

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole counsel of GOD

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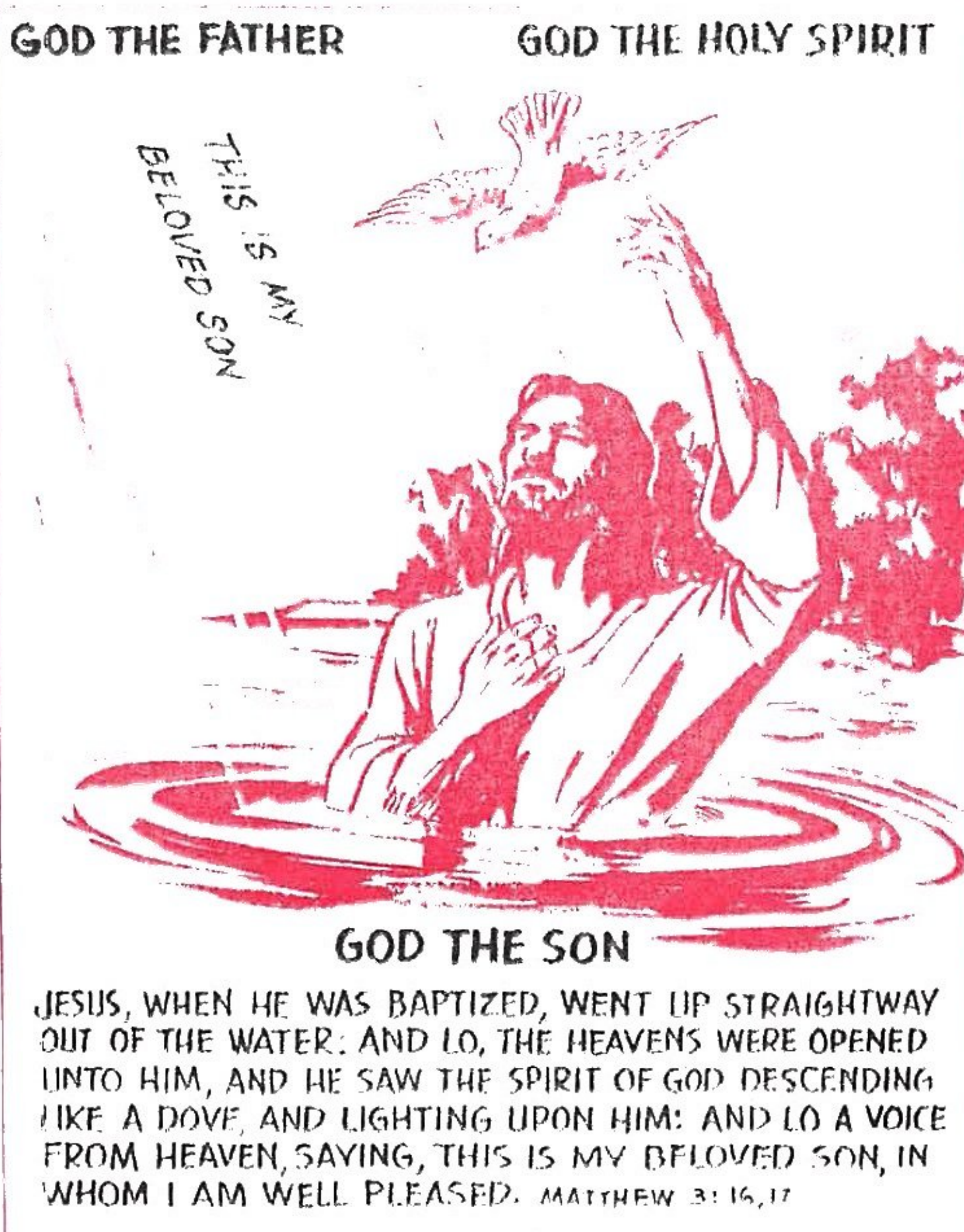


Blessed be the
God and Father
of our Lord
Jesus Christ,
which according
to his abundant
mercy hath
begotten us
again unto a
lively hope by
the resurrection
of Jesus Christ
from the dead.
2.9.3 I PETER 1:3.

Table Of Contents

Article	Author	Page
Definite Sign Posts of the End.....	Gene Hawkins.....	3
Bridal Preparation.....	William Felicy.....	11
Jesus Walks On Water.....	Dr. Vicky Moots.....	20
Press Toward The Mark.....	Ray Quintana.....	23
A Falling Away First.....	C.E. Foster.....	29

MANIFESTATION OF THE TRINITY



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GRACE & GLORY is published for the purpose of proclaiming God's Holy Word. We believe that the Scriptures are inspired of God and were given to His holy apostles and prophets by the Holy Spirit. (II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21)

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“For of this sort are they...Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.” II Tim. 3:6-8

Jannes and Jambres are not mentioned elsewhere in scripture by name, but the incident to which Paul refers is recorded just prior to Israel’s departure from Egypt in the days of Moses. God had instructed Aaron to “...cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.” Ex. 7:9-13 The aforementioned Jannes and Jambres are undoubtedly the sorcerers of whom Paul speaks, declaring that they “...withstood Moses...” and resisted “...the truth....” They are further accused of having “...corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.” These comments are only a small portion of the characteristics Paul employs to describe the “...perilous times...” which now prevail in these “....last days...” II Tim. 3:1 The apostle’s argument in these verses is that which might well be called, “The Jannes and Jambres syndrome,” is alive and well at this present hour, just prior to the day in which God will once again “deliver His people from Egypt,” or the world.

These two did succeed in doing what God had accomplished by changing their rods into serpents, but God immediately proved His Superiority, for “...Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.” Ex. 7:11 Whether they wanted to admit it or not, the evidence was clear that God was Greater. That fact, however, did not stop them in their quest to send the clear message to God that “We

can do anything YOU can do,” thus denying His Sovereignty. This narrative continues as God directed Aaron to “...stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt,... that they may become blood;...” That phenomenon came to pass immediately but the resulting misery was compounded as “...the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments:...” Ex 7:19-22 God also brought frogs upon the land of Egypt, “And the magicians did so with their enchantments...” Ex 8:7 That pattern soon ended, for God would no longer allow those same magicians to imitate Him in bringing forth lice and all the remaining judgments upon the land. There are multiple examples of men today following the pattern set by Jannes and Jambres. Moses is a direct representative of God and His Word, yet these ungodly men openly withstood him, thereby demonstrating that their rebellion was directly against God. Likewise, today, there are those whose hearts and minds are also absolutely set directly against God’s Word. Paul declares that their minds are “...corrupt...” (entirely spoiled, depraved) “...reprobate...” (unapproved, rejected, worthless) in regard to

4 “...the faith...” set forth in the Scriptures.

