

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole counsel of GOD

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If I take the wings
of the morning,
and dwell in the
uttermost parts of
the sea: even there
shall thy hand lead
me, and thy right
hand shall hold me.

PSALM 124

THE ¹
SAVIOUR'S
COMMAND

Matt 28:19

THE ²
SPIRIT'S
CONDUCT

THE ³
SINNER'S
CRY

Acts 16:9



THE THREE ELEMENTS OF A MISSIONARY CALL

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Editor: Gene Hawkins

Definite Sign Posts Of The End

Gene Hawkins

“**W**hen the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel. For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.” Deut. 32:8-9

God has, from the very beginning, established Israel as the centerpiece for all His purposes and provisions regarding all nations of the earth. That has not changed down through the ages, and it will become even more prominent as time marches on wherein both Israel and the nations will occupy their respective places.

The above text most assuredly includes Jerusalem, but apparently neither many nations nor the Palestinians received that memo. An article from Harretz.com dated Feb. 2023 specifically addresses major problems between Israel and the Palestinians in regard to Jerusalem's Temple Mount. It is so designated “...the Temple Mount because it was the site of the Jewish temples in antiquity.” This was the site of Solomon's Temple and will yet be the location of Christ's Millennial Temple. This same source also asserts that “Since Israel captured the site in the 1967 Six Day War, (Ed. **“when there could be no doubt that God fought for them”**) Jews have been allowed to visit but not pray there. Israel claims all of Jerusalem as its undivided capital, while the Palestinians seek East Jerusalem as the capital of their future state.” While men may completely ignore it, Israel is well within her right to claim this historic place because God is emphatic and unequivocal in this matter, specifically claiming “...Jerusalem, the city which the **LORD did choose out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there.**” I Kings 14:21 This article continues, asserting the age old assessments of man that the only answer for the Middle East is to “...reinforce the two-state solution...”

A recent AP account proclaims that “Saudi Arabia has reportedly agreed to the “broad contours” of a deal with the

United States to **recognize** Israel in **exchange** for concessions to the Palestinians, U.S. security guarantees, and civilian nuclear help,..." Those concession demands remain unchanged. " Riyadh (capital of Saudi) is seeking concessions from Israel that would help promote the creation of a Palestinian state,..."

Jesus was rather emphatic in His answer to the disciples, who were seeking signs defining the end of this age, declaring that "...ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars:... nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:...All these are the beginning of sorrows." Matt. 24:6-8 Paul likewise issues this warning which surely does apply to the nations at this hour. "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." II Tim. 3:13 Simply stated, all nations are insisting on that which is beneficial for themselves, and they will cheat, lie, and deceive in an effort to achieve it. Saudi Arabia will only agree to recognize Israel if her own demands regarding security and "...civilian nuclear help..." are met. Several nations, including Israel, already have nuclear capabilities and a number of other nations most assuredly desire them. Some, such as Iran, declare along with the Saudi demand, that the technology would only be for "civilian" use but there is little doubt that all of them would use such technology in pursuing nuclear weapons to use against their adversaries.

This is also where Iran, Israel's arch enemy, must be added to the mix. This same AP report reveals that "Saudi Arabia – which recently restored ties with Israel's arch-rival Iran – is also seeking significant concessions from Israel that would help promote the creation of a Palestinian state." There is little doubt that the Saudis are also seeking their own advantage from Iran, but there was no mention of it in this post. However, this same "peace deal" also elicited this reported response from Israel as "... Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was optimistic about deepening ties between the Jewish state and the Gulf kingdom, acknowledging that in order to reach a peace deal, Israel would have to give "some concessions." Once again there is no indication as to what concessions might be considered, but scripture is very clear that Israel is most assuredly prone to making them. They will agree to a covenant with the antichrist according to Daniel 9:27

as "...he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week:..." Isaiah describes that covenant and how it comes to be, as follows. "Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, **that rule this people** which is in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:" Isa 28:14-15 Daniel also reveals that the **false prophet** will persuade the hierarchy of Israel to relinquish the daily sacrifice. "Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and **by him the daily sacrifice was taken away**, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down." Dan. 8:11 Some have concluded that this text was fulfilled when, according to history, Antiochus Epiphanies desecrated the altar in Jerusalem by offering a sow upon it, but the prophet is plainly informed that, "**...at the time of the end shall be the vision.**" Dan. 8:17 Daniel further enlarges on this end time sign post as he pinpoints in specific **days**, exactly **WHEN** it will occur. "And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days." Dan. 12:11 Jesus also spoke of "...the abomination that maketh desolate..." as He warned those of Jerusalem to flee "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place,..." Matt. 24:15 His reference is to Daniel 9:27 which declares that the antichrist will set up his abominable image in the temple "...in the midst of the week..."

5

Daniel is very clear that the tribulation period will last "...one week..." or 7 years which computes to 2520 days, that is 7 times 360. Thus, 1260 days will comprise the first half of the tribulation week. Since that same period ends 1290 days after the daily sacrifice is taken away, the tribulation must of necessity begin only 30 days after Israel allows the false prophet to take away the daily sacrifice.

Thus, taking away the daily sacrifice becomes a most prominent sign of these end times, but insofar as most observers can ascertain, Israel is not offering any semblance of blood sacrifices

at this present time. The question must be asked: "Could some of the aforementioned "concessions" demanded by Saudi Arabia require some "religious considerations" FOR Israel? "Exchange" seems to be the tenor and operative word of numerous agreements between various nations at this hour. Is there a possibility or even a probability, that Israel will agree to a Palestinian State, **with East Jerusalem as the Capital**, in exchange for their right to not only pray at the Temple Site, but also resume all their sacrificial offerings? The scriptural fact is that they must once again offer the daily sacrifice in order for it to be taken away by the false prophet. We can almost hear the various negotiators: "This place is already a sacred site to three major religions of the Christians, the Muslims, and the Jews. Why not put aside some differences allowing all to "worship as they will" on this hallowed ground and thus establish peace?"

