

Declaring unto you the
whole counsel of GOD

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Num. 3



Resurrection Morn

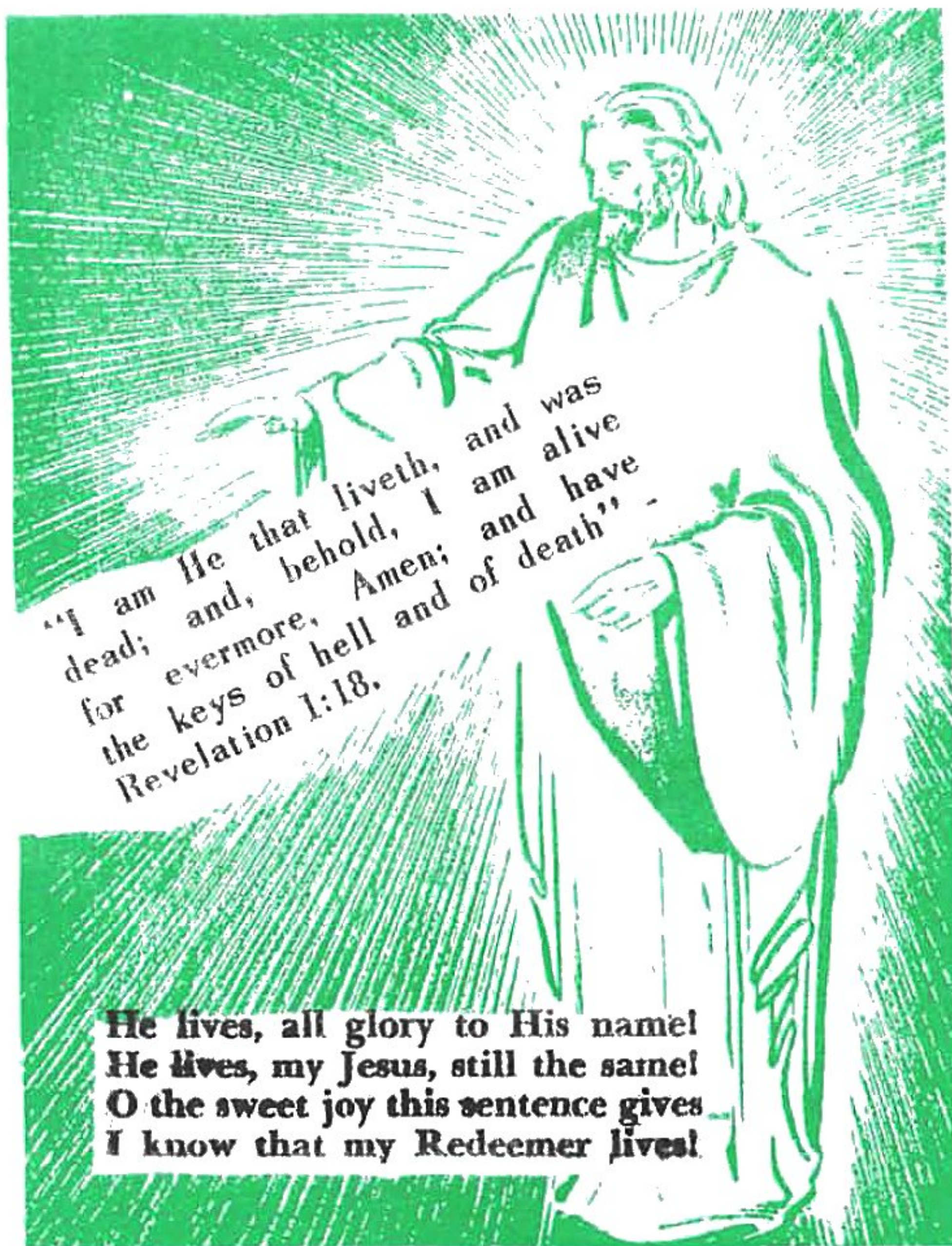
The cross is past—the night is gone.
All grief and pain fled at the dawn.
Oh, wondrous day, when Christ arose,
And conquered His satanic foes.

The cross is past—the last tear shed.
The Lord has risen from the dead.
Oh, glorious triumph, which He had.
The grave is open. I am glad.

The cross is past—clothes laid aside.
No more shall He in tomb abide.
How strangely sweet it must have been.
Oh, let us tell the news to men.

Table Of Contents

Article	Author	Page
Definite Sign Posts of the End.....	Gene Hawkins.....	3
The Great Question.....	Albert J. Woehr Sr.....	10
It Is Finished.....	Dr. Vicky Moots.....	16
El Shadai.....	George Meyer.....	20
Is God Our Help.....	Ruth E. Smith.....	24
The Unknown God.....	Walter Anderson.....	27



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Editor: Gene Hawkins

Definite Sign Posts Of The End!

Gene Hawkins

“And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he (Jesus) said, As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another,...And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass? And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ;...But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must **first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.** Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, ...famines, ...pestilences;...fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you,... **for my name's sake.** And it shall turn to you for a testimony.” Lk. 21:5-13

Jesus' discourse above is in answer to the disciples' questions, "...when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?" Luke's account follows the same pattern as that of Matthew in Chap. 24, but Luke seems to present a more succinct declaration in regard to four major categories of events which describe various conditions of these end times. He **first** warns of the deception that will occur because "...many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ;..." **Secondly**, "...ye shall hear of wars and commotions....Nation shall rise against nation." "...great earthquakes....famines.... pestilence...." etc. are the **third** major sign followed by the **fourth** which is Israel. "...they shall lay their hands on **you** and persecute **you**...." He then adds that "...it,..." the persecution of Israel, "...shall turn to you for a testimony," that is, Israel becomes a living witness to the rest of the world that, although the "**...the end is not by and by...**" it most assuredly is coming very soon. Matthew declares that the overall "...end..." will not come until **AFTER** the Millennium is over, as Jesus plainly asserted that, "...this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and **then shall the end come.**" Matt. 24:14

The disciples' query here in Luke, however, concerns the destruction of the temple of which they seem to have been greatly

enamored. History reveals that this same temple was decimated in 70 A.D. when Titus, the Roman, demolished it, but greater destruction is yet coming during the tribulation, just prior to the Millennium. Jesus clearly prophesied its destruction, warning plainly that, "...When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:" Matt. 24:15-16

4 The antichrist himself will perform this dastardly deed, but it will not take place until the midst of the week. Dan. 9:27 Prior to that Israel will be specifically targeted, for "...before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you..." That stark persecution stands as a testimony before all the world at this present hour. It has been recorded in previous issues of Grace and Glory that Hamas literally invaded Israel, but it is rather disheartening to hear reports of the way news media and various factions denounce such a demonstration of hatred. The common response is "We are against **all** hatred...", thus refusing to acknowledge the specific hatred leveled against God's Chosen People. That is simple proof of the fact that all these nations and other "kingdoms" refuse to acknowledge the **REASON** for such hatred, which is, "...for my name's sake." The CATO Institute published this headline in 2022. "**Christianity Is the World's Most Persecuted Religion, Confirms New Report**" That same article then lists a great number of specific examples from various countries around the world to verify their claim.