It has been emphasized for some time that “global warming” or “man-made Climate Change due to the use of fossil fuels” has become the very mantra of the current American Administration. Not only so, but one disaster after another has been attributed to “climate change” despite the fact that God’s Word has specifically prophesied ALL the adverse events which currently plague humanity. The major problem with man’s “doctrine of climate change” is that it blatantly denies the truth that **ONLY** God can control the temperature of this world. Men’s efforts to proclaim otherwise have only brought more hardship upon the world just as the magicians brought further misery upon Egypt, with “...their enchantments.” America’s doctrine in regard to “Global Warming” has also produced severe complications for the entire world. Fuel prices have skyrocketed due the gross restriction of using fossil fuels. That has in turn increased the cost of goods world-wide due to the requirements of transportation. The efforts of these current “magicians” to take God’s place have in no wise eased the burdens of men, nor have they succeeded in

“cooling off” the world.

The **scriptural fact** is that the day is coming when the proponents of **the lie** that men can control the world’s temperature will be forced to admit that **ONLY** God is responsible in bringing forth the heat of which they speak. “And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.” Rev. 16:9 This will not happen until the inhabitants of this earth are well into the 7 year tribulation, and it is quite clear that all their efforts to “lower the earth’s temperature” failed miserably. Note also that, like unto the days of Pharaoh, these who have so adamantly resisted the truth will be forced to acknowledge God’s Sovereignty, for they “...blasphemed the name of God, **which hath power** over these plagues:...” These, like Pharaoh of old, still “...repented not to give him glory.”

Ours is also a day when men deny the very truth that God is the Only Sovereign in creation. Men have now decided that they have the ability to change their own gender. Scripture is extremely emphatic and clear, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; **male and female** created he them.” Gen. 1:27 Ungodly men flatly deny the truth of this statement. They, like the magicians who turned their rods into serpents at will, thus announce to God, “We will show you that we can change our own sex in order to correct the mistake that YOU made.” Such rebellious attitudes and actions only create havoc and especially harm innocent children who are forced to take “puberty blockers” and are often convinced to undergo man’s creative surgery, which will alter their lives forever.

Another example of withstanding or denying God and resisting His truth is when men insist that there is absolutely nothing wrong with couples living together outside the confines of marriage. Some declare that “circumstance” justifies it. Paul, the modern day Moses, declared, “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” Heb 13:4 His message is clear. The bed is **defiled** by that which is committed outside the confines of marriage. The Chief Apostle to the Church also commanded, “Flee fornication.

(idolatry, harlotry, unlawful lust) Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against **his own body.**" I Cor. 6:18 Thus, fornication is a "self inflicted wound," and Paul further asserts, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" I Cor. 6:19 Many would defiantly reply today, "No! For it is my body and I will do with it as I please."

Jesus also denounced fornication. He made absolutely no attempt to deny the accusation against the woman "...taken in adultery, in the very act." Joh. 8:4 He did not need evidence to convict her, for He knew her already just as He did when He spoke to the woman at the well, declaring "... thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband:..." Joh. 4:18 He did indeed refuse to consent to the Pharisees' demand that she should be stoned, declaring unto the woman "...neither do I condemn thee..." However, He immediately added "...go and sin no more..." Jo. 8:11 In other words "**Woman stop it!**"

6

The lesbian, gay, homosexual, and bisexual community also stands in strong opposition to the very emphatic truth of God's Word. Moses denounced this ungodly way of life, declaring "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;..." Lev. 20:13 Paul likewise asserted, "...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, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet." Rom. 1:26-27 Sadly ours is a day when men not only excuse such behavior but promote it as "a right," completely denying the unequivocal truth of God's Word, after the same pattern of Jannes and Jambres. Moreover, many politicians in these end times do everything in their power to curry the favor of these groups in an effort to hold on to their political power.

Finally, it is absolutely imperative that men do not resist the Truth of God's Word in regard to God's Chosen People,

Israel, who have been thrust center stage on the world's current platform. The nations, as well as individuals, must make their decisions regarding this People, whom God has chosen as "...the apple of his eye." Deut. 32:10 Not only so, but Jesus will judge ALL nations based on their treatment of Israel. "And before him (Jesus) shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:... And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25:32 & 40

World-wide attention was drawn to Israel when Hamas directly assaulted her, committing unprovoked and ungodly atrocities against innocent women and children. It has been extremely grievous to hear and see demonstrations supposedly in support of Palestinians BUT aimed directly against Israel, often blaming them for the horrendous acts of Hamas. Some American politicians have also spoken against Israel, some calling for replacing God's chosen leader, Netanyahu. Others demand that this same anointed leader declare an immediate and unilateral 7
cease fire from Israel, thus allowing Hamas to continue their ungodly tactics at will. It is gratifying to know that thus far, Israel remains undeterred in pursuing their goal of destroying Hamas.

Most nations do affirm that Iran is the chief sponsor of terrorism around the world and that this ungodly nation uses many of these terrorist groups as their "proxies" to carry out much disarray and disturbance in the Middle East. However, Iran has most recently entered the fray herself, launching, by some reports, over 300 missiles into Israel directly from sites in Iran. Some national powers, including the U.S., have again urged P.M. Netanyahu to use restraint and refrain from any kind of reprisal. Several news agencies have reported his response to such demands with headlines such as the following. **"Benjamin Netanyahu says Israel will make its own decision on Iran attack response."**

There was one report that Israel would not engage in any retaliation until after Passover. However, at this writing, Iran and perhaps the entire world, were caught by surprise when Israel launched rockets into Iran. That target according to "Yahoo

News” was “Isfahan — a city some 340 km. south of Tehran that hosts key military sites, including a major airbase and nuclear facilities.” Iran insists that there was no missile and no damage incurred, but most people would rather believe Israel, and it is quite likely that Iran’s nuclear endeavors have most assuredly been hindered.

It has been thought for some time that Iran might well be the rogue nation which will trigger the nuclear war prophesied in Revelation 8 after Jesus opens the seventh seal of judgment. “And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.” Rev. 8:8-9 The extent of destruction portrayed here is that produced by some nuclear holocaust. The above scripture describes “...a great mountain...” or kingdom “...cast into the sea...” that is, a sea of nations. This scenario declares that some nation will not hesitate to set off a nuclear blast even though they too would be “...burning with fire...” and therefore victimized by it.

