


# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the  
whole counsel of GOD

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**H**or we are saved  
by hope: but hope  
that is seen is  
not hope: for what  
a man seeth,  
why doth he  
yet hope for?  
ROMANS 8:24.

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**"Who can find a virtuous woman? ... Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." Prov. 31:10 & 28**

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**Editor: Gene Hawkins**

## Definite Sign Posts Of The End!

Gene Hawkins

“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them...”

It is rather intriguing that Paul addressed these words to the very elite saints at Thessalonica who were actively looking for Jesus' soon return. This fact is evident, for he plainly declared “... of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.....yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.” I Thess. 5:1-2 He further commended them for their deep spirituality, asserting that “...ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.” I Thess. 5:4

Another scriptural fact in regard to the aforementioned declaration of “...peace and safety...” is that it will not be fulfilled in its entirety until **AFTER** Jesus takes His throne in heaven and begins to open the seals of judgment as recorded in Rev. 5 & 6. John is very clear when he was transported to heaven; “...immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.” Rev. 4:1-2 The “...one...” Who “...sat on the throne ...” is none other than Jesus, Who has just been crowned King of kings and Lord of lords, thus beginning His reign, in God's stead, for 1000 years. John next “...saw in the right hand of **him that sat on the throne** a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.” Rev. 5:1 That book contains seven seals of judgment and John is admonished, “...Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.” Rev. 5:5 This very privileged apostle next “...saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, ...And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.” Rev. 6:1-2 The one sitting on this “...white horse...” of peace is none other than the antichrist. He is also said to have “...a bow...” but no arrows are mentioned, meaning that he purports himself to be a man of peace. The antichrist will not **officially** appear as such until 250 days before the middle of the

week when he is raised from the dead out of the bottomless pit as John records in Rev. 17. "The beast that thou sawest was and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit,...and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life...when they behold the **beast that was, and is not, and yet is.**" Rev. 17:8 The last phrase of this verse explains the overall journey regarding this man of sin, for he "...that was..." is the same as "...the prince..." in Dan. 9:26-27 who will make a covenant with the Jews at the **beginning** of the tribulation week. He is at that time just one ruler in a seven headed coalition of nations, but he is surely the one who is in command. John then describes him as one "...that is not..." meaning that this man of sin will be slain sometime before the middle of the week, after which he will become the one who "...yet is..." because he "...shall ascend out of the bottomless pit..."

4 Keep in mind that the first seal of judgment opened is this promise of peace. It is only temporary and it is counterfeit, because only Jesus will bring forth the true and lasting peace for which the whole of humanity searches. Thus, Paul announces "...when they SAY, Peace and safety..." It is only the word of imposters which make such a declaration, paving the way for the second seal to be opened. "And when he had opened the second seal,...there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon **to take peace from the earth**, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword." Rev. 6:3-4 It is the same man riding both horses, and that man is the antichrist initially bringing forth some semblance of peace which quickly dissipates into the destruction of war and death.

There must be no mistake here. The above order, as described in Rev. 5-6, will not come to pass until AFTER Jesus takes His throne in heaven and AFTER those like unto the Thessalonian believers are already there to witness it. Such a scenario begs the question: "If full overcoming saints typified by the Church at Thessalonica, and also known as the four living ones and twenty four elders, **are already in glory** when the aforementioned counterfeit era is ushered in, then why warn them

of the impending "...peace and safety..." disaster coming upon the earth?" It must also be observed here that Paul immediately warned this same company: "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." I Thess. 5:6 He seemed to be concerned that a time of "peace and safety" could contribute to a certain laxity among God's people in keeping their eyes fixed on Jesus' soon return. It is also important to realize that the "...others..." of whom he speaks cannot be a reference to "sinners," for rather than sleeping, they are "dead" in trespasses and sins. Paul is rather telling these choice believers that they must distinguish themselves from other **believers** who might be duped into thinking that all is well in this world due to this announced "peace and safety" edict.

If indeed Paul's prophecy applies, at least in part, to a time of "...peace and safety..." **before** the tribulation begins, the current conditions of unrest and chaos both in and between nations of our day could well form the perfect backdrop for it. Multiple demonstrations of trouble across the globe at this present hour could, in time, very well demonstrate an absolute **DEMAND** for an era of "peace and safety" to prevail world-wide **BEFORE** Jesus comes as the aforementioned "...thief in the night." His promise is clear to the Church at Philadelphia that, "...I also will keep thee from (out of) the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." Rev. 3:10 The climate at this present hour seems to be unprecedented wickedness, chaos and ungodliness, from which those looking for Jesus long to be delivered, but it might be rather profitable to look earnestly for a time of "...peace and safety..."

Newscasts of our day seem to set forth a completely contradictory message in view of the fact that all nations on this entire planet are inundated with nothing but disaster. Self-inflicted inflation pervades every nation around the world, and a great many of them have this problem directly due to the marriage of their leaders to the religion of "climate change" or "global warming." Gas shortages prevail world-wide, because some nations like unto America refuse to produce the oil which they are capable of producing in order to please certain environmentalists

who have bought into the myth that planet earth is doomed if man does not lower its temperature. Such a message is trumpeted almost daily throughout the whole world, and most people are weary of hearing it. Other problems include unleashing viruses like Covid-19 or others that may soon follow. Weather patterns, foretold by Scripture which have produced tsunamis, hurricanes, tornadoes, excessive rainfall, and snowfall, along with extremes of drought, continue to produce great unrest and trepidation among all nations. Then there are massive problems with nations getting along with one another because some insist on exercising their dominion and power over others. China and Russia seem to be leading the charge in this area and greater anxiety is aroused when such nations begin to ally with others which are known as evil personified. Both Russia and China are expanding their offers of “friendship” to even rogue nations like unto Syria, Iran, North Korea, and Turkey. Furthermore, much of this “alliance” is garnered against “the West,” especially America.

6

China in particular has begun to conduct military drills in protest of U.S. officials simply having an audience on American soil with the President of Taiwan. Threats of retaliation of one nation against another for such trivial reasons are broadcast almost daily.

China and Russia may be avowed enemies, but their “union” now is somewhat reminiscent of Herod and Pilate. “And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.” Lk. 23:12 This reference to “...the same day...” means that both these men were confronted with the same “problem,” which was at this time Jesus, Whom Herod sent to Pilate. Lk. 23:11 Both Putin and Xi are now gathered against their own common “problem,” America, and thus they too seem to have become “friends.” Scripture guarantees that such a union will not last, for each of these men has the same goal of ruling the world and knows that the other must be eliminated.