Consider also this account from "The Guardian" back in 2015. "**Christianity, when properly understood, is a religion of losers**" Then follows this explanation. "Christianity, properly understood, is a religion of losers – the worst of playground insults. For not only do we not want to be a loser, we don't want to associate with them either. We pointedly shun losers, as if some of their loser-ness might rub off on us." Such a sentiment has undoubtedly grown worse over these past few years and, once again, the reason being the rejection of Jesus, or "...for my name's sake." Iran is most assuredly at the forefront of this rejection, for she repeatedly refers to the U.S. as the "Great Satan," and Israel as "The Little Satan." That is because both America and Israel claim "The God Of Israel" as their own. It is also well known that Iran is the greatest sponsor of terrorism around the world and according to the opening

text would contribute to the “commotions” or “instability, i.e. disorder:--commotion, confusion, tumult,” all significant signs of these last days.

Another preeminent sign currently seen in our world is that wherein “...many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ;...” It has been previously noted that such a statement may not be repeated verbatim, but largely means that some would arrive with the proclamation that they can do what ONLY God can accomplish. One of the chief perpetrators in this matter, down through the ages and at this present hour, would be Catholicism who absolutely insists that she is Christ’s representative here on earth. Jesus says this of her in His letter to the Church at Thyatira. “Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, **which calleth herself** a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.” Rev. 2:20 Jesus does not call her a “...prophetess...” Rather she has deemed herself to be “the teacher” in these last days. She will determine what is sin and what is not. She most assuredly claims to do what only Christ can do. Catholic teaching is that her priests can forgive sins, and such a feat is very often accompanied by a sizable fee for the Church. Such a teaching is directly contrary to God’s Word as even the Pharisees asserted, “...who can forgive sins but God only?” Mk. 2:7 Scripture also unequivocally affirms: “...but now **once** in the end of the world hath he appeared to **put away sin** by the sacrifice of himself.” Heb 9:26 Paul likewise reinforced this same truth when he wrote to the Corinthians. “For he hath made him **to be sin for us**, who knew no sin; **that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**” Paul also preached this same message to the Jews in Antioch of Pisida. “Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man (Jesus Christ) is preached unto you **the forgiveness of sins:**” That message was in no wise changed when this Chief Apostle to the Church wrote to the Gentiles in Ephesus. “In whom (Christ) we have redemption through his blood, (not Catholic demand for money) **the forgiveness of sins**, according to the riches of his grace;” Eph. 1:7 Peter also concurred with this same glorious fact in his profound sermon on the Day of Pentecost. “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is **none other name under heaven** given among men, whereby **we must be saved.**” Acts 4:12

Let us reiterate, that Catholic doctrine openly refutes this path to salvation by insisting that her priests can forgive sins! She is an imposter...chief among many who "...shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ;..." Catholic doctrine also insists that Mary is the intercessor between a petitioner and "her son," while God's Word emphatically declares "For there is one God, and **one mediator** between God and men, **the man Christ Jesus;**" 1 Tim. 2:5

6 The efforts of "the prophetess" are also seen in the unscriptural antics surrounding the upcoming Easter celebration of Christ's resurrection. This would be "ash Wednesday" wherein Catholics are required to "give up or sacrifice something for Lent," which is somehow supposed to equate with the sacrifice Jesus made. That comparison is absolutely blasphemous, and the fact that the priest places "ashes" on the forehead of one making such a "sacrifice" draws attention to the "one sacrificing" rather than Christ. There is absolutely no way ANY sacrifice man would make could ever compare with the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. The pain, suffering, and rejection by both God and man which Jesus endured at Calvary will NEVER be fully understood, let alone experienced by any believer. It IS vitally important to understand, however, that if men do not accept the sacrifice Jesus made for them, they will endure what He went through, throughout eternity. This is Jesus' message to Christ rejecters. "Let their table become a snare before them: and **that which should have been for their welfare**, let it become a trap." Psa. 69:22 Let all men take heed that they do not fall for the deception of those who shall "...come in my name, saying, I am Christ;..."

Catholic infringement, claiming a place that only Jesus can occupy continues with the demand that parishioners call their priest "Father," the intent being that her priests should be afforded the same authority as God, even to the point of forgiving sins as noted above. This practice is in direct contradiction to Jesus' command when He denounced the religious Pharisees who did everything in their power to gain recognition. The Master stated emphatically, "...call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven." Matt. 23:9

Purgatory is another staple in Catholic teaching, but it has absolutely no scriptural basis, and more than one report declares that "praying one out of purgatory" demands payment.

It is also quite clear that much **merchandise** connected directly with purgatory is sold on the internet, once again generating great sums of money for The Church. Catholic wealth is most assuredly manifest in the Vatican, which is by numerous accounts, the richest place on earth. Scripture portrays such wealth by describing Babylon the Great in Rev. 18. "And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen. ... Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. And the **merchants** of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their **merchandise** any more: The **merchandise** of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men." Rev. 18:2-13 No other "woman" or religious entity on earth can claim this extent of riches outside of Catholicism, and many of those riches have come directly because of her erroneous teachings, wherein she has "...come in my name, saying, I am Christ:..."

There are undoubtedly more "money making schemes" which contribute to Catholic wealth, but the teaching of purgatory is directly contradicted by scripture. Paul emphatically asserted that "...**we know** that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, **eternal in the heavens**....we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:..... We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be **present with the Lord.**" II Cor. 5:1.6.8 That same "presence" was promised to the repentant thief who hung on the cross beside Jesus. He was certainly a candidate for "purging" according to Catholic doctrine, but instead, he heard these glorious words: "...**To day** shalt thou be with **me** in paradise." Lk. 23:43 Paradise is in no wise "purgatory."

The Pope also has come front and center, recently promoting Catholic demand rather than God's Word, by proclaiming that blessing should be pronounced on participants in same sex marriage. God's Word declares that such conduct

is abomination. "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination." Lev. 18:22 God sets forth double emphasis on this atrocity by further imposing penalty for it. "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them." Lev. 20:13

Some of our day discount this severity as being a part of the law which has indeed been done away in Christ, but Paul reaffirmed the truth of it when he determined that "...God gave them up unto **vile affections**: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their **lust** one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, (shameful, indecent) and receiving in themselves that **recompence of their error which was meet.**" (there is still consequence for this ungodly lifestyle.) Rom. 1:26-27

8 Catholic intervention claiming to be the voice of Jesus continues, as a Vatican document published recently online, reportedly from Rome, indicates that "**Pope Francis, who has made reaching out to L.G.B.T.Q. Catholics a hallmark of his papacy, has made clear that transgender people can be baptized, serve as godparents and be witnesses at church weddings, furthering his vision of a more inclusive church.**" Such a stand as this is directly contrary to the fact that "...God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; **male and female** created he them." Gen. 1:27 The purpose of the Pope here is to make "The Church" **all inclusive**, but endorsing the idea that The Great Creator made a mistake by putting a male into the body of a female and vice versa is absolutely blasphemous. The tragedy today is also that "modern medicine and technology" are taking drastic steps to **reverse** that which God has created.