Such a scene is the product of pure blind hatred such as that demonstrated by Iran, who will willingly sacrifice their own citizens in an effort to destroy Israel. The aforementioned rockets launched into Israel were intercepted and destroyed, not only by Israel’s Iron Dome, and David’s sling defense systems, but also by other nations such as France, The U.K. Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and the U.S. Iran’s response was a **threat of punishment** to any and all of those nations who would dare interfere with her, thus indicating that she has absolutely no regard nor concern for any other interests except her own. It must also be understood that, once again, such resistance is directly against God. It is truly remarkable that the **elimination** of those deadly missiles launched into Israel, was deemed to be about 99%. Israel remained basically unharmed, and determined that only one casualty was sustained: a child, injured by falling shrapnel. This minimal loss is greatly reminiscent of Israel’s victory over the Midianites, just prior to Moses’ death in the wilderness. “And the officers

which were over thousands of the host, the captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds, came near unto Moses: And they said unto Moses, Thy servants have taken the sum of the men of war which are under our charge, and **there lacketh not one man of us.** We have therefore brought an oblation for the LORD, ...to make an atonement for our souls before the LORD.” Num. 31:48-50 Such a low loss of casualties is unheard of in the midst of such wars and these captains wanted to honor God for such a miracle. There has been no report of anyone acknowledging God’s intervention in the current matter with Iran, let alone any offerings brought “...to make an atonement for our souls....”

It must be clearly understood that the prophecy of Rev. 8 **will not come to pass** until well into the tribulation. However, Iran’s **current exploits** surely indicate that she has all the credentials in identifying her as the rogue nation which will plunge the entire world into nuclear chaos. There has been much speculation as to how close Iran is to obtaining a nuclear warhead. Some seem to think that she may already have it, but simply does not know how to attach it to a ballistic missile. Others are sure that she may be extremely close to developing the weapon itself, but has not actually arrived. If Israel is correct in their assessment of the damage inflicted on Iran by this latest attack, then Iran’s nuclear efforts have most assuredly been hampered. Let the whole world understand. If the nation described in the above text from Rev. 8 is indeed Iran, they will most assuredly develop this devastating nuclear weapon along with the ability to deliver it, and none will stop it.

Regardless of the timeline, God’s Word will be fulfilled and nations such as Iran and others mentioned above are still following the path set by Jannes and Jambres, choosing, in essence, to withstand God and totally resist the Truth He proclaims. The fact that God is for Israel has absolutely no impact on their intentions and actions.

All these signs, however, loudly bespeak the fact that Jesus is even at the door. Paul plainly declares that they of the Jannes and Jambres ilk, “...shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.” II Tim. 3:9

Jesus is coming in judgment, but that is not where the eyes of God's people should be focused. Scripture is very clear that He will keep His promise to the Church at Philadelphia and keep them, "...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 That "...hour..." is a reference to the 7 years of tribulation which will only begin **AFTER** Jesus takes His throne in heaven as King of kings and Lord of lords. The Philadelphia company, also called the "Bride of Christ," must be in heaven when He is crowned. Therefore, it is high time for God's people to look earnestly into the heavens, because the signs regarding Iran, and all the other aspects of the "Jannes and Jambres Syndrome" which point to His soon coming, are unfolding right before our eyes. The saints of God must not be distracted by all these happenings, nor can they try and figure out ways to delay, stop, or correct them. Rather, We must loudly say with John, "...Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Rev. 22:20 That simply means, "Lord, whatever it takes to bring forth your soon coming, then bring it to pass," for "...These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the **things which must shortly be done.**" Rev. 22:6

Abraham's City

Abraham looked, for that city so grand
Way up above, in that heavenly land.
Jesus Himself, the Lamb is the Light

In that bright city
Where there is no night.

I, too, am longing
For that city so fair--
When He shall appear
And we'll meet in the air

With the sound of a trumpet
And with a great shout
As quickly as lightning
We'll be lifted out.

Beula Clark

Bridal Preparation

William Felicy

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.” Rev. 19:7

During this convention it seems that the Holy Spirit has been leading us very preciously along the line of the preparation of the bride for the marriage supper as set forth in Rev. 19. The scene in this chapter is the banquet hall of glory. All the servants, guests, and the bride are present, and then the great proclamation goes forth, "let us be glad and rejoice, for the marriage of the Lamb is come."

There are some who believe the entire Church is the bride of Jesus Christ. There are not many who believe the bride is an outcalled rank of people from the church. But the proof of this fact is found in these few words here. "The bride hath made herself ready." That alone would say that she is an outcalled number because the entire church are not making themselves ready to be in the bride. If we were to look upon the entire church as the bride we would have to say that Christ is going to have a bride that has not made herself ready. Though I cannot go into that subject in detail here, there are many types and shadows in the Word that prove the entire church is not the bride.

11

The Bible opens with a marriage and closes with a marriage. The first man Adam, the man of the earth, had a wife. Jesus, the heavenly man will also have a wife. Away back in the beginning God said in Gen. 2 that it was not good for man to be alone. So God introduced marriage, and He builded a wife for Adam; likewise, He is building a wife for the second Adam. Thank God, He will have a woman to live with Him throughout the countless ages of eternity.

In Gen. 2:21,22 we see how God created Eve from a bone which He took from the body of Adam. This is typical of the bride of Christ. We know the whole church came out of the death and resurrection of Jesus, for He said, "Upon this rock (Himself) I will build my church," and from the strong bony part of the

church He gets His Bride. We see from the epistles of Paul that the bride is separate from the church, for he said in Phil. 3:8 "that he counted all things loss that he might win Christ." Christ does not have to be won as a Savior, but is the gift of God. He was given to lost humanity, who were all dead in trespasses and sins. A dead man cannot win anything. Paul is speaking of something else. The winning he was speaking of was to win Christ as his coming bridegroom. "Not as though I had already attained,...but I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"—Phil. 3: 12-14. As far as salvation was concerned, Paul had already been saved and filled with the Spirit, but he was running for a great prize, Christ. To be in that glorious company of the bride of Christ was the goal toward which he hastened.

Before a bride gets married, her garments have to be made. And there must be a pattern before one can make these necessary things. The only place I know of where there is a pattern is in the Pauline epistles. There we have the wonderful truth of the outcalling of the bride and the pattern of the glorious garments
12 which she shall wear.

I have heard saints discount the letters of Paul, not placing them on a par with the words of Jesus, but the Scriptures are all inspired by the Holy Spirit, and to Paul was intrusted the message of grace and the truth of the bride for the church age. "Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ"—2 Thes. 2:4. Now someone may say what has that to do with the bride? It has much to do with it because in the Pauline letters we learn the rules of running as well as see the pattern racer, Paul himself, stepping on the gas.

I believe that the beginning of qualifications to be in this class starts in our own individual bodies. "I beseech you therefore, brethren,...that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Rom. 12:1. Why is Paul here beseeching the Romans to present their bodies as a living sacrifice? It is simple. Because the physical body is the greatest hindrance to running in the race. Jesus said, "...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Matt. 16:24 Paul warns us to put

off the old man and put on the new. God desires us to present our bodies a living sacrifice that He may dwell in us and use us in service. If we put ourselves by faith before God as His property the new creation, He will work in us and fit us for the bride, even as He fitted Paul and other likeminded ones.

