

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole counsel of GOD

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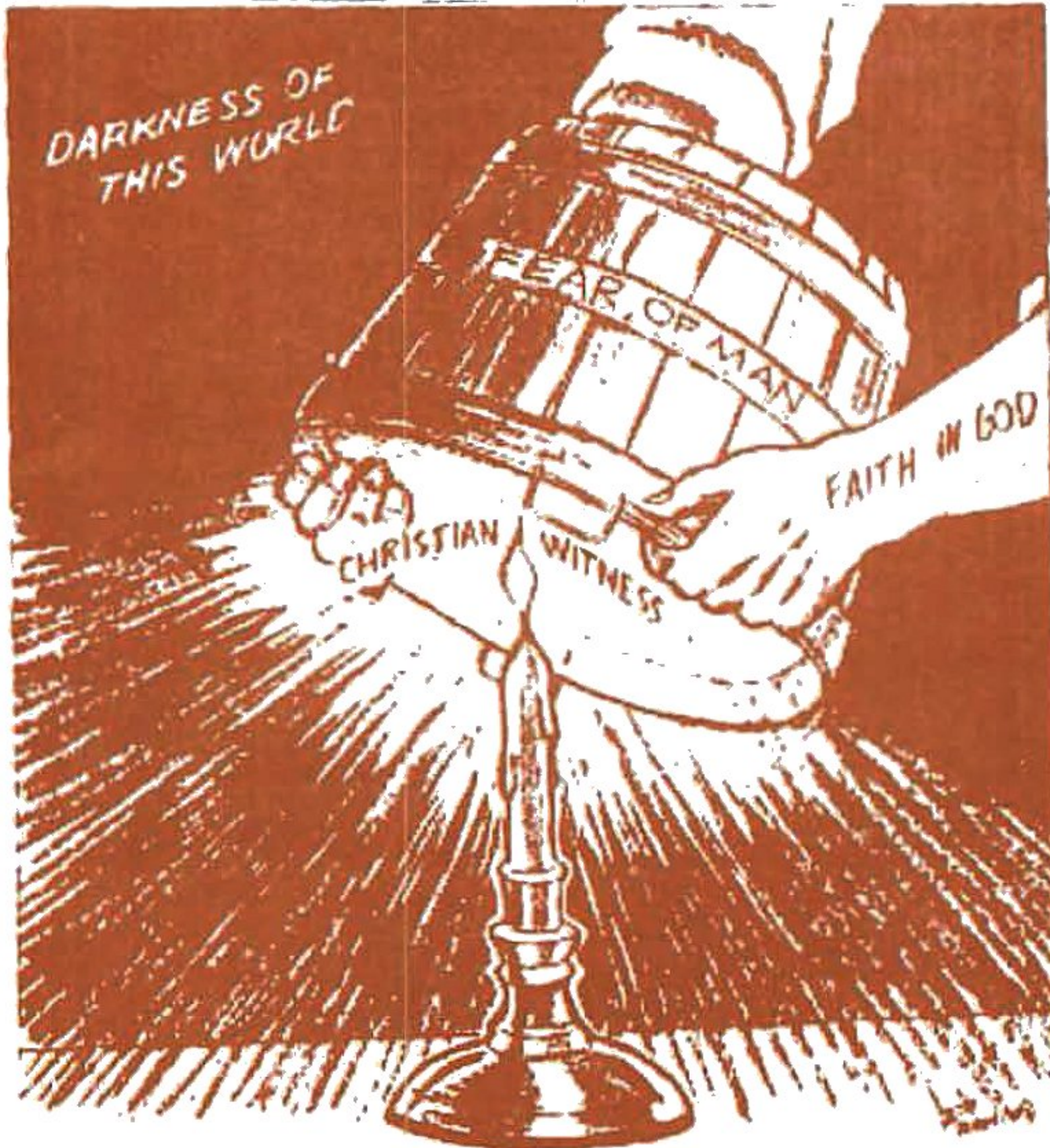
Only fear the
Lord, and serve
him in truth
with all your
heart: for con-
sider how great
things he hath
done for you.

1 SAMUEL 12:24.

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TAKE AWAY THE BUSHEL



NEITHER DO MEN LIGHT A CANDLE, AND PUT IT UNDER A BUSHEL, BUT ON A CANDLESTICK.

MATTHEW 5:15

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Editor: Gene Hawkins

Definite Sign Posts Of The End!

Gene Hawkins

“**N**ow we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;” II Thess. 2:1-3

Paul penned these words in an effort to convince the elite Church at Thessalonica “...that the day of Christ...” was still “...at hand,” the reason being that some of them had been duped into thinking Jesus had already come and they had been left behind. He then asserted, “...that day **shall not come**, except there come **a falling away first**,...” to prove his point. This very prominent sign was missing in that day, but it has most assuredly come to the fore at this present hour. The day of deception is also here. However, instead of men thinking Jesus has already appeared, many, even among believers have been deceived into thinking that He is **not coming at all**, “at least not in my lifetime.” Sadly it seems that some of them are actually participating in the “...falling away...”

This prophesied adverse era of time is becoming more rampant worldwide by the day in a great many areas. The term “...falling away...” literally means “defection from truth (properly, the state) (“apostasy”):--forsake.” That not only means denying or forsaking the literal truth of God’s Word, but the truth or “state” regarding the reality of any situation set before them. Does not Russia qualify for such “falling away” when she demonstrates a total denial of Ukraine’s Sovereignty over their own land? Furthermore they completely ignore the voices of other nations asserting that truth. China likewise is expected to “make her move” against the sovereign state of Taiwan, again “falling away” from that which is perfectly obvious to the whole world. China has also totally denied the truth of violating U.S. airspace engaging in aggression against a major nation as her “spy balloon” floated

over key American air bases. Some have reported that this has happened numerous times over the past few months and even years, so it must be concluded that such tactics are deliberate and intentional rather than accidental. This ungodly nation falsely asserted that this was only “a weather balloon,” but no rational mind has accepted that deception. Contrariwise, some American officials seemed to be perfectly willing to literally deny the truth of what China had in mind, allowing such spying to continue across the entire country.

Iran is another nation which personifies the aforementioned “falling away” as they refuse to acknowledge God’s purpose for His Chosen People of Israel. There are those who are so consumed with hatred against this choice nation that they have actually denied the truth of the holocaust. Not only so, but a number of nations around the globe are in total denial of the fact that Iran’s intention is to obliterate Israel from the face of the earth. Furthermore, though there are many conflicting reports in this day of deception, some seem to completely deny the absolute evidence that Iran will most assuredly develop a nuclear weapon.

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Paul is very clear in regard to deception, which is one of the major elements defining “...the mystery of iniquity...” II Thess. 2:7 The apostle continues this chapter to explain that “... because they received not the love of the truth, ... for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:” II Thess. 2:10-11 This declaration simply means that any time men refuse to accept truth, they leave themselves wide open to “...believe a lie and are thus prime candidates to become a part of the “...falling away...”

