

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole Counsel of GOD

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Glory to
God

in the highest,
and on earth

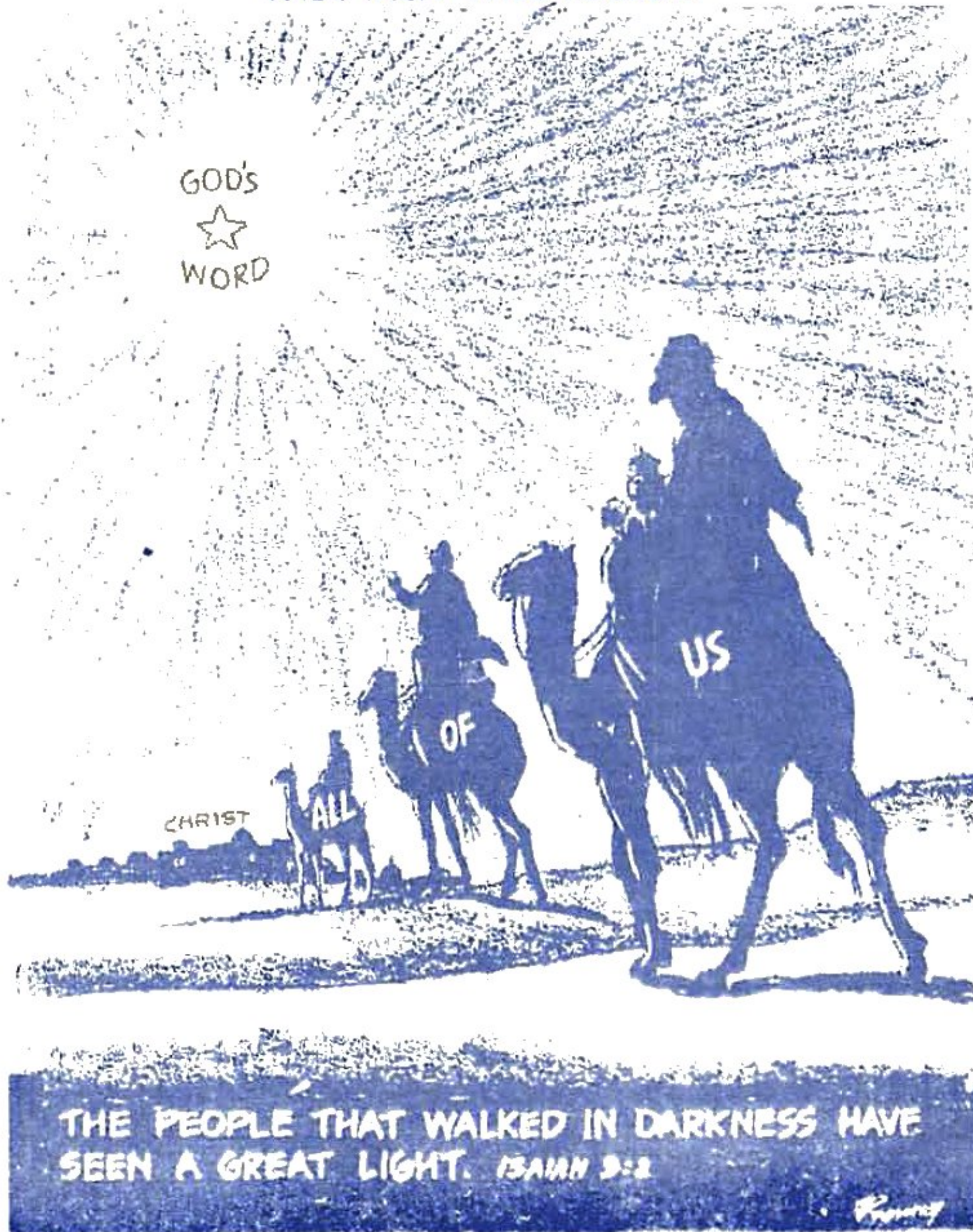
peace,
good will
toward men.

LUKE 2:14

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WISE MEN STILL FOLLOW



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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“For nation shall rise against nation,...kingdom against kingdom:...there shall be famines,...pestilences,... earthquakes,...All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill **you**: ...ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake....then shall many be offended,...betray one another,...hate one another.” Matt. 24:7-10

These very familiar words are in answer to the disciples' questions “...when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” (age) Matt. 24:3

The terms “...**you and ye**...” are a direct reference to the entire nation of Israel, not just these disciples, and Jesus' major message for them is that “...**ye shall be hated of all nations.**” Note the exact language here is that “...ye shall be hated **OF** all nations...” rather than “**BY** all nations,” and according to Jesus, this is one major “...sign of thy coming,...” unfolding before our very eyes. The recent attack of the terrorist organization “**Hamas**” against Israel has brought this accusation against the nations front and center, meaning that there are factions in every nation around the entire globe leveling unadulterated hatred toward Israel. This would include nations such as America and others who must surely be considered “sheep nations” because they are very supportive of God's Chosen People. It is comforting here to know that Jesus is the Righteous Judge and He will not cast an entire nation into oblivion due to the conduct of a few ungodly rebels. 3

It has been heart rending to see and hear supporters of “Islam and The Palestinians,” lauding Hamas to the skies at the expense of Israel. Many of these protests, especially on college campuses across America, have actually applauded Hamas, completely dismissing their atrocious acts of beheading women, ripping babies from their wombs, killing parents in front of their children and vice versa, along with setting some of their victims, including babies, afire while they were still alive. Furthermore, these same terrorists have also blamed Israel, accusing them of

being responsible for “forcing” Hamas to act in such an ungodly manner.

These same protesters proclaim that they are just “standing up for the Palestinians,” but their hatred for Israel is the predominant motive for these atrocious protests, even accusing them of genocide, that is, “the extermination of a national or racial group,” just because the Israelis are defending themselves.

The slogan “from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” has been chanted repeatedly throughout many protests across the land and some have tried to defend it as simply meaning, according to one account in the Guardian, “...merely a way to express a desire for a state in which “Palestinians can live in their homeland as free and equal citizens, neither dominated by others nor dominating them.”

4 The entire slogan actually means that Israel as a nation must be completely annihilated in order that the Palestinians might replace them. The U.S. Congress apparently perceived this true meaning in their censure of Rashida Tlaib. The New York Times reports that Rashida Tlaib, Democrat of Michigan, was censured by House lawmakers after she used the pro-Palestinian slogan “from the river to the sea.” That article continues, explaining that “...they homed in on her embrace and defense of one pro-Palestinian slogan they called unacceptable: “from the river to the sea.” The official congressional rebuke of Ms. Tlaib, the only Palestinian American in Congress, said the phrase was “widely recognized as a genocidal call to violence to destroy the state of Israel.” The top White House spokeswoman disavowed it from the West Wing, saying that it was “divisive” and that many considered it hurtful and antisemitic.”