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain." I Cor. 9:24 It is an important thing to every believer to see this truth so that they will make preparation for the place of honor in the glory. This race course is not covered with roses. People are not spreading their cloaks in the way ahead of those who are running. It is rather a pathway of briars and thorns, but "he that is in us is greater than he that is in the world." We can triumph through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Some claim to be running for the Prize, but they do not act like it. Others are sure that they are in the bride class, but Paul did not know till he came to the end of the race that he had won, for he said, "Not as though I had already attained, but I follow after that I may apprehend." If Paul did not know he was in the bridal company, how can we until we are at the end of our life-day?

13

"Forgetting those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:13,14 If we are going to be in that number, we will have to do some pressing through by the power of the Holy Spirit working in us and enabling us. Let us see in I Cor. 9:25-27 the price of the running. An athlete in the natural brings his body under submission. That is he refrains from certain things and certain foods, runs to exercise his limbs, punches a bag, and takes various exercises. Paul compared this natural exercise to the spiritual denials and exercises of the runners in the race to win Christ as Bridegroom.

"Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before Us." Heb. 12:1 It takes patience to run this race. If we have no patience, we can pray for tribulation and thus we will get the patience which we need. "Every man that is striving for the mastery is temperate in all things." The one who fights as one

who beats the air is usually the one that goes down in defeat. The one that lands solid blows on his flesh is the one who finally gains the victory over Satan. Why did Paul keep his body under? He knew that "in his flesh dwelled no good thing." He knew the power and deceitfulness of the old creation to defeat him. He also knew the power of the new man. That is why we say as Paul, that the full overcomer will be one in that incomparable company, the bride of Jesus Christ. It means something when a man can truthfully say, "none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself." Sometimes we are just like Jacob before he viewed Joseph whom he had not seen for years, when he said, "these things are against me." Well, when all things are against you, hold up in faith; for you are likely to see your Joseph pretty quickly. Yes, I know that the greatest warfare the devil is putting up today is in the body of the believer. That is why I say that the preparation for being in the bridal rank begins in the heart of the believer when he purposes to be in the race. He strips himself of everything that hinders and runs to obtain.

14 **"The Lamb's wife hath made herself ready."** Just how confident are we that we are going to be in the bride? In Eph. 4 we read that Paul says to put off the old man that is corrupt, and put on the new man who after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. That is one of the preparations, which is an inward preparation. I have learned since I came into the knowledge of the two natures that I cannot trust myself, that is, my flesh, nor the flesh of anybody else. Therefore, I see all believers in the new creation, and I seek to see them running for the prize in the new creation.

"Lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." I Cor. 9:27 If we are running to be in the bridal class we should beware even as Paul was, "...lest I myself should be a castaway." That means a great deal to us preachers. I believe there are going to be a great many preachers in glory whose works will be burned as "hay, wood, and stubble." By the grace of God, I want to be up there with Paul marching into that banquet hall, among that great company.

This grace message is a wonderful, glorious message. It

is provisional and practical, too. The provisional side is what God has done for us ; the practical is what we are doing by yielding to the Holy Spirit. "Whose adorning let it not be the outward adorning,... but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible,... a meek and quiet spirit, "...for after this manner in the old time, the holy women adorned themselves being in subjection to their own husbands." I Pet. 3:3-5 Here is an illustration that goes beyond the natural husband and wife relationship. Every believer is seeking to win a husband, and that husband is the Lord, Jesus Christ to whom we will be married in the banquet hall of heaven. God is not satisfied with the outward or natural preparations. It has to be supernatural, spiritual. Peter says, "let it not be that outward adorning." The thing that will win your husband in glory is the beauty of the inward man, the Christ that lives, that man that lives in us. It is the new man that is meek and lowly in heart which wins for us our husband.

Are you running for the prize? Are you willing to pay the price to be in the bridal rank? Some preach this like preaching a romantic love story, but there is a price for every believer to pay **15** to present his body a living sacrifice. God has been putting us through some tests. We have learned that there is only one way that we can overcome these days and that is "look up." This is an individual matter. God is dealing with the individual in these last days, seeking to take out from the church a company of believers, who will let Him have His way with them. Those who are saying, "Whatever the price, we want to be in the bride company who will hear the first trumpet blast. If it crucifies the flesh, and makes a doormat of us, what do we care if this prepares us to be the bride." David said, I had rather be a doormat in the house of God than to lose the race. I had rather live on pancakes, or even go without anything to eat as long as the Lord allowed, than fail to win. If I have to wear patches on my pants — whatever the cost — I want to be in the bride. Do you feel like that? Are you willing to let God sink the needle into your flesh ? Are you willing to let Him to take the surgeon's knife, or a razor and go over your body, and cut off the rough bumps? We sometimes sing a song, "I'll go to the battle like a warrior of steel," but sometimes we get rather

blunt when the trials come our way. We sing, "I'll go where you want me to go," but when the Lord starts to bring down the body, and everything goes wrong can we still say, "I'll go where you want me to go, I'll be what you want me to be?" The faith way is a glorious thing, if we do not faint and give up the race.

I was just thinking today of a man who started on this way with me, he has had our literature, and knows the truth of this way, yet today he is not with us. He is driving a big car, living in a mansion, and not willing to pay the price. I had rather drive my old 34 Chevy with missing spark plugs and ten cents in my pocket than to drive the finest Chrysler and miss out in that glorious company that is going to shout Hallelujah, up there in that glorious hall in the heavenlies. I have often said if I cannot be in the bride I would like to be a guest, or even a servant, but I am running for the best. I warn you when you start out it will not be a bed of roses, and it may be a bed of thorns, but let us look on to the goal, where the glorious Prize is waiting.

(Reprint 1940)

16

My Presence

Our hearts would ask a program,
An outline, sent from heaven,
But no such chart is granted,
A life-map is not given;
Instead, there comes a promise,
A promise for each day.

“My Presence shall go with thee, My Presence ---all the way.”

Provision and protection We rightly seem to crave;
Were we or these quite certain,
We think we could be brave:
But --- greater than these portions
Can this Word come to be:

“My Presence shall go with thee,
My Presence! Mine! With Thee!”

Anon

The Preeminent Man

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, **the man** Christ Jesus;” I Tim. 2:5

Jesus came from the bosom of the Father to the bosom of a woman. He put on Humanity that we may put on Divinity. He became Son of Man that we might become sons of God. He came from heaven where the rivers never freeze, the winds never blow, frosts never chill, the flowers never fade, and no one is ever sick. No undertakers and no graveyards; for as no one ever dies, no one is ever buried there!