Weather patterns and the subsequent results of them are also manifest in Jesus' discourse surrounding the signs of these end times, for "...great earthquakes....famines.... pestilence....great signs....from heaven..." etc. have surely been prevalent in recent months and years. Men have decided that all these things are due to "global warming." Recent U.S. policy has determined that "Putin is crazy, but the existential threat to **humanity** is climate change." Such a stand completely ignores the absolute fact that Jesus directly

and specifically prophesied that the aforementioned changes would come to pass at the appointed time. Man has nothing to do with it. He cannot cause such things nor can he prevent them from happening.

The fact that all the happenings contained in Jesus' above discourse are taking place simultaneously, is in itself a significant sign that His coming is **EMINENT**. He stated very plainly near the end of this same chapter "So likewise ye, when ye **see these things come to pass**, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." Lk. 21:31 Paul likewise chimes in with this instruction which is also so very applicable for these end times. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **Teaching us that, denying ungodliness** and worldly lusts, **we should live** soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **Looking** for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;" Titus 2:11-13

Jesus Rose

Jesus rose and conquered foes
He conquered death, the grave and hell
And we the blessed story tell,
Of endless grace to Adam's race
To all who look upon His face
And humbly at His feet do fall
And on the Name of Jesus call.

He rose triumphant over sin
He rose to never die again.
Our sins are covered by His blood
Upon the mercy seat above.
And High Priest lives to intercede,
Eternally His Word will read
Its cleansing power is balm indeed
The sin-sick soul forever freed.

No power can separate the soul,
Who by His blood has been made whole.
From God's eternal love Divine
He rose to make salvation mine.

Dr. Vicky Moots

The Great Question

Albert J. Woehr, Sr.

“And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?” Mark 16:3.

This is the question of every age and all time. When we think of our affairs and realize the trials and temptations that cross the pathway of our lives, we are all prone to think that they are more severe than anyone else has ever suffered. Nevertheless, despite our opinion in the matter, they are all alike to God as far as their difficulty is concerned. He is able for all of them. There is nothing too hard for the Lord, as Jesus assured us. Matt. 60:27.

As we read over carefully the first few verses of Mark 16 we can readily understand that regardless of our troubles, we can trust the Lord with them, for He is able to deliver us. But, instead of trusting, we worry about the outcome of our troubles and get near frantic thinking of the possibilities of our trials, many of which never materialize. Satan tries to get the eyes of the Christian upon the troubles and the extent of these, painting black scenes of what might develop if we don't do something about them. The more we think about our difficulties the worse things seem. The Christian who can be made to see the circumstances and conditions of things through the eyes of fear or unbelief (instead of comparing the difficulty with the Word of God and His power) is to use the vernacular of the day "thrown for a loss."

In the first verse of Mark 16, we are told that Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome had brought sweet spices, with which they might anoint their Lord's body. It was early in the morning, at the rising of the sun, that they came. Their hearts were weighed down with their sorrow. He whom they loved dearly had been crucified on the cursed cross. They had seen them lay Him away. As was the custom in the Orient, they brought sweet spices and oil that they might anoint Him who had died. Their minds were on their sorrow. And as they talked of it and about what they were to do, as a last act for the One whom they loved, they also discussed their present difficulty. "Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?" They knew that when their Lord was buried, His enemies sealed the great stone before the entrance to the sepulchre. That stone now proved to be a great obstacle to them. It closed up their place of present ministry. A great stone stood between them and the

body they were to honor. This was all they could see ... the great stone. So their question, "who shall roll away the stone ... ?" And this is the great question with which the enemy would occupy us. He would have us discuss and wonder about our trials and consider their hardness and great difficulty. He would put our eyes on anything and everything, except looking away to the Lord Jesus, Who is the Author and Perfector of our faith. How many times while on the Christian Road do we voice the Marys' question: "Who shall. . . ?" What sadness and sorrow weighs us down as we go forward considering our difficulties. Everyone's troubles are great troubles to them, even as the two Marys knew the stone was a great stone. It was the most important thing in the world to them right at that moment: No problem so great as this one. How like us Christians today.

I wonder if we can grasp the importance of what happened as the two Marys worried over the rolling away of the stone. When they came face to face with their trouble, the Word says "When they looked..." they saw that the stone was rolled away. Of what use had been their worries? How like the Lord to have the stone rolled away for them. Know ye not beloved that the Lord works in our behalf all the time, not only just when we ask, but always. We lose much of God's blessings because our eyes are too much upon the thing which troubles us and not enough upon Him. Let us not dwell upon our troubles, but upon Him, our Lord. Not that trials and troubles and hard circumstances are not real. They are very real! But not more so than that our Lord is real. Remember He already has made a way for us --- the victory way, and all because of Calvary.

11

Therefore, let us look (in the midst of our troubles) and we like the Marys will find God has undertaken for them. Surely He knoweth how to deliver the godly out of all of their difficulties. Let us instead of dwelling upon the difficulties, look away to the Great Deliverer, even our Lord and Saviour, who has allowed the "all things" which are working good for us while we look at Him instead of them. Then they will shortly be rolled away even as the stone.

(Reprint 1946)

- * Sometimes mountains move our faith, instead of our faith moving mountains.

CELEBRATING CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

Mary M. Bodie

"I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower." Psa. 18:1-2

This Psalm is one of the most sublime of the Psalms of David. It is almost identical to II Sam. 22. In it, David celebrates his deliverance from the hand of Saul who persecuted him for such a long time. This Psalm also figures the ultimate victory of Christ over Satan in His resurrection from the dead.

The word "Love" in verse one is not the usual word for love. This one conveys the idea of hugging. When David realized his deliverance from Saul by the mighty power of God, he wanted to hug Him. He almost exhausted his vocabulary in trying to declare what God was to him and what He had done for him. (Verses 4-6). In verses 7-9, he tells how many things God put in motion to accomplish his deliverance. There are also figurative of the Lord Jesus Christ's victory over death and the grave.

12

Herein is found an immense panegyric of the goodness of God, and transcends other psalms in its scope and power, as it symbolically describes Christ being delivered from the tomb. When Christ was in the power of the tomb for three days, we hear Him say, "The sorrows of death compassed me and the pangs of hell (sheol) were round about me . . . In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God. He heard my voice and my cry came before Him, even into His ears."

That was enough for God. His beloved Son had obeyed to the uttermost and had finished the work of redemption. He had glorified His Father on the earth, trusting Him even unto death. The work was done. He was now helpless, held prisoner in the tomb. He had renounced all His power as God and left Himself absolutely in His Father's hands.