There are also major unprecedented problems even within so-called Christian or “godly nations.” Man’s unbelief and rebellion against God is demonstrated in a most prolific manner,

not only by the abominable practice of same sex marriage but also by the current foolishness of “transgenderism,” which is nothing more than **rebellion** against The Creator Himself. This ungodliness manifested itself in a very violent manner recently when a woman insisting she was a man opened fire, killing both the elderly and young children. Some have indicated that this was a rampage against Christians, which is undoubtedly true, but it was rather an attack against **the principles of a Righteous God** for which True Christians stand. **THE REBELLION IS AGAINST GOD!** It is hard to believe, but this shooter was in fact defended by some and declared a “victim.” Now, millions are hearing that “trans rights are human rights,” and this violent woman was only defending “her rights.”

A nation which has opened its borders to both human and drug trafficking, resulting in a horrendous number of deaths on both sides of the border with Mexico, has also become a tremendous detriment to an atmosphere of “...peace and safety...”

Add to all the above difficulties Israel, which has been a thorn in the side of all nations dating back to a time even before that of Jesus, is in the forefront **against** achieving “...peace and safety...” for the world. The Temple Mount is an historic place for three major religions, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim. The following account from the AP explains the reason for Israel and the Palestinians firing rockets at one another during celebrations of Passover and Ramadan. “JERUSALEM (AP) — Militants fired rockets from Gaza and Lebanon toward Israel on Thursday, following confrontations between Israeli police and Palestinian worshippers at a major Muslim shrine in Jerusalem for a second day in a row. The escalation at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, which sits on the fault line of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, came during a volatile period in which the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and the Jewish holiday of Passover overlap...where Easter week rituals unfolded at the same time. 7

Later Thursday, Israeli air defenses intercepted a rocket fired from Lebanon into northern Israel,... It was not immediately clear who was behind the rare rocket fire from Lebanon.... Israeli forces shelled south Lebanon after the rocket fire from Lebanon into Israel Thursday...”

It was also reported that an Israeli zealot was arrested for trying to bring a sacrificial goat to the Temple Mount for Passover.

Scripture is very clear that the tribulation will begin exactly thirty days after the daily sacrifice will be taken away. However, there is no record of such a sacrifice even being offered at this present time. Many prophecy-minded folk have long looked for this monumental sign of the end time but to no avail.

A time of "...peace and safety..." in any of these areas seems almost a total impossibility at this time, given the long list above, but scripture is very conclusive that it will occur, and as seen in the above scriptures, such an era could occur at any time. It must then most assuredly become the occupation of every believer looking for Jesus' first appearance as "...a thief in the night..." to look earnestly for the signs announcing it.

If a time resembling any sense of calm is to be realized prior to the tribulation, it means that God must surely find someone in the world today with the expertise required to "reason" with these self serving nations in an effort to find an avenue that would avoid the certain destruction of nuclear war which all nations acutely fear.

8 Vladimir Putin, for example, has put forth that **threat** in an effort to deter anyone from interfering with his ungodly assault on Ukraine. Both North Korea and Iran have also shown their willingness to disregard any consequence of using these weapons of mass destruction in pursuit of their own endeavors. It has been reported that Iran is much closer to a nuclear bomb than most nations care to acknowledge, and their hatred against Israel prompting them to use it is palpable. China is also "waiting in the wings" to invade Taiwan, which is just a first step in conquering the world.

Paul stated clearly, "...when **they** shall say, Peace and safety;..." Whom does he mean? The most likely candidates would be "...they..." who were involved in conflict, notably the nations, but who would be able to steer any of them toward compromise? Let all men be encouraged by Daniel's revelation that God "... changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:" Dan. 2:20-21 Thus, it is God Who will "search out" one who commands the



elements of “persuasion” necessary to achieve a goal of perceived co-existence among these selfish nations, and He need not wait for an “election” to do it. It could happen at any moment. Since Israel is at the center of all God’s dealings with all nations, it is not hard to imagine that there could be some kind of agreement regarding the Temple Mount. Would Israel, for example, be willing to cede part of Jerusalem to the Palestinians as their capital in exchange for freedom to offer their sacrifices and thus restore the “burnt offering” which will be taken away 30 days prior to the tribulation? It may also be other nations willing to give up “for a season” their own objective just to ensure that nuclear war does not come on “their watch.” Regardless of the things which “might” induce the nations to participate in certain negotiations, scripture is quite clear that the dreaded “nuclear Armageddon” will not take place until the end of the seven year tribulation. Due to that fact, it is certain that some semblance of peace, or at least some restraint, must be forthcoming, even at this hour when the threat seems to be so pervasive.

Those who truly believe God’s Word will then not be among those whose hearts are “...failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.” Lk. 21:26 Rather, those looking for Jesus hope in the fact that they are waiting for deliverance rather than judgment. Everything else going on round about them are simply “signs” that the preeminent hope in their lives is shortly to be realized. If a hint of “...peace and safety...” suddenly appears, they will not be deceived, and slip into a state of passivity. It will simply be one more loud signal to be alert and “...sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, (of the tribulation) but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,” I Thess. 5:8-9

So! Our mantra today is still: “...when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” Lk. 21:28

## **UNFATHOMABLE GRACE**

E.I. Sherman

**"FOR THE GRACE OF GOD THAT BRINGETH SALVATION HATH APPEARED TO ALL MEN."**

Tit. 2:11

The thought that is laid on my heart is grace, the grace of God. There are a number of things of great importance that we should ever keep before us. First of all, God has always been seeking to make men know their need of grace. Therefore, Paul said: "For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the Truth in righteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." Rom.1:18-20.

10 In the opening chapters of the book of Romans - that wonderful exposition of the word of grace - God gives us a revelation, first of all, of man's need of His grace. The book would not mean so much to us if the apostle had not emphasized this subject at the beginning of it. In all bygone days man was desperately in need of grace and is so today. God's eternal power and Godhead were clearly known to men, being manifested by the things which He created; but he turned away from that revelation and went down into darkness, degradation, and sin. Some years ago I read a book written by an astronomer, a man of God. It was about the Gospel in the stars. In that book, he stated that the twelve signs of the zodiac and the heavenly bodies were pictured on a chart - the earliest history of mankind. And on that chart was a picture of redemption told by the stars. I am sure that it was true. Twelve is a complete number. If men had believed the Gospel in the stars they would have known more about God and, doubtless, would have received wonderful revelations of Him. For it is written: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork." The apostle traced the acts of mankind and found him without excuse before God. He found him full of sin and uncleanness and having come short of the glory of God, because he rejected the revelation made to him.