6 It must be emphasized here that the "peace" agreement considered under these circumstances will not be that which is brought forth and announced by the antichrist in Rev. 6, AFTER the tribulation has begun and Jesus Himself opens the first seal of judgment. "And I 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 rider here is none other than the antichrist, having "...a bow..." but no arrows, meaning that he purports to conquer through peace and persuasion rather than violence and bloodshed. It will be short lived for when the second seal of judgment is opened, the same rider went out on "...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. 6:4 This would be the ultimate fulfillment of Paul's warning to those in Thessalonica. "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." I Thess. 5:3

It is both interesting and highly appropriate that Paul should portray this time of sudden destruction "...as travail upon

a woman with child.” That woman is none other than Israel, of whom Isaiah asks, “Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.” Isa. 66:8 A new nation of Israel, having accepted her Messiah, **AFTER** the intense suffering and “travail” of tribulation, will emerge triumphant. God’s promise through Moses will finally be realized, for “...the **LORD** thy God will set thee on high **above all nations of the earth**:... And the **LORD** shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath;...” Deut. 28:1&13

It was noted above that the time of “...peace and safety...” which will then give way to “...sudden destruction...” will not occur until **AFTER** Jesus has been enthroned in heaven and is ruling as God upon the earth. However, since Paul wrote the above warning to the saints in Thessalonica, typical of a very elite group of believers who are indeed looking for Jesus to come **BEFORE** the tribulation begins, it is quite likely that some semblance of a peace agreement could be reached between Israel and her neighbors just **PRIOR** to the travail of tribulation. It should also be reiterated that taking away the daily sacrifice takes place 30 days before the tribulation begins. Some have thought in time past that Jesus would surely come in that 30 day period, but such a scenario would be in stark violation of Paul’s declaration to these same Thessalonian believers, that “...yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.” I Thess. 5:2 Surely no thief would give a 30 day notice of arrival. Therefore, it must be concluded that Jesus will come for this choice Bridal Company **BEFORE** the daily sacrifice will be taken away. The quotes from the participating parties above surely indicate that a required agreement between Israel and her enemies is extremely plausible and therefore is it incumbent on those longing earnestly to be taken out of this world to be much aware of any political movement in the Middle East. The Abraham accords are most relevant in this matter and though the current U.S. policy has been to “downplay” them, if those agreements were to be expanded, it would most assuredly contribute greatly

to a brief era of “peace and safety.”

This is where Paul’s next warning to these Thessalonians must be heeded. “Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.” I Thess. 5:4 Be it ever remembered that only Christians sleep. Sinners are said to be “...dead in trespasses and sins:” Eph. 2:1 The “...others...” here are a reference to believers who may be in danger of thinking that this “...peace agreement...” will give rise to better days ahead.

“Make America Great Again” is a mantra that some might think would be embraced by every American, but current political bias across the entire nation forbids it. However, if the aforementioned “peace agreement” were to emerge, this country as well as many others around the world, could well experience a grand time of “peace and prosperity,” albeit for only a very short period of time because “...sudden destruction...” will follow.

8 Daniel very clearly asserts that a prominent nation such as America **will fall** in the closing days of the Church Age. “...I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible,...and it had great iron teeth:... and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns **plucked up by the roots:** and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.” Dan. 7:7-8 Horns in scripture symbolize power and these ten are representative of ten major nations manifest in an end time coalition. Given America’s prominence in the world at this present hour, she is a most likely candidate to be one of the three “plucked up by the roots.” The remaining horns comprise seven end time nations joined to the antichrist who is here identified as a horn having “...eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.” These latter nations will be cast into the lake of fire along with their leader while those eliminated will be preserved and continue as a nation during the Millennium.

America is absolutely poised for such a fall due to a number of reasons. She is, first of all, a hated nation, like unto Israel, because she is perceived by ungodly men as being allied with God’s Chosen people, having been founded on Christian

Principles which are despised by Christ rejecters. She is currently a nation without borders, and according to a number of major politicians, “a nation without borders is no longer a nation.” Not only so, but this nation has also followed the same pattern as Israel in refusing to heed The Word of God. This was God’s primary indictment against His people before He surrendered them to captivity. “Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is **no truth**, nor mercy, **nor knowledge** of God in the land.” Hos. 4:1 These same scathing words could well be leveled against present day America, for there is a complete disregard for God’s Truth across this entire land. American policy today is to promote abortion, same sex relationships and marriage, along with the recent transgender foolishness, all of which are in direct opposition to God’s Word. Punishing those who stand for God’s righteous principles while allowing known criminals to roam free is also a direct rejection of His righteousness. Examples of fleshly conduct due to the rejection of God’s Word are legion in this country, but God’s people must take heed to their own lives. None can stop that which has been prophesied, be it wickedness or judgment. 9

Thus, even if the aforementioned time of “...peace and safety...” comes in our day, it is imperative not to be lulled into sleep, thinking that all is now well. Paul immediately advises instead, “...let us, who are of the day, be 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, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,” I Thess. 5:8-9 The salvation of which he speaks is not hell but deliverance out of this world. The wrath to which we have not been appointed is the tribulation. God did not intend that the Church should abide this troublous time, but because the overall Church has disregarded His precepts and teachings, many Christians will endure a part of it.

Paul’s message here is to the spiritually elite like unto these Thessalonian believers who were looking steadfastly for Jesus to appear. The promise for that faithful band in the end of this age is the same as that found here in Thessalonians. “Because thou

hast kept the word of my patience, 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

Finally, consider Peter's commentary on God's ability in our behalf. "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:" II Pet. 2:9 It is surely time to stay awake and sober, believing God to deliver us out of this world into glory before the travail of tribulation even begins,...

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words." 1 Thess. 4:16-18

ABUNDANT GRACE

W.B. Cissna

“**A**nd all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth....” Lk. 4:22

These sinners at Nazareth "...wondered at the gracious words..." A sermon about the Grace of God in general would be tolerated anywhere, but the Lord did not leave the matter there. He wanted them to know the real character of Grace and how they might receive it, so He brings to their mind two illustrations of Grace from the Scriptures. "...many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias,...But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto...a city of Sidon,... many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus ...and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian." Lk. 4:25-27

Illustrations often come home to the heart and grip the conscience, while doctrines make no impression. The people at Nazareth, like many people today, did not like illustrations, especially when they made it so plain that Grace would bless a poor Sidonian widow or a Syrian leper if it wished, without considering that the widows and lepers of Israel had any previous claim. Had Israel fulfilled their part of the covenant, they could indeed have claimed much from God, but their whole history had proven them as guilty as their neighbors, even more criminal because of more light. Grace can only act on the ground that all are alike in deserving nothing. A religious Israelite could only have the blessing of Grace on the ground that he deserved nothing, and that being so, how could he find fault if God blessed a poor Sidonian widow or a Syrian, before himself. It surely would be Grace for both alike, and Grace has the right to choose its objects where it will. 11

Let us look further into these two illustrations. The prophet, Elijah, had found the widow, reduced to extremity, brought down to a handful of meal and a cruse of oil, reduced to a point where there was nothing between her and death except that which typified Christ and the Holy Spirit. It is a blessed thing to be brought to that point. Then it has to be all Grace. David was

brought to that point When he said, "...there is but a step between me and death." I Sam. 20:3. When a person is brought to realize that if Christ and the Holy Spirit were taken away there is nothing between him and death, he will then find that he needs nothing more. "The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth." I Kings 17:14 The time of famine and need is the time of Grace, and that Grace will never fail its objects until the famine is over. Christ as a Saviour, and the Holy Spirit to make Him known, is the provision of Grace for all believers.