The majority of men around planet earth realize that Iran is behind all these terrorist activities against Israel and the ultimate intent is to completely destroy this Chosen Nation. Thus it is not difficult to accept the assessment of Congress in this matter. The greater problem is that so many colleges across this land subscribe to the same ideology proclaimed by “from the river to the sea,” and these abominable protests will continue indefinitely, directly because these mostly young students have not been “educated” in knowing the glorious history of God’s Chosen People, or His eternal purposes for them.

The term “from the river to the sea,...” literally means from the river Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea, the very place from which Israel, in the eyes of some, most especially Iran, should be expelled. It is quite interesting that God has His Own definition of the phrase, “from the river to the sea,” as He sets the boundaries for Israel. “In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:” Gen. 15:18 This river of Egypt is said to be Israel’s southwest boundary while the river Euphrates is her limit on the Northeast. The following records are much more inclusive. “Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the **wilderness** and **Lebanon**, from the river, **the river Euphrates**, even unto **the uttermost sea** shall your coast be.” Deut. 11:24

Joshua also related the boundaries which God set for Israel while they were yet on the wilderness side of Jordan. “From the **wilderness** and this **Lebanon** even unto the great river, **the river Euphrates**, all the land of the Hittites, and unto **the great sea** toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.” Josh. 1:4

All of this together simply signifies that Israel’s boundaries are NOT limited to the area from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. The above “...wilderness...” is said to be the wilderness of Arabah on the South. Lebanon marks their northern limit, while the Euphrates River forms Israel’s boundary on the East. The “great sea toward the going down of the sun..” is indeed the Mediterranean Sea on the West.

The simple truth is that Israel has **never** occupied all the land which God allotted them, but the day is coming when they will. Scripture is quite clear that God’s Chosen Nation will survive this current threat along with many more, but God will use all these “skirmishes” in an effort to force them to their knees in order to accept their Messiah. There is no mention or hint of such national repentance at this hour but, the great tribulation will eventually produce it.

Meantime, present day circumstance must be considered, for the major solution to this controversy between the Palestinians and Israel, put forth by many politicians both past and present, is a two state Jerusalem. This is strictly man’s idea, for God emphatically claims Jerusalem as His Own. “...I give one tribe, that David my

servant may have a light alway before me in Jerusalem, **the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.**" I Kings 11:36 He further proclaims Jerusalem as "...the city which the LORD did choose out of all the tribes of Israel, **to put his name there....**" in I Kings 14:21. God will not "share" this city with the Palestinians, but there is a very great possibility that Israel will capitulate and eventually surrender to such an agreement thus opening the door to the great tribulation.

It is also a certainty that these terrorist attacks by Hamas and other groups will continue their assault against God's Chosen People, but it must be understood that when men battle against God's People, they are actually challenging God Himself. "For thus saith the LORD of hosts;...**he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.**" Zech. 2:8 Hamas, as well as the adamant protestors shouting defiance against Israel, are in fact leveling their hatred against God.

The November issue of Grace and Glory enlarged on the idea that terrorist groups such as Hamas might well be compared to the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's dream image in Dan. 2. John saw those same kings as "...ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns,..." Rev. 13:1. **6** Those same horns are said to "...have received no kingdom as yet..." in Rev. 17:12, a very accurate definition of terrorist groups around the world who desperately want a land of their own but have not obtained it. Add to that the fact that they are waging "Jihad" or holy war against God's People, thus making their efforts religious rather than strictly political. They also follow the same pattern as those in Zechariah who engage in battle against Israel, but their real battle is directly against God, as seen in the following account. "...**These shall make war with the Lamb,**... And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will,..." Rev. 17:12-17

The above text sets forth the fact that these ten kings will "...hate the whore and shall make her desolate..." Rev. 17:16 That whore is none other than the false Church, a direct reference to Catholicism. Many Catholics have resented that idea, but none of them have offered any alternative in identifying this wicked woman. However, the evidence against the Catholic Church is overwhelming. First she is the only religious entity or "woman" who can rightfully claim the worldwide dominion portrayed by "...the great whore that sitteth upon **many waters:**...and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast,

full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.” Rev. 17:1-3 These scriptural facts assert that this woman who sits, with some semblance of power, “...upon a scarlet coloured beast...” does have political dominance, or at least significant influence, on every nation of the world. The above “...waters...” are defined as “...peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues,” attesting to the fact that The Catholic Church alone can rightfully claim this kind of religious global dominance of which she constantly boasts.

It must be quickly reiterated, however, that the real target for these terrorist groups or these ten kings, is making war “...with the Lamb.” The reason for targeting the “woman” is because she is, in fact, **“the perceived representative of the Lamb.”** That is because she has loudly published that message down through the ages.

The recent ouster of Texas Catholic Bishop Strickland by the Pope offers some astounding proofs of that fact. Though this man must be commended for adhering to a number of scriptural principles once held dear to Catholics, he exhorted his followers on “Newsmax’ Chris Salcedo Show,” not to overreact to his removal by leaving The Catholic Church. **“Please, please don't abandon the bride of Christ, that is the Catholic Church. Don't allow the corruptions of human beings – and we're all human beings, we're all sinners – but the church is the mystical body of Christ. Stay with her, grow more holy, grow closer to the sacred heart of Christ. But please, please don't abandon her to the foul sinfulness that is overtaking the world and, sadly, the church as well. Please stay with her. “If you're concerned and confused and saddened, then seek to grow in holiness, pray the rosary,” ...“Pray before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament – Eucharistic adoration – go to Mass and really reverently listen to those readings. It's a living word of God.”**

The Catholic Church has claimed for years that she is the Bride of Christ, but note in these words the emphasis on Catholicism rather than Jesus. The repeated message here is **“don't abandon her...stay with her”** because she **“... is the mystical body of Christ,...”** thus eliminating all others who have believed on Jesus and been born into that Body by virtue of the New Birth according to Jesus' counsel to Nicodemus **“...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”** Jo. 3:3 Former Catholics have asserted more than once that the new birth is **not** included in Catholic doctrine.

Bishop Stickland also encourages those who hear his voice to

“...pray the rosary...” which begins with “hail Mary full of grace...” Such a statement puts emphasis on Mary and robs Jesus of His glory, for scripture is plain: “...grace and truth came by Jesus Christ,” not Mary. Jn. 1:17 Some have justified praying to Mary rather than Jesus, stating that “He would listen to His Mother quicker than He would the petitioner.” This too robs Jesus of His true identity, for Scripture is unequivocal that, “...we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” Heb 4:15 Furthermore “...there is one God, and **one mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;” I Tim. 2:5 This Catholic teaching simply declares that this Man Christ Jesus “**cannot** be touched with the feeling of our infirmities without the help of Mary....He cannot understand us,” even though He became a man for that very purpose.