Then Paul took up the man under law - the Jew - who

received the oracles of God, and showed that he too was undone. He showed that the law, instead of making man righteous, only revealed to him what he really is and what God requires of him. Thus, the law served its purpose. God be praised! Would to God that people understood that the law was given to stop the mouths of men, because all flesh is found guilty before God. All His dealings with men have been to show them their dire need of His grace. "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord," for he needed grace. He was saved by grace.

### **GRACE NOT ALWAYS APPROPRIATED**

"The grace of God ... hath appeared to all men." But many who have obtained grace from God do not know what it is; hence, "the love of God" is not shed abroad in their hearts "by the Holy Ghost." They do not appropriate His grace under all circumstances and in all things. God is not one-sided. Grace teaches us what we should never forget: "That, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." Tit. 2:12. See how the Lord showed His grace to David, who was a man after God's own heart. He took him from following the sheep, and made him ruler over Israel. He poured out His Spirit upon him and gave him a spirit of faith and enabling, so that he was ready to meet the lion and the bear. Some people meet the lion and win; but they are defeated before the bear. They hear and fear the roar of the lion; but when the bear puts his arms around them, they fall into his embrace. Beware. David's victory over the lion and bear gave him faith for victory over the giant who defied the armies of the living God.

But although David had obtained favor with God and He had separated him from his brethren, he needed to learn his deeper need of grace. He had not learned those deeper lessons when he prayed, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Psa. 51:7 Through his failure, David learned not only the goodness of God; but also His graciousness and the power of God to deliver from sin in the flesh and make him a victor over internal foes as well as over external foes. If we never realize our need of grace, we will never learn the power and sufficiency of grace. I say again that people never realize their need of grace until they are sick, undone, weak, and helpless. The whole course of man is downward. No one ever comes the grace way until he knows his need. I do honestly

believe, that one reason why the message of grace does not appeal to people is that they have not yet learned their desperate need of it.

"Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Acts 2:37 That was the cry of those who heard Peter on the day of Pentecost. They did not understand the message as we have it; but they realized their wrong and cried for deliverance. What power people have with God, when they yield to His grace and let Him mould them. They have power over other folk too. You remember, when the spies went to the promised land, how the harlot Rahab said, "Our hearts did melt." The sight of the army of Israel, which had not yet entered and was sustained and guided by the pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, awed the inhabitants and they could not understand. The workings of the Lord paralyzed them with fear. Rahab felt her need of Divine grace, and the Lord showed grace to her.

12 Not only must the sinner know his need of grace, but the people of God also. May He help us to understand our need. That is the way to spread the message. If Pentecostal people had realized their need of God's grace, they would not be in the present weak deplorable condition. They became self-sufficient and puffed up with their organizations, and now some of them are crying out for another Pentecost; but they cry in vain. Many of them have gotten into every error ever known. Evil doctrines are propagated, and they drink them in like water. If we see our need and yield to the Spirit of Christ, others will be convicted of the truth of this message.

I went to an assembly where a woman had charge. The meeting had started. The woman said, "The Lord has made me a message-bearer; but, if you have a message from the Lord, go ahead." I began with Ephesians 2:8 - "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." I told the people their need of Divine grace. I quoted the Scripture, "It is finished." When I was through, the leader arose, and combed me this way and that way and would have torn me to pieces; but the old man was not in evidence in me, and the new man was as happy as ever before. At the close of the meeting, I tried to explain to her; but she had not learned grace and would not be instructed. It was but a few months until that meeting went down under sin. She had not realized her need of grace. Her strength

was all in herself.

### **GRACE ON DISPLAY**

I believe it will be profitable to notice the display of God's grace. We are told in the Gospel of John (1:17) that "grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" who tabernacled among men. I read in Philippians 2:8-11 that Jesus "humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every name: That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in Heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

God thus put grace on exhibition. He put His Man on the stage to manifest to men of all ages what grace really is and what it does. We are attracted to Him who was "a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" - not by a natural attraction, but by the Spirit of grace with which He spoke. That was what the people noticed first when Jesus went into the synagogue. He opened the book and read, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised" - Luke 4:18. When they went out, they all marveled at the gracious words with which He spoke. 13

Oh, Brother, Sister, nothing ought to characterize our conversation like the Spirit of grace. Jesus went among the rich and poor, the wise and unwise; but His grace drew all men toward Him. The scribes and Pharisees did not know their need and would not acknowledge their sinful condition; hence, they refused to be baptized by John. They were sufficient in themselves. But others felt their need, and came to learn of Him who brought "grace and truth." All His ministry showed forth grace. Oh, praise the Lord! As we come to know Him - what He is, who He is, and what He is doing - we know more about the grace of God. He also laid down His life for us. He "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." And a day is coming in which He will make the saints sit down, and He will gird Himself and again serve them.

He served Israel in the wilderness. He cared for and protected them, and delivered them out of the house of bondage and out of Egypt. He brought them into the promised land and

gave them a leader, and judges and kings, prophets and teachers. The people were unfaithful to God; but He displayed His grace over and over among them. He served them, showing something of the riches of His grace. And Christ is still manifesting the grace of service, ever living "to make intercession" for us before the Father, and will minister to us through all eternity. Let us sit at His feet until we are filled with the same Spirit of grace. Let us make the world to know that "grace and truth" were manifested by our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **THE SUBJECTS OF GRACE**

14 "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced." Zech. 12:10 In the Word, we discover the subjects of God's grace. They are the undeserving, the unthankful, the unholy. He reaches down to those in the lowest depths of sin and picks them up. He chose us in Christ "before the foundation of the world." Truly, "God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." As the apostle says, "When I am weak, then am I strong." Because he was weak in himself, the power of God rested upon him. The very perfection of the strength of God is in human weakness. He was a rebel against God when grace sought him out.

God wants us in our helplessness to come to Him. None of us, in the old creation, is worthy of His mercy; but any who come to Him receive all His attention. He does not leave us, but works in us. Some people think, "Now that you have started, God expects you to find your way Home." No, He goes before His sheep. He does not say, "You have been a bad sheep, a worthless sheep, a weak wayward sheep. Though I have found you, if you do not get Home, it is your bad luck." No. He lays the sheep on His shoulders and carries it home. And the angels in Heaven are not as unlearned as some who read the Bible; for, as soon as a sinner repents, the angels rejoice. They do not wait till he gets there.