The widow must learn that Grace goes deeper still because her need is deeper. She must learn that Grace will not only save from death, but through death and out of death. Her son sickens and dies. We never learn the depths of Grace until we find ourselves under the power of death. Our sin has brought death upon us and under the judgment of God, and Grace would fail to meet our need if it did not remove us from the power of death and give us life which death cannot touch. How this is accomplished is shown in figure in the ease of the widow's son. First, he was laid in the prophet's bed. Sleep is a figure of death, and the child was identified with the prophet in the place which was the figure of death. The prophet was a type of our blessed Saviour, who has been not in figure only; but in actual fact, in the place of death, and each believer has been identified with Christ in His death. Then the prophet stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried to the Lord, and the soul of the child came into him again. It answers in type, I think, to the action of the Lord in John 20:22. "...Receive ye the Holy Ghost:" In the old creation God breathed into the nostrils of Adam the breath of life, and he became a living soul. In John we have the Son of God, as the last Adam, associating His brethren with Himself in the possession of a life which death can never touch; a life which is in Himself, and which He gives to all who believe on Him. This is the glorious end of Grace, for we read in Rom. 5:20, 21 "...where sin abounded Grace did much more abound: that as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might Grace reign, through righteousness, unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Another illustration is needed. The question, does Grace work such spiritual wonders for our souls and do nothing for our bodies? We have bodies with the seed of corruption in them, bodies carrying the seeds of disease, decay and death. This condition is manifest in Naaman, the Syrian leper. His body was corrupted by a disease which is plainly shown. He sees his members eaten away until they drop off. His existence is a living death. His condition plainly shows the condition to which sin has reduced man's body. Is Grace going to bestow blessing on the soul and leave the body to the spoil of corruption? Never! Seven times plunged beneath the waters of Jordan (death) and the flesh of the leper becomes as that of a little child. His body was restored, from corruption which was attached to it, through faith in that which typified the death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The triumph of Grace will never be complete until our bodies partake of the full benefits of the Christ, and are freed from what Paul calls "the bondage of corruption." This will be when the Lord returns. Our bodies will be raised in Power and glory and incorruption. As for those living when our Lord comes, the power by which He is able to subdue all things unto Himself will be put forth to change bodies of humiliation and fashion them like unto His glorious body. "...we shall be like Him, for we shall see him as He is." I Jo. 3:2

I will venture to say those poor sinners at Nazareth had not too much "religion," but they had enough to hate Grace. And so it is today. Man does not like to be brought to the position of the Sidonian widow or a Syrian leper in his own estimation and that of others. But that is the only way by which Grace can triumph. "For by Grace are ye saved...not of yourselves,... lest any man shall boast." Eph. 2:8-9

(Reprint 1949)

* Afflictions never injure God's children when blended with submission.

* Pray without ceasing, but not without believing.

More Than Conquerors

Margaret Keener

"...the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits." Dan. 11:32

It is often through hard trials and bitter experiences that we learn to know God. As we come to the end of our own resources and cry out to Him, He shows Himself strong to deliver.

"Our extremity is God's opportunity." When Israel became sick and afflicted, it was then she learned God as Jehovah Rapha, "The Lord that healeth thee." Ex. 15:23-26 Our appreciation of God deepens in the measure of our experience. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob knew God in a very personal way, but their conception did not equal that of Moses after years of Egyptian bondage. "And God spake unto Moses,...I am the LORD:...I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them." Ex. 6:2,3 To him God manifested His power to deliver.

14 At no time was God unaware of the condition of His people while under the power of Pharaoh — a type of Satan. In spite of their afflictions they grew and multiplied, because God had promised to bless the seed of Abraham, whether through natural posterity or his children through faith. Ex. 1:17 & Rom. 4:20-25 It is in the hard places we develop the most strength. Theirs had been a "sink or swim" existence. "And he shall spread forth his hands in the midst of them, as he that swimmeth spreadeth forth his hands to swim...." Isa. 25:11 Continually struggling to survive the oppression of Pharaoh and his cruelty caused them to cry night and day for deliverance. Such a plea could not go unanswered. "And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, (a type of the world), and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; and I am come down to deliver..." Ex. 3:7,8 God does not always come in Person but uses human agency to accomplish His plans.

For many years God had had a man in training for this commission. Moses lived 120 years — his life divided into three forties. 40 years in Pharaoh's house learning man's wisdom; 40 years on the back side of a desert learning God's wisdom; and 40 years leading the children of Israel through the wilderness. God chose a man who understood the ways of the enemy with whom he had to deal. Acts 7:22 He was also schooled in patience and

mekness. For forty years he had listened to the constant bleating of the sheep in a lonely desert with no companionship other than God. He was well prepared to listen to the murmuring and complaining of the people he was to lead, with no one to rely upon except God.

The blood applied was the token of safety and deliverance to each member of the household regardless of the condition of the individual heart. The blessings of Canaan are enjoyed only by those who pass through the river Jordan, which signifies death. Such a mixed multitude could never qualify. The priests who bore the ark of the covenant were the first to enter Jordan. Josh. 3:13,15 They were the religious leaders. The river was at flood stage, but with the first step of faith, God made the way. Entering this river of death, they were counting the old self-life dead, with every worldly ambition and fleshly desire. Arriving on the Canaan side of the river, they found they had just then arrived at the field of battle. The forty years they had spent in the wilderness, (number of testing) had only been their "boot camp" training.

They were well equipped for the battle before them, for Josephus tells us that the instruments of war which the Egyptians carried, were retrieved by the Israelites as they washed upon the shore; and with these they overcame the Canaanites and laid hold of their possessions. No longer were they fugitives but the aggressors; God fighting for them, taking victory after victory and enriched by every conflict. Exploiting their enemy, they put his weapons to their own use.

It was not in the program of God for Moses to enter Canaan at this time, for he was a type of Christ leading us into death; while Joshua was typical of Christ leading in resurrection. Only two of the original number of the men of war possessed faith enough for the undertaking. The fact that Moses was later seen on the Mount of Transfiguration, proves that he too, reached the "Promised Land." "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us." Rom. 8:37.

(Reprint 1948)

"The tumult and the shouting dies---
The captains and the kings depart,
Still stands the ancient sacrifice---
An humble and a contrite heart."

Kipling

Power of the Resurrection

Dr. Vicky Moots

Easter is the time of the year wherein we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. It is an important event because if He had not been raised, then we would still be in our sins and without hope beyond this life, as Paul declares in I Cor. 15:17: "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain [empty]; ye are yet in your sins."