Oh, this was terrific! Satan had Him in his power. Was God able to deliver Him? Was He willing to help Him? Listen to the record: When the cry of His Son came into the ears of His Father, at once He arose to His help. He put mighty forces in motion,

forces of the heavens and the earth. God was angry! "Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because He was wroth." He was filled with indignation at Satan. "Smoke went out of His nostrils, and fire out of His mouth devoured; coals were kindled by it." The greatest power in the universe was manifested. "He bowed the heaven" --- imagine such a feat of strength - and the unparalleled speed.

He rode upon the cherub and did fly. He rode the wings of the wind. He could not make enough speed to get to His Son. God went forth to the aid of His Son. "He made darkness His secret place; His pavilion round about Him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies." There went forth hail and coals of fire. Heaven thundered at the terrific battle, for that is what it was. The devil did not want to release his prey. He had the Head of the new creation in his grasp and he did not intend to let him go. God Almighty was his opponent that day and He was no ordinary foe. God the Father went down to upper hades to loose His Son; the devil must have put up the fight of his life. The Almighty God put forth all His strength to set Christ free. We say that it was the greatest battle that was ever fought in heaven or on earth. It was the supreme battle of the ages. There had been other conflicts all through the years since the fall of Lucifer, but never any of the extent of this battle. He went down to that prison, sending out His arrows and lightnings, thus discomfiting the wicked spirits as they flanked Satan in their battle against God. The foundations of the earth were uncovered at the Lord's rebuke — at the blast of His nostrils. 13

And God was victorious! He declares the sequel: "He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them that hated me; for they were too strong for me." There is an allusion to the magnitude of that battle in Eph. 1:19, 20. Paul prayed that we may know the power in our lives which God wrought in raising His Son. The emphasis is on the measure of the "exceeding greatness of His power." No greater power was ever manifested by the Almighty, than in the resurrection of Christ.

And only God Almighty was equal for that battle. The devil and his wicked angels also fought; for the devil knew that if

he lost that battle, he would be forever defeated. His one chance was to keep Christ in the grave. But, thank God! Christ arose and thus "destroyed all the works of the devil." Christ was delivered out of the devil's power because God delighted in Him, as it is written, "He was rewarded by God according to His righteousness, according to the cleanness of His hands, hath He recompensed Him. The afflicted people He will save, but will bring down the high."

Christ was delivered because He was righteous. He obeyed God, doing His will to the uttermost. "He kept the ways of the Lord and did not wickedly depart from His God."

The remainder of the Psalm is concerning the future of this perfect Servant. He declared that through God, "He had run through a troop and leaped over a wall; that God had girded Him with strength. His feet were made like hind's feet, and He was made to walk in high places. His hands were taught to war, so that a bow of steel was broken by His arms." This was His power as the Son of man, not as God; for as God, He needed nothing from
14 anyone. He became a man, and as a man, He was dependent upon His Father. Phil. 2:5-8

As a result of His resurrection, He will take the helm of the government of God. For one thousand years, He will reign as God Almighty by the Sovereign will of God His Father. All power and authority will be placed in His hands. All peoples will be given into His hands; all will be subject unto Him. God will give Him the "heathen for His inheritance." Christ, the Anointed of God, will be absolute Monarch of all that He surveys.

Then, in conclusion, we hear Him say, "Therefore will I give thanks unto Thee among the heathen and unto Thy Name will I sing praise." Christ as the man, gives all the glory for His deliverance to His Father. Though He was equal with God in past eternity, yet He emptied Himself of that glory, and throughout eternity He will be subject to His Father, and rule subordinate to Him. Wonderful mystery of life. There is no story in all fiction to compare with this story of Life and Truth.

(Reprint 1984)

FAITH IN ACTION

"The just shall live by faith"—Heb. 10:38. The word "faith" confused me. I prayed for faith. I fasted for faith. I struggled for faith, but it eluded me. One day I saw what I had never been able to understand. I stood in the presence of the most simple reality my heart had ever known. All there is to faith is acting on the Word of God. I saw it. The struggle was over. I was willing to act. I knew the Word was true. For years I had lectured on the integrity of the Word. There was no problem about the absoluteness of the Word of God. I knew that. Now I saw that when I act on the Word, everything the Word promised became a reality.

He said, "By His stripes ye were healed." I had a pain in my back. I whispered softly, "I thank Thee that I am healed? Back, did you know I am well? That soreness was laid on Jesus, and it is not on me any longer." I went on about my work and I found His Word had become a reality. I was healed.

I faced my bills, and the bills are so heavy from the books, the paper, the correspondence courses, the salaries, and the current needs, I faced them with joy, because He said, Phil. 4:19 "My God shall supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Then I knew He had supplied them. I did not know how, and I did not ask. I am not interested so much in the "how" as I am in the reality of paying the bills. Through all these years He has never suffered me to put to shame. His Word cannot be broken. As you act on the Word it becomes real. Here are some facts: The Word is dead until you act on it. When you act on it, it suddenly becomes alive. The Word has no power in it until you, with lips of faith speak it. When you do, the Word has healing for the sick, salvation for the lost, life for the dead. Oh! the miracle of acting upon His Word.

—Selected.

15

**The time is short,
Too short toward anyone living
To cherish enmity.
Lay it aside
For His dear sake, forgiving
As He forgiveth thee.**

It is Finished!

Dr. Vicky Moots

Easter is the time that we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, but there could have been no resurrection or reason to celebrate if there hadn't been a crucifixion. The victory had to first be won on the cross. It was the very purpose for which Jesus came to this world. He was born to die. He took upon Himself the form of a man, in a body of flesh, so that He could die and shed His blood to pay the penalty for our sins.

Paul explains this to us in Heb. 10:4-7: "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt-offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God."

In this portion of Scripture Paul makes reference to Psalm 40, a prophetic Messianic Psalm, to clarify its meaning, and he declares emphatically in Heb. 10:10 that it was fulfilled by the death of Jesus on the cross: "By the which will [the will of God] we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

In Heb. 10:11-12, Paul makes an interesting contrast between earthly Levitical priests and our heavenly High Priest, Jesus: "And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man [Jesus], after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God."

Verse 11 states the fact that the earthly priests never sat down, but rather, stood all day, every day, continually offering sacrifices which were not capable of taking away sin. It was a never-ending process. In fact, the furniture of the tabernacle in the wilderness or the temple did not even include chairs, because the priest's work was never finished.

However, in contrast, in v. 12 Paul declares that Jesus, our High Priest, only offered one sacrifice, one time, once for all, and then sat down. That one sacrifice was His own body, His own blood, for He was also the Lamb of God.

As the Lamb of God, He came into this world to be the ultimate, perfect and final, sacrifice that would actually take away, not just cover, sin. As our High Priest, He could sit down because the work of redemption was complete.

But when was it actually completed? Jesus told His disciples in John 4:34, "...My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish the work." Shortly before going to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, Jesus spoke these words: "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour" (John 12:27). He knew He had to finish the work.

The work could not be completed until the time of His death on the cross. Jesus Himself pronounced its completion in John 19:30 when He proclaimed, "...It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."