Some folk think that eternal life is loaned to them on certain conditions. They do not understand that it is the gift of God's grace. They do not believe what Jesus said --- "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My

Father's hand." Jn. 10:28,29 Oh, how unscriptural and wicked it is to make light of the Word, and try to make out that salvation is partly by law and partly by grace. Some people sing, "The old account was settled long ago, down on my knees." I cannot sing unscriptural songs. No one can settle his account with God. Jesus settled it on the Cross. By faith we accept that settlement, and are made free and glad. "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." Hallelujah!

### **THE HOPE OF GRACE**

There is something still more wonderful - a hope set before us. We read in Ephesians 2:7 - "That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." God is gathering out trophies of His grace, which He will put on display throughout the ages. Some of you have seen objects of interest in museums - things of long ago, from forests and rocks. As you look upon them, you think of the wonders of creation. If you could gather all the leaves in the forest, it is claimed that you would not find two alike. Wherever you go, you see the glory of the Lord.

But when we contemplate the depths and enormity of the sins of the nations - for they have gone far away from God - and we consider that God went beneath those depths in redemption and has lifted men out of them, we marvel beyond measure. We are bewildered with amazement. Then to think that, in the ages to come, such creatures will be on exhibition as the trophies of grace. The principalities and powers in the heavenlies will behold what wonders God has wrought through His Son; for by Him, He has redeemed us "from all iniquity," and purified "unto Himself a peculiar people" - Titus 2:14. Throughout the ages we will see, yes we will actually see, the riches of Divine grace. Oh, let us see our need of grace, and the full supply for that need in the riches of grace. Then we will have a message which will turn men from darkness to light, from Satan unto God, from sickness to health, and from defeat to victory, all through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. "Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it." Bless the Lord!

15

(Reprint 1979)

- \* "The old man's garments do not fit the new man."
- \* Christ was not the victim of the Will of God, but rather the Victor through the Will of God.

## **"Thy Word Have I Hid in my Heart...."**

Tim Smith

**16** **T**here came an angel of the Lord and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor . . . And the Lord looked upon him, and said Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee? And he said unto Him, Oh my Lord wherewith shall I save Israel? behold my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house. And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man . . . And it came to pass the same night, that the Lord said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock . . . and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: and build an altar unto the Lord thy God upon the top of this rock . . . Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the Lord had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night . . . Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together, and went over, and pitched in the valley of Jezreel. But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him." Judges 6:11-34

What a wonderful picture this is of God taking weak, fearful, despised humanity and transforming it into power, courage, and victorious authority over the power of Satan's rule!

At this time, Israel had been under the oppression of the Midianites for seven years. They had to hide in caves, and raise crops in secret, because the Midianites would steal in and destroy them all. Gideon was at the winepress, threshing wheat, when God called him. God did not choose Gideon because of his station in life; he felt that he was the lowest of his tribe. It was not because of his physical strength and stature, but God looked on his heart, and found him to be one of a poor and contrite spirit (Isaiah 66:2).

God also saw in Gideon's heart a desire to believe in the God of Israel, who had delivered them from Egypt, and was with them in their victories in Canaan. The growth of Gideon's faith was as wonderful as the decay of Israel's faith was devastating. After Gideon made an altar and sacrificed thereon to God, he was empowered to cut down his father's grove and break down the



altar of Baal. We still see the fearfulness of the flesh, for Gideon did this by night for fear of his father and the townspeople. But, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he no longer hid in the darkness, but blew the trumpet in daylight, to rally others to fight the Midianites.

Gideon needed the most power to yield to God's ways. His army of 32,000 was eventually cut down to 300, for God wanted all Israel to know that He was their Strength and Victory. In chapter 7:17, Gideon told his army to look on him and do likewise. The Apostle Paul after yielding his will to God, was able to give the same admonition to us: "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." I Cor. 11:1

After we take Calvary as our foundation, a separation must occur, for we realize that this world system and all who hold to it, are condemned in God's eyes. We blow the trumpet of redemption to gather all that will come out of this world to the Lord's side. Knocking over an idol is one thing, but facing a host of "Midianites" is another. As the armies gathered, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon and endued him with power. Acts 1:8

Gideon defeated Midian. Paul fought a good fight and finished his course. We are to "...press toward the mark for the Prize of the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:14

(Reprint 1991)

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Water

In a wilderness He found me---  
Desert land of barren waste----  
Nothing there for my refreshing.  
Naught found I my thirst to slake.

As I languished---faint of thirsting---  
Life's mirages seemed to mock  
When I saw my smitten Savior  
Water poured forth from the Rock.

Clear as crystal---flowing freely  
From eternal throne above:  
Cleansing---ever satisfying,  
Boundless as My Savior's love.

Margaret Keener

# REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

“**T**he inhabitants of the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel, until that I Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel.” Jud. 5:7

One of the most prominent characteristics of a true mother is that of a protector. When Isaac was mocked by Ishmael, it was Sarah who sprang to his defense, demanding that Abraham, “...Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.” Gen. 21:10 God agreed with Sarah, commanding the father of faith to comply with Sarah’s demand.

18 Rebekah also came quickly to the fore after “...Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob. And these words of Esau her elder son were told to Rebekah:...” Gen. 27:41-42 If these words were said in Esau’s “...heart...” there is only ONE besides Esau Who would have known about it and imparted the information to Rebekah. She wasted no time in defending her son with an appeal to Isaac in sending him away.

The virtuous woman of Proverbs 31 is also portrayed as a great protector, for “She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.” Prov. 31:21 That “...scarlet...” bespeaks the blood of Jesus and this woman is further commended as “...a woman that feareth the LORD,...” Prov. 31:30

Deborah follows exactly this same pattern set forth by these godly examples. First, she too immediately recognized the great problem. Israel was at risk to her enemies because “The inhabitants of the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel,...” Those enemies are clearly defined as “...the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD,... And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan,...” Jud. 4:1-2 Hope springs eternal, however, “... the children of Israel cried unto the LORD: for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel.” Jud. 4:3 It was at this point that Deborah, “... a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time....sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam... and said unto him, Hath not the LORD

God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun?" Jud. 4:4-6

The record is clear from the song of Deborah in the fifth chapter that all the tribes of Israel did not participate in this endeavor. This "mother" remained undaunted and though "The inhabitants of the villages ceased,..." she still believed God to "rally the troops," beginning with the faithful general known as Barak. Those who responded and followed him are then highly commended as faithful soldier who "...offered themselves willingly among the people...a people that jeopardized their lives unto the death..."Jud. 5:9 &18

Deborah simply acted on God's promise that, "...I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera,...with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand." Jud. 4:7

Mother Deborah was also fearless in actually going to the battle, for when "...Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go. ...she said, I will surely go with thee:... And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh." Jud. 4:8-9

Finally, this "mother" surely demonstrated that she too was "...not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet." Her song begins with "Praise ye the LORD for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves." Jud. 5:2 She also acknowledged that "...the LORD made me have dominion over the mighty," and closes this majestic song with "So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD:..." Jud. 5:13 & 31

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### **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

An audio version of Grace and Glory is now available on CD for those who may have difficulty reading. These copies may be ordered by phone at 816-618-3306 or by e-mail. [gjhawk1@msn.com](mailto:gjhawk1@msn.com) come. They may also be obtained by writing Grace and Glory, P.O. Box 831 Grandiew, Missouri. Just submit your name and address and we will be glad to mail them to you. There is no charge.