But His resurrection means more to us than just our salvation and our future hope of resurrection. There is power in His resurrection for each of us today to help us to live our daily Christian lives. Jesus' death paid the penalty for our sins, but His resurrection gives us the power to have victory over sin.

Paul records in Phil. 3:10 his own desire to, "...know him [Christ], and the power of his resurrection..." So, how can we learn to know, or experience, the power of His resurrection for ourselves, and what does it mean to us?

16 There is a word in the KJV of the Bible similar to "resurrection," which is used many times, and it means "to revive" or "to make alive." That word is "quicken." It is used in Eph. 2:1 regarding our salvation: "And you hath he quickened [made alive], who were dead in trespasses and sins;"

God had to breathe the breath of life into us spiritually, just as He breathed life into Adam in Gen. 2:7: "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

But how does God do that for us? How does He quicken us, or breathe life into our soul? The answer is found in Heb. 4:12: "For the word of God is quick [living], and powerful..." And in II Tim. 3:16 we read, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..." The word "inspiration" means "God breathed." Inspiration is the breath of God and so God uses His Word to breathe life into us.

However, the Word of God not only refers to the inspired, God-breathed, written Word, but also to the Son of God Himself, as John declares in John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word,

and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Verse 14 reveals without a doubt Who the Word was and is: “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...” The Word was none other than Jesus, Emmanuel, The Incarnate Son. The very life of Christ is breathed into us by the Holy Spirit when we are born again, and we are given life.

What about after we are saved? Psalm 119:50 proclaims, “This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.” We have access to the power of the resurrection when we lay hold of God’s Word. It gives us strength for our trials to be able to stand against Satan.

We also have access to the power of the resurrection for our physical bodies through the quickening power of the Holy Spirit, as Paul tells us in Rom. 8:11: “...he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken [revive] your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.” I personally experienced this when I was going through chemotherapy and became so weak at work that I had to lie down. I told the Lord, “I need your help. I can’t do this anymore.” Within a few minutes I felt supernatural strength flowing through my body, and the weakness completely resolved. What an amazing feeling that was! It was truly resurrection power!

In Eph. 1:17, 19-20, Paul’s prayer for all faithful believers was that God would give us the “...spirit of wisdom and revelation...” so that we would know “...what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe ... according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead...”

That same resurrection power is available today. It was not just for the empty tomb 2,000 years ago, but for each day of our lives. Whenever we are weak physically or spiritually, we can tap into that power by faith through prayer and the reading of God’s Word. Praise God for the power of the resurrection!

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

REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

“Then did he see it...” Job. 28:27

18

These words introduce the answer to the questions asked in V. 20. “Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding?” This opening text reflects Job’s deep desire for truth. Some might conclude that the remainder of this verse, “...he prepared it, yea, and searched it out,” might be attributed to God. However, there is no reason for God to “...declare,... prepare,... or search out...” anything, for He already has full knowledge of all. Job’s own experience is rather manifested here, and these verses indicate that it was indeed deep desire for truth which motivated him, rather than just a casual curiosity. His intense search indicates that wisdom would not be discovered “...in the eyes of all living...” nor could it come from natural creation such as “...the fowls of the air.” Job further assures that, “...Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears,” but again he finds nothing to satisfy his intense longing for wisdom.

Thus, he concludes that “God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof... he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven; To make the weight for the winds;...he weigheth the waters by measure.... he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder:” V. 23-26 This is simply a declaration of the overall superiority of God. Once Job’s attention was turned ONLY upon Him, “Then did he see it,...” The order of this verse is marvelous and sets a pattern for all those who would believe God for revelations of truth today. First it must be “seen” in a very personal manner. Next, it must be understood that no genuine revelation is to be hidden or consumed by one’s self. The recipient must rather “...declare it;...” Thirdly “... he prepared it,...” meaning that he prepared it for his own life and experience, that is, he made it practical. Finally he “...searched it out,” in order that he might ascertain the very depths of it. God’s Word contains depths of mysteries which have not even been plumbed, and if

one is to know the depths of wisdom which Job desired, there is no substitute for this continued search.

Job now divulges the exact answer to the original questions in regard to wisdom and understanding. "And unto man he (Job) said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding." Much of Job's ordeal has been spent in total darkness insofar as understanding WHY these things have happened to him. Now he has learned by experience, at least in part, what is meant by "...the fear of the Lord..." Some have insisted that one must be "afraid" of The Lord to the extent that they would not even dare to engage in evil. However, scripture is quick to disagree, declaring "...fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." I Jo. 4:18 Never did God intend that believers should be tormented by His Presence. John here declares plainly that love and fear cannot abide in the same camp.

One prominent meaning of the word "fear" is "reverence." Job's experience in the above verses attests to the fact that he most assuredly did offer complete submission and reverence to the Lord in order to obtain this glorious revelation. David likewise asserts "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:..." Psa. 111:10 Solomon also adds, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." Prov. 9:10

19

Paul further unveils the mystery of wisdom, asserting that, "...of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom,..." I Cor. 1:30 Christ IS wisdom Personified, and it is only to the degree a person "reverences" or submits to Him, that "wisdom," due to such "fear of the Lord" is manifest.

Finally, note the "order" of Job's revelation "...the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding." It is only when men totally commit and submit to Christ, thus appropriating true "wisdom," that they are then literally empowered to "...depart from evil..." in their own practical experience.

Correction:

The authorship of "Cherubim and Seraphim" in the August 2023 issue of Grace and Glory was attributed to A.S. Copley. The Correct author is Mary M. Bodie.

Repairing the Altar.

Geoff Haase (Australia)

“**A**nd he gave some, apostles, some prophets some evangelists, pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God into a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” Eph 4:1-13.

How rich, full and far reaching is the anointed eye of the apostle Paul, observing the Body of Christ from its small and simple beginnings to the complete full grown man. His hope-filled heart for the Church is truly beyond human comprehension, unsearchable, above and beyond mere imaginings. Yet, that which God began He will complete. Phil 1:6.

No doubt David, speaking into the distant future from his day, said, “The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me:...” Psa. 138:8 Such a statement is surely a reference to the perfection and completion of the body of Christ. The vital ministry and function of God’s anointed and appointed apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers must be welcomed and recognized for their God given ability and commission in order for the full grown man to emerge.

The O.T. prophet had his message and unique part to play. Some great, some small, yet each so necessary in his day. Elijah most certainly has something of great value to declare for the end of this present Church Age. He prophesied during one of many dark, sad eras in the history of Israel. The cracks that had appeared under the rule of Solomon had now become deep fractures of division. Conflict, strife and war were the order of the day, much like today in every sense. Division is seen in every sphere.

Elijah is thrust onto the stage in such an atmosphere with a Word from the Lord God to King Ahab. “...there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.” I Kings 17:1. “... Hide thyself...” is the Word of God to the prophet. V. 3 His time at the brook was an amazing moment filled with instruction for him at the time then present, and for us now.