The Chief Apostle to the Church also warned his son Timothy against this same end-time sign announcing Jesus’ eminent return. “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;” I Tim. 4:1 Sadly, Paul’s warning here is in direct reference to believers who once adhered to the truth of God’s Word but now, “...shall depart from the faith,...” This is manifest in a multitude of ways, but one glaring present day example seems to be that some believers see nothing wrong with Christians “living together” outside the

confines of marriage, a practice which God calls “fornication.” Paul also exhorted plainly, “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication **sinneth against his own body.**” I Cor. 6:18 He was likewise greatly concerned that the believers at Corinth had departed from this truth, declaring “...I fear, lest, when I come,... there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults: And lest, when I come again,... I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.” II Cor. 12:20-21 These charges do not mean that these believers were no longer saved, but such conditions are the direct result of departing from certain elements of truth, or indeed “...falling away...” from very specific declarations of His Word.

It is also rather grievous to know that some believers apparently see nothing wrong with homosexual relationships and same sex marriage, which would also be a very significant example of the current “...falling away” and departing from the truth, a clear sign of these latter days. It is even more disheartening to 5 hear some genuine Christians declaring that decrees such as Lev. 18:22, “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination,” was written under the law and therefore does not apply in today’s “modern, and more sophisticated world.” Paul does not agree with that reasoning, insisting instead, that “...God gave them up unto vile affections: (passions of dishonor) for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, (indecent, shameful) and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.” Rom. 1:26-27 Some might conclude that since Paul used the past tense in these declarations, he was simply referencing only those under the law in the Old Testament. However, there is not one hint indicating any semblance of approval or tolerance of this behavior in this account. The apostle rather sets them forth as examples of a righteous and holy God, demonstrating His displeasure with such conduct. This would be the same God Whom scripture defines as being “...the same yesterday, and to

day, and for ever.” Heb. 13:8 He does not change His values and standards to accommodate so-called “enlightened generations.” Note also that if the rationale is followed that this instruction applied only to those under the law, then the same premise must of necessity be applied to Psalm 23 where David, while in the dispensation of law loudly rejoiced that “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.” Psa. 23:1 Isaiah’s glorious promise of “... they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint,” is no longer valid, because that would just apply to those in that era of time. Those who truly believe God’s Word know that either of these scenarios is preposterous, but such human reasoning is once again a sign of the prophesied “...falling away...”

6 All these words both in Leviticus and Romans are very much applicable in this area of abomination because “**All scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:” II Tim. 3:16 Therein lies the underlying reason for the “...falling away...” in these latter days. Men no longer heed God’s Voice, which is The Word Of God! They absolutely refuse to be reproved or corrected, insisting instead on their own ways of natural reasoning, which gives way to tolerating, excusing, or otherwise accommodating the desires of the flesh. It must be realized once again at this juncture that, “...because they received not the love of the truth,...for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:” II Thess. 2:10-11 It is at this point that men often begin to “interpret” the scripture **as they see fit**, in an effort to accommodate their own reasoning minds and justify their actions, often declaring “**I believe** such and such...” even though the scripture may assert just the opposite.

Paul declared above that “...the Spirit speaketh expressly,...” meaning simply that the spirit also gave His witness through other messengers of these last days. Peter would be one of those witnesses, as he reminded his hearers to “...be mindful of the words which were spoken **before** by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers,...

saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." II Pet. 3:2-4 The only cure for individuals who might be caught in this trap of "...falling away..." is to return to the reality "...of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets,..." It is also rather intriguing that the major object of these "...scoffers..." is to deny the second coming of Jesus. Such open mockery, however, is in itself another major indication that Jesus is soon to return.

Jesus also spoke of these latter days declaring that, "... as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matt. 24:37 There are a number of characteristics which define the days of Noah, such as "...GOD saw that the **wickedness** (good for nothing) of man was great in the earth, and that **every imagination of the thoughts of his heart** was only evil (same word as wickedness) continually....The earth also was corrupt (decay, ruin) before God, and the earth was **filled with violence** (cruel(-ty), damage, false, injustice)....it was **corrupt**; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth...the earth is **filled with violence** through them;..." Gen. 6:5,11-13

Evil, violence and corruption are also premier characteristics pervading the entirety of the earth today, just as it was in the days of Noah. Destructive riots stemming from those insisting on their own "rights" with absolutely no consideration for others is a worldwide dilemma. It is also appalling to watch lawless individuals march into stores to fill their shopping bags with stolen goods and then depart, oftentimes experiencing no resistance and certainly no reprisal for what they have done. All of this demonstrates the corruption, evil, and violence which are just a graphic copy from the days of Noah. It is also a clear manifestation of the fact that man has indeed "...fallen away..." from following the standards set by God's Word. More than one "elderly" person has voiced the lament that they most assuredly did not witness acts such as the above in their younger days.

Ours is also a day when conscience seems to have no role whatsoever in the ungodly deeds of these latter days. Paul also included this as one of the primary characteristics of the spirit speaking "...expressly,...in the latter times..." "Speaking lies

in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;" I Tim. 4:2 There was a time in recent memory when conscience did prevent men from committing the ungodly acts witnessed openly and on a wide scale today, but men have surely "fallen away" or departed from such a glorious truth. They speak "... lies in hypocrisy..." directly because the conscience is seemingly nonexistent. This would equate with God's assessment during the days of Noah "...that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

8 Though it is very painful and disheartening to watch these ungodly traits of the latter days unfold before our very eyes, those who are truly looking for Jesus despite all the opposition Satan sets before them must at all costs keep their focus upon the prize. One way of doing that is to take Peter's admonition to heart in regard to deliverance. Scripture is very clear, (and God will not change His Mind to suit the desires of men) that judgment upon wickedness will occur in these last days just as it did in the days of Noah. However, Peter describes a most meaningful separation. "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:" II Pet. 2:9 This verse has multiple applications since Peter refers to "...temptations,..." but it surely does include the very day of temptation known as the great tribulation. Despite the horrendous conditions pervading planet earth at this very hour, God is still on His Throne and very much in control. When He deems that the time is right, He will most assuredly "...put a division between my people and thy people:..." as He did in the day when He most gloriously delivered Israel out of Egypt. Ex 8:23 So! Instead of dwelling on all the ills of this present world, over which we have no control.....

"... when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."
Lk. 21:28

God's Purpose In Type

Paul N. Smith

“And Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter, and brought her into the city of David, until he had made an end of building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall of Jerusalem round about.”
I Kings 3:1

This verse reveals a wonderful typical picture of God's purposes during this age (the Church) and the next age (the Kingdom). God dealt with man in each age or dispensation, either in grace, or law, but the ultimate purpose of each was the completion of His will for that time. The Holy Spirit has inspired men to write God's purposes from the beginning of time and has gathered them together into one volume, the Bible. Long before man was created, his course of life was planned by God and carried out in His infinite wisdom and foreknowledge. "All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God" and cannot be lightly treated. Those who would have us believe that the Old Testament holds nothing for us, have missed great blessings of Truth that are hidden therein.