## *Prepared for Battle*

(Concluded)

Dr. Vicky Moots

**E**ph. 6:17a (cont'd.): "And take the helmet of salvation..." The fourth part of the definition of "salvation" is "healing," which is a very important benefit of our helmet of salvation. Our complete healing (body, soul and spirit) was provided through Christ's death on the cross. This was proclaimed by the prophet in Isa. 53:5: "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities... and with his stripes we are healed." I believe that David was referring to this in Psa. 103:3 when he stated, "Who [the Lord] forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases."

Satan attacks our minds and tries to convince us that healing is not for today. If healing is not for today, then salvation is not for today. Sometimes God heals instantly, and at other times, the healing is gradual, but He still heals. Don't let Satan rob you of your healing by taking off your helmet.

20

The fifth and final part of the meaning of the word "salvation" is "soundness." Paul specifically relates this aspect of salvation to our minds, in II Tim. 1:7, where he encourages Timothy by saying, "...God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Soundness of mind goes along with healing. Not only do we need healing for our bodies, but also for our minds.

This is especially important to note because the helmet of salvation is given to us to protect our minds. Satan attacks our minds by causing us to doubt or to fear rather than to trust God. The spirit of fear comes from Satan, not God. Paul is not referring to healthy fear that protects us from danger, but to a spirit of fear that affects our ability to function.

If we yield to that spirit of fear, then we may begin to feel hopeless and depressed and want to give up. David appeared to be in that state of mind when he wrote Ps. 42:3. He described the depths of his sadness when he stated, "My tears have been my meat day and night." He was so depressed that he could not even eat; all he could do was to cry.

But then we read in Psa.43:5 that he had a conversation

with his soul: “Why are thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.” David first acknowledged his problem and then turned to the Lord for help in the time of his despair.

If you are feeling depressed, don't let Satan keep tormenting you and attacking your mind and filling it with fear of tomorrow and thoughts of suicide. There is hope in God through salvation. Let Him restore your soul and your mind and give you victory over Satan. Follow the example of David in Ps. 51:12 and cry out to God for help, as he did when he said, “Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation...”

If you do not have the joy of salvation, then perhaps you have not yet laid hold of the fullness of salvation with all of its benefits: deliverance, safety, preservation, healing and soundness. Or perhaps you have failed to put on your helmet to protect your mind, and Satan has stolen your joy and replaced it with his discouraging thoughts of failure and unforgiveness.

So, what can we do if we find ourselves in this state of mind? How can we rid ourselves of such negative thoughts as this? We must turn the problem over to the Lord and put on our helmet. Paul tells us in II Cor. 10:4 that our armor and our weapons of warfare are not dependent upon our own strength but are “...mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.” Satan's biggest strong hold is our mind. He makes us continually try to reason things out for ourselves and to try to solve our own problems instead of trusting the Lord. Solomon gives us wise instruction in Prov. 3:5 when he tells us, “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.” It is only through God's power, and not our own strength or wisdom, that we will be able to pull down the strong holds of Satan.

Paul tells us in II Cor. 10:5 how this is done: “Casting down imaginations [overthrowing reasonings], and every high thing that exhalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” This means that we can overthrow those reasonings and thoughts which are contrary to God's Word and take them captive, as prisoners of war, where they must be under the obedience of Christ, as we

yield the authority of our mind and thoughts to the Lord.

Also, note that our helmet of salvation protects not only our minds, but also our ears, to keep us from listening to all of the things which Satan and his evil forces are saying today. Our ears must be covered and protected with our helmet so that we will stop listening to the lies of the enemy.

There are many voices in this world, and we must be sure that we are listening to the right voice. Jesus said, in John 10:27, "My sheep hear my voice..." His voice is His Word. If we know the Word, we will be able to recognize His voice and to follow Him and not Satan.

So don't forget to put on your helmet to protect your mind and your ears from Satan's attacks.

Eph. 6:17b: "and [take] the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." A soldier needs a weapon, and he must be knowledgeable about it and skillful in its use, or it will not be of much value to him. This requires him to have many hours of training and practice in order to gain that skill.

22 The Roman soldier's sword was called a "gladius". It was a short sword with a length of only about 18-27 inches, so that it could easily be used with one hand. The sword was held in place by the girdle and always carried on the right side and used with the right hand, for the shield was held in the left hand.

I believe that this has a spiritual meaning to us. Jesus, the Word of God, was referred to, in type, in the Old Testament several times as the strong right arm and hand of God, who brought victory over the enemy. I would like to quote two of these Scriptures from the Psalms: "For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them..." (Ps. 44:3), and in Ps. 98:1: "O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory." Jesus was not only God's right arm and hand, but He was the Sword (the Word) which God used to gain the victory over Satan at the cross.

The Roman gladius was double edged, pointed and very sharp, and was mainly used for stabbing or piercing rather than for slashing. It was considered to be one of the sharpest swords

at that time, and became known as “the sword that conquered the world.” Even the point was sharpened, and therefore it was able to pierce through armor into the heart.

But there is another sword which is even sharper than that, and it is the weapon which has been issued to us for spiritual warfare. It is the “Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.” Paul describes this sword and its capabilities in Heb. 4:12: “For the word of God is quick [living], and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged 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.”

This Sword is not only necessary in our battle against Satan, but it is also needed as a part of our training as soldiers. It is able to penetrate into the very depths of our hearts and to cut away the things which are not pleasing to the Lord, and to separate us unto Himself.