Elijah is the man known for his great victory at Carmel, yet these preliminaries we could say are preparing him, at least in some measure, for that day. We, too, are in preparation.

“Cherith” means “to cut and suggests that, a deeper work is

called for. He is told to drink of the brook and to feed there from food brought by the ravens. I Kings 17:4. It's interesting to see Elijah acting out something "we need to learn." When the brook dries up, the ravens stop coming. There is something in us that needs to dry up, and when it does the ravens will stop coming. We certainly have been to Cherith (cut off with Christ in His death), yet there is always more to understand and apply in that mystery. Eph. 1:18.

The prophet and the prophesied Body of Christ is forever, moving on in God. Paul cried out in Phil 3:10, "That I may know Him..." and this should be our greatest desire. The Lord then leads the lonely prophet to Zarapheth. (refining) I Kings 17:9 We can still have some successes whilst He refines us. What a great lesson here for Elijah and ourselves, the end time body of Christ. Oh! What God can do through a weak little widow with a handful of meal and a cruse of oil! How He delights in the little people with little things! But the handful of the Word and the oil of our anointing will carry us through till the rain falls. Hallelujah! The overcomers with little strength praise God for a dry morsel Rev. 3:8, Prov. 17:1. From "...go hide yourself..." I Kings 17:3 to the command; "...Go show yourself..." of I Kings 18:1, great things happen. The hidden ones will soon be manifested and revealed. The day of glory described in Romans 8:17-25 will most assuredly prevail. The cutting and refining which has prevailed in your life and mine and all those before us has always been deeply purposeful and redemptive. One purpose is surely that others might turn back to the Lord. We are often cut and refined for the benefit of others as "...we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." I Jo. 3:16

Ahab did evil in the sight of the Lord above all that were before him. I Kings 16:30-33 He openly worshipped Baal, married Jezebel and set up an altar to Baal. (lord) Baal worship was a Canaanite religion of many and varied false deities, and represents "...the god of this world..." II Co 4:4 It is hard to imagine that such a favored, chosen people could drift so far from the true worship of the Lord, yet that same flesh is prominent in all of us along with the subtlety of Satan. II Cor. 11:3 Paul loudly warns and admonishes us against "...gods many, and lords many..." because there is for us (believers) only one God. I Cor. 8:5-6 This scripture strongly brings us face to face with the sober reality that saints can unconsciously entertain false worship due to ignorance and unbelief. I Cor. 10:8-10

All believers, even those who lead and appear to be the most spiritual need to keep the old man in the death state according to the

pattern outlined in Rom. 6:11. Paul also warns that "...we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." Heb 2:1

Elijah surely sets a pattern for us today and me thinks the phrase "...he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down" is his greatest moment. 1 Kings 18:30 One translation indicates that this altar had been "...thrown down." Oh how Ahab (the antichrist spirit) and Jezebel (the false church) hate the true worship of our God and His Holy Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Elijah came to a broken altar, a broken people and a broken covenant.

The brokenness, division, dis-function and disharmony in Christendom today needs a visitation. This entire planet needs a move of God in this hour. Elijah said to all the people "...come near unto me...." Can we not also hear similar words of our Great Prophet Jesus inviting the broken souls of His day to "...come unto Me all you that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:20

22 "...And the people came near...." 1 Kings 18:30-39 Our people need to see "the altar" in good repair in our lives. The twelve stones in the hands of Elijah represent the complete number of "kingdom government." Note the city and the number 12. Rev. 21:10. The prophetic word of scripture builds us a complete "altar" that is, the message of the cross and all the truths of redemption found in Moses, the Psalms and the prophets Lk. 24:25-27. We have an altar Heb. 13:10.

Elijah says in verse 36, " I have done all these things at your word..." meaning that he had done these things at God's direction rather than his own initiative. These twelve stones used in building the altar would remind them of the crossing over Jordan into their inheritance Josh 4. Twelve stones buried in Jordan and twelve stones in the place where they lodged Josh 4. Buried with HIM in Baptism....risen with HIM.... Who raised Him from the dead Col 2:12.

And with Israel of Elijah's day this whole scenario points to the inheritance, the Promised Land, their God given possession. Such inheritance is ours also, in Christ Jesus, both to be appropriated now and in the future glory. Eph 1:11. "...we have obtained an inheritance..." now, that is, "...the earnest (down payment or guarantee) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession,..." which is the body. Eph 1:14 There is shortly coming the day when God's people will actually partake or participate in

that glory. "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:" Col. 1:12

Furthermore, Elijah "...made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed," which was then filled with water. I Kings 18:32-33 That water filled trench (circle) about the altar of the Lord could speak of the Word of God from the two covenants set forth by Scripture surrounding, protecting, guarding, the Word of the Cross, "For the preaching of the cross... is the power of God. I Cor. 1:18.

His Sinless Humanity

"So Elijah put the wood in order..." V. 33 The sinless humanity of Jesus is seen in this bold act of faith. What Elijah is doing is written for us unto whom the ends of the ages are come I Cor. 10. The wood bespeaks the perfect humanity of Jesus. Jesus in the days of His flesh was tempted, tried, tested in all points or aspects of human testing "...like as we are yet without sin." Heb. 4:15 He "...knew no sin..." II Cor. 5:21 He "...did no sin..." I Peter 2:22, and "...in him is no sin..." (nature) I John 3:5

The Burnt Offering.

The Levitical code gives us the meaning of what Elijah is portraying to the people. It is a free will offering. It was voluntary, "...of his own voluntary will..." Lev. 1:3 What an accomplishment it would be if all God's people would see and appreciate God's desire for them at this hour, to freely give themselves to the task of repairing the altar of the Lord in their own lives, moving on from the bondage inflicted by Ahab and Jezebel. "...if there be first a willing mind..." II Cor. 8:12.

My people shall be willing in the day of His army. Psa. 110:3, Rev 19:14. Brothers and sisters, can you feel the God of all Grace pulling on your heart strings and reminding you of these things? Repair the altar of the Lord that is broken down and see what God will do.

The Word-Soaked Altar, the water poured on the sacrifice and on the wood V. 33, tells us that both Jesus' humanity and perfect holy sacrifice are everywhere in the Word, from the blood of righteous Abel to the Lamb of God Himself. The message of a Word-soaked altar is in the "volume of the book" written and bearing witness of Him Who was to come and indeed has come, the Saviour of the World. Hallelujah.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John speak to me of the four barrels (vessels) full of water. They bore testimony as eye witnesses

of His glory and number four being the number of the earth. The gospel message has gone to the ends of the earth. Rom 10:18 Done once, do it again the second time, do it the third time V. 33. "Three times in the year shall your males appear before..." Me. Ex 23:17. The three feasts of the Lord to be proclaimed in their respective season.