He was born contrary to the laws of nature, lived in poverty, was reared in obscurity. Only once did He cross the boundary of the land. In childhood He had no wealth, no influence, had neither training nor education. His relatives were inconspicuous and un-influential. In infancy He startled a king. In boyhood He puzzled the doctors. In manhood He ruled the course of nature. He walked upon the billows and hushed the sea to sleep. He healed the multitudes without medicine, and made no charge for His services. He never wrote a book, yet all the libraries of the world could not hold the books that have been written about Him. He never wrote a song, yet He has furnished the theme of more songs than all song-writers combined. He never founded a college, yet all the schools together cannot boast of so many students as He has. He never practiced medicine, yet He healed more broken-hearts than the doctors broken bodies. He never marshaled an army, drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun, yet no leader ever made more volunteers. He is the Star of Astronomy, the Rock of Geology, the Lion and Lamb of Zoology, the Harmonizer of all Discords, and the Healer of all Diseases. Great men have come and gone, yet He lives on. Herod could not kill him, the grave could not hold Him. He set aside His purple robe for a peasant's gown. He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor. How poor? Ask Mary; ask the Wise Men. He slept in another's manger. He cruised the lake in another man's boat. He rode another man's ass. He was buried in another man's tomb. All failed, but He never; the ever-perfect ONE, the chief among ten thousand. “... is altogether lovely.” S.O.S. 5:16

Author Unknown

(Reprint 1942)

REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

"...I will guide thee with mine eye." Psa. 32:8

This promise is God's response, following David's assertion that, "Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble;..." Ps 32:7 The question is "How does guide with His Eye?" The clearest answer would be that in order to claim God's glorious blessing of preservation, one must surely adjust his own life according to the way in which God looks upon a number of things. The beginning for such an one is the same for all men, wherein they must realize, "...when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you,..." Ex 12:13 No heart will be preserved without this particular "look."

18

Another pre-eminent example describes how The LORD looks upon a certain type of man. "For all those things hath mine hand made,... but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." Isa. 66:2 Thus, the one who truly wants this desired look of approval must indeed see to it that the true humility of a contrite heart prevails in his own life.

Another extremely pertinent target for God's piercing eyes, of which all must be aware, is God's instruction to Samuel after He had told the prophet to anoint a new king in Saul's stead. "And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him. But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart." I Sam. 16:6-7 Thus, are men guided to the fact that God is far more interested in the desires of men's hearts than He is of their outward works. Not only so, but men must also understand that ONLY God can view the desires and inclinations of the heart before they are outwardly manifest to mere men.

Job also learned the following secret, declaring that, "... his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings." Job 34:21 This is especially intriguing in view of the fact that Job also said, "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he

hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10 Of course, God knew the way that Job took, for He Who "...seeth all his goings...." chose the path for him.

Jesus also rejoiced for that which was good in God's sight. "In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight." Lu 10:21 Jesus' adulation comes forth after the disciples had returned from their "missionary journey" exulting in the fact that, "...even the devils are subject unto us through thy name." Lk. 10:17 The Master then "...said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions,...Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." Lk. 10:18-20 Hearts are thus guided to the fact that it is not the "...wise and prudent..." who are privileged to understand the choicest of God's mysteries, but rather who have taken the place of dependent "...babes..." Paul likewise concurred that "...the princes of this world...did not know these glorious mysteries "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit:..." I Cor. 2:8-10

19

Note another great advantage to one who knows where the Lord is looking. "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him..." II Chron. 16:9 The path to obtain such strength, is that which all who are "...perfect..." or would be full overcomers, absolutely must find in their own lives.

Finally, especially in these end times, it is imperative that those who are indeed born from above and are of this heavenly character know that God's Eye is upon His Chosen People, Israel. "He found him in a desert land,... he led him about,...he kept him as the apple of his eye." Deut. 32:10 If God sees Israel as "...the apple of his eye," the path of every believer must also be guided to that same assessment in his own life. Note further the consequence when one does NOT choose that same path. "For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: (Israel) for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye." Zech. 2:8 The prophet then concludes that anyone who would dare touch this very select people would themselves "...be a spoil to their servants: and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me." Zech. 2:9

Jesus Walks on the Water

Dr. Vicky Moots

“And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.” Matt. 14:22-24

Matthew records the story of Jesus walking on the water in the midst of a storm. Not only does Jesus walk on the water, but this narrative asserts that Peter does also. This is miraculous indeed in the physical, but it also has a spiritual meaning for us. Verses 22-23 declare that after the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus commands His disciples to get into a ship and to go before Him to the other side while He sends the multitudes away. In the evening Jesus then goes up into a mountain to pray.

20

Verse 24 states, “But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.” Did Jesus not know that there was going to be a windstorm during the night that would put his disciples in danger? Yes, He did, but He had a purpose in allowing them to go through the storm. He did not intend for them to go through that storm without His help, but He wanted them to learn that He was in control, even when they could not see Him.

Likewise, we also need to learn to trust God even when the waves are high, our ship is tossed to and fro, and He is nowhere in sight. We are on our journey to the other side, just as the disciples were, and the Lord has promised to meet us there. He did not promise that we would not have any storms along the way. We cannot see Him now with our eyes, but by faith we can know that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

“And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.” Matthew 14:25

The fourth watch started at 3:00 a.m., the darkest part of the night. They did not recognize Him at first, as noted in V. 26. “And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were

troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.”

We, too, may become fearful in the midst of our trial because we do not recognize the Lord's Presence. But He is faithful to reveal Himself to us in our time of darkness and to calm our fears, as He did for the disciples. “But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; It is I; be not afraid.” Matt. 14:27 In our times of trial, Jesus' Word can calm our fears if we take the time to listen.

Then, Peter asked Jesus to bid him to come to Him, and the Lord said, “Come.” Peter stepped out of the boat and was able to walk on the water until he took his eyes off of Jesus. When he looked at the waves, he began to sink and cried out, “Lord, save me.” Jesus quickly reached out His hand and caught him and lifted him up, and they both walked to the ship. Matt. 14:28-32

Jesus told Peter that he had little faith and asked him why he doubted. We likewise find ourselves doubting and drowning in our troubles if we begin to look at our circumstances instead of Jesus. But when we come to the end of our strength and call upon the Lord, He will lift us up and enable us to rise above our troubles. **21**

This story has a deeper spiritual meaning for us if we take a look at it more closely. The troubled sea was not a problem for Jesus because He was able to walk above it. Paul prayed for us in Eph. 1:19-22 that we would know “...what is the exceeding greatness of his [God's] 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, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named...And hath put all things under his feet...”

Paul declares in these scriptures that God raised Jesus up from the troubled waters of death and gave Him power over everything. There is nothing that is not now under His feet. When Jesus walked on the water, it represented Him having power over all things. They were all under His feet.

But what about us? Can we rise above our trials and walk on troubled waters even as Peter did by faith? Yes, we can. Peter

had only a little faith, yet it was enough to enable him to walk on water. When Jesus raised Peter up out of the water, it represented the victory that we, too, can have in Christ when we call upon His name.