Paul explains the importance and purpose of God’s Word (our Sword) in our lives in II Tim. 3:16: “All scripture [the Word] 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 [fully mature] ...” Not only is it profitable, but it is necessary in our preparation for spiritual warfare, for it must correct us and instruct us, in order to perfect us as soldiers, to make us combat ready. 23

There is no sword more powerful than God’s Word, but we cannot go into battle without training in the use of our weapon. We have been provided with an instruction manual, the Bible, which we must study thoroughly, as Paul commands us in II Tim. 2:15: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Our Commander-in-Chief has also provided us with some more experienced soldiers who are familiar with the use of our weapon and who will teach us and demonstrate to us by their example how to use it properly. We must be faithful to listen to their instruction. In addition, since the Sword is “the Sword of the Spirit,” the Holy Spirit Himself, who is the author of the manual, will help us to understand and to remember what we study.

Once we have studied the Word of God and have hidden it in our heart, then we are prepared to use it in battle. Our words will not stop Satan's attacks or his lies, but God's Word will. We do not have the ability to rebuke Satan in our own power; it takes the power of the Word of God to do that.

Our Sword, the Sword of the Spirit, is the same one that Jesus used as a weapon against Satan when He was tempted by him three times in the wilderness. Satan attacked Jesus when He was at His weakest point. He was faint and hungry after having fasted for forty days. Satan also knows each of our own individual weaknesses, and we must be prepared to fight back with our Sword when he attacks us.

In Matt. 4:4, we read, "And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." Satan offered a simple solution to Jesus to try to get Him to obey him and to try to make Him prove who He was. Was He really the Son of God?

24 Jesus refused to obey him. He did not need to defend His deity. He let the Word, the Sword of the Spirit, defend Him by quoting from Deut. 8:3. Matt. 4:4 states, "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."

When Satan tries to tempt us to satisfy our hunger with the things of the world, or when he attacks us by causing us to doubt who we are in Christ (sons of God), then we need to fight back with our Sword, just as Jesus did. Jesus did not try to reason with Satan by using His own words, even though He was the living Word made flesh. Instead, He fought and overcame Satan with three short thrusts of the Sword of the Spirit: "It is written." We do not even have to try to defend the Word of God. It will speak for itself. It is living and powerful, and it will defend us when we use it.

If Satan is attacking you, then either quote Scripture or get out your Bible, your Sword, and start reading it out loud so Satan can hear it, and you can hear it, and stand your ground. God's Word will give the victory.

Eph. 6:18a: "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit..." Prayer is what makes our armor



effective and enables us to resist the devil. It is our communication channel with our Commander-in-Chief. It is our full-time job as soldiers. Full-time prayer warriors are needed because Satan, our enemy, never takes any time off. We are commanded to pray about everything and worry about nothing.

“Praying always” means “on every occasion, at all seasons.” Many times, we fail to pray about a matter until after it becomes a mountain, after everything that we have tried has failed. No matter how small or unimportant a problem seems to be, we need to pray about it, and then leave it in God’s hands.

Paul tells us in I Thess. 5:17 to “Pray without ceasing”, which means that we are to continue praying until we receive an answer.

In Eph. 6:18 there are two different types of prayer mentioned, and they are two different Greek words. The first one is “all prayer”, and it indicates “prayer in general”, such as the prayers that we usually pray at night before going to bed. The second one is “supplication”, and it refers to special supplication for a special need: “earnest, intense prayer, pleading.” This type of prayer, or supplication, is to be done “in the Spirit” (directed and empowered by the Spirit). The Holy Spirit helps us to pray this kind of prayer, because sometimes we don’t even know how we should pray.

25

A good example of earnest, intense prayer is found in Luke 22:39-44, when Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane for His cup to pass from Him. In verse 44 we see the intensity of His prayer: “And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”

He prayed three times, and each time the plea was denied, but He submitted to His Father and said, “nevertheless, not my will but thine be done.” He was so weak from praying that God sent an angel from heaven to minister to Him. It is unlikely that our prayers will ever become so intense that we will sweat drops of blood, but the Holy Spirit will come and strengthen us also if we need it.

Paul likewise prayed earnestly three times regarding a

problem which he called "...a thorn in the flesh..." to be removed. This is recorded in II Cor. 12:7-10. Paul's petition was denied, because God had a greater plan. He had a purpose for the thorn in Paul's life. God's answer was revealed in v.9: "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness..." God always answers our prayers, even if the answer is, "No", but it is because He knows what is best for us. We must be willing to say, "Not my will, but Yours, Lord."

James states in James 5:16, "...The effectual fervent prayer [fervent supplication] of a righteous man availeth much." Sometimes it changes the circumstance, and at other times it changes us, but it always has an effect that brings glory to God and causes us to triumph over Satan.

As discussed previously, Paul said that we are to pray in the Spirit. When we pray in the Spirit, we can be assured that we are praying according to God's will. This is further explained by Paul in Rom. 8:26: "...the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities [weakness]: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself [Himself] maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

Sometimes we are so burdened down with a situation or for a person that we can't even find the words to say when we pray, so we need the Holy Spirit to pray through us for that need. As we pray in the Spirit, the Spirit pleads for us with sighs and groans that are beyond words, and sometimes it is in a heavenly language that bypasses our mind. Rom. 8:27 informs us of the reason that we need to pray in the Spirit: "And he [God] that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he [the Holy Spirit] maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

Eph. 6:18b: "...and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." Not only are we to be praying, but we are to be watching. What are we watching for? We are, of course, watching for the answer to our prayers, but we must also be watching and on the lookout for the subtle attacks of our adversary. A soldier who is on watch duty must keep his eyes and ears open, constantly looking and listening for the enemy.

"Watching" means "to be sleepless, to keep awake, to be

attentive, to be vigilant, alert (opposite of listlessness or apathy).” We have been warned in I Peter 5:8 to be watching for the enemy’s attack: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” He is seeking those who are weak, those who have fallen asleep on their watch, or those who have become intoxicated by and are under the influence of the things of this world.

Paul also warns us in I Thess. 5:6 that we must be awake and aware: “Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.” And again, in I Cor. 16:13, he says, “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit [act] you like men, be strong.” We must act like men, like true soldiers, who are mature and responsible, not like children, and stand fast (hold our ground) against Satan. We are unable to do this without being in constant, earnest, spiritual prayer and vigilantly watching. Peter reiterates this in I Peter 4:7 and tells us why it is so important: “But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.” We are living in the end-times, so in II Cor. 11:13, Paul warns us to be aware of “false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.” Our enemy is deceitful and disguises himself so that we will not recognize him as the enemy. Isn’t it amazing how quickly that people today will believe a lie, and reject the truth of the gospel? It is because Satan and his evil forces are at work behind the scenes. Jesus said that Satan is a liar, and there is no truth in him, and that he is the father of lies (John 8:44). Paul continues on in vv.14-15 of II Cor. 11, to explain this to us further: “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness...”