Three times the wood. (Christ's humanity) The sacrifice, "... this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins..." Heb. 10:12 The altar of twelve stones (all that Calvary means). The three feasts of the Lord declare from Passover to Pentecost and Tabernacles all the redemptive provisions of Calvary from the beginning to the Glorious consummation of all things in Christ.

The three "pourings out" of the four vessels of water could strongly suggest this application. Each feast is Word-soaked and gone out into all the world. And the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations and then shall the end come Matt. 24.

The Time of the Evening Sacrifice

24 May the heart of God take a fresh hold of us at this "evening time" in Church history. The age is at an end. I believe we will see the overcoming saints in this "evening time," see, preach and appropriate the message and truth of the Cross in a way that will truly glorify God and resemble the fire and glory and sacrifice of the "early morning sacrifice".

"I have done all these things at Thy Word...." V. 36. How precious these words. I have done what you told me, God is so satisfied with that simple obedience for the prophet to put things in order and portray Him who is from the beginning.

The people came near to Elijah V. 30. Elijah came near to God. V. 36 May a Spirit of prayer be upon us as we, too, draw near with full assurance looking to see many turn their heart back to God, that God in all things may be glorified.

The Fire

Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed everything. The sacrifice, the wood , the stones, the dust and the water. Think on these words and be blessed.. Selah. When that terrible fire of God's holy judgment fell on Him the spotless One, old things passed away, sin was thoroughly dealt with, all of man's failure from Adam down to every other living soul. Satan judged forever. All the law fulfilled, total redemption complete, opened heavens. Think of all the scripture that gloriously points to the work of Jesus in His death,

burial, resurrection, ascension, enthronement and intercession as our faithful and merciful high priest. Glory to God. How unsearchable are his judgments and His ways passed tracing out. Rom 11:33.

“...I will send rain...” I Kings 18:1 “...I will pour out my spirit... on all flesh...” Joel 2, Acts 2. The Spirit paints so many pictures of the One He loves so much (Jesus the Son). Some are more pointed and others no less powerful, yet each one portraying the sufferings and the glory. Some pictures shine not only a redemptive light to Calvary but further still, shining on to the coming glory and “...appearing...” Titus 2:13 In Abraham the promise of the Spirit was given, but the Spirit was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified. Gal 3:14, John 7:39.

So, between the promise of rain I Kings 18:1, and the outpouring , V. 44, 45, the Cross is wonderfully presented by the Holy Spirit using Elijah. Maybe Moses and Elijah knew more about the Cross than we often give them credit. They both appear with Jesus in glory on the holy mount talking of His death. Read Lk. 9:27-36.

The Silent Years

God does delight in hiding His man or woman from the public eye, until He is satisfied with His dealings in us, His “... 25 hidden ones...” Psa. 83:3 Elijah comes on the scene as the Tishbite from Gilead (the hill of witness). He reads his lines (so to speak) then goes off for more training to Cherith (the cutting) and fellowship with Ravens and then follows Zarapheth (refining). Those of us who shepherd a flock of His sheep or minister the Word in any official capacity will know those silent years of preparation. Think of Joseph in prison, Moses in Midian, John in the wilderness. We can remember chaffing at the bit, thinking we were ready. But God always knows best. I know I could have listened better in my early years of “strength.” It took me years to realize, “...the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong....time and chance” comes into play, and yes grace upon grace. Ecc. 9:11 We do learn. And for the young men and woman in seclusion, be content to support and be faithful to those who are over you in the Lord. Wait for that Word from God, and the wise approval of the Holy men and women of God who have helped shape you for better things. Who knows, you may be another like Elijah who will turn many hearts back to God. Consider Malachi 4:5-6, which is God’s last words from the Old Testament and Luke 1:15-17 about John, God’s first words in the New Testament. Consider the spirit and power of Elijah in John.

Go to the top

The prophet speaks to the king. Oh that we had more of that today! Elijah must finish all that the Lord commanded. Where was the promised rain? We know the cross precedes the Pentecostal outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Luke 23:33, Acts 2:1-4. Elijah said "...there is a sound of abundance of rain." How could he hear the rain? It is quite amazing that prophets hear things that others do not. Consider Isaiah 50: 4-5. There is a sound we long to hear, the Spirit's voice, "...the sound of many waters..." Rev. 19. Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound. Psa 89:15 "...and there came a sound from heaven..." Acts 2 Since I'm seeing an end time application in the Elijah narrative, it's worthy of mentioning the word "sound" is used seven times in Revelation. Also the word "sounded" seven times, possibly a double reference to completion and perfection.

26 Elijah went up to the top of Mt Carmel. V. 42 Carmel means "fruitful park or garden" and speaks of Jesus ascending "...up far above all heavens that He might fill all things." Eph. 4:10 From that place of all authority where "...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth, (Matt. 28:18) He poured out the rain of the Spirit, indeed, "...abundance of rain." V. 41 The praying prophet "...puts his face between his knees..." V. 42. We marvel how God worked so mightily in this man of God. Jesus too is in that place of prayer as the faithful High Priest at the Father's right hand. Heb. 4:14, 7:25 Rom 8:34

Another man travailed in birth till Christ be formed in the Galatian saints, who had fallen prey to the religious legal trappings of the law. Gal 4:19 It is most important to consider the fact that Elijah had to pray through the promise. It was God's call upon his life. He is known for his work in the realm of prayer. There is no record of Elijah's prayer when he stopped the rain, nor do we have a written prayer when, as James says he prayed again and the heavens gave rain. Jas. 5:17-18

A little Cloud

"...Behold there is rising a little cloud out of the sea like a man's hand." V. 44 Every prophet needs an assistant or apprentice, disciple. Elijah says to his servant "...go up now look toward the sea..." V 43 The servant of the Godhead in the age of the Church is the Holy Spirit. He is sent, commissioned by Father and Son to bring back a bride for the Son. He looks toward the sea --- the nations. Luke 24:47 "But the comforter ...the Holy Spirit whom

the Father will send in My Name..." John 14:26. I do believe these things are written not just for interest, but to teach and instruct us for our learning. I Cor. 10

The 7 times

Are we seeing another glimpse of the end time harvest from the sea? (nations) Can we expect or believe for another move of the Spirit even though there is apostasy on every side and the gates of hell are seeking to prevail? (they won't) Please remember we are still in the days of the latter rain. And Zechariah tells us to "Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time (the Hebrew could also be translated "now or duration") of the latter rain..." Zech 10:1.