We have this typical pen-picture given to us to verify what is written in the New Testament, and to encourage us to continue searching the Word of God. We are told that God will do nothing but what He will reveal His secrets unto His prophets. Solomon is a type of Jesus Christ. As the Son of David, he pictures Christ who is called the Son of David and came to fulfill His Father's will as the One who was to sit upon the throne of David, and whose kingdom would be established forever. II Samuel 7 Solomon, David's son, did not live forever, neither did he reign forever, but was on the throne forty years, and died as did his father before him. To whom then was this promise concerning, but Jesus of Nazareth, born of Mary of the seed of David. According to the flesh, Christ was the Seed of David. Rom. 1:3.

Solomon made an agreement with Pharaoh, king of Egypt, for his daughter. This woman was not of Solomon's own people, but an outsider, a foreigner. Nevertheless, Solomon desired her and made her his wife and brought her unto the City of David

(Zion) until he had completed the important work left him by his father, David. Pharaoh giving Solomon his daughter in marriage, is a type of God the Father, Who shall give His Son, Jesus Christ, His daughter for a Bride. Christ's bride, although a foreigner, a native of Egypt, black in nature, will nevertheless be taken to His City, His Home and share His Throne. Christ loved the human race in its fallen condition, sinful and alienated from God, and gave it a new nature that would love God, worship Him, and out of this body of people, a bride is being fashioned like unto Christ Himself. This agreement brought Christ down to the world to take the place of sinful humanity, being made sin. What greater love has ever been shown? Solomon must have suffered reproach in taking a Gentile for a wife. Christ suffered much more, however, going as far as death, even the death of the cross.

10 When Christ arose, He lifted a new creation out of the grave with Him and seated this new creation in new surroundings --- the heavenlies. Thus, as Solomon carried this woman of Egypt to the City of David Christ has provisionally carried His Bride to His City until He has made an end of His work during this age. The people who shall constitute this wonderful woman of mystery is taking her place in that heavenly city today. She reckons, as God reckons, that she is dead indeed unto the old creation and alive unto God in the new creation. She no longer feels at home in Egypt, but is waiting until her Bridegroom's house is completed that she may go to dwell with Him. The word Zion means a place of prominence, or eminence. It also means to glitter from afar, and is a fitting picture of the new creation dwelling in the heavenlies.

In Acts 15:14-18, we read of the fulfillment or substance of the verse in our text. Notice the three purposes of God in these verses. 1. God at first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. 2. After this is done and His Body or the Church is completed, then will come what is quoted from Amos 9:11-12, "In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old." 3. In subsequent harmony Amos 9:12 shall follow, "That they may possess the

remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen (Gentiles) which are called by my name, saith the Lord that doeth this."

Christ is building His House today and has been since the day of Pentecost. His House refers to His body, or the Church. We are told that we are members of His body also flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone. His Body is being wonderfully made, and each member is being placed in that body as it pleases God. Sovereign grace is on display as the different members of the Church are placed in their rightful place. The study of Solomon's house gives us a wonderful picture of what Christ is doing today. In 1 Kings 7, we read that Solomon was thirteen years in building his house and he finished it. Christ needs no help in building His house, and He will indeed finish it. The materials used in building Solomon's house are wonderfully significant, but space is not adequate in this article. The reader will be able to dig these truths out for himself. Notice the fourth and fifth verses especially. There were to be windows in three rows and light against light in three ranks. In other words, the windows were to give light at three different degrees, which refer spiritually to the resurrection as recorded in 1 Cor. 15. There shall be one glory of the sun, a glory of the moon, and a glory of the stars, so also will be the resurrection of the dead. All who believe during this age shall constitute this great building of God, but there will be different degrees of importance and beauty as is evident in any building. There will be some people who shall reflect all of Christ's glory, having for Him upon the earth and having overcome through Him. They have yielded their lives to Him perfectly and shall reign and shine as He shall shine. Others, who have not had a vision of the throne of Christ, shall not shine as He but of lesser beauty, not having given themselves up completely to Him upon the earth.

In verses six and seven of this same chapter, we find that Solomon built a porch for the throne from which he was to judge, called the porch of judgment. Christ shall have a throne, a wonderful throne as seen in the book of Revelation, from which He shall judge the world in righteousness and shall bring all men and nations into subjection to His will. Notice further that Solomon

also made a like porch for his wife, one that was "like unto this porch." The Bride of Christ will have a like place of judgment with Christ. She gains that wonderful place by judging with Him now upon this earth. She judges according to the Word of God. She judges the world, the flesh and the devil according to the Word. She judges her flesh and counts as God counts, sympathizes with Him in all things. All the children of God do not thus judge, for if they did, their lives would prove their judgment. How foolish for anyone to think that all the Church will share in judging with Christ in the fullest sense. Christ will not have a novice helping Him judge the world. No one in the world hires an inexperienced person for a place of responsibility. There are usually years and years of training that takes place before the place of prominence is obtained. The Bride of Christ is being trained now. The people who shall make up this company are being constantly trained and in every way that God sees is necessary.

12 All the building of Solomon's house was wonderfully wrought, however, and the Body of Christ will be all glorious, every member reflecting some glory and light of their Redeemer. The remainder of the verses in this chapter give us the dimensions, etc., of this building. Notice especially that each stone was costly, and there were different sizes of stones. Each member of the Body of Christ is necessary. Though some are smaller than others, or some may have a less important place, still all are necessary to complete the structure.

Solomon was seven years in building the house of the Lord. Together the house of the Lord and his own house required twenty years to build. The number twenty is a compound of ten, the number of responsibility according to ability multiplied by two, the number of divine witness. This proves that Christ is well able to complete the work His Father gave Him to do, and in His prayer (John 17), He declared that He had finished the work which His Father had given Him to do. This was all in view of Calvary, but after His amen and subjection to His Father's will, the work was as good as completed. God has witnessed to this in His Word. In the Sixth Chapter of 1 Kings, we have the detailed description of the house of the Lord. Particularly notice verse

four, "And for the house he made windows of narrow lights." This house refers to Israel. They had only narrow lights whereas the Church had lights of three different degrees. Israel will not reflect as much glory as the Church, although they will be a wonderful people upon the earth. The Gospel was first preached to them and a promise of a wonderful kingdom would have been a reality if they had accepted God's man for king, Jesus Christ. They rejected Him, thus God began dealing with the Gentiles taking out of them a people for His Name. They shall shine forth gloriously from heaven, while Israel, God's chosen people, shall walk in the light of the New Jerusalem. Israel shall have light of themselves, however, and the nations shall walk in that light and come to the Lord thru these people.

Verse seven of this chapter tells us that neither hammer, nor axe, nor any tool was used in assembling this house. All the stones were hewn out and brought to the building and fitted into place. Thus will the house of the Lord be built again. There will not be the clamor and noise that is heard in that land today. The Jews are clamoring for their land and are busy in building it up into the place they think will stand. There are plenty of hammers and axes heard in the land of Israel today. But, God will not depend upon these people's efforts. He will do the building Himself, and when the time comes, the House of the Lord shall be built once again. Just as Solomon built the typical house, so surely shall Christ complete the everlasting kingdom upon this earth.