Paul declares in Eph. 2:5-6 that “Even when we were dead in sins, [God] hath quickened us [made us alive] together with Christ...And hath raised us up together, in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” If we are now seated spiritually in heavenly places with Christ, and all things are under His feet, then all things are also under our feet, and we have nothing to fear. So, let us keep our eyes on Jesus and walk on water with Him.

Heavenly Anticipation

If roses should bloom by the side of the road
Before my estate over there,
If beautiful songbirds should sing serenade
Into the sweet, heavenly air;

22

If angels should hover with silken like wings
Just over my doorway with song,
’Twould all be forgotten for rapture and joy,
When Jesus should happen along.

While strolling about in my garden up there
And picking celestial bouquets,
While breathing the incense of heavenly air,
And singing for gladness whole days.

While filling my soul to the brim with delights
Which only the holy betide,
I’m sure that my spirit shall tremble and sigh
When He shall appear at my side.

—R. E. Carnal.

Press Toward the Mark!

Ray Quintana

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”
Php. 3:13-14

Christian, we are accepted with God in Christ as soon as we believe. To this salvation the Apostle Paul had attained. But while the work of Christ for us is perfect, and we cannot add to it, the work of the Holy Spirit in us is not perfect, or complete, even at this hour. It is continually carried on from day to day and will be continued throughout our entire lives. We are being “conformed to the image of Christ,” and that process is ongoing, as we advance towards glory. The condition in which a believer should always be found is that of progress. Nearly every figure by which Christians are described in the Bible implies this. We are planted in the Lord’s field, but we are sown that we may grow. “First the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear.” We are first born into the family of God as we believe. But there are degrees of growth as is evident by the terms “...babes...little children...young men...and fathers in Christ Jesus.”

23

The Christian is described as a pilgrim in scripture. He is no pilgrim who sits down rooted in one place. “They go from strength to strength.” The Christian is also compared to a warrior, a wrestler, a competitor in the games. This comparison is opposite of a condition in which nothing more is to be done. These efforts imply energy, the gathering of strength, and the concentration of forces in order to overthrow the adversaries. The Christian is likened to a runner in a race, figured in the text. A man cannot be a runner who merely holds his ground, being content with his position. He can only run correctly when nearing the mark.

Progress is the healthy condition of every Christian. We do that by growing in grace, “adding to faith virtue,” “following on to know the Lord,” and daily receiving grace for grace out of the fullness, which is treasured up in Christ Jesus. It is only through the Word

of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, that perfection may be accomplished.

The Apostle Paul not only exhorts us, he appeals to us, standing among us, not to lecture us and be far above his disciples. He puts himself on our level. He says, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended." He does not give us the details of his own imperfections and deficiencies. But in one word he confesses them, and then declares and burns with eager desire for perfection. This was the one passion of his soul to press towards the great goal of his hopes, the prize of his high calling in Christ Jesus. What a wonderful instructor we have who sympathizes with us, teaching us to run. Paul himself runs; wishing to fire our holy ambition, he bears testimony to that same ambition within his own spirit. We must have this desire to press for progress in the divine life.

24 There are four things which Paul states of his OWN present condition. He says, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended;...." secondly, as placing his past in its proper position; "....forgetting the things which are behind;...." Thirdly, desiring eagerly to a more glorious future; "...reaching forth unto those things which are before;..." and fourth, as practically putting forth every effort to obtain what he desired; "....I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

He did not consider the state of the believer's heart to be a small matter. He says, "...I count,..." as if he had taken stock, made a careful estimate, and had come to a conclusion. He reminds us to keep our hearts with all diligence. This is a precept of inspiration, reminding us that a careless walk usually comes to a very sorrowful end. The apostle did take account; but when he had done so he was dissatisfied: "...I count not myself to have apprehended." Nor was that dissatisfaction to be regretted: it was a sign of true grace, a conclusion which is always arrived at when saints judge themselves rightly. This reminds me that; "He who thinks he has obtained everything, hath nothing." Had Paul been satisfied with his attainments, he would never have pursued more.

So, are we to do anything? Scripture says we are to know, reckon and yield. We still must run that we may obtain; we must press toward the mark. This is our choice! Paul honestly wrote, "I press

forward." He felt that he had not yet apprehended all that might be gained. Self-satisfaction rings the death-knell of progress. There must be a discontent with present attainments, or there will never be a striving after the things which are yet beyond.

Paul had not apprehended all yet. He was a man vastly superior to any of us. Among them who were born of women there has never lived a greater than the Apostle Paul; in sufferings for Christ a martyr of the first class; in ministry for Christ an apostle of foremost degree. Where is there such a man for revelations? He had been caught up into the third heaven, and heard words which it was not lawful for him to utter. Where can we find a match for his character? Here is a man with such godly character, yet he says I have not yet apprehended! Paul himself said, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect." Self-content is the way to stunt men and the surest method to keep them weak. The moment a man says, "I have it," he will no longer try to obtain it. What is it that will keep us on the right path? It will be the Word of God that is able to build us up. It is sufficient to grow us up.

25

These are the last days and we must not become complacent. Self-complacency is the mother of spiritual declension. We have many a minister of Christ, now with God, especially the Apostle Paul. He felt himself to be one of the most unworthy of all the servants of the Lord. He had sacrificed much, but we never hear him dwell on his sacrifices; he lived in constant fellowship with God, but we never hear him declare it, much less glory in it. Shallow streams brawl and babble, but deep waters flow on in silence. Paul laid all his crowns at the Savior's feet, not in word, but in spirit.

We must have the right attitude towards the things of God. We must continue to press on in the Word and in much prayer, for the days are filled with evil. We cannot in ourselves, in our own holiest moments, feel satisfied. Whenever we get near to God, and really enter into fellowship with Him, the sensations we feel are the very reverse of self-congratulation. Job, in this, was the type of every believing man. But when he saw God, he spoke up for his own innocence, and defended himself against the charges of his friends; but when the Lord revealed Himself to

him, he said, "Mine eye seeth thee, therefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes." Job 42:6 We never see the beauty of Christ without, at the same time, perceiving our own deformity. When we neglect prayer and self-examination, we grow as hollow fellows. But when we live near to God in private devotion and heart-searching, we put off all our ornaments. In the light of God's countenance, we perceive our many flaws and imperfections, and instead of saying, "I am clean," we cry out, "Woe is me, for I am a man of unclean lips." Isa. 6:5

The true Christian soldier must fight with self and sins every day. If he be a man of God, and God's Spirit is in him, he will find he needs all the strength that the Spirit gives to maintain his ground and make progress in the Divine Life. Some people avoid watchfulness, repentance, and holy care, by believing that the only sanctification they need is already theirs by imputation. They use the work that has already been completed by the Lord Jesus for them, as though it could thrust away the necessity of the Holy Spirit's work in them.

