

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole counsel of GOD

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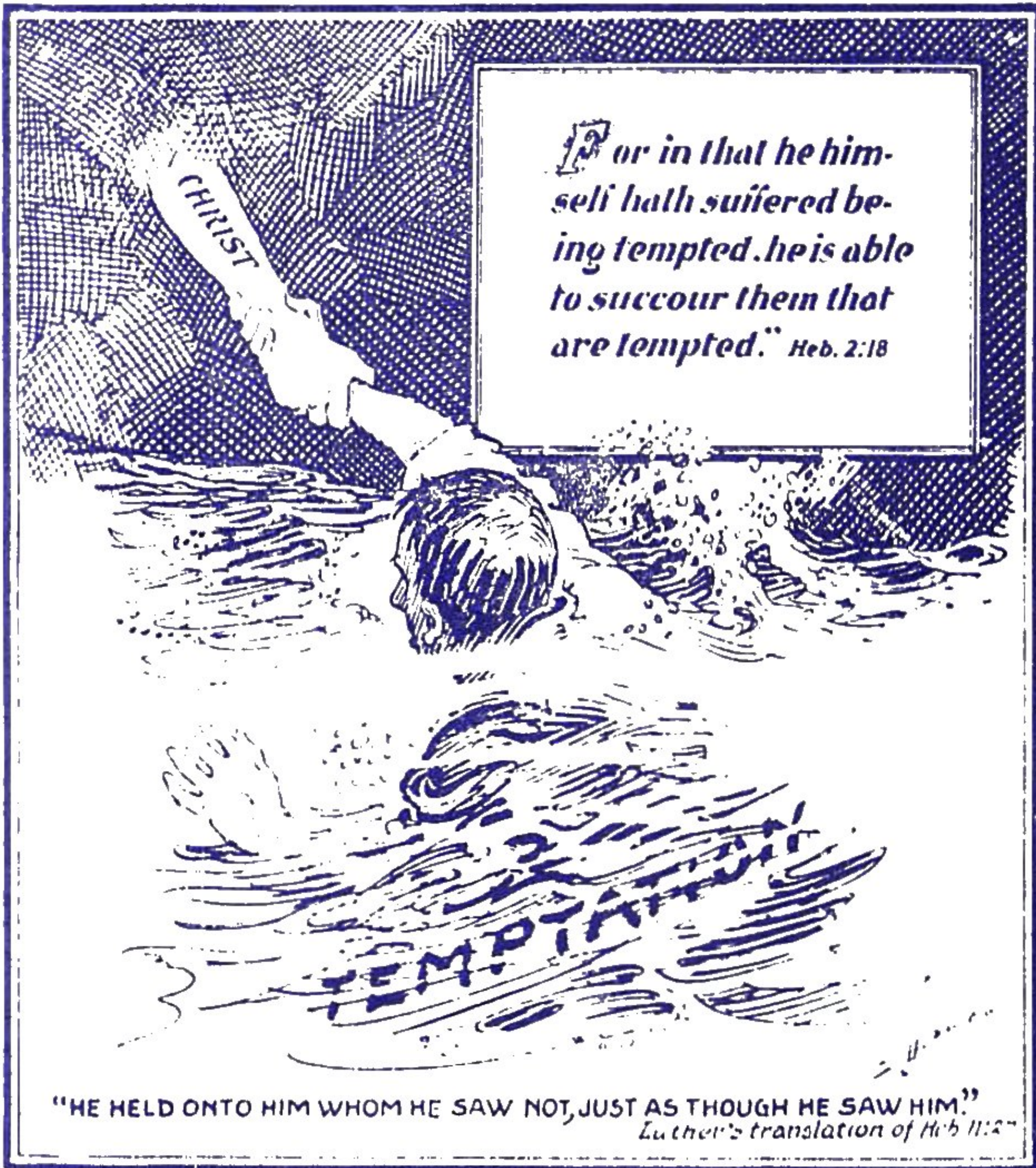
Num. 4



Ask for the old
paths, where is
the good way, and
walk therein, and ye
shall find rest for
your souls.

JEREMIAH 6:16

"WHEN THOU PASSEST THROUGH THE WATERS"



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