There is not much information concerning the building of the wall of Jerusalem, but we know that it was built and had to be built in order for the city of David to be completed. When Israel is again in their Land and the Lord is dwelling in their midst, the wall of Jerusalem will be in place, surrounding the city. The wall seemingly refers to the nations and the Gentiles who shall call upon the name of the Lord in that day and come to Jerusalem to worship, thus the city upon earth is completed, as will the city of heaven be complete.

After this, we read of this glorious consummating verse in I Kings 9:24, "But Pharaoh's daughter came up out of the city, of David unto her house which Solomon built for her." This woman

had to wait thirteen years to dwell in her rightful place, but she was finally brought into her own house with her Bridegroom. The Bride of Christ has been waiting many years for her consummating day, and one day her faith shall be made sight. In the book of Revelation, where we find the judgments of God being poured out and the seven years of tribulation, we also find a parallel program, that of the marriage of the Lamb. In the nineteenth chapter, we are told that the marriage of the Lamb is come and the Bride has made herself ready. Chapter 21, verses 9-11 give us the glorious event to which the ages have been pointing and all God's purposes are consummated. "And there came unto me one of the seven angels ... saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God; and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal." What a contrast this Bride now is to the condition she was in before she was born again.

14 From black to crystal clear; from darkness to glorious light; from death to everlasting life; from earth to heaven; and from obscurity to a place of prominence and glory and beauty! What grace is displayed to undeserving mankind!

(Reprint 1949)

A Prayer

Breathe thy still dews of quietness

'Till all my strivings cease.

Take from my heart the strain and stress,

And let my ordered life confess,

The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heat of my desire

Thy coolness and Thy balm.

Let sense be dumb and flesh retire.

Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,

Oh, still small voice of calm.

—Whittier.

No Condemnation

**“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”
John 5:24**

Some brethren refuse to receive the above statement at its face value and consequently do not get the blessing from their salvation that they otherwise would. This and similar other statements of God's Word, of which there are hundreds, give us positive assurance of Eternal salvation by simple faith in Jesus Christ. He that believeth hath everlasting life" is a clear title to the mansion in the Father's house. The blood that Jesus shed on the cross is the basis of our faith. "It is the blood that makes atonement for the soul," but it is the Word that assures us of the fact of our title to deliverance from the wrath of God. Here is an illustration that is most fitting and forcible.

How do you prove that you own an automobile or a house? Do you say that it is yours because you ride in the auto and live in the house? That is no proof. You may rent a car or a house for months and enjoy both without owning either. There is only one proof of ownership of a house or auto that will stand the test in court — a clear title, a record from God upon which he may rest securely, and that is the Word of God. It gives him full assurance that he has eternal life by faith in Jesus Christ, the moment he believes. Men may quibble about the fact and deny God's Word; but that does not change the situation one iota. God has spoken and He cannot lie. The record is positive, "He that hath the Son hath life." The one that believes has a clear title to the Father's favor forever. Amen!

Anon
(Reprint 1949)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Jo. 3:16

FAITH IS REST

Resting On the Faithful One

Geo. Muller

In the proportion to which we believe that God will do just what He has said is our faith strong or weak. Faith has nothing to do with feelings, or with impressions, with improbabilities, or with outward appearances. If we desire to couple them with faith, then we are no longer resting on the Word of God, because faith needs nothing of the kind. Faith rests on the naked Word of God. When we take Him at His word, the heart is at peace.

God delights to exercise our faith, first for blessing in our own souls, then for blessing in the Church at large, and also for those without. But this exercise we shrink from instead of welcoming.

16 When trials come we should say, "My heavenly Father puts this cup of trial into my hands, that I may have something sweet afterwards." Trial is the food of faith. Oh, let us leave ourselves in the hands of our heavenly Father! It is the joy of His heart to do good to all His children.

But trials and difficulties are not the only means by which faith is exercised and thereby increased. There is the reading of the Scriptures, that we may by them acquaint ourselves with God as He has revealed Himself in His Word. And what shall we find? That He not only is God Almighty, and a righteous God, but we shall find how gracious He is, how gentle, how kind, how beautiful He — in a word, what a lovely Being God is.

Are you able to say from the acquaintance you have made with God that He is a lovely Being? If not, let me affectionately entreat you to ask God to bring you to this, that you may admire His gentleness and His kindness that you may be able to say how good He is, and what a delight it is to the heart of God to do good to His children.

(Reprint 1948)

GOD'S DWELLING PLACE

"...to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." Isa. 66:2

This chapter begins with these words which were quoted by Stephen in his arraignment of the rulers of his day. He declares that Jehovah has the infinite heavens above for His throne. The earth is but a footstool for His feet. Does anyone imagine that He needs anything upon this earth? His hand and power has created all these things. There is not one physical thing existing that does not owe its being to Him.

But notwithstanding the infinity of His being, His limitless majesty, His glorious splendor, His resistless power, there is ONE dwelling that He will not despise, one object that will arrest His eye. It is not found among the mighty principalities and angelic hierarchy of heaven. Neither Michael nor Gabriel stop the search of His eye. He passes over all the great and mighty people, to rest upon One that is not distinguished by anything that men esteem as valuable. There are three marks that He approves. Notice the above verse, referring to the person of whom He approves.

FIRST — he is poor. This has no reference to financial poverty though it could include that; but the word goes deeper. It speaks of that one who has no high thought of self. The man who stood in the temple with bowed head and cried, "God, be merciful to me the sinner" was poor indeed, and God looked upon him. Even to this very day it is with such only that the Almighty God deigns to dwell. 17

SECOND — The result of his poverty — "He is of contrite spirit." The best illustration of that contrition is the thief on the cross who hung by the side of the Lord and cried to his fellow, "Do you not fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation, and we indeed justly?" That is the contrite spirit. His mouth is stopped from all excuses. His self-esteem is gone, and pride abased. His spirit is awake to the voice of Jehovah in His Word and this is the next mark.

THIRD — "He trembles at His Word." Alas, there are few of such character, but yet it remains the most outstanding miracle in the world. It unfolds eternal issues involving another creation than this with divine marks of majesty, profundity, simplicity, unity and unfathomable wisdom, with the tender loving kindness in His plan of eternal salvation to guilty man and makes us to not only tremble at its marvels, but to revere its precepts. Moses trembled before Mt. Sinai with its fire, tempest and gloom, and Paul trembled at Corinth, lest he should not speak as he ought to speak, lest he should fail to speak the Truth.

REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS

...From the Editor

“My times are in thy hand:...” Psa. 31:15

What a glorious and comforting thought in these days of absolute chaos, turmoil, uncertainty, unrest, and wickedness. It must be realized, however, that this tremendous promise does NOT reflect the sovereignty of God in the lives of believers, for this declaration is precluded by the previous verse, “...I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God.” Psa. 31:14 This simply asserts that David must **first** surrender himself and his way unto the Lord and **then** he will be entitled to the all inclusive blessings and benefits which The LORD would choose FOR him.