26 The fact is, brethren, the Lord calls us to a "high calling" of contending with sin within and without until we go home. We must fight if we would reign. Therefore, every day we are bound to be upon our watch-tower against sin around and within us. We must not quit short of the goal, if so we will stop short of the prize. The full soul loatheth the honeycomb; a man full of self cares for nothing more. Shake off these slothful bands, my brethren; quit you like men and be strong, Watch, therefore, and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. We must possess the Berean attitude, who "...received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Acts 17:11

My dear brethren, if you think you have reached a perfect height, I ask you to hear these words: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy mind, and with all thy strength, and thy neighbor as thyself." Can we say, in our heart, "I have fulfilled all that to the Nth degree"? If you can, I am stunned at you, and think you the victim of a strong delusion, which leads you to believe a lie. Today there is a failure to understand the highest standard of Christian living! If

we measure ourselves among ourselves, there are many believers who might be pretty well satisfied. When we think of the saints departed, and remember their patience in suffering, their diligence in labor, their self-denial, their humility, their tears, their prayers, their midnight cries, their intercession for the souls of others, their pouring out their hearts before God for the glory of Christ, we shrink into less than nothing. No word of boasting can be found on our tongue. If we survey the life of the only perfect One, our Dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the sight of His beauty covers everything. He is the lily, and we are the thorns. He is the Sun, and we are as the night. He is all Good, and we are all ill. In His presence we bow in the dust, we confess our sin, and count ourselves unworthy to unloose His shoe latches.

Paul says, "...Forgetting those things which are behind..." What does he mean? The apostle surely does not mean that he forgot the mercy of God which he had enjoyed, nor does he mean that he forgot the sins which he had committed; far from it. Though he is not bowed down with guilt due to such errors, he would always remember them to humble him. We must follow the figure which he is using. When a man ran in the Grecian games, if he only ran half way, and passed most runners, and then turned around to rejoice over the distance which he had covered, he would have lost the race. Suppose he had commenced singing his own praises. While praising himself he would lose the race. The only hope for the racer was to forget all that was behind, and occupy his entire thoughts with the piece of ground which lay in front. Never mind what you have run so far, you must not let anything keep you from the goal. Let the prize of Jesus Christ engross all your thoughts and command all your powers. The very easiest way to resurrect old corruptions is to erect a trophy over their graves.

Paul, having put the present and past into right perspective, goes on to the future. He says, "...reaching forth unto those things which are before..." Is this not the perfect picture of a runner? He reaches forth. The man, as he speeds, throws himself forward. His eye is toward the goal to finish his course. We Christians should always throw ourselves forward for more than what we

have reached. We cannot be satisfied, our soul always reaching forth unto those things which are before. Brethren, we ought to be reaching forward to be like Jesus. We cannot rest until we are like my Lord. The aim of the Christian is "unto a perfect man."

Then Paul says, "...this one thing I do,..." as if he had given up all else, and focused himself on one sole object. His aim was to be like Jesus Christ. There were many other things Paul might have attempted, but he says, "...this one thing I do..." Paul was busy with tent making, with preaching, visiting, and watching night and day. He had more than enough to do, but all these were a part of his pursuit of the one thing, for which he was laboring perfectly. It was to win Christ, and to render himself up as a whole burnt-offering unto God. We that are saved by the precious blood of Christ must gather up all our strength for this one thing, to cultivate a passion for grace, and an intense longing after holiness.

28 Why did Paul pursue holiness with such concentrated purpose? Because he felt God had called him to it. He aimed at the prize, Christ, and his high calling. Though Paul had not yet apprehended, yet he felt he must press forward till he had apprehended that to which God in Christ had called him.

Paul saw the crown of life that fadeth not away, hanging bright before his eyes. With such a prize as Christ, who will complain of the struggles? Paul pressed forward towards the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. He longed to hear "Well done, good and faithful servant," which the Lord Jesus would award him at the end of his course. Brethren, I wish I could stir myself and stir you to a longing after a consistent, godly life, thoroughly devoted to finishing our course and winning Christ. We will grieve the Holy Spirit if we walk inconsistently; we will dishonor the Lord that bought us with His own Blood. We must never be self-satisfied, but always laboring to win Christ, by and in His Word by the power of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord help us to stay the course in these last days, in perfect holiness, in the fear of God. Amen.

* When Clouds are heavy, blessings are near.

A Falling Away First

C. E. Foster

“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,”
II Thess. 2:1

I want to speak briefly concerning the rapture and revelation of Christ, the revelation of the anti-Christ and the awful tribulation. Of course that is a big subject to cover in just a few minutes. Paul uses a mighty leverage here concerning the coming of Christ and our gathering together unto Him. He speaks again on this same subject in the following Scripture:

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope; for if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord, shall not prevent them which are asleep. 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 clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words." I Thes. 4:13-18.

29

Yes, the Lord is coming and there is going to be a gathering together of God's people unto Him. What a wonderful time that will be! This seems to me the most marvelous theme of the Scriptures. The most wonderful event is just ahead of us. Jesus is coming. He will leave His Father's throne and set up His own throne. The trumpet will sound, the dead in Christ "...will rise first..." and all go up together to "...meet the Lord in the air,..." caught up in clouds or companies, and "...so shall we ever be with the Lord." Thank God, the coming of the Lord is the most comforting doctrine of Scripture. We are not looking for a hole in the ground, but an open door in the heavens.

The Lord said to the Philadelphian overcomers, "I set before thee an open door and no man can shut it!" John heard a voice saying, "Come up hither and I will show thee things to

come." The rapture of the overcoming saints is soon to take place. Jesus is coming personally. He will descend from heaven with a shout, and they who are ready will ascend with a shout. There will be a shouting time in the air. Praise God! I expect to be one of that wonderful company. I believe that shout may reverberate throughout the universe, the shout of those who will be linked in marriage with Christ the Lamb of God. Then it will be announced, "The wife of the Lamb has made herself ready." We are looking for our bridegroom. He is coming as the King of Israel. Praise God, He is coming also as the Bridegroom of those who shall constitute the bride, the Lamb's wife.

30 Paul here writes of the rapture to encourage those saints, because they were going through deep trouble and tribulation. They thought that the Lord had come and they were left behind. Paul says "Be not troubled, neither by spirit, nor by words, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand (or as if the day of the Lord were at hand) --II Thess. 2:2. It seems that some one had written a letter to those people and even signed Paul's name to it, that Christ had come, and they were left behind in the time of tribulation. Of course, we, too, would be sad if that should happen. Paul goes on to say, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition." Two things must take place before the day of the Lord comes. First, there will be a great falling away. That awful apostasy is just before us. While there has been a great falling away, it is not the great apostasy spoken of by Paul. We cannot imagine the awful darkness and troublous conditions that will take place after the rapture of the saints. It will be so bad that they will try to blot out the very name of God. Second, the man of sin must be revealed before the day of the Lord can be ushered in. There will be three years of great tribulation, because the man of sin will cause that tribulation.