Contrary to what the onlookers must have thought, this was not a cry of defeat; it was a cry of victory. At that moment, the purchase price for our redemption had been paid in full by the blood of the Lamb. He had finished the work!

The third day God raised Jesus from the dead. He is now our High Priest Who ever lives to make intercession for us, as Paul informs us in Heb. 7:25: "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

This is all possible because the work of redemption was finished by Christ on the cross. Do you believe it? Do you receive it? There is nothing more that we can or need to do, to add to a work that is already perfect and complete. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is a gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Eph. 2:8-9

Believe it and receive it today and loudly proclaim with Jesus, "**It is finished!**"

Now Is Christ Risen From The Dead

The powers of death have done their worst
But Christ their legions hath dispersed
Let shouts of holy joy out burst.....Alleluia

The three sad days have quickly sped;
He rises glorious from the dead
All glory to our risen Head.....Alleluia

He brake the age bound chains of hell;
The bars from heaven's high portals fell
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell....Alleluia

Ancient hymn

REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

“In the second year of Joash... king of Israel reigned Amaziah ...He was twenty and five years old when he began to reign,...And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like David his father:...” II Kings 14:1-3

18 The records of the kings indicate that many of them were measured according to the standard set by David who, “...did that which was right in the sight of the LORD...” That term is found numerous times in scripture, although it is expressed in a number of different ways. It means that God is extremely cognizant when viewing all the works of mankind, both good and bad. The truth of it is seen in the days of Noah when “...GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth,...” and again as “... Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.” Gen. 6:5 & 8 Peter quotes from Psa. 34, declaring that “...the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.” I Pet. 3:12 God said to Samuel “...the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.” I Sam. 16:7

God’s piercing eyes are focused on all inhabitants of the earth, but David specifically declares that “The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men.” Psa. 33:13 However, God’s people must personally concentrate on those promises to the righteous, for it is stated repeatedly that His eyes are upon them. One great promise is “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.” Psa. 116:15 This fact has been cited many times in reference to those who were “...willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.” II Cor. 5:8 But this glorious promise can also be applied to those who are yet alive, even as Paul declared “I die daily...” I Cor. 15:31 Jesus also promised the Smyrna Church “...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” Rev. 2:10 It is their attitude, while yet alive, of full submission even unto death that is so “Precious in the sight of the Lord...”

Psalm 34 records a number of benefits directly because “The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,....” the first being

that "...his ears are open unto their cry." That stipulation gives way to the fact that "The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles." Next, "The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." Then comes the summary, wherein "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all" Psa. 34:15-19

Consider also the glorious advantages of dwelling "in the sight of the Lord..." found in Psalm 33. "Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; To deliver their soul from death,...keep them alive in famine.... he is our help and our shield." Psa. 33:18-20 Psalm 32 likewise promises "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

Such protection, preservation, direction, and closeness to Him are all directly because God's people choose to dwell "...in the sight of the Lord. Furthermore, God's promised inheritance to Israel may be gloriously applied to the heavenly inheritance of the righteous during this Church Age. "But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven: A land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year." De 11:11-12

Finally, dwelling "in the sight of the LORD..." is so precious and important that Aaron was instructed to specifically pray for it, in behalf of the people. "Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them, The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD **make his face shine** upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD **lift up his countenance** upon thee, and give thee peace." Num. 6:23-26

ANNOUNCEMENT:

All services at Gospel Fellowship along with all the Bible College Classes continue to be streamed at www.gracegod.com

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

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

Wed Prayer and Bible Study 7 P.M.

Bible College Classes held from 7 P.M. to 9 P.M.

Mon., Tue., Thurs., & Fri.

"EL SHADAI" **God, He Is Sufficient**

“And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD: And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of ---El Shadai--- God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.” Ex. 6:2-3

GOD AND HIS DIVINE NAME. The Divine name by which God discovered Himself to the holy patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is, according to the Hebrew version in the Hebrew Bible, 'El Shadai'. God, He is Sufficient. He discovered Himself to Moses as the "Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh"—"I Am that I Am," Ex. 3:14. He is Self Existent, the Creator and not a creation. "His Glory is above heaven and earth." "Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee." "He only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto." Every object that consists of matter and has a form has also a name. God, He is a Spirit, an Essence, and consists not of matter, and has no form, or Name that sufficiently describes Him. His Essence is incomprehensible to the human mind. He discovered Himself in the Holy Scriptures to men by His different Divine attributes of His Character, called in the human language, Names.

"El Shadai." ..He is Manifest in the Infinite Splendor of His Creation. When we behold the wonderful works of God in the Structure and government of the world, we must exclaim in the words of the Psalmist, "Many, O Lord my God, are Thy wonderful works, which Thou has done, they cannot be reckoned up in order if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered"—Psa. 40:5. Everything that He has created, has been made by Him sufficiently wonderful, to such magnitudes, and extents, and positions, and strength, and volumes, and effects, and speeds, and times, and colors, and beauty, and relation to each other, that the innumerable hosts, systems, species that function in the universe, have need of each other, respond, cooperate and produce concord and harmony. "Thou has set all the borders of the earth. Thou hast made summer and winter"—Psa. 74:17. "The morning stars sang together"—Job 38:7. "O, Lord, how manifold are Thy Works! in wisdom hast Thou made them all"—Psa. 104:24.

"El Shadai" discovered Himself through His Word. His true wisdom, solid strength, and Divine Justice—exercising a merciful forbearance; His perfect goodness, infinite grace and

truth, and unspotted righteousness; and the miserable condition of our ignorance, vanity, infirmity, poverty, depravity, and corruption, are by Him, sufficiently declared in His Word, sufficiently made clear to the understanding capacity of the human mind, sufficiently expressed in plain human language, in the Holy Scriptures. For how else can the dullness of the human mind have attained or attain the knowledge of the will of God and His perfections, and the knowledge of ourselves, of our imperfections; and that man's salvation from sins and death eternal to "Newness of life" and life everlasting, is attained not by good works, because in the sight of God "All our righteousness are as filthy rags"—Isa. 64:6, but by the grace and mercy of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, through faith "For there is One God and One Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus: Who gave Himself a ransom for all"—I Tim. 2:5,6. "For •by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God"—Eph. 2:8.

"EL SHADAI" manifested His will to men often through angels in the form of men. He manifested His heavenly will through such messengers and messages that were sufficiently understood by the dullness of the human mind. "When God, "El Shadai", discovered Himself to Abraham, at "Mamre," He came down to him in the form of three men, the Trinity, Jehovah Himself—Gen. 18:1,2. When God, "El Shadai" discovered Himself at "Moriah" and saved Isaac from being sacrificed on the altar of fire under the knife of his father Abraham, it was the voice of the Angel of the Lord that spoke—Gen. 22:1-18. When God, "El Shadai", discovered Himself to Jacob at "Jabbok," He came down in the form of a man, who wrestled with Jacob till morning, and told him, "Thy name shall not be called Jacob, but Israel, for if thou hast been strong against God, how much more shalt thou prevail against men, and He blessed him at the same place. And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying: I have seen God face to face, and my soul hath been saved"—Gen. 32:24-30. That Angel of God in the form of a man was the Messiah, the Lord Jesus, the Second Person in the Trinity of God. He discovered Himself also in the Old Testament.