18 The sweet psalmist of Israel is not the only one to learn this very necessary order. Job declared, “But he knoweth the way that I take:...” Job 23:10 The very reason for such knowledge is that God chose such a path for Him. Job had surrendered that responsibility to Him, for he then concludes: “... when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.” In other words, Job had relinquished all decisions for his life unto the very Master of the universe.

Solomon is even more emphatic as he instructs all men to “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Prov. 3:5 This is exactly the same path followed by both David and Job. Their trust was in the Living God and then He had total liberty to direct their respective paths. David immediately sought to reap the benefit of that trust when he cried out “... deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me.” That would surely be the cry of many hearts today which are surrounded with the corruption and wickedness of our day. It bespeaks the unequalled protection that God can, and will, provide His Own during this very perilous time of hardship and darkness preceding the tribulation.

Job’s experience was a bit different, for God chose to allow Satan to attack him in a number of ways. This was once again

God's decision as He informed this arch enemy "...thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause." Job 2:3 Job, however, grasped the benefit of such a test as he looked beyond his present circumstance and victoriously cried out "...when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." New Testament language translates this statement as a "...the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:" Col 1:27

Paul further enlarges on experiences like unto that of Job, admonishing his Hebrew brethren that they had apparently "...forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:" Heb. 12:5 He concludes this discourse explaining the great benefits of chastening. "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Heb. 12:5 Men must accept the "...times..." that God has chosen for them long enough to reap the benefits which He intended that they produce.

19

Finally, Peter likewise advises, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:" I Pet. 5:6 "My times are in thy hand,..." cried David, but in order to fully benefit from God's matchless decisions, it is imperative for men to completely surrender themselves to His total discretion for their lives. The end will always be the same, "...that he may exalt you in due time."

GH



ANNOUNCEMENT!

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Medical Aspects of Reckoning Yourself Dead

Dr. Vicky Moots

Paul states clearly in Rom. 6:6 "...that our old man is crucified with him [Jesus]..." We are to accept that fact by faith. Then, in V.11, we are told to apply the same fact personally and to reckon ourselves "...to be dead indeed unto sin..."

You cannot, in the natural, just take somebody's word that one has died. A person must be pronounced dead by someone who is in authority in order for anyone to be deemed officially dead. I am going to discuss from a medical aspect how a person is declared dead physically and apply that spiritually to the death of our "old man."

I was at one time, the county coroner, so whenever there was an unattended death, they would call me. In other words, they were not officially dead until I said they were dead. I would also have to try and determine by my investigation what was the most likely cause of death and when it most likely occurred. Then I had to fill out a death certificate with that information.

20 These things are also true in the spiritual realm. If we are to reckon the "old man" to be dead, then we need to know why and how he died. And what is the proof of that? What authority pronounced him to be dead? If we cannot answer those questions, then Satan will cause us to doubt that it actually happened.

In science, we talk about evidence and proof. In the physical, there needs to be a death certificate for proof, and it must be signed by someone in authority. There must be both physical as well as written evidence of death.

What about physical evidence? If you have ever taken a CPR course, then you know what to look for. You are taught to first evaluate a person who appears to be dead by "shaking and shouting" to see if you get any response. You look for movement while checking for pulse and respirations. If you find any of these signs, then you would know that they were not really dead. There must be no sign of life whatsoever. There can be no response to stimuli, no movement, no pulse or respirations.

However, there is one exception to that. Sometimes after a person dies, there is a reflex action, a little muscle spasm or jerk, but that is a one-time thing. That is not a sign of life. It is continued movement, continuous action, that indicates life.

This is true spiritually also. We can reckon ourselves to be dead, to count the “old man” dead, but sometimes there is a little muscle twitch or two that might make us think that the “old man” isn’t really dead. Paul addresses this problem in Rom. 6:1-2: “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”

There can be no continuous movement if you are really dead. You cannot be continuing in an action that is displeasing to God. If there is continuous movement, then you have not really counted the “old man” to be dead. You have rather been trying to resuscitate him and put him on life support.

We pump life back into the “old man” by feeding him. Instead of counting him dead, we try to patch him up and reform him. But that is not what God wants. He wants the “old man” to be reckoned dead. We must make him a “DNR” (do not resuscitate). We must agree with God that he was crucified with Christ. It is not something that we can do in ourselves. It is through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 13:14 is a “DNR” for the “old man:” “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.” Do not make provision for the flesh. If you keep feeding the “old man”, you may revive him a little, and he will not want to stay in the grave. Stop packing a sack lunch for him every time you go somewhere. Each time we watch a movie or TV show or listen to songs that are contrary to the Word of God, we are feeding the flesh. It is time for us as Christians to spend our time feeding the “new man,” and let the “old man” starve.

In Col. 3:5 Paul lists several sinful manifestations in our lives that are the result of yielding to the flesh and tells us that we must put them to death spiritually: “Mortify [put to death, deprive of power] therefore your members which are upon the earth...” This refers to the physical members of our earthly body wherewith we are tempted to yield to sinful practices. We must render them ineffective for sinning by reckoning the “old man” to be dead and then allow the Holy Spirit to give us the victory over the appetites of the old creation.

There will be a change in our lives when we finally learn that we do not have to yield to the flesh anymore, the fact that we

have victory through our death with Christ, not only through our death with Him, but that we also live with Him. We have been resurrected with Him to walk in newness of life. "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Rom. 6:4

Now I would like to go back to my comparison of a physical death to our spiritual death with Christ and the death of the "old man." I stated previously that there must be an official pronouncement of death. The doctor goes into the room and checks for any signs of life, and then says, "It's over, it's finished," and pronounces death at that time.

What about spiritually? Where do we find the official pronouncement of our death with Christ in the Scripture? Paul pronounces us dead in Col. 3:3: "For ye are dead..." Jesus also declared, "It is finished" when He was on the cross, signifying that the death that purchased our salvation, and the work of redemption, was completed.

22 Next, there must be a death certificate filled out with all of the important information regarding the death, such as the place, date and time of death as well as the cause of death. If you have ever had a family member die, then you know that even though they are physically dead and buried, you cannot do anything in a business sense until you have a signed, certified copy of the death certificate. Until you have that piece of paper that proves that they are dead, they are officially not dead, but still alive. I had to send a certified copy of the death certificate to Blue Cross insurance to prove to them that my husband was dead so that they would stop taking his premiums out of our checking account. They would not take my word for it. It confirmed to them the date and time of his death.

Did you know that the Bible contains a spiritual death certificate that is similar to and just as binding as a natural one? It documents the event that occurred when Jesus overcame Satan at the cross. It would therefore be a death certificate for Satan, as I will discuss.

The first line that a doctor must fill out on a death certificate is the "cause of death." So! What was the cause of death in this case? Gen. 3:15 is considered to be the first promise of a redeemer, but it also tells us the cause of death: "...it [the seed of the woman] shall bruise thy head..." God is speaking directly

to Satan in this verse. The “seed of the woman” is a prophetic reference to Christ.