Don’t let yourself be fooled by Satan’s masquerading ministers who pervert the gospel and lift up their own name or their ministry instead of the Name of Jesus. You must be prayerfully watching and fully alert to his tactics. In Eph. 6:18, Paul goes on further to tell us that we are to be watching “...with all perseverance...” “Perseverance” means “to give constant attention to a thing; to give unremitting care to a thing.”

Many auto accidents are currently being caused due to “distracted driving”, when people try to text and drive at the same time. A good driver, however, gives constant attention to the road. This is an example of watching “with all perseverance.” We must also persevere in our spiritual watching and in our prayers. Paul then adds, “...and supplication for all saints...” We need to pray earnestly for each other, for all believers, not just for ourselves. Satan is attacking the church, the body of Christ, all true believers, as never before, for he knows his time is short.

We must lift up the wounded warriors in prayer and supplication and help to hold up those whose knees have weakened and who are ready to fall, as we are commanded to do in Heb. 12:12: “Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees.”

28 We find an example of this actually being done in Ex. 17:8-13 when Amalek fought against Israel. Moses, Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill, and Moses stood up holding the rod of God in his hand. Verse 11 tells us that “...when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.” But Moses soon became tired and had trouble standing and holding up his hands. So, Aaron and Hur helped him, as we read in v.12: “But Moses’ hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.” The result was that Israel won the victory.

Aaron and Hur helped Moses physically when his hands were heavy and hanging down and his knees were weak and feeble, but we must also do this spiritually for each other with prayer, and especially for all ministers and teachers of the Word. So let us not only be careful to don our armor and be prepared for battle against Satan and his evil forces in our own lives, but to also pray fervently for the rest of the body, for we are all one in Christ. “And having done all, to stand.”

\* There are four steps to accomplishment. Plan purposefully, Prepare prayerfully, Proceed positively, Pursue persistently.

## ***THE LAW OF MOTHERHOOD***

Mary M. Bodie

**"** And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the Children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean." Lev. 12:1,2.

This chapter sets forth the ceremonial law regarding the cleansing of a mother, in all its detail. We are thus taught the fact of man's inheritance of sin. It is original sin which is the subject - sin in its root principle. It is through the woman that sin has come into the world; and through woman that life also is brought in, but a life that is sinful. In Job the question is asked, "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?" The answer is, "Not one" - Job 14:4. Hence, the truth we are taught by the cleansing of the mother is that every soul born into the world increases the sin; but, we can add, because of the light that has come to us, "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Rom. 5:20.

The Word distinctly affirms the fact that "in Adam all die" - I Cor. 15:22. The germ of death was implanted in the first head of the human race, when he ate the forbidden fruit in the garden in Eden, six thousand years ago. The penalty for disobedience was expressly stated to him by the Lord God - "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"; "and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" - Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12. The result of Adam's disobedience was immediately in evidence, as the record proves. He lost his standing or fellowship with God, his clothing, and his happy home. If redemption in type had not intervened (God killed the firstling of the flock and clothed Adam and Eve), the guilty pair would have died immediately. Grace abounded over their sin, yet sin was in the world. It became entailed upon the human family. The first son born to Adam and Eve was a murderer. They transmitted their sin to their offspring; and it is of this original sin that we are taught in our chapter.

In the case of a man child, the mother remained seven days wholly unclean; and all she touched became unclean. Thus, the child begins life defiled by its mother, even if it were not

already born in sin and shapen in iniquity as David was moved to describe his defiled sinful condition in the natural - Psalm 51:5. When the seven days were past, the man child was circumcised on the eighth day which is typical of a new creation. Circumcision was continually witnessing to the Israelite that he was absolutely unfruitful in the natural and must die to get rid of his sinful life. It was a constant reminder of the necessity of the death of the old creation and the bringing in of a new creation. The Child Jesus, as born of a woman, became subject to the law in this respect (Luke 2:21,22); though as to His own life He was not sinful, neither was He defiled by the sin in His mother Mary. His own intrinsic holiness preserved Him, and repulsed the sin in her. Circumcision has its spiritual meaning for us. It refers to the "putting off the body of the sins of the flesh," because Christ provisionally put off the old man on the Cross - Col. 2:11. "Our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." Rom. 6:6. Also we read, "We are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh" - Philippians 3:3.

God has found a way to rid humanity of sin and defilement. He gave His Son to stand in the place of the old Adam head, and be cut off in death; then rise again as the Head of a new order of humanity, a holy creation. Grace steps in; and yet, the mother under the law remains thirty-three days more, completing the days of her purification - forty days in all. The numbers were all doubled in the case of the female child; the witness, probably, of the entrance of sin by the woman. In either case, there must be the offering of a lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or turtledove for a sin offering, to complete the ceremony of purification of the mother. The reversal here of the order of the offerings is noticeable, as well as the great difference between the offerings. A lamb for the burnt offering, as compared with the dove or pigeon for the sin offering, simply shows that God puts to the front (by the type) that perfect obedience of Christ which has glorified Him in view of Adam's disobedience. Yet, when poverty required, a dove or pigeon would be accepted. Alas! How often

spiritual poverty dims our vision of the worth of Christ's offering up of Himself to glorify God to the uttermost.

The parents of the Child Jesus brought only two turtledoves or pigeons, as the case might be. The lamb was not in evidence because of natural poverty, of course; but the spiritual meaning is apparent also. They did not know the worth of that Babe which they held in their arms. Simeon received a revelation, and prophesied of His death and future glory (Luke 2:25-35); and Joseph and Mary "marveled at those things which were spoken of Him." But the vision faded. He was a Babe, born as weak and helpless as other babes, needing constant attention and care; so they soon forgot. They did not have the view of Him that even we have today, as the offering of the turtledoves - the little birds - evidenced. They knew He was of a heavenly nature, the Son of God; but they did not realize the matchless work which He was born to consummate.

## CONSECRATION

31

A heart that can bleed in silent pain,  
Lips that from scornful words refrain;  
A mind that will not entertain  
Thoughts that are vile, impure, or vain.

Hands that are willing their work to do,  
Feet that walk the pathway through;  
Eyes that see good, and evil eschew;  
Ears that hear melody sweet and true.

Give me these, O Lord, and help Thou me  
To keep my heart in its integrity;  
Preserve Thou my soul in purity.  
Hide Thou my life with Christ in Thee.