"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." This refers to the anti-christ, who will demand the whole world to worship himself as the one God. That will be a terrible time when you can't buy, or

sell without the mark of the beast. Paul goes on to say, "Remember ye not, that when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth, that he might be revealed in his time." The Lord showed me that the hindering one is not the Holy Ghost, as many believe, but it is the full overcoming saints. When they are gone, the restraining power will be lifted, and the devil will be at liberty to bring forth his man, the anti-Christ, the man of sin, the incarnation of the devil himself, even as Christ is the incarnation of God.

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way." We know that this mystery of iniquity has been working all through the centuries and it will come to the fullness in the anti-Christ. But over against the mystery of iniquity is the mystery of godliness, which must be fulfilled and come to its culmination to produce the body of Christ before the man of sin can be revealed. This mystery of righteousness under the power of the Holy Ghost is working now in the hearts of all believers. A company on earth is holding the victory by believing God. They are restraining the very devil himself, so that he cannot bring in the anti-Christ until they are gone.

31

Jesus is coming soon. I wish He would come now. I believe the greatest work of divine grace is being worked in the believers who are fully yielded to God and are looking for the coming of Jesus. The finishing touches are being put upon us, and we are to be made ready for the rapture. The big men of the world are talking of fixing up the world and making it a fit place to live in, but we are getting ready to leave the world and go to a place which God has made fit to live in. They will fix up the world and there will be a time of peace, but it will be a false peace, very transitory. Then war will break out worse than ever and end in the awful battle of Armageddon. But as the song says. "When the tribulation comes, I'll be gone." No, the anti-Christ cannot come until the hindering one is taken out of the way. Bless God! When we hear the signal from the skies we will know it is time to leave. Let us all be prepared to leave here when Jesus comes.

(Reprint 1942)

He Paid the Fare

"They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy." Jonah 2:8.

God bid Jonah to cry against the wickedness of Nineveh and warn the inhabitants of coming judgment; for He knew that they would repent if warned. But Satan filled the prophet's mind with "lying vanities," to which he yielded, and he sought to flee from the Presence of the Lord.

It is difficult to understand how anyone can entertain such a desire. In the Presence of the Lord, we find mercy. When Job was sorely afflicted, he longed to come into God's Presence. He cried, saying, "O that I knew where to find Him." Wherever duty calls us, there the Lord is. That should make our tasks easy to perform, though they may seem irksome and repulsive.

32 How foolish for a prophet to think that He could get away from God. Was He not in Tarshish as well as in Palestine? He is present everywhere. The Psalmist had better sense than Jonah. He said, "Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there. If I make my bed in hell (sheol), behold, thou art there. 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." Psa. 139:7-10 Jonah had forgotten those wise words and listened to the voice of Satan instead.

"But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea." Jonah paid the fare to Tarshish. How strange that folks always have the fare, be they ever so poor, when they want to get away from God's will and presence. The devil has plenty of Railroad, or Bus tickets on hand for such; but they "fare" worse invariably. If they reach their destination, it is in sorrow and loss. The Lord is on everyone's life sea. Jonah went aboard the ship, ate a midnight sandwich and secured a comfortable berth. Satan also gave him an opiate that night; for though the tempest was fierce, yet "...he lay and was fast asleep." All the other passengers and sailors were wide awake, alarmed and praying to their gods for safety.

Consider the damage, danger and loss that follows the disobedience of one person, especially of a prophet. His own life

was endangered; for God's unmerited mercy alone spared Jonah. The sailors cast the freight out of the ship, hoping thus to save their lives. What a great loss to some shipper and to someone who had ordered goods. The lives of other passengers and of the sailors were endangered. Jonah is a type of the Jews, who went away from Jehovah, His time in the great fish, which the Lord prepared for him, figures the Jews swallowed up by the nations. And as the whale threw the prophet out upon the land. so the nations are vomiting up the Jews today and chasing them to the Holy Land. As Jonah went afterward and preached to Nineveh; the Jews must be the channel of ultimate full blessing to the world. That is why Peter exclaimed to them at Pentecost, saying, "Repent ye therefore and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, so that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send the Christ, who hath been appointed for you, even Jesus, whom the heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouths of all His holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3:19-21 R. Isa. 66:19 will be fulfilled. "And I will set a sign among them, **and I will send those that escape of them (Jews) unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they (the Jews) shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.**" 33

If the skeptic hoots at the story of Jonah, cite him to Matt. 12:39-41, where Jesus Christ calls him "the prophet," and quotes his chastisement and preaching. He says, "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly (Gr. ketous, a great sea monster, a seal, or sea-calf); so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." And beloved, after reading Jonah's experience, is it not far better to keep in the perfect will of God and abide in His gracious Presence, than to be enveloped with sea weeds of disappointments in the dark abyss of trouble, regret and shame?

Anon

(Reprint 1935)

"IN A MOMENT"

The consistent teaching of the Scripture is that when the Lord shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God, "...the dead in Christ shall rise first,..." even before the change of the living saints, but then, we who are alive and remain shall be "changed in a moment," and then "caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord." I Thess. 4:16,17; I Cor.15:51,52

Who would not willingly turn aside from the routine of earthly life and from its constant struggle to contemplate this, which in one moment of ecstasy shall end it all? We are disappointed only that Scripture, which deals so little in the sensational, and so much more with personal convictions, should describe in terms so brief and simple this glorious scene. Imagination may not always be able to supplement this brevity with human thoughts; but meditation upon the Scriptures can draw from the inspired writings their depth and meaning. As we fasten our spiritual gaze upon these wonderful realities embodied in these Divine Words, we will receive a fuller description in power and vividness.

34 What a lever to lift up heavenwards from all these afflictions which would drag us earthwards, to realize that at any moment as we are occupied with our daily tasks, whether at home or on the highway, we may find that eternal life with its pulseless tide pervading a body once mortal. In a moment, we will be changed into "the image of the heavenly." In an instant, the life which we knew will be dropped into the past. In a moment, changed into Christ's own image! We will be one at last.

"WITH CHRIST" Phil. 1:23

WITH CHRIST! Brief word; all human thought transcending:
To tell its bliss the mortal tongue must fail:
Earth hath no speech, and mind no comprehending,
For the blest state which reigns within the veil.

WITH CHRIST! Set free from human limitation;
Free from its pangs, its burdens, and its woe;
Free, ever free; oh, glad emancipation!
No sense of frailty henceforth now to know.

WITH CHRIST! What bliss! Glad, unalloyed communion!
What hallowed joys with loved ones gathered there!
With choice celestial spirits! Oh, what union!
With Christ! Blest place! Blest Home beyond compare!

(Reprint 1983)



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