The cause of death is “head injury.” This is a crush injury to the head that occurred when Christ crushed the head of the serpent (Satan). It would be the same type of injury as if a man were in a car accident and was not wearing a seat belt, and the car rolled over and crushed his head. He would have bruising to the brain and die of a head injury.

If I was filling out this spiritual death certificate, I would state that the cause of death was a “massive brain contusion secondary to crush injury to the head.” Where did this death occur? At Calvary! This scripture (Gen. 3:15) was fulfilled when Jesus died on the cross for our sins. The headship of Satan was destroyed at that time.

What would I put on the death certificate regarding the time and date of death? The time of death was “...about the ninth hour....” “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?... My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Matt. 27:46 That was when Jesus dismissed His spirit and said, “...It is finished...” “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.” Jo. 19:30 The day was Passover.

23

The year was not recorded, but it was about 2,000 years ago. So now we have documented everything on this death certificate in the same way that we would if it were a physical death certificate.

When Christ died on the cross, our “...old man...” was crucified with Him. “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him,...” Rom. 6:6 At that same time, He crushed the head of the serpent (Satan) and destroyed his headship. But we must reckon it to be so. We must reckon ourselves to be dead to sin and alive unto God as Paul clearly states, “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Rom. 6:11

We now have written proof in the Bible that Christ overcame Satan at the cross. God the Father witnessed the death and signed the death certificate with the blood of His Son, Jesus. And so, we need no other proof, do we? “...How shall we that are dead to sin live any longer therein?” Rom. 6:2

JEW AND GENTILE MADE ONE

Anon

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For He is our Peace, Who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us . . . For to make in Himself of twain one new man, so making peace." Eph. 2:13-15

God chose Abraham out of idolatry, and his descendants have become known as the chosen line. All other people were regarded as heathen. Because the Lord gave Abraham a covenant, the sign of which was circumcision (Genesis 17:9-14), his followers are known as "the circumcision;" hence, they call all other people the "uncircumcision." Though there were hints of God's ultimate purpose concerning the Gentiles, as seen in the salvation of Rahab and the choice of Ruth, yet until Calvary they were "strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world." 2:12 Therefore, the apostle declares, "but now, in Christ Jesus, ye (Gentiles) who sometime were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

24

Paul uses the phrase "middle wall of partition" in a figurative sense, but we read in Jewish writings that there was actually a partition in the Jerusalem Temple. It was a "railed balcony separating the outer court of the Gentiles from the enclosure of the Jews." It was death to the foreigner who invaded the latter sanctuary. Mentally, morally, and geographically, there was always a separation between Israel and the nations, or Jews and Gentiles. It was so understood by the Jerusalem church. In theory, after Pentecost, Jew and Gentile might be one, but actually there was no room in the Jewish-Christian fold for Gentiles, until Paul established churches containing both. The prejudice remained strong for years.

It is written in Old Testament Scriptures that the people of Israel will be gathered from all parts of the earth to Jerusalem. Isa. 2:6 Jesus also said: "Many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 8:11 John taught that God was able "...of the stones "to raise up children unto Abraham." Matt. 3:9

Jesus said: "Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold" (John 10:16). Not in Jerusalem and Samaria only, but everywhere the true worshipers would worship God in the Spirit.

The breaking down of the division between Jew and Gentile by the Gospel of Grace, which was to be preached to every creature in all the world, might have seemed sudden, as also the substitution of Antioch instead of Jerusalem as the center of missionary activities of Paul. Many years covered the transition period when God was turning His attention from the Jews only, to every tongue, tribe, and nation.

Stephen was the first who make a bold break out of the conventionality of Judaism and the compromising of the Jerusalem church. His sermon in Acts 7 was the first attempt to show that all God's dealings with Israel were in grace, in view of the coming of the "Just One." As one has said, "It is the earliest commentary on the Old Testament by the New, a fragmentary draft of the epistle to the Hebrews." The universality of his statements was his death warrant. He signed it himself by his revolutionary speech; nevertheless, it was a challenging message. This message, as well as Stephen's shining face, stunned Saul of Tarsus, and the Lord delivered the knockdown blow, when He struck him down on the road to Damascus, and completed the work of his conversion. The Lord made the hardheaded legalist a tender preacher of Grace. 25

Peter was given the opportunity to use his key and unlock the door of salvation to the Gentiles (Acts 10), and fulfill his world mission. He confessed that God had made him do the "unlawful thing" of entering among the Gentiles, and had showed him that he "should not call any man common or unclean." Peter continued to hold this attitude, but he compromised one time, as the opposition was so persistent against the Gentiles that he was overcome. Paul was forced to rebuke him (Galatians 2:11). There was no more record of Peter's ministry in the book of Acts from that time. The man who had said, "God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the Word of the Gospel, and believe" (Acts 15:7), was phased out, as it were, and another apostle, Paul, perpetuated the ministry to the Gentiles.

"It pleased God . . . to reveal His Son in me, that I might

preach Him among the heathen. (Gentiles)" Gal. 1:16 The Apostle Paul was filled with a consuming passion for the salvation of his own people, the Jews, and testified: "I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh." Rom. 9:2-3 Again, he said: "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved." Rom. 10:1

For many years after his conversion, his method of evangelizing was to "the Jew first." Later, the apostolic coolness and Jewish-Christian distrust, as well as the ill treatment he received from the Jews, gradually weaned him from them. God used these means to separate Paul from his own people, and bring him forward as the "apostle of the Gentiles," which office he said that he magnified. The command from the Lord, "Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles," cut across all Paul's preconceived natural inclinations and desires. Afterward, in Jerusalem in the temple, the Lord, whose bondsman he was, **26** said: "Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they (Israel) will not receive thy testimony concerning Me."

Paul was forced to leave his beloved people to their unbelief, and carry the Gospel to the Gentiles, and tell them that the middle wall, the partition between them and the Jews, was gone. He wrote to the Romans: "I speak to you, Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles" (Romans 11:13). He no longer went to the Jews first, after the Lord's command to leave them. He obeyed orders, even though he probably shed tears of anguish concerning them.

The Church, composed mostly of Gentiles, has owed all the truth they possess, provisional and practical, to the vision, courage, and unfailing energy of that unique, dynamic, indomitable little Jew, Paul. By his determined persistence, despite imprisonment, floggings, and living death, he disentangled the Church of Jesus Christ from the grave-clothes of the Jews' religion. If they had only listened to his writings, they would all be free from the self-effort and works of the flesh, but alas, they heeded the voice of the tempter, Satan. They lost the vision of grace, which Paul, the

mighty champion of spiritual freedom, had brought to them, and they became "entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

How strange that after some years of proclaiming "the middle wall of partition" had been broken down, he found the material wall was still standing, and he, himself, came under the penalty of a violator of its law. It was claimed that he had brought Greeks into the Jewish enclosure and had polluted its sanctity, and had gone about to profane that sacred edifice, but these charges were false. He did not break any of the Judaic laws, but rather he sought to conciliate and win them by a pretended purifying of himself, as the record shows. In reading Acts 21, we learn that he was arrested and immediately imprisoned, which incarceration led eventually to his death.