8 “**This Bride**” also insults the very Christ she supposedly represents by asserting that her priests can forgive sins. That absolution is very often contingent on a rather substantial fee exacted by the forgiving priest which goes directly into coffers of the Vatican, making it one of the richest places on earth. Scripture is absolutely clear: **ONLY** God can forgive sins, and that “...for Christ’s sake...” (Eph. 4:32) because He paid the penalty for ALL sin with His shed blood on the Cross of Calvary. Though she dishonors Him in such a manner, The Catholic Church still claims to be His Bride, and that message will most assuredly resound to those terrorists who will eventually destroy her directly because “... God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will,...” Rev. 17:17

Even though Bishop Strickland boldly defied the Catholic Church for simply standing steadfast for the Scripture, the Pope’s response also speaks quite emphatically of the fact that Catholicism is **NOT** true to Christ, for it seems Bishop Strickland was removed because he dared criticize the “reforms” made by the Catholic Church. Those compromises are especially in behalf of the Lesbian, Homosexual, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer community. (LHBTQ) It seems that the rigid stand for pro-life against abortion has also been soundly diminished or completely excused. If the Catholic Church is the Bride of Christ, she certainly has a strange way of showing her allegiance to Him because she denies so many principles for which He stands.

All the atrocities of the above mentioned terrorist organizations like Hamas, and the blatant protests against Israel along with the vast array of wickedness manifested in this current world and decried by

God's Word are extremely hard to bear. However, be it ever remembered that all these things are included in the signs announcing the second coming of Jesus. Daniel warned of it with these prophetic words. "And 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." Dan. 8:23

"...their kingdom..." refers to the four partitions of the Grecian Empire, North, East, South, and West, which were created after the demise of Alexander the Great. History confirms Daniel's prophecy that The Grecian Empire gave way to the Roman which is now revived "...in the latter time," and the aforementioned partitions are still in place. One major sign to which Daniel points is, "...when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance.... shall stand up." This king is actually the false prophet, who is yet to be revealed but is preceded by extraordinary acts of transgression. Jesus warned against this same time when He prophesied, "...as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matt. 24:37 When God looked upon those days He "... saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Gen. 6:5 Those same evil thoughts and imaginations are clearly evidenced by the atrocities and barbaric conduct of Hamas. However, these conditions in Noah's day were worldwide and though these purely evil acts took place in Israel, scripture is clear that they will spread throughout the entire world, for God also declared before the flood that "The earth also was corrupt before God, and **the earth was filled with violence.**" Gen. 6:11 Thus it is clear that all the ungodly inhumane acts of Hamas in Israel will most assuredly spread to every corner of the earth before, once again, God Alone puts a stop to it. 9

The response to all these things for God's people today must be the same as it was for Noah at the time then present. "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD." Gen. 6:8 This portion reads as though he were searching for it, and he was not disappointed, for Divine Grace always "...bringeth salvation...." Tit. 2:11 Jesus advises that same intense search for those living in these latter days of the Church Age, likening them to "...the days of Noe..." as He admonishes men to "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Matt. 24:42 The term "...ye know not what hour your Lord doth come," applies to all the appearances Jesus will make as "**a thief**," upon His return BEFORE the final one, wherein it is affirmed that "every eye

shall see him.” Rev. 1:7 Paul picks up this same banner for these latter days, shouting to the Thessalonians, “...yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night... But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.” I Thess. 5:2,4

10 Jesus further instructs those watchers: “... be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?” Matt. 24:44-45 The final instruction here is to be very attentive to that which has been committed to them, namely “give them meat in due season.” It means “be faithful to preach the depths of God’s Word.” Jesus also instructed His servants to “...Occupy till I come.” Lk. 19:13 All these instructions simply mean that those who are looking for Jesus during these very troublous and distracting times cannot be consumed with the present day transgressions, wickedness, violence, and maltreatment of Israel, to the point that they are not faithful to the charge given them. Thus, Jesus concludes this discourse, declaring “Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.” Matt. 24:46 The fact of the matter is that all these ungodly acts committed by wicked men like Hamas and other terrorist organizations are simply harbingers of Jesus’ soon return! So once again, those like unto the Thessalonian believers who were expecting The Bridegroom to return at any moment, must heed Jesus’ strong encouragement and admonition, regarding these last days. “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth **distress of nations**, with perplexity; the sea and the **waves roaring**;...Men's hearts failing them for fear,...**when these things begin to come to pass**, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” Lk. 21:25-28

**"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall call his name Immanuel."**

Isaiah 7:14

"...God sent forth his Son, made of a woman..."

Galatians 4:4

OUR INCOMPARABLE CHRIST

F. M. Eagleson

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord." Lk. 2:11. His name shall be called wonderful." Isa. 9:6. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." II Cor. 9:15.

He took young children in His arms, ate with sinners, and washed His disciples' feet; yet He was before all things; created all things; upholds all things; is Head over all things; Heir of all things; will subdue all things; and by Him are all things held together,

He left the glories of heaven; made Himself of no reputation; and took upon Him the form of a servant. He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. He gave His back to the smiters; His cheeks to them that plucked off the hair; and hid not His face from shame and spitting. He was despised, rejected, betrayed; mocked, smitten, scourged; made a curse for us, and executed as a criminal: yet He is the Rock of ages, the sure foundation, the Creator of the Universe, the living Word, the Bread of life, the true Vine, the unspeakable Gift, the Prince of Peace, the Chief Shepherd, the one altogether lovely, the mighty God, the Victor over death, the Savior of the world, the Judge of all men, and the coming King. 11

He was born in a stable; yet angels announced His birth. He had nowhere to lay His head; yet He offers His followers prepared mansions. He lived in poverty; yet He has blessed millions with unsearchable riches. He was often weary; yet He offers rest to all who are heavy laden. He was often hungry; yet He could say: "He that cometh to me shall never hunger." He was often thirsty; yet He could say: "He that believeth on me shall never thirst." He had no home of his own; yet He could say: "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

He was crowned with thorns; yet His followers shall receive crowns of glory. Few grieved at His death; yet the sun put on mourning at noon-day and the earth shook with anguish. He was buried in a borrowed tomb; yet to all who receive Him, He will give eternal life. He was put to death as a criminal, yet He now sits on the right hand of the Majesty on high. He held no office or position of authority; yet at His Name, every knee in heaven and earth shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that He is Lord.

He never wrote a song or a book; yet He is the theme of more songs and books than all other world celebrities combined. He never attended college; yet the world's intellects will never fathom His teaching. He went to the lowest depths of suffering and shame; that men

might be raised to the highest heights of glory and honor. He took upon Him the sin that was ours; that He might give us the righteousness that is His. He was never elated by success, daunted by enemies, depressed by doubt, conquered by fear or worried over any situation. He is the central character of history; the theme of all true preaching: the source of all true life and happiness; the foundation of all true progress.

He is: **Incomparable In His Humility**

"But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant; He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Phil. 2:7,8.