"EL SHADAI". He "was Manifest in the Flesh" in the Person of Christ. Before the Messiah, the Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, was born at Bethlehem in Judea at the time of the second Temple, He was the Word of God through whom God discovered Himself in the Holy Scriptures. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He same was in the beginning with God. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world, and the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we behold His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth"—John 1:1-14. At the creation of man, it was to the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, that God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness"—Gen. 1:26. And it was of Him that the prophet in Israel prophesied, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratha, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting"—Micah 5:2. "Even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God"—Psa. 90:2. "Great is the mystery of Godliness, God was manifest in the flesh..." I Tim. 3:6 The "El Shadai" has manifest His eternal essence in the Divine Soul of the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, His Soul was not a creation created by the power of God, as the ordinary men's soul, but consisted of the perfect Divine essence, the same incomprehensible essence that of God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

"EL SHADAI." He was Manifest in the Messiah in the Form of Man Because the Sinful Eye of Man May not see the Glory of God. The reason that God discovered Himself in the Holy Scriptures through the Word, and through angels who appeared also in the form of men, and "Was manifest in the flesh" in the Person of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah, is because of man's disobedience or transgression to God's Word, which is sin — I Jn. 3:4 And since the fall of the first man, Adam, the veil of separation was between man and God. Adam by his disobedience to God's Word had sinned against God, and the Divine image in him was obliterated, and he was punished with the loss of every Divine virtue and dignity with which he had been adorned at his creation by the Creator. His alienation from God by His sin was the ruin and death of his soul ; and he was plunged into ignorance, darkness, fear, depravity, misery, helplessness, and corruption. "And Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God. And the Lord God called unto Adam and said unto him, where art thou?"—Gen. 3:8,9. And so, by the sin of Adam, sin and death have passed upon all his posterity. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"—Rom. 5:12. All men that come into the world are born in sin. "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." Psa. 51:5. "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that He

cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that He cannot hear; but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear." Isa. 59: 1-2 Of Moses, the great leader of Israel, is written, "And there arose no more a prophet in Israel like unto Moses, whom Jehovah knew face to face." Deut. 34:10 Jehovah knew the face of Moses, but Moses, a man who sinned, could not see the glorious face of Jehovah. Moses asked of God, "Shew me Thy glory. And He said, thou canst not see My face; for man shall not see My face and live." Ex. 33:18,20

But "EL SHADAI" in His infinite goodness and mercy, in order to save men from sins and death eternal to life everlasting, has sent "The Angel of His presence..." Isa. 63:9, the Saviour, Jesus of Nazareth. He, the Messiah, is the Divine Fountain of all Sufficiency, of every grace and mercy, sufficient to enlighten man's darkness, to regenerate the soul, and reconcile men to God from sin and death eternal to life everlasting, by the merit of His obedience and life which He sacrificed on Calvary. "And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for My Strength is made perfect in weakness." II Cor. 12:9. "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of One shall many be made righteous." Rom. 5:19

23

(Reprint 1947)

Where Are The Blessed Dead?

The answer to this is not to be found in the mind of cultured fancy, nor in the thought of worldly wisdom, nor in the brain of editorial acumen, but in the revelation of God's Word. When we turn to that Record, we are told that the blessed dead are:

- “In Christ” as to position;
 - “At home with the Lord” as to presence;
 - In the “Far Better” as to bliss
 - “In the house from heaven” as to clothing
 - “In heaven” as to place;
 - “In paradise” as to consciousness;
 - In the waiting room as to attitude
 - And “asleep” as to the body.
- Let us take these Scripture replies as to where
our blessed dead are.

IS GOD OUR HELP?

Ruth E. Smith

Are you cast down? Does there not seem to be enough of God's grace to meet the needs in your situation? Where is the victory which God has promised? Doesn't He hear my pleas for help? Whatever happened to the verse, "My God shall supply all of your needs . . ."? Why do I oftentimes feel bankrupt — physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually? Has inflation overtaken God that He is unable to complete the building job He started in our lives?

If all this sounds somewhat familiar to your situation, take heart; God is not asleep, nor gone on a journey, neither has He run out of resources. The power shortage is closer to home. It is just a short in our own wiring circuit.

24 It is somewhat like Peter who stepped out on the water and walked a short distance until he saw the great waves and felt the wind pulling at him. This was enough to cause him to change his focus, but in so doing, he began to sink. Then, he remembered his source of power and cried, "Lord, save me!" And immediately, Jesus stretched forth His hand and caught him and said to him, "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" —Matt. 14:28-31. The winds did not cease when Jesus stretched forth His hand and caught Peter, but they both walked together on the troubled sea, and when they were come into the ship, the winds ceased. This is not the way we think it should work; instead, we think that Christ should cause the winds to cease the very moment we cry out to Him. Then, we could make it to the ship ourselves by swimming. This is the principle that works in so many areas of our lives.

There are two lessons we need to learn and it takes a lifetime to do it. One is, "...in me (that is in my flesh dwelleth no good thing;..." Rom. 7:18 The other is, "Of myself I can do nothing." Thank God, He is a patient Teacher. He will give us the same lesson over and over until we do learn it. If we do not learn it, we cannot blame God. It is not His fault.

Just recently I was talking with a young man who was obviously out of victory and was very miserable. We were

discussing how he came to be in that shape. Amazingly, he could point to the very thing that started it. He began this downward trend by feeling sorry for himself; recounting how much he had given up for the Lord, and in return, the Lord had not given him what he felt he deserved for making such a great sacrifice.

I tried to encourage him not to think of things in physical or financial terms of blessing, but instead, that he was putting his resources in the bank of Heaven to be drawn on in eternity. But, all this young man could think of was, "I need a break." A break from what? Serving the Lord? This is what he really meant.

He did not want to finish the rigors of God's training, but longed to return to the pleasures of sin, thinking that it was only for a season. He did not realize that God is God, and He does not change His mind. When, and if this person ever decides to pick up where he left off in his Christian life, he will come up against the very same temptation again and again until he learns the way of victory.

We need to look not at things that are seen, because they are temporal, but we are to look at the invisible things, for they are eternal. The Apostle Paul states it so clearly in Hebrews 10:35-38: "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." But, our testimony can be the following verse, "But we are not of them that draw back into perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul." 25

As we saw in the example of Peter walking on the water, God does not answer prayer according to the way we think, but according to His own wisdom. Isaiah 55:8 states, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my thoughts than your thoughts."

Naaman was a good example of this truth. He went to Elisha expecting to be healed. But he had in mind that Elisha would rush out to him, and stand, calling on the name of the Lord

God, and strike his hand over the place of his leprosy. Instead, Elisha did not even appear; he sent his servant to tell Naaman to dip in the Jordan river seven times, "thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean." II Kings 5.