Someone has said, "Judaism dies hard." Its power over man's conscience is tremendous. Gentiles, who have never been under the law, will put themselves under it and insist that is the only way to be saved. Christians, who have been saved by grace, will declare that they must be kept saved by obeying its decrees. The churches of Galatia listened to "Judah-ising teachers" after Paul's teaching of the boundless grace of God, and turned "to the weak and beggarly elements." They are designated as such when opposed to God's Gospel of Grace. They cannot give life or power to man. They are weak because of the flesh of men, therefore, God's Word says that Paul's Gospel has the whole world in which to operate.

27

(Reprint 1992)

* As children of God, one of our favorite "games" should be, "Follow the Leader."

* When someone sings his own praises, he always gets the tune too high.

* Patience is the ability to put up with people you'd like to put down.

* A wedding is an event. But marriage is an achievement.

Cherubim and Seraphim

A.S. Copley

"**A**nd before the throne, as it were a sea of glass like unto crystal; and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, four living creatures full of eyes before and behind" -Revelation 4:6 Revised Version.

These living ones or cherubim have a most wonderful place in the counsels of God. They are invariably seen in connection with the display of judicial authority - one with the throne of God. The very first view we get of them, at the gate of the garden of Eden, is in this character - guarding the entrance to Paradise with sword of flame - Genesis 3:24. They were witnessing to the holiness of God's house, of which that earthly garden was the figure; and they were also witnessing of the righteousness of God in putting sinners, Adam and Eve, out of His Presence.

28

Later, we see them as one with the mercy seat which was made of pure gold - figure of Divine Life - and attached thus to the throne of God. We do not get their description here, but we see their wings hiding them, and suggesting their heavenly activity; and we see their faces directed toward each other and toward one common object - the blood upon the mercy seat - Exodus 25:17-20. They are here witnessing to the righteousness of God in demanding atonement for sin; and they are approving of His mercy in securing it.

Then we view them again in the Most Holy Place in the temple, built by King Solomon. Those were made of the olive tree and covered with gold. They still veiled the mercy seat as part of the throne of God - I Kings 8:6.

But in the book of consummations, the Revelation which John gives us of the Son of God, we get a further description of these glorious creatures. We behold them in Heaven as part of the throne - "in the midst of the throne." Also we read, there was "a Lamb as it had been slain" - God's righteous propitiatory. These are the real cherubim which John beholds; the others were but

figures.

The prophet Ezekiel gives us a glimpse of them in his vision of judgment, and we are also indebted to Isaiah for another view; and these are always seen in connection with the throne of God. They are intimately and inseparably a part of the executive righteousness of His throne, which requires and finds its satisfaction in the blood of atonement. They experience a marvelous union with Christ -from the beginning of Ezekiel's vision of them, through John's vision, and to the consummation of Isaiah's vision. All the judgments of God are in their power. They are the executors of His wrath.

Christ Himself assured His disciples when they enquired of His return, that it would be as "the lightning cometh out of the east. and shineth even unto the west." It will be devastating and destructive, as the next verse implies: "For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together" - Matthew 24:27,28. The great supper, to which all the fowls of the air will be invited (Rev. 19:17,18), will result from the judgment which will precede the coming reign of the Son of Man. We emphasize **29** the fact which is especially interesting and instructive to us, that it is not Christ alone but His people also ---His Body --- who, will have part in the thrilling scenes of the Day of the Lord. We notice the significant fact, that the living creatures will call the wrath of God into evidence - Rev. 6.

WHAT JOHN SAYS

We will notice John's record of the cherubim first; for though he was the later prophet, yet he gives us an earlier phase of their appearance than Isaiah - at the beginning of God's righteous dealings with the world. The very first moving picture which he throws upon the screen is, as was intimated, connected with the throne of God. This scene is exhibited in the beginning of the next age and immediately preceding the revelation of Christ as "Lord of lords, and King of kings." His judgment of the earth must precede His reign over it; thus the Judge is introduced first, then the Ruler. These living ones are in perfect accord with the movings of that judicial throne --- one with all the will of God, in

sympathy with all His ways in the universe, and ready to execute His commands.

The "eyes before and behind," refer to their fulness of vision - full of light. They see in every direction at once; nothing is hid from their sight. All God's purposes are fully known. The sevenfold Spirit fills them.

"The first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face as of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle" - Rev. 4:7 R.V.

Notice the marvelous similarity of these glorious creatures to the Son of God, as characterized by the four Gospel records. They each have four faces: One "like a LION," featuring the KINGLY character of Christ, which MATTHEW emphasizes; one "like a CALF," the lowly SERVANT character of MARK'S record; one with "a face as of a MAN," the perfect HUMAN which LUKE portrays; and one "like a FLYING EAGLE," the SON OF GOD, the Heavenly One presented by JOHN - Who flew out from the bosom of the Father "and dwelt among us...full of grace and truth" - John 1:14.

Here is a special item of importance: John does not refer to the third one as "like a man," but that he "had a face as of a man." This is undoubtedly an evidence that these cherubim are redeemed men, perfect humans -spirit, soul, and body - grown up into the measure of the fullness of Christ, the Last Adam. The other faces were just likenesses, symbols of the inward characteristics; but this was a reality. He was a man. These celestial beings present the highest earthly forms and powers of creation, in a harmonious and perfect unity.

THE NUMBERS FOUR AND SIX

"And the four living creatures, having each one of them six wings" - Revelation 4:8 R.V. The wings speak of the activity of the living creatures. They are equipped perfectly to execute the Lord's commands. Spirit, soul, and body are symbolized in the completeness of redemption. No limitation nor infirmity is visible in their service.

EZEKIEL sees only **FOUR WINGS** on each of these

divine-humans, because he views them as on earth. That is, that glorious company of which he gives us a moving picture, is seen on earth. He sees them around the throne of the Son of Man. They are a part of that judgment throne. They are in perfect harmony with all its movings and workings. In fact, they are the workers, the agencies, by the power of God, to bring to pass the will of God. But, they are fitted for earth activity only, as seen by Ezekiel here. Hence, the earth number "four" is emphasized in their wings. Spirit, soul, and body are alive unto God and are engaged actively in His service.

ISAIAH, as JOHN, sees **SIX WINGS** upon these glorious beings. He informs us that with two of these propellers, they did fly; with two of them, they covered their faces; and with two, they covered their feet. Isaiah 6:2 He visions them at a later period than did Ezekiel and John. Christ is shown as on His throne, in Isaiah's description of them; hence, their activity is partially obscured in the glory of the throne of God. They are beheld as resting in a work accomplished. Judgment is symbolized by the inspired picture which Isaiah threw upon the screen.

31

In Revelation six, we view these same living ones as actually calling into action this very judgment. For when the Lamb, as the Judge, opens the seals - the unfulfilled counsels of God - one of the living ones, with a voice as "the noise of thunder," exclaims: "Come." Immediately the wrath of God, figured by the different colored horses, begins to break forth upon a Christ-rejecting, Satan-filled world.