Incomparable In His Love

"Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God." Eph. 5:2.

Incomparable In His Grace

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich." II Cor. 8:9.

Incomparable In His Sacrifice

"For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." Mk. 10:45.

12 Incomparable In His Power

"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Matt. 28:19.
"Upholding all things by the word of His power." Heb. 1:3.

Incomparable In His Honor

"The blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords"-1 Tim. 6:15.

Incomparable In His Glory

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory"—Rev. 5:12.

Incomparable In His Salvation

"Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." Jn. 11:26
"As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." Jn. 1:12.

Incomparable in heaven or earth:
Incomprehensible His worth:
Wonders of wonders! Christ I see
On Calvary's cruel cross---for me.

(Reprint 1961)

Unspeakable Gift

Anon

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

II Cor. 9:15

Bethlehem, the name which is fraught with every conceivable gift for mankind is well known to men. Herein God uttered His Voice in manifold ways. The Builder of all things, Who is God, came and tabernacled in dust. It is this, that the apostle Paul calls "God's unspeakable Gift" — so wonderful that there are no words to utter it. Let us look at its method first, then its universal character and third, its uniqueness.

The Method is amazing. God entered humanity by birth. "...unto you is born..." the angel said to the shepherds. Lk. 2:11 He came by way of the incarnation, which is according to all God's great first purposes and original laws. "...unto you is born..." Here is the Eternal, Illimitable, the Unbounded God consenting to be bound and limited. He voluntarily submits Himself to the same law by which the universe is unconsciously submitted. It could not be otherwise if God is to become a Man. **13**
We do not need an unveiling of power. We do not need a catalog of wisdom. The universe is sown with wisdom and power which the scientist is only beginning to decipher. No man wanted the Heart of the Universe and so He came. "God so loved the world that he gave,..." Jn. 3:16 He gave His heart, His soul, Himself. This is the wonder before which all wonders fail, before which all philosophy all fiction falls. For neither Theology, Science, Philosophy, nor all combined, can compete with the account of Bethlehem. Here we are confronted by the supreme sacrifice of the Supreme Sovereign to put into effect immortal humanity. Someone has said, "He that hath been cradled in majesty will not leave the throne to play with beggars," but that is just what God has done. He has come down to beggars. And because of this unheard of thing, these beggars are now in the unbroken line of Christ's succession.

Then, consider the Uniqueness of God's Gift, "For unto you is born...a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Lk. 2:11 Salvation is the work of God alone. A Savior is born for the human race. This work is greater than creation. It brings forth a new creation

— Christ the firstborn of a holy race of humanity. The Son of God assumes our nature and makes it divine — worthy to stand before God in the glory. He is no reformer, king, nor teacher, or rather He is all of these but they are but the tinsel clinging to His robes of majesty, as He comes with "...crimson garments, glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength,...that speak in righteousness mighty to save." Isa. 63:1 God can make a king or teacher or reformer as easily as He can make a sea or fashion a star in the heavens, but to fashion a Savior is far different. God must create Himself a Man. He must come down and be born of Mary — come forth from Mary's womb, that He might be a Savior. So the Gospel is this; we sinners must come to God through "Mary's Son." Christ then will be in us, the hope of glory through time and eternity.

14 God gave us Himself in Christ, that is, the distinct marvel of His salvation. "I and My Father are One..." Jesus said. This is the divine score from which flows heavenly strains of music. And the Jews took up stones to stone Him, but they were unsuccessful. No power of man or Satan can destroy the indestructible. Christ is God's salvation. Through Him and Him alone He has the underhold on man and lifts him up to acceptable fellowship. And behold that Holy Thing that came from God, above the stars, that came into our humanity and wore it up to Calvary, then coming from the grave wore it on up the hill of Light from whence it came and toward which all the new creation moves. We say again, "Thanks be unto God for His Unspeakable Gift."

Peace On Earth. . . .Goodwill To Men

Christmas -- it's that time of year again
When some remember Peace on earth, Goodwill to men;
A pity ALL men can't in some small way
Remember Peace on earth, Goodwill through every day.
And then, perhaps, throughout the world, there'd be less strife
And so much useless waste of precious life --
Disease and poverty and hunger fade --
If men through Peace and Goodwill greater efforts made.
But men, of self, these joys will not afford;
The key is only found in CHRIST THE LORD!

Frank Roberts

SEVEN MUSTS

Anon

Note seven specific and defining “**Musts**,” in the Christian career. 1. Jesus said, “Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye **MUST** be born again”—John 3:7., This is the absolutely essential beginning of a Christian life. 2. It is through Christ; “for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we **MUST** be saved”—Acts 4:12. Mark this well. 3. “We **MUST** through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God”—Acts 14:22. This is the unavoidable route of a finished Christian experience. 4. “For there **MUST** be also heresies (sets of perdition) among you, that they which are approved may be manifest among you.” I Cor. 11:19. Study these strange words and be comforted. 5. “They that worship the Father **MUST** worship Him in Spirit and in truth.” John 4:14. Formal worship, cold lip adoration, is abomination to a warm, loving Father. How little true worship our Father receives. 6. “We **MUST** all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.” II Cor. 5:10 Our priesthood with Christ is portrayed in II Corinthians. The manner of the judgment of such priesthood is expressed in the first and second chapters of Revelation. We are even now on review before the Candlestick Examiner and we are finding our several ranks. The announcement of our rewards will be given beyond the blue. 7. Then “this corruptible **MUST** put on incorruption and this mortal **MUST** put on immortality.” I Cor. 15:53. Praise God for this final and glorious **MUST**. Beloved, do you believe these blessed things? 15

COMMUNION

Don't neglect the quiet hour
For the soul that truly seeks
Knows the thrill of holy power --
Hears the Father when He speaks.

In prayer, by faith, His voice is heard;
Our inmost soul is strongly stirred;
All loosened cords are brought in tune,
And we with God Himself commune.

-- J. L. Spicer

Good Tidings of Great Joy

Dr. Vicky Moots

The same night that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds nearby to announce His birth. In Luke 2:10 we read the angel's message to them: "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

Notice, first of all, that this was a declaration of "good tidings of great joy." Most of the news casts today are filled with "bad tidings": fires, accidents, murders, inflation, etc. But the birth of Jesus brought "good tidings" and "great joy."

To whom is this "good tidings" and "great joy" addressed? It was not only intended for the shepherds, but for us also, for the angel declared that it was to be for "all people." That would include everyone of all races, everywhere, from that time even until this present age. But how can the birth of a baby who was born in a stable to a poor peasant couple be good news which would bring great joy to all people? Verse 11 answers that question: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." The phrase "good tidings" actually means "good news", which is the meaning of the word "gospel." The good news of the gospel is that we have a Savior who died for our sins. His death on the cross was for "all people." Matthew 1:20-23 records the account of the angel of the Lord who appeared to Joseph in a dream to tell him that Mary's unborn baby was conceived in her by the Holy Ghost and that she had not been unfaithful to him. In v. 21 the angel declared to Joseph the divine nature of the child that was to be born and what to name Him: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

The name "JESUS" is the Greek form of the Hebrew word "Jehoshua", which means "Savior." Jesus was given that name by the angel Gabriel even before He was conceived in the womb by the Holy Ghost because that was the purpose for which He was to be born: to be the Savior of the world.

