolished death and the grave for all who believe on Him! He "put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself"; and, by doing this, removed the penalty of sin. He brought complete victory! By simple faith in His death and resurrection we, too, can be delivered from eternal death and the grave. We can also shout with the apostle — "Thanks be unto God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"

(Reprint 1986)

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Crowns of glory ever bright  
Rest upon the Victor's head;  
Crowns of glory are His right,  
His, who liveth, and was dead.  
Jesus fought and won the day,  
Such a day was never fought;  
Well His people now may say,  
See what God, our God, has wrought.

He subdued the powers of hell;  
In the fight He stood alone;  
All His foes before Him fell,  
By His single arm o'erthrown.  
They have fall'n to rise no more;  
Final is the foe's defeat;  
Jesus triumphed by His power,  
And His triumph is complete.

His the fight, the arduous toil,  
His the honours of the day,  
His the glory and the spoil,  
Jesus bears them all away.  
Now proclaim His deeds afar,  
Fill the world with His renown;  
His alone the Victor's car,  
His the everlasting crown.

Thomas Kelly





# Our Corn Crib

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

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Five Consequences	Oneness of Christ	Why am I Not Healed

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Ruth	Prophets-Joel, Nahum, Hab, Malachi	Ephesians	Revelation
1, 2 Samuel	Zechariah	Philippians	
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ALL OUR  
WAYS ARE  
KNOWN

I Peter 5: 7

ALL 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