"And they were full of eyes within" - their activity is in the light. They have undimmed vision, regarding God's purpose for His "strange work" of judgment. They have the mind of Christ, concerning the counsels of God. And they are ready and quick to fly to execute His will.

"And they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come" - Revelation 4:8.

They are unceasingly active, yet never tired; for they are partakers of the Divine nature. They continually bear witness to the holiness of God that He is righteous; and that all His actions

in the past, in the present, and even in judgment, proceed from this source. "Holiness becometh Thine house, O Lord, for ever," is their testimony - Psalm 93:5. They lead in the worship of Heaven. For when they "give glory and honor and thanks to Him that sat on the throne," the four and twenty elders who are associated with them, fall down "and worship Him that liveth for ever and ever." The four living ones and the twenty-four elders constitute the first rank of the redeemed.

WHO THEY ARE

32 As was intimated, these are redeemed men not simply angels, as is plainly evident in the fifth chapter. There we see them in connection with the twenty-four elders; while the "Lamb as it had been slain" is in their midst, as one with them. And they fall down before Him and worship, "having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints." Observe that they are called "saints," which surely is conclusive evidence that they have been "sinners"; for it is only "sinners" who become "saints."

But there is more. They sing a song with which the redeemed are all more or less familiar, that is with the essence of it, and which they only can sing --- the song of redemption. It is "a new song." It has never been sung before. These favored ones will lead the heavenly choir, and teach the later companies how to sing the glorious anthem to the Lamb. "Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." Rev. 5:9 They acknowledge the worthiness of the Lamb to judge the world, which He has redeemed by His blood. They acknowledge their own unworthiness, in that they needed redemption. They are gazing upon a blood-sprinkled mercy seat, and owning both the justice of God in demanding atonement and the mercy of God in providing it. They are witnesses to the universe, of the righteousness as well as of the grace of Jehovah - "forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty" - Exodus 34:7. Marvelous words!

Even the angels, myriads of them, are constrained to follow their example and ascribe glory to the Lamb. But notice, they do not sing redemption's story, though the mighty praise meeting continues until "every creature which is in Heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth," has praised the Lamb. The living ones, by the compelling power of their glorious anthem, have led them all. Thus we see that these are wonderful human beings, most majestic and sublime, with an office and place in the throne that is surpassed by none other, except the Lamb Himself. This is the view that John has of them, just previous to the great Day of the Lord.

WE MUST BELIEVE

How else can I see
That He died for me,
Lest to His cross I am led?
How else can I know,
Of His heart felt woe,
Lest my heart like His has bled?

33

How else can I feel
As He felt long ago,
Lest in a garden I pray?
How else to recall
The long "Pilate's hall"
Lest friends like His turn away?

How else see the hill
More bitter still,
Lest to the cross with Him I go?
How else can I wait,
At this darkened gate?
Lest I know He took my woe?

How else then at last
To see cross is past
Lest I, a new man behold?
Then up through the skies,
By faith I arise;
And with Him walk streets of gold.

Ruth Bozart

THE CREATION

Lorena L. Corbin

Written 1918

When all was darkness long ago,
God said, "Let there be light!"
And seeing both were very good,
He called them "day" and "night."

SECOND DAY

The sky so blue and beautiful,
God made the second day;
The firmament He called it,
And placed it o'er our way.

THIRD DAY

On the third day He spoke again,
Separating land and seas;
And the brown earth grew beautiful,
With grass and flowers and trees.

FOURTH DAY

On the fourth day He made the sun,
A glorious king of light;
Likewise the moon and tiny stars,
That shine throughout the night.

FIFTH DAY

The fifth day came, so long ago,
Again God spoke the Word;
Then seas became the homes for fish,
The song birds notes were heard.

SIXTH DAY

On the sixth day the animals
Chime according to His plan;
And last, and very best of all
In His image God made man.

SEVENTH DAY

When God saw all His work was good,
The seventh day He blessed;
And said that this for evermore
Should be a day of rest.



Our Corn Crib

"Buy The Truth, and Sell It Not"

Tracts

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

Books of the Bible

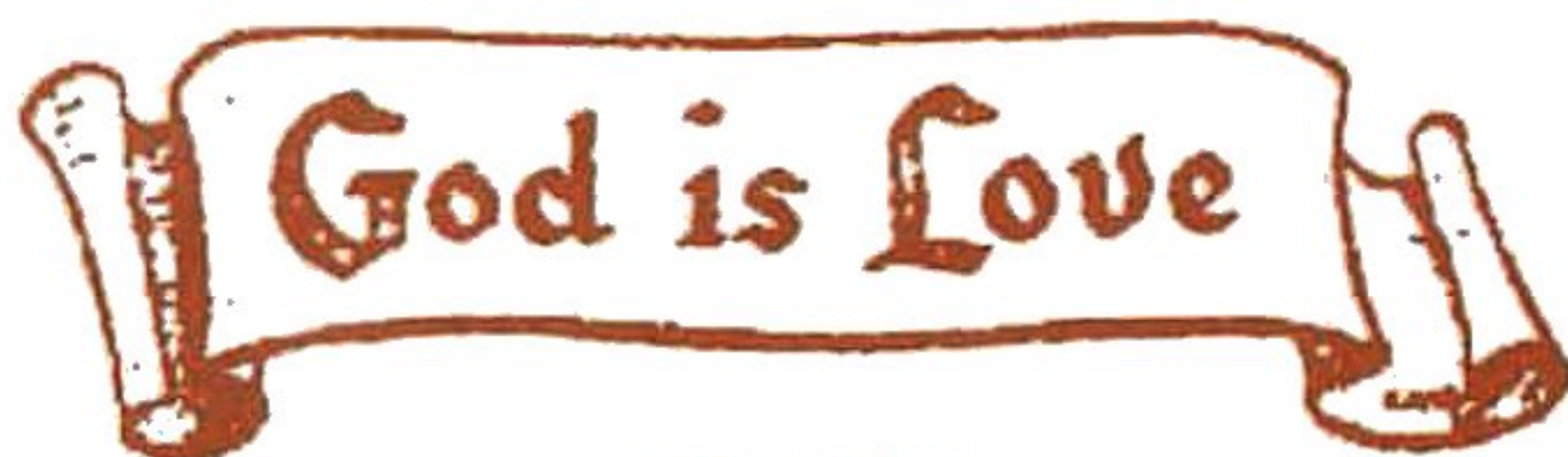
Genesis	Esther	Luke	1, 2 Thessalonians
Exodus	Job	John	1, 2 Timothy
Leviticus	Ecclesiastes	The Acts	Philemon
Numbers	Song of Solomon-A.S.Copley	Romans	Hebrews, James, Titus
Joshua	Paul's Gospel in S.O.S.-A.Mooneyhan	1, 2 Corinthians	2nd John
Judges	Isaiah	Galatians	Jude
Ruth	Prophets-Joel, Nahum, Hab,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

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