Not only does Jesus' name mean "Savior", but there is no other name through which we can be saved, as Peter declared

in Acts 4:12: “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.”

So, where does the joy come from? Yes, there was joy when Jesus was born, and yes, there is joy when we are born again, but it means more to us than that. It means an on-going joy for each day of our lives, even on the bad days, for true joy is not dependent on the circumstances.

Jesus spoke of joy to His disciples on His way to the Garden of Gethsemane shortly before his crucifixion. He knew that they would soon face great sorrow and that they needed to have His joy. He stated to them in John 15:11, “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.” This kind of joy is called “joy unspeakable and full of glory”, in I Pet. 1:18, because words cannot explain or describe it.

The birth of Jesus over 2,000 years ago brought good tidings of great joy into this world as a gift to all those who receive Him a Savior. It is only through Jesus that we can have true joy. Let Him speak words of joy to your heart whenever you are in sorrow. Allow His joy to remain in you in spite of the circumstances that you are facing or in the midst of grieving the loss of loved ones. Let Him fill your cup of joy today.

17

THE MIRACLE OF LOVE

Love is the spark that kindles the fire of compassion. Compassion is the fire that flames the candle of service. Service is the candle that ignites the torch of hope. Hope is the torch that lights the beacon of faith. Faith is the beacon that reflects the power of God. God is the power that creates the miracle of love.

William Arthur Ward

REFLECTIONS

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.” Matt. 1:18 The term “...on this wise...” presents a majestic explanation of the virgin birth prophesied by Isaiah. “...the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Isa 7:14 Matthew proclaims the fulfillment of this prophecy, identifying Mary by name as Isaiah’s prophesied virgin confirming that she was “...espoused to Joseph, before they came together...”

18 Though this was a longstanding prophecy, even Joseph, whom God determines to be “...a just man,...” did not seem to know why she was in this condition. Thus, “...the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying,... that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.” Matt. 1:20 Joseph’s response reflects the fact that he immediately believed that message, for he, “...being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:” Matt. 1:24 Furthermore, he “...knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.” Matt. 1:25

Luke’s record is very clear that Mary knew what had transpired, for an angel had also appeared unto her with the declaration “...Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God...behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.” Lk. 1:30-31 Mary too was in a quandary, asking plainly, “...How shall this be, seeing I **know not a man?**” Lk. 1:34 She is immediately informed that “... The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, ...therefore also that **holy thing** which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” Lk. 1:35

Evidently, Mary did not share that information with Joseph for some reason, but the record is quite clear that she believed she had been accorded this high honor, responding immediately to the angel, “...Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me

according to thy word..." Lk. 1:38

Once again, even though this was an ancient prophecy from Isaiah, men in general would continue to refuse the fact that "...the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, ..." The "sign" had appeared in living color before them, but still the majority refused to accept it. Joseph undoubtedly perceived this, for his original fear was that Mary would be made "...a publick example,..." and was thus "...minded to put her away privily." Matt. 1:19

He apparently knew that most were simply convinced of the idea that this young peasant girl was simply guilty of fornication, a crime which, according to the law, was punishable by death. Deut. 22:20-21

It is also quite suggestive that when Jesus accused the Pharisees, saying "Ye do the deeds of your father...." (the devil) their immediate answer was "... We be not born of fornication;..." strongly implying that "You were the product of such an act." Jn. 8:41 Jn. 8:41 This entire portion enlarges on Jesus' declaration that God was His Father and the Jews soundly rejected that premise. It must be remembered here that Isaiah prophesied "...a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel." (God with us.) Mary was likewise informed "...that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God," fully justifying Jesus' claim that, "I speak that which I have seen with my Father:..." Jn. 8:38

That same glorious Sign of The Son Of God is also due to appear at any time in these last days, but just as it was in the days of His first advent, so will it be at His second. Only a few will at first actually acknowledge this glorious fulfillment of God's infallible Word! It is imperative that those who are looking for Jesus today follow in the steps of Simeon, who exulted, when the 33 day old Babe was presented in the temple long ago, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation," Lk. 2:29

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Streaming continues for both worship services and Bible

College classes at www.gracegod.com

Service times (CST) are Sunday School 10 A.M.

Worship 11 A.M. & 1:30 P.M. Wed. 7 P.M.

Classes are held from 7 to 9 P.M. Mon. Tues. Thurs. & Fri.

Grace a Teacher

Camp Sermon

J. F. Ney

"For the grace of God, that bringeth salvation, hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world; looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ." Tit. 2:11-13. There is only one place I would rather be than here this morning; that is in heaven. There will be only one kind of people in heaven, and they will never be different. I was impressed with a cartoon recently in the Literary Digest. An elephant stood in an opening in a board fence. His hinder part was beyond the fence and a woman was spanking him. In the next cartoon the elephant had turned around, and it had the head of a donkey. Below it read, "It is great fun for the Democrats to spank the elephant," but when it turned around and they saw it had a donkey's head, the fun was not so great.

20

Well, this is a funny world, especially for those who are looking for an office. When they are among elephants, they are elephants, when among donkeys, they are donkeys; when among monkeys, they are monkeys; when among wets, they have a wet stomach and when among dries, they have a dry stomach, just to get the votes. Many of God's people are somewhat that way; they are anything and everything to get the crowds on their side. Praise God, I was saved 20 years ago. Then I was what I was by the grace of God, and I have lost all other records. Since the camp last year, I have not grown any trunks, horns, or wings; but I have partaken a little more of the grace of God and of the nature of His Son. I am glad that we are not donkeys, monkeys, or elephants; but sons of the living God. We just know that when we vote for Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords, we make no mistake. He has the right form of government, and the government shall be on His shoulder. We are already being prepared to reign with Him, because His very life has been imparted to us. I still believe in the grace of God. I have found no substitute for it. Everyone

that is saved is saved by grace, whether men believe it, or not. We love it as the Apostle sets it forth in his epistles in its fulness. He begins all his epistles but one with grace, mercy and peace.

In our text, we are exhorted to deny, to live and to look, all by the grace of God; for grace is our enabling always. I am glad that the grace of God teaches, but not as the law taught. The people in the beginning, who received the grace of God, could teach grace, because grace taught them. Paul speaks of some who desire to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. What a sad predicament, to preach something we do not understand and cannot affirm. We can only say, "Yea and amen" to the grace of God; for it worketh effectually in us who believe. No matter where we read in the Apostle's teaching, we always read about the two natures in the believers.