We see that Naaman's attitude almost cost him his life. Because God did not do things the way Naaman thought he should, he became angry, and went away saying, "Are not the rivers of Damascus better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them and be clean?" Had it not been for his wise servant, Naaman would have gone home, still a leper, plus now being bitter at Elisha, God, and even the little maid who suggested he go to Elisha for healing. This was all caused by his pride, and because he knew better than God how to handle the affairs of his life.

But fortunately, he had ears to hear and when the servant spoke to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, wash and be clean? Then
26 he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, ACCORDING TO THE SAYING OF THE MAN OF GOD: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

Naaman received results when he did as God said. Notice also the change in his attitude and disposition. "And he returned unto the man of God, and said, Behold now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant."

As we have seen the results in both Peter and Naaman's lives by trusting God instead of their own feelings or thoughts, I think that we too can learn from their experiences. We can say with Isaiah, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee because he trusteth in Thee. Trust ye in the Lord forever; for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength."
Isa. 26 :3-4

(Reprint 1981)

THE UNKNOWN GOD

Walter Anderson

"Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you." Acts 17:22-23

The fact that God was unknown was voiced by the philosophers of Greece. This occasion occurred while Paul had been invited by them to appear at "Areopagus." They were tolerant and wished to hear his "new doctrine." Athens was the center of all philosophical intelligence and debate. So great was the power of these mental giants, that all the western civilization have followed their precepts and assumptions. Their teachings have influenced the Christian religion over the ages.

Can man by his own reasonings and cogitations ever know or find the Eternal God of heaven and earth? Never! Vain men would ever make their own god to be just another creature. Then he could be manipulated by aspiring minds and imaginations, to their own demands.

27

In man's reasonings, he exercises no faith whatever. How can God and His blessed Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, be rationalized? Impossible! Where would he start? Only God dwelleth in eternity. To find God, man would have to explore all eternity — "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy, I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." Isaiah 57:15.

Religious men and women today have been inspired by these same philosophers to rationalize their religious creeds. If nothing answers to their reasonings, it cannot be so. Whoever had a reason for God? How foolish and ridiculous! Is He the conception of His creatures? Never! It is only FAITH, and not reason, that knows God! Whenever we believe, we only agree with God and His Son, Christ Jesus. Through faith alone, we honor and glorify God as "...the First and the Last..." Isa. 44:6 "I Am the First, and I AM the Last; and beside Me there

is no God." Again, in Isaiah 43:11 "I, even I, am the Lord; and beside Me there is no Savior."

As the men of Athens showed their appalling ignorance so do these modern rationalists confess their empty and vain philosophy. They can only admit to "The Unknown God." Yes, He is still unknown to all mankind's reasonings, vain speculations, and surmisings.

How differently faith shows its superiority over all reason. It alone has the power and ability to know the invisible God! We cannot depend upon our senses to know God, either. How could creation be equal to its Creator? God is not some blind force, that reacts to the forces of nature.

It is the Apostle Paul who reveals wisdom as superior to all knowledge and understanding. "For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent . . . Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" I Con 1:19-21. How
28 completely this sums up all philosophy both ancient and modern. Now the effect of all this is shown in the next verse — "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." I Cor. 1:22.

It is the Wisdom of God versus the wisdom of this world. In man's wisdom, with all his logic, deductions, inductions, and precepts, there is no faith whatever. On the other hand, only faith can accept Christ as the wisdom and power of God.

It is now given forth from Eternity, that the Lord Jesus Christ as "THE WORD," (the "LOGOS") is the only cause and reason for all that is in creation, both visible and invisible. So only faith that is inspired by the Holy Ghost, receives the blessed Word, as the beginning and end of all things. Too many only accept Jesus in His manhood on earth. For our faith to be complete, we must accept and confess Jesus as the Word, who was in the beginning with His blessed Father God! "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were

made by Him: and without Him was not any thing made that was made." Jn. 1:1-3

Here is summed up for faith that which establishes all things to be made in the beginning by the Word. Has any reasoning ever arrived at this cause and effect of all things? Never! How could any creature ever go back to the beginning and start all things? Where would he build his foundation for his precepts and deductions?

So then, the Word must be Almighty, to bring all things into existence, and keep them in order and control by His absolute will: Jesus, as the Son of man, did not create the heavens and the earth. Nevertheless, as the Word, and as God, He created all things by the Word of His power.

This same eternal Word from the beginning is available now unto faith! Oh, what an everlasting blessing this is! As the eternal, invisible Creator took upon Himself the form of man. He became available unto faith as the "Bread of God." John 6:33: "For the Bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world." It is to be understood, that the virgin Mary never conceived the Word, or Logos, but only His human nature. How could a lowly person ever conceive the everlasting God as the Word? Impossible!

29

Only believing faith has the power to advance the believer far above and beyond himself. Only faith can unite with grace, to give us eternal life, which was in the beginning. Who can ever match this miracle and Wonder of wonders? In this Eternal Life, the saints are "in Christ." As Christ is the very Word Himself, our faith fully accepts Him, far above and beyond all creatures and creation.

It is the lovely Bride of the Son of God, who completely accepts all of Christ Jesus — all His incomparable excellency and majesty. Yes, heaven and earth and the beginning and end, are all now in the Christ life! It is only the Apostle Paul who identifies the saints in the beginning. "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began." Titus 1:2.

So, the power of faith bridges all of time and into the endless ages of eternity! What human mind could conceive this?

How utterly helpless we are, as human beings, to ever conceive eternal life! Could works or commandments ever bring this to pass? Only grace, from God and His Son, can give to the saints supreme Life, as a Gift. (Eph. 2:8.9). Do we cherish such a Gift as this, and come to the Assembly to offer up praises and thanksgiving to God? We should.

It is the Bride of Christ who gathers up in her faith all the fullness of Christ. In this manner, she assimilates all the precious ingredients of the life of her beloved Husband. To feed upon Christ in His glorious exaltation above all heavens and the earth, is to become just like Him! When we are fully occupied with our Beloved, there is the most profound miracle of transfiguration. We are changed now into His same image from glory to glory. This Beloved, is solely the work of faith through grace. It has no equal anywhere. Here are the works of wisdom that were ordained for our glory before the world began. Truly this is God's work in the Bride, for His Son! It bares all His unsurpassed workmanship created in Christ Jesus. This is all grace from beginning to the end. Its peerless perfection of love and beauty has no equal in all of the kingdom.

So great is the calling and election of the Bride of Christ, that it alone is called, "the great mystery." This calling is revealed in Paul's Gospel, but it has its origin before the world began. In this heavenly exaltation of grace, the Bride is Wisdom. She fulfils her personality and character as nobody else could. How rewarding is faith then, which worketh by grace. This transcends all other rewards of gold, silver, and precious stones.