"At evening time it shall be light. Zech 14:7. The time of the evening sacrifice I Kings 18, the time of the latter rain Zech 10:1. "...Go again seven times." I Kings 18:43 The seven times the servant went out, is suggestive of the Spirit Himself visiting the nations during the seven eras of the Church age, from the beginning in Ephesus to the completion of Laodicea. "He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit sayeth (is saying) unto the churches." (the seven) Rev. 2-3. "...the harvest is the end of the age..." Matt. 13:39 "Let both (the righteous and unrighteous) grow till the time of harvest." Matt 13:30.

27

"...a little cloud... like a man's hand."

A cloud in New Testament scripture often speaks symbolically of a company of people such as "...a cloud of witnesses,..." Heb 12:1 Jesus was "... clothed with a cloud:..." Rev 10:1 A cloud, like a man's hand, takes us further with the symbol. The man's hand suggests God's Hand revealed in the fivefold ministry found in Eph. 5:11. "...he gave some, apostles;...prophets;... evangelists;...pastors...teachers;" Are we seeing now the restoration all five (number of grace) to perfect the full grown man and produce the Church of Glory that Paul prayed would emerge?

The five fingers represent the apostle (thumb) that can easily touch every other finger. The index finger that points, tell us of the prophet. The middle finger being the longest can represent the evangelist who reaches further. The wedding finger reminding us of tender care of the Shepherd and the smallest digit signifying the teacher who possibly touches on finer things.

The last Time

"...and there was a great rain..." I Kings 18:45 John said about two thousand years ago, "Little children it is the last time..." I Jo. 2:18 Elijah's enemies primarily included Ahab and Jezebel.

We know we are seeing "...through a glass darkly..." looking at pictures --- reflections as in a mirror, yet we can believe we are seeing something. The antichrist spirit and the spirit of Jezebel still walk the streets and hate the truth, the Church and all that Jesus is. And yet in these closing days of this present evil age, we see something promising --- a cloud --- a little cloud, like a man's hand rising out of the nation's promising rain.

Can James help us a little with: "Be patient brethren unto the coming of the Lord... Behold the husbandman waits for the precious fruit of the earth and hath long patience for it until He receive the early and the latter rain." James 5:7 So the early rains fell at Pentecost and seed was sown. The sower went out to sow Matt 13. The Latter rain is in harvest time. We are still in those days. Is it the "seventh time" of I Kings 18:43 (so to speak)? Are we in the final era of the Church Age? And how do we see things unfolding as we get closer to His appearing?

28 The Philadelphia saints were encouraged to hold fast to what you have, let no man take your overcomer's crown. Rev 3:11. I will keep you out of the hour of trial. V.10 The brotherly love saints are still here. The saints at Thyatira were told "...hold fast till I come," (Rev. 2:25) as they battled Jezebel, idolatry and the spirit of immorality and a whole heap of false doctrine. Rev. 2:20. No doubt all the elements good and bad of those seven churches are with us.

Rain in this time of the latter rain.

Today, if we heed the call of Jesus, we can have rain in the time of the latter rain. Some people are repenting. Believers are getting hungry. Amongst the distasteful mixture and the leaven, some are repairing the altar that is broken down. The Cross is to become paramount if we are to see a move of God in this hour. A prophetic people will go up to the top of the mount and travail. We need a move of God. Move oh Lord in me!

Hosea gives this beautiful summation. "Then shall we know,..." even as Paul sought to "...know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings,..." Phil. 3:10 "... if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth." Hos. 6:3.

* God asks no man whether he will accept life. That is not the choice. One must take it. The only choice is how.

Cherubim and Seraphim (Cont;d)

Mary M. Bodie

EZEKIEL'S VISION OF THE CHERUBIM

"And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire" - Ezekiel 1:4.

Ezekiel, like John, commences his prophecy with a view of the cherubim. His description of them is similar in many respects, though there are some points of difference because they are seen under different circumstances and at a different point of time. John beholds them in Heaven, as one in the midst of the throne, at the time of the judgment of the earth. Ezekiel sees them on earth afterward, actually putting forth the judgment, joined to the throne above them, directing the moving of the judgment of which they are a part. They are rolling it along - "holy rollers" indeed. The word which they proclaim is judging the world, in view of the judgment that John portrays.

As Ezekiel says, he "looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud." This is the "Shekinah Cloud," the distinct expression of the Presence of God with His people Israel. Ezekiel continues to gaze at this wondrous sight, and the cloud unfolds before his eyes. Within the cloud are the cherubim, and with them four wheels. Over this he beholds the firmament of the "terrible crystal," and upon this a throne as of "a sapphire stone"; and seated thereon in regal majesty, "a Man" - the Son of Man, "the likeness of the glory of the Lord." Again we see, that the cherubim are a part of the throne. Ezekiel 1:15-28.

Their feet of "burnished brass" convey the same thought; for they correspond with the feet of the Son of Man walking in judgment "in the midst of the seven candlesticks" - the churches - Revelation 1:13. Also, they correspond with Daniel's vision of the same wondrous Person, with "feet like in color to polished brass." This metal "brass" is generally significant of judgment. We are impressed with the description of Daniel's vision, for there is a marvelous similarity to the language in that of Ezekiel concerning the cherubim; though Daniel apparently sees only a "Man." "His body also was like the beryl, and His face as the appearance of lightning, and His eyes as lamps of fire, and His arms and His feet like in color to polished brass, and the voice of

His words like the voice of a multitude" - Daniel 10:6. This, no doubt, is the mystical Christ - the Head with the Body; for Daniel is undoubtedly gazing upon a judgment scene too. How else can we reconcile his words? "O my Lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength" - Daniel 10:16. He was in spirit, suffering with his beloved people, at the time to which the vision applies. It is the same time with which Ezekiel also is concerned --- the "latter days" --- the end of this present age and the beginning of the next age.

EZEKIEL'S DESCRIPTION OF THE CHERUBIM

"As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning" -

30 Ezekiel 1:13,14. Ezekiel saw the living creatures in action. They are the powerful Divinely authorized agents of Divine judgment. These living ones have four wheels, in which is their spirit, rolling over the earth. Four is the earth number, the number of the four corners --- east, west, north, and south. They are judging the whole world today, by their uncompromising declaration of the whole Truth. They are judging Christendom, answering Paul's question, "Shall I come unto you with a rod?" -I Cor. 4:21. The wheels are like unto "a beryl stone" - Ezekiel 1:16; 10:9. This is the same description which Daniel gives of the body of the Man who appeared to him: "His body also was like the beryl" Daniel 10:6. The wheels speak of the mobility of the cherubim, in executing judgment.

"The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the color of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel" - Ezekiel 1:16. Their actions are according to their appearance, perfect harmony prevails. They are all united in one, yet each separate and distinct; a marvelous picture of unity.