1. Grace teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, that is, the old creation. We deny them by saying with God that the old man was denied and slain on Calvary. Christ on the Cross put away the whole old creation. When He arose from the dead, He brought up a new creation to walk in newness of life. **21**

2. Grace teaches us to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. This is the new creation. He is not drunk with the things of this life, the intoxications of the world. No, he is sober when it comes to that; but he is filled with the new wine from heaven and can live righteously in this present evil world. The old man cannot live right; neither can the new man live wrong.

3. Grace teaches us to look for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Yes, the new life looks for the coming of the Lord. It longs to meet its Author and Source. Men of the world are looking for everything else but Christ. Somehow I do not know how to explain this word teaching. It is more than words. In fact, it is our very enabling. Sometimes it is said that actions speak louder than words. Have you ever met an individual who believed the grace of God from the heart, who never said a word to you? But you were Put under conviction and received a revelation. It was the grace

of God in that person. It was in his life. The very life was speaking and teaching. Men's words may sometimes teach grace; but the life contradicts it. Praise God: we may be teachers and preachers without being behind a pulpit. We may deny ungodliness and live godly and look for the coming of the Lord by divine grace; thus we teach grace to others practically. Enoch walked with God. He denied, lived and looked; and one day, he was not. He had gone up to the God of all grace. Thank God, we may always come boldly unto the throne of grace and find help in time of need, that we may be like Christ.

God looks on the heart and not upon the outward appearance. Today the enemy is so ruling that people are gazing upon the outward appearance. They are carried away with personality, gifts and eloquence, all for show, but God sees the heart, the new creation. Praise God, we still have a chance to draw on His grace and believe His grace. The more we are tried and the greater the tribulation, the more opportunity we have to prove God's sufficiency. Peter says "According as His divine power hath
22 given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, thru the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue; whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, that by these we might be partakers of His divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world thru lust." II Pet. 1:3,4. Then he speaks of seven things which we should add. "Add to your faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge," etc. Thank God for the exceeding great and precious promises.

To the extent that we partake of the nature of Christ, we will be grown up in Christ in eternity, And to the extent that we are put to it here and have to lay hold on Christ, we are made partakers of the divine nature now. When I feel my need so greatly before God, and that before the eyes of the people I have not the personality like some others, no gifts like some others, I draw all the more upon the mighty nature of Christ that I may be like Him. We may be abused in many ways and not get our rights down here; but it is all a cause for us to call upon the Lord more and more, that we may obtain grace to grow up in Him and be like Him. Everything comes our way that we may feel the need of Christ

more and more. As we become like Him, we rejoice in His ways. Peter, before he stepped off the scene, exhorted his followers to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior. But we must go to Paul and take his bill of fare in order to really grow in grace and knowledge. It is a good thing to feel our need continually. Paul did not say to the Ephesian saints when he left them, "Now you have heard the word of grace for three years, so you are able to stand without hearing it any more." No, but he commended them to God and to the word of His grace, which was able to build them up and give them an inheritance. I believe, that after all, Christ is our inheritance. If we receive all of Christ, that will be our inheritance. What Peter spoke of adding, we take from Christ by faith. I am glad that we do not have to spank everybody that does not walk so and so. What people need is more life, which comes by receiving more spiritual food. The life itself overcomes. Of course, if people do not believe the grace of God, there is nothing to be done for them.

4. Grace teaches us that Jesus gave Himself for us, "that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Here is the foundation for the exhortations given before. The death of Christ made provision for our denial of ungodliness and for a godly walk. That death purchased for us the blessed hope of Christ's return. It demands a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Then as we obtain spiritual strength from God, we produce spiritual works. God does not approve of child labor; but He gives us work as we are able to perform it. We are often times occupied with doing things and with works, when we ought to be occupied with God and development, spiritual strength and life. Paul speaks far more of growth than of works. We were created in Christ Jesus unto good works, ordained for us that we should walk in them. It is impossible to keep a spiritual man or woman from working. That is their desire; all they want to know is "What is the will of God?" The works of the believer were foreordained before the foundation of the world. All our works then will glorify God.

Jesus said on one occasion, "I come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly. Yes, He is not

only come to give us eternal life in its infancy; but He wants us to have more abundant life. Brother Copley wrote a sermon in the last Grace and Glory about eternal life being an inheritance. First, it is a gift to be born again; but to receive all that Christ has to add throughout our life, is our inheritance in Christ. I have found this statement four times in Paul's epistles, "shall not inherit the kingdom of God." In Galatians he speaks of the works of the flesh, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Also in Ephesians and twice in Corinthians — the unrighteous, the whoremongers, the unclean person, the idolaters, the fornicators, etc., shall not inherit the kingdom of God. If we do not learn to walk in the Spirit, we will have no inheritance. Though we are saved and go to heaven; yet we will have no inheritance if we live after the flesh. That is why we are debtors to walk and live in the Spirit. We owe it to God, not as of works under the law, but as under the law of love to Christ, Who has fully redeemed us unto God. Now God made man in the first place not to glorify the devil, but to glorify God, because he was a wonderful creation; but instead, Satan came in and took man away from God. From that time man has been glorifying man and Satan; but God brought in a new creation that we may glorify Him in spirit, soul and body forever more.

"Zealous of good works." We are created in Christ Jesus unto good works, and if we yield to God, we will do good, even more than under the law, because it is the new man that does it. The new creation is zealous to glorify God. The Apostle Paul exhorted the Corinthian saints, saying, "We, therefore, as laborers together with God, beseech you that you receive not the grace of God in vain." We should fully appropriate His grace. We need not receive it in vain. We may do good works.

Paul also said, "According to the grace of God, which is given unto me, as a wise master-builder, I have laid the foundation, which is Christ." He gave God's grace the credit for his becoming a wise master-builder, and for enabling him to preach Christ, as the foundation of the church. In another place he declared that he labored more than all the other apostles, but added, "Yet not I, but the grace of God..." That is all we can do; give divine grace the

credit for what we are and for what we do in Christ. If there is any law underneath, our service is not from a perfect heart. Thank God, we may always take the grace of God to do His will. As long as we yield a little to the natural, to our reasoning, grace cannot operate. If we say, even in our minds, "So and so does not do his part and I have to do more than my share," grace is not fully appropriated. But if we take more grace to work the more, we will receive the greater reward, even the reward which the other would receive if he did his part. We may appropriate grace and sacrifice and serve whether anybody appreciates it, or not. God's grace is sufficient.