As the Bride is wisdom, in her calling and election, before the world began, she has full understanding (Or, "epi-gnosis") of all the mysteries of Christ and of God. For her, Wisdom is the fulness of reason and judgment of all things. In this respect, she obtains by faith, the first cause of all existence made in the blessed Word of God.

To have arrived at the first cause, is to also have full confidence and assurance of understanding — "That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance and understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ. In Whom are hid

all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Col. 2:2-3

The Bride claims "all riches of the full assurance of understanding," of the eternal counsels of the Godhead. How could philosophy, built upon creature reason, ever arrive at such a grand and glorious insight as this? As philosophy is the love and pursuit of wisdom, has it attained to the "first cause"? Never! The first cause and reason is wholly found in the Word, and it is faith which holds it fast.

The capacity of any human being to think or reason, is very limited. These limits are very definitely revealed as a circle. What we perceive in a circle is a rim or perimeter. It has no beginning or end. Whenever we seek to reason out any subject matter to its end, we always arrive at an impasse. In other words, we have come to the very edge of the circle, and cannot think beyond this point. The reason for this is that the circle is also a zero, and zero is nothing. It is empty of all content and value.

Now then, has anyone ever had the capability to think into, or reason beyond nothing, which is zero? Let them prove it if they can. In nothing, there is no basis upon which we could build any truth whatever. So, the Almighty Creator has placed within every individual, a boundary which he cannot ever overpass. This in our minds, is a circle with nothing within its borders. So reason, from our human point of view, is finite; and its limits of knowing and understanding are defined. **31**

Over against this impassable barrier lies the power and ability of faith to enter within the circle. Faith never reasons out a matter in order to believe. It accepts the Word of God above and beyond all existence or substance, as absolute. In other words, faith counts with God, when there is no evidence! God always speaks out of nothing, as it were, where nothing else can exist. Only faith, which is of God, has the power and means to accept whatever God says. This area where faith exists and perceives, is within the circle. It remains that whenever we cannot think or reason, we come to a blank. This is the point of no return; but faith alone moves in at our impasse, and freely claims and holds to the Word as the beginning and end.

Reason is always of the mind, and only appeals to the intellect. Believing is never of the mind whatever, because the

mind always runs back and forth, seeking two sides. Faith is only known and exercised in the heart. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness..." Rom. 10:10.

Some have said, "If I could understand the Word, then I would believe it." This is a false assumption and cannot stand the test of faith. First of all, if it were possible to understand the Word by thinking, we would only try to reason it out and would put no trust in it whatsoever.

Contrary to all reasoning is faith. It holds God faithful and trustworthy in all that He says, without wavering. When we believe in our hearts, we also understand, and only then does the Holy Spirit give light to perceive. As we believe, we are trusting without wavering between two opinions. By fully accepting the Word, we place all our confidence and hope in Christ Jesus alone. He is the end and reason for all of our expectations. Instead of having our own opinions, we receive the Blessed Word as God, and rest upon its absolute and final Truth.

32 Some read the Scriptures as secular writings and exercise no faith in them. This cannot be so, because the Scriptures always remain far above all other writings. They are holy, and inspired by the Holy Spirit. Indeed, they are "God-breathed" with His inspiration! Therefore, only faith, which is gendered in the heart, can receive them. "For unto us was the Gospel preached, as well as unto them; but the Word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it." Heb. 4:2. Oh, the finality of the Word of God when the heart receives it! It stands fast and secure as the eternal foundation. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." II Tim. 3:16

Without any controversy, Wisdom stands forth above and beyond all philosophy and psychology. Her very origin and foundation is established before the world began. What other teaching can claim such a beginning and purpose? "When He prepared the heavens, I was there: when He set the compass upon the face of the depth." Prov. 8:27. Here the feminine personal

pronoun is used to express wisdom — "Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars." 9:1. She has become the very temple of God, for His indwelling and glory. She is the pillar upon which all knowledge and revelation rests. "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God." Rev. 3:12. In Rev. 21:11, as she is "prepared as a Bride adorned for her husband," her magnificence is declared. "Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal."

It is no wonder then, that the present city of Jerusalem in heaven, is identified in one woman, Sarah — "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." Gal. 4: 6. Here, Sarah, as Grace, fully represents the heavenly Jerusalem. Far below this heavenly station of excellency, there is another woman who represents the earthly city of Jerusalem "which now is." She is not royal whatever, but is only a mere slave woman. "For this Agar (Hagar) is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and answers to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children."

Can we judge the difference between these two women, and the two cities they represent, and the two covenants they reveal? We can only hold to one city and reject the other as our true mother. If Sarah as grace, which is from above, is our only mother, we will act in faith as Sarah did toward Abraham. "Nevertheless what saith the Scriptures? Cast out the bond woman and her son: for the son of the bond woman shall not be heir with the son of the free woman." Gal. 4:30.

Without any hesitation, Grace is God's authority in the house of Abraham. She only can reign over all, as Abraham finally agreed with his wife, Sarah. Likewise, Faith (and not reason) agreed with Grace, to cast out the law.

In all of these differences, the virgin Bride of Christ, declares her mother and city above all! "My dove, My undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother. She is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her, yea, the queens and concubines, and they praised her." Song of Solomon 6:9.

Oh, the superiority of heaven over the earth! The superiority

of Grace and Faith over all the dead works of the commandments!
The superiority of the city of God which is above, over the present
city of Jerusalem under its old, worn out covenant. When did our
Lord Jesus ever make this promise to Jerusalem which is on
earth, as He did to the Philadelphia Assembly — "I will write
upon you the Name of the City of my God, which cometh down
out of heaven from My God."? Rev. 3:12.

(Reprint 1984)

AT THE SEPULCHRE

Edwin Markham

I was a Roman soldier in my prime;
Now age is on me and the yoke of time.
I saw your Risen Christ; for I am he
Who reached the hyssop to Him on the tree;
And I am one of two who watched beside
The sepulchre of Him crucified.
All the last night I watched with sleepless eyes;
Great stars arose and crept across the skies.

34

The world was all too still for mortal rest,
For pitiless thoughts were busy in my breast.
The night was long, so long, it seemed at last
I had grown old and a long life had passed.
Far off the hills of Moab, touched with light,
Were swimming in the hollow of the night.
I saw Jerusalem all wrapped in cloud,
Stretched like a dead thing folded in a shroud.

Once in the pauses of our whispered talk
I heard something on the garden walk.
Perhaps it was a crisp leaf lightly stirred —
Perhaps the dream-note of a waking bird.
Then suddenly an angel burning white
Came down with earthquake in the breaking light,
And rolled the great stone from the sepulchre,
Mixing the morning with a scent of myrrh.
And lo, the **dead** had risen with the day:
The Man of Mystery had gone His way!

Years have I wondered, carrying my shame;
Now let the Tooth of Time eat out my name.
For we who all the Wonder **might have told,**
Kept silence, for our mouths were **stopped with gold.**



Our Corn Crib

"Buy The Truth, and Sell It Not"

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“...THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS AS EAGLES....”

Isaiah 40:31