Ruby L. Tow

(Reprint 1971)

## THE FAMILY PLAN

By A. Housewife

**I**n our house there is a constant visual aid lesson going on, complete with sound, color, and life-size characters. The action is daily life, and the actors are: three boys, aged five, nine, and sixteen, two grown children who come home for visits, and the parents who observe and learn.

**GROWTH** — The first lesson to be learned from home life is that growth is normal, automatic, and constant. As long as the children stay and eat regularly at Mother's table, they are healthy and growing.

32 Wherever did we get the idea that when a child is born into God's family he is born a full-grown son? We did not learn that from life or from the Scriptures. "As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (I Peter 2:2). A mother is happy and satisfied with her child at any age as long as he has a good appetite and will eat the proper food regularly, because she knows that this good habit will bring growth and health. How distressed God must be when He sees His children with no appetite for His Word and no hunger for the knowledge of His Son. He has told us plainly that we must "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Our growth spiritually is assured and automatic so long as we eat at His table.

**FOOD** — This automatic growth requires a change in the diet from baby stage to adulthood. Since I have always had such a variety of ages in my household, I have developed an automatic consideration at every meal for the different needs of the different ages. Now that I think about it, I am amazed that I have been able to set food on the table that is sufficient for a grown man, a preschool child, and several in between.

How much more perfect is the menu that the Heavenly Father has provided for His family. At His table there is milk for the newborn and meat for the mature. Are you hungry? Have you eaten today? He has provided exactly what you need in His Word for your spiritual life to be healthy.

**DISCIPLINE** — You can be sure that the discipline meted out to the five year old is quite different from the way we deal with the teen-ager. This reminds me of how differently God deals with me today from when I was a babe and He would let me cry out. Now, He speaks to me and reasons with me and expects me



to understand that He denies me privileges that I might learn to obey. He even lets me make choices, sometimes letting me have what is not best that I might learn to evaluate the proper use of time, money, and talents.

"Despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as sons; for what son is he whom the Father chasteneth not? Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 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. 12:5b-11).

DEVELOPMENT — Think of all the bad habits children have to overcome and the good habits they have to acquire. My children pass through all the stages: thumbsucking, fibbing, running off, bawling, fussing, complaining, lying, and stealing. I wonder that I am still here to tell about it or find the strength to continue to train and discipline!

33

Even more amazed am I at the patience of my Heavenly Father in helping me to overcome my childish spiritual habits of selfishness, rudeness, envy, pride, gossiping, and disobedience. How long it does take to grow up spiritually! O Father, thank you for your patience!

"It's like this: when I was a child I spoke and thught and reasoned as a child does. But when I became a man my thoughts grew far beyond those of my childhood, and now I have put away the childish things!" I Cor.13:11, Living Letters

CHANGE — In our garage there is a box. In it are toys waiting for the next child in line. There is a plastic ball, a rag doll (waiting for a grandchild), a dump truck, a catcher's mitt, and an electric train ... out in front of the house is a Ford Falcon. How these children do grow and how their desires and abilities do change! I'm glad their father doesn't get mixed up and give the electric train to the five year old and the Ford Falcon to the nine. (The car wasn't "given" to the teen-ager either; he was earning the money to pay for it himself).

Our Father knows exactly what He is doing when He says

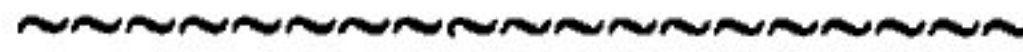
"No" to you, and "Yes" to someone else. He knows our capabilities and capacities. Many times His "No" has saved our lives.

FULL STATURE — Someday we will have grown to full stature: "When we have been made perfect and complete, then the need for these inadequate special gifts will come to an end, and they will disappear." I Cor. 13:10, Living Letters

DEAR FATHER, Help me....

To grow and let others grow,  
To put my toys aside and,  
To take my place in the family;  
Shouldering responsibility and  
Bringing honor and glory to You  
And to the Family  
Every day. Amen.

(Reprint 1984)



### *My Mother's Bible*

My Mother's Bible -- cover frayed,  
Some pages torn, some others loose;  
Her constant help, unfailing aid --  
Worn not with age, but daily use.

This book twicfold is dear to me.  
Words she marked, voiced by her Lord  
I hear each speak when these I see;  
His words that she had underscored.

Endorsed, His Message comes to me  
By one who lived it day by day;  
Important parts marked carefully  
To guide me safely on my way.



# 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 Triunity	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	

## Music CD's

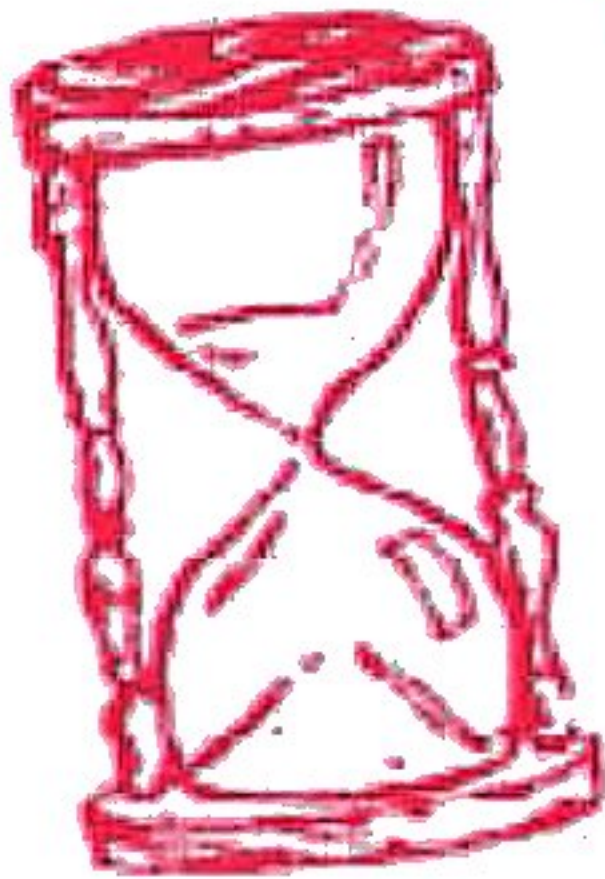
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 Tabernacle Choir Album- 1963- Beloved Grace & Glory Favorites

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## *Time is Running Out...*

Each minute you spend in  
indecision is a minute wasted  
... a minute that adds up to  
an hour or a day that has  
vanished forever.

**Read John 9:4**