Oh, Hallelujah! If the Lord tarries another year, we will need still more grace. We will need the love of God shed abroad in our hearts more abundantly, because of the times in which we live. I believe that those who are wholehearted for God and sacrifice to the limit will have to take a little more grace and sacrifice a little more, because the needs will be greater. They who do not believe will look for every open door to gain a little here and there for support. But to the saints, the Lord says, "Your bread and water shall be sure." After all, these hard times are the means of developing the new life more and more in us because we will see our need of drawing more on the grace of God. It rejoices my heart that God does not let us make shipwreck of faith. The grace of God delivers us from all imitation and monkey-business. We are sons of God by the new birth. All we need is more grace. Sometimes we think we need something; but in fact we only need more grace. Sometimes we think we need something; but in fact we only need more of God. We can get this by going down on our knees. 25

If people who are out of work would spend more time on their knees, it would be wonderful. Our faith draws down the Son of God from heaven. We believe and believe, and when the due time comes that God cannot take care of us any longer down here; He knows what to do with us. God is never weary. He never faints, and we do not need to faint, either. If the time comes that it may seem like we will all faint, perhaps then God will take us home. What do we care if we do not have personality, or how the people look on the outward appearance, just so we have character

in the sight of God; just so we have hearts to do the will of God. He always looks on the heart anyhow. Surely, people that do not believe in the nearness of the coming of the Lord, they are not denying ungodliness, the old man: they are not living in the Spirit. The old creation can never look for the coming of the Lord. It is impossible. Only the new life looks for Jesus. Though children of God may have had a revelation of the nearness of the coming of the Son of God, sometimes they forget; but I believe that they who will be translated in the first rank, down in their hearts are looking for Him. They are living in the Spirit. "He that hath this hope set on Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." I Jo. 3:3

(Reprint 1932)

INFINITE JOURNEY

I'm going on a journey
And I won't be coming back;
I'll have no need of luggage
So I do not need to pack.

26

I have a straight through ticket;
There will be no delay
When my Captain calls for me;
I'm waiting for that day.

I do not know the route I'll take,
Nor do I know the hour.
But this I know, it will be soon,
And He'll come with mighty power.

The dead and living shall arise;
We'll all go up together
To meet our Bridegroom in the air,
And be with Him forever.

When I reach my destination
There'll be many to welcome me,
But the thing that is most exciting:
My loving Savior I'll finally see.

--Beula Clark

The Word Of God
Convention Sermon
Francis Goodrick

“Then was Jesus led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward an hungered. And when the tempter came to Him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Matt. 4:1-4.

I want to speak this afternoon on our need of God's Word. Jesus used the Word of God when Satan tempted Him. That is our weapon today. We have tested it again and again, and we know it can conquer every power of evil and drive the enemy away, because the Word of God is all powerful. When we are tried, we know where to go. We have the Word of God to use against the enemy. It is a powerful weapon in our hands.

I have been impressed with the need of the Word of God in this evil age. We need to have our hearts and souls stored with it so that we may have something to draw upon in the time of adversity. Today we need the precious Word of God in order to overcome. We see that Jesus did not rely upon His supernatural power. He could have commanded many angels. Here He is giving us an example of how we can resist the enemy. We do not need to rely on our own strength, but can go to the Word of God and find a promise for every need, for every struggle. "For the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"—Heb. 4:12. How precious it is to know the Word. It is dependable when we are tempted by the world, the flesh and the devil.

"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." I Thess. 2 :13. When Paul came to Thessalonica to proclaim the

Gospel of Jesus Christ, he came not with excellency of speech. He came not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but he came in humility with the Word of God. We see in this passage how they received the message.

28 Paul hid behind the cross. He exalted Jesus and the power of the cross to live an overcoming life. He exalted this wonderful Gospel that satisfies every need of spirit, body and soul. He showed forth a complete redemption. He so hid behind the cross that they did not see Paul, but Christ. They received the message not as of Paul, but as a message from Christ, a message from heaven. How good it is to lose sight of the prophet, the messenger and to see only Christ. The Holy Spirit wants to change, transform and renew our minds, make us Christ-like, living epistles of God's Word. He wants to so plant the Word in us that we will not doubt when the tempter comes, but will have power to overcome. No matter how weak we are, we all have the same weapon to use. We can get a revelation of Christ and go with assurance, with positive certainty that God has spoken. There is no need for doubt, no need for questioning because Christ has spoken. We know His Word shall stand forever. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matt. 24:35 Paul was so filled with the Spirit that he knew that God had spoken, which gives us the witness and assurance that he spoke the truth.

"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, throughly furnished unto all good works"-2 Tim. 3:16,17. We know that God's Word is inspired, or God-breathed. It is by the inspiration of the Almighty, the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost"-2 Pet. 1:21. How good in these last days to have the Word of God which was given through men who were filled with the Holy Spirit. We have tried it and tested it in our lives and we know that it is the Sword of the Spirit. We know that it is all inspired from Genesis to Revelation. It satisfies our souls as He only can satisfy. It changes things as only God can change. It solves our problems and answers our

questions as only God can. How may we prove to others that God's Word is inspired? It has spoken to our souls and transformed our lives. We can see that God has spoken, and we know that it is true.

"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself"—Luke 24:27. We read how Jesus appeared to the two disciples on their way to Emmaus after He was raised from the dead. He reproved them, saying, "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken." How slow we are many times to believe the supernatural. How slow we are to grasp the meaning of God's Word. The Word of God is living, real and precious in the historic account and in the law. It reveals Christ, our Redeemer. The prophets and all the Scriptures show Him forth. He is the core, the theme, the hope of God's Word. As we look into it, we see not merely history, not merely precepts, but the living Christ. He said, "I am the living Word." We see the wonderful Son of God. That is why this Word is so precious to us.

"And now brethren, I commend you to God and to the Word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified"—Acts 20:32. Here are Paul's words to the Ephesian Elders as he was taking his farewell of them. These were his last words to them. He commends them to God and to the Word of grace. The word of God's grace not only saves our soul and gives us the Holy Spirit, but it takes us on and reveals our inheritance. 29

It gives us the hope of the Gospel in Paul's message — a complete revelation of Jesus Christ. I am so glad that Paul has committed unto us a Gospel which is established, immoveable, firm and unchangeable in this changing world. We may know, rest assured and be confident, knowing of whom we have believed. We can know that it is the voice of God and that it is forever settled in heaven. In this time in which we are living, men are carried about with every wind of doctrine; but we may be settled and fixed in the truth, because the grace of God shows us a complete and finished redemption, a perfect walk for the believer, an overcoming life, the way of sanctification, a continual separation from the world. It is wonderful to me how the Word of can settle us. Some

people have learned the Word of God and have gone on with the Lord. They are just the same as fifteen, or twenty years ago. The Word is so revealed to them that they know that it is God's Voice, God's Word.

"I charge thee therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom, Preach the Word ; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine: for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall heap to themselves teachers having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables"-2 Tim. 4:1-4.