These "wheels" move along, one after the other, in the perfect will of God. "And they turned not when they went" - no letting up, nor slowing down, in their course. The purposes of God must be fulfilled; nothing else holds their attention. The rims

of the "wheels" reached to the firmament; "they were so high that they were dreadful" - majestic, sublime - and they touched the throne of God. Their very "rings were full of eyes round about them" - the sevenfold Spirit everywhere in evidence. The wheels move by His power in the fullness of light.

"And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them" - the wheels were joined and subject to the cherubim. "And when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up ... for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels" - they were inseparable. Ezek. 1:19,20.

The living creatures of Ezekiel each had four wings - two on each side of their body. They were equipped for earth activity, and were seen in the perfection of redemption. Their activity was limited. When they went, "the noise of their wings" (their goings) was "like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty" - Ezekiel 1:24. Daniel says, "The voice of His words like the voice of a multitude." Dan. 10:6 This corresponds with Revelation 19:6 where the saints' voices in Heaven are "as the voice of many waters." All of this is easy of interpretation. These cherubim are saints whose activity is that of God. They are in harmony with all the movings of the throne. And their voice has power. It brings results with its commands. It rolls the judgment chariot along, but all in connection with the throne of God which is over their heads. When they stood and let down their wings, "there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads" -direction and instruction from the throne; for there "was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a Man above upon it." Ezek. 1:26. 31

PARTAKERS WITH CHRIST

Now observe the similarity of the description of this "Man" and that of the "living creatures." There was the same "color of amber," the clear yellowish tones, springing from "the appearance of fire" which enveloped Him. He seemed to be all fire and brightness even as the cherubim coming out of the fire, "as the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire" - Ezekiel 1:4,27. There is no doubt that these cherubim are the saints who loved not their lives unto death, who were delivered unto death daily for Jesus' sake, who had the Life of Christ manifested in them. They judged the world, the flesh, and the devil, and reigned in life

through the abundance of grace over all things, and will reap the reward. They acknowledge the righteousness, justice, and mercy of God; they own His sovereignty over their individual lives; they have let Him put down all rule and authority and power --- "every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God" (II Cor. 10:5); and thus they became fitted to put it down in the world. They conquered themselves through the abundance of grace in Christ Jesus, and thus become able to conquer others.

ISAIAH'S VISION OF THE CHERUBIM

"In the year that King Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphim: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly" - Isaiah 6:1,2.

32 The prophet Isaiah beholds the "seraphim" - "burning ones" as they are called here --- at a later period of time than either John or Ezekiel. He views them after the judgment is past. They are still in connection with the throne; their voices are still witnessing to its holiness, its righteousness, its justice. "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts," they cry. "The whole earth is full of His glory," is their triumphant boast. He reigns supreme, and they are satisfied.

"And the posts of the door moved at the voice of Him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke" - Isaiah 6:4. Their power has not waned. Still effectual and compelling are their voices, "as the voice of the Almighty" - Ezekiel 1:24. Isaiah, the prophet, stands here as the figure of the Jews at the end of the tribulation with the judgment all past; who will view the actual substance, of which this vision was but the shadow. They will see the Lord with their physical eyes, "high and lifted up" in the heavens. They will cry like the prophet, "Woe is me! for I am undone." They will behold their condition in the light of His holiness, and the contrast will overwhelm them.

Now observe the finale. One of the seraphim, these holy messengers of God, flies with a live coal from off the altar and touches the mouth of Isaiah - figure of the nation - saying, "Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged" - Isaiah 6:7.

They have a part in the cleansing of Israel, as one with the throne of God. They are joined to the mercy seat

which is Christ. They have authority to make effectual the cleansing purchased by the blood of Calvary. They are seen here in this latest view of them, even as they had been while on earth, as still witnessing to the justice as well as the mercy of God. He can be just and yet justify the ungodly, is their testimony.

THE COVERING CHERUB

"Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire." - Ezekiel 28:14 The above language is addressed apparently to the king of Tyrus; but he is only the figure of Satan, as is plainly evident. Tyrus, or Tyre as it is more often called, was a famous city of Phenicia. It was built by a colony of Zidonians, descendants of Canaan, a son of Ham; hence, is also named "daughter of Zidon" - Isaiah 23:12. It was the great mercantile center of its day. This, too, is but figurative of a greater city that rules over the kingdoms of the world - the church of this world, "Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots," false to her Heavenly calling and false to her Heavenly Lover. Isaiah 23:15; Revelation 17:5.

As was said, the king of this city is none other than that old serpent the devil. But Satan was not created a devil. He was the angel of light, Lucifer, the star of the morning. He was perfect in his ways from the day that he was created, till iniquity was found in him - Ezekiel 28:15.

Ezekiel sketches a most comprehensive and remarkable personality in the above chapter. Lucifer was "in Eden the garden of God," of which the earthly Eden was but the type. He was covered with every precious stone --- enveloped in light. "Thou sealest up the sun, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty," was said to him. He was filled with music --- a whole pipe organ in himself, as it were. Melody and harmony were the essence of his being. Ezek. 28:13.

But was he satisfied? Alas, no. He aspired to become as God; and so he fell. Iniquity was found in him. He exalted himself; so he must be abased, according to the principle of God's throne. Afterward he injected this same poison into man, thus exalting self. "Ye shall be as gods," was the tempter's bait. Man, innocent and good, fell from his standing and became what he is --- vile and sinful. Was God defeated? No, indeed! He did a new thing. He brought His First-born into the world. A Man, whom Satan

cannot move, came on the scene. He proved to be the Master. He conquered in this desert place of ruin, and thus He redeemed man. Now what is the sequel? Ah! It is so wonderful, so far beyond our greatest thought: Man not only regains his lost estate, though this was good, but more - he gets Lucifer's estate also. The exalted office of "the anointed cherub that covereth," that "walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire," that is the throne that is given to the One that was abased - Christ, and "to them for whom it is prepared" of the Father - Matthew 20:23. They not only get dominion over the earth, the place of the first man whom Satan robbed; but they get the high and lifted up throne of Lucifer in the heavenlies, and all that he possessed as the angel of light. These are the living creatures which John saw "in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne ... full of eyes before and behind," Truly, "Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." Matt. 23:12.

LIFE'S BOOK

34

Life's book is quickly filling,
Another year is flown;
A record of our service
Is on its pages shown.
Our victories and failures,
The moments spent in prayer ;
The chances we've neglected, All plainly written there.
Our years are quickly flying, They are as passing showers ;
And meanwhile in life's garden
Are growing weeds and flowers. Our every act is building
A structure false or true ; Oh, let us then be faithful
In all we say and do.
The pages we are turning,
The record that we write,
Is forecast of the future,
Eternal day or night.
Let us our chances value,
By using every one ;
And when shall come the reck'ning,
We'll hear our Lord's "Well done !"

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