God is speaking to our hearts while the time is short to proclaim the message; not only to preach from the pulpit, but how good it is to go to the homes with the Word. We found in Kentucky that when people will not come to the meetings, we can go to the homes and tell them about Jesus, answer their questions, pray with them, speak to them individually, and God proves **30** Himself faithful. God is opening hearts there and enlarging the field. Where Pentecost was hardly heard of, the Word is bringing forth fruit. Because it is God's Word, it is going to reach some hearts. Some seed is falling on stony ground, some by the way-side but some on good ground. Honest and sincere hearts will see the truth. God will reveal Himself to all who want to know Him.

The time will come when we will not have the opportunity to preach and spread the Gospel. They will not endure sound doctrine. Many have itching ears for false doctrines, an easy religion, a lax life. People want an easy path, just so they get inside the Pearly Gates. But there are some honest, sincere folk that want to go on regardless of the price, or separation. I am so glad that Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit have spoken, and the Word of God has gripped our hearts and put a fixed purpose in our hearts to live for Christ, regardless of the cost. This day, even now people have itching ears for something to satisfy the flesh, the carnal flesh, that does not exalt the Son of God, or His Word. "They shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables." A fable has an appearance of the Truth, but it is just

man's wisdom, man's understanding. The Word of the Gospel is not man's word ; it is not the wisdom of man, but the invaluable Word of God, which cannot be changed, added to, or taken from.

Isa. 8:20. "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" and no life. The Word of God measures everything. There is such confusion today among religious people. Some depend upon visions, dreams and revelations. These are all precious at times, but to know God's Word settles and establishes us and leaves no question, or doubt. It makes us lowly, weak and helpless ; but it exalts Christ. When the Word is going forth, souls listen, receive, believe and come to the experience that God's Word upholds. I am so glad the Word of God has answered every question. It gives an understanding of the things of God. Not that we are positive in ourselves, but because it is the way of faith. When we put our trust in Him, the Lord will reveal the Truth to our souls.

Because God Cared

Because God cared, a star shone bright
And brought the wise men thru the night,
While lonely shepherds heard a song
That lingered in their hearts for long,
And gave to them both hope and light.

Because God cared a Babe was born
Within a stable, bleak and worn.
The King of Jews in manger bared
Was laid to sleep, because God cared—
In Bethlehem at break of morn.

Because God cared, its robes of white
Were changed to drabness and to night.
He came to live, and love men too—
The kingly One and royal Jew.
In Him we have the Christmas light.

Mary M. Bodie

The Grace Of Faith

George Mueller

I have lacked nothing—NOTHING! I have had my trials, and my empty purse, but my receipts have aggregated tens of thousands of dollars: while the work has gone on these fifty-one years. Then with regard to my pastoral work, these same long years I have had great difficulties, great trials and perplexities. There will always be difficulties and problems, but God has sustained under every one of them and delivered me out of all my trials—and the work has gone on.

32 Now this is not as some have said because I am a man of great mental power or endowed with energy and perseverance—these are not the reasons. It is because I have confided in God, because I have sought God and He has cared for the institution which under His direction has one hundred and seventeen schools with masters and mistresses and other departments of various sorts. The difficulties of such an undertaking have been gigantic, but I read that they that put their trust in the Lord shall not be ashamed. Nearly twenty years ago a beloved brother from America came to see me and he expected to see me an old man helpless and decrepit, bowed down with burdens and he wondered I did not look old. "How is this?" he said, "that you look so young under such a load as you are carrying?"

"My dear brother," I said, "I have always rolled the burden on the Lord. I do not carry one-hundredth part of it. The burden comes to me, and I roll it back on Him. I do not carry the burden." And now, in my seventy-sixth year, I have physical strength and mental vigor for work as great as when I was a young man in the University, studying and preparing Latin orations. I am just as vigorous as at that time.

How comes this? Because in the last half century of labor I've been able, with the simplicity of a little child, to rely upon God. I have had my trials, but I have laid hold on God, and so it has come that I have been sustained. It is not only permission, but positive command that He gives us to cast the burden upon Him. Oh let us do it, my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ. "Cast thy burden upon the Lord and He shall sustain thee." Day by day I do it. This morning again sixty matters in connection with the church, of which I am pastor, I brought before the Lord, and thus it is day by day, and year by year; ten years, twenty years, thirty

years, forty years. And now, my beloved brothers and sisters, come with your burdens, the burdens of your business, your profession, your trials and difficulties, and you will find help.

Many persons suppose it is only about money that I trust the Lord in Prayer. I do bring this money question before the Lord, but it is only one out of many things I speak to God about, and I find He helps. Often I have perplexity in finding persons of ability and fitness for the various posts that I have to have supplied. Sometimes weeks and months pass, and day by day, day by day, I bring the matter before the Lord, and invariably He helps. It is so about the conversion of persons—prayer, sooner or later, is turned into praise. After a while, God helps. It is so about the needs of our work in sending our tracts and books, and missionary efforts. After a while God helps. We're never left, we're never confounded.

Do not, however, expect to attain full faith at once. All such things as jumping into full exercise of faith in such things I discountenance. I do not believe in it, I do not believe in it, I do NOT believe in it, and I wish you to plainly understand I do not believe in it. All such things go on in a natural way. The little I did obtain I did not obtain all at once. All this I say particularly, because letters come to me full of questions from those who seek to have their faith strengthened. Begin over again, staying your soul on the Word of God, and you will find an increase of your faith as you exercise it.

One thing more, "Oh I never will have the gift of faith, Mr Mueller has." That is a mistake, a gross error. This is the same kind of faith that all Christians have had. It is the same sort of faith that all God's children may obtain—the same kind that Simon Peter had — and that all of the worthies of faith. My faith has been developed by exercise, but all faith is the same, the only difference is in the degree, mine may be more exercised by use. What little faith I have is the grace of faith, not the gift. But he that has the grace of faith always has it accompanied by love, rendered charity. The gift of faith is able to command, may even command devils. The grace of faith has to do with the written Word of the Lord. At first I was only able to trust the Lord for ten dollars; then for a hundred, then for a thousand and finally for as much as I needed. You may commence the same way, and your faith will increase, I assure you.

Should We Forget?

Should we forget that Jesus was born
When this dark world was battered and torn?
Kingdoms were fallen and kingdoms arose
One, and another, to break or oppose.
Then came the Christ-Child, God's love to disclose
And save mankind from sin and shame.

Should we forget that Jesus was born
When the poor Jews, were sad and forlorn?
Sadducees, Pharisees, elders untrue.....
Needed redemption and salvation too,
Then came Messiah God's word to renew
And save by grace from ev'ry blame.

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Should we forget that Jesus was born
When few were here His Name to adorn?
Came to His own who then turned Him away,
Came to forgive them and heal ev'ry day—
Offered all blessings and nothing to pay,
And had no whither to go.

Should we forget that Jesus was born,
Crucified, buried—The Grain of Corn,
Risen and glorified, scattering pain?
But He is coming in triumph to reign,
And all His allies the vict'ry shall gain
In heav'n above and earth below.

A.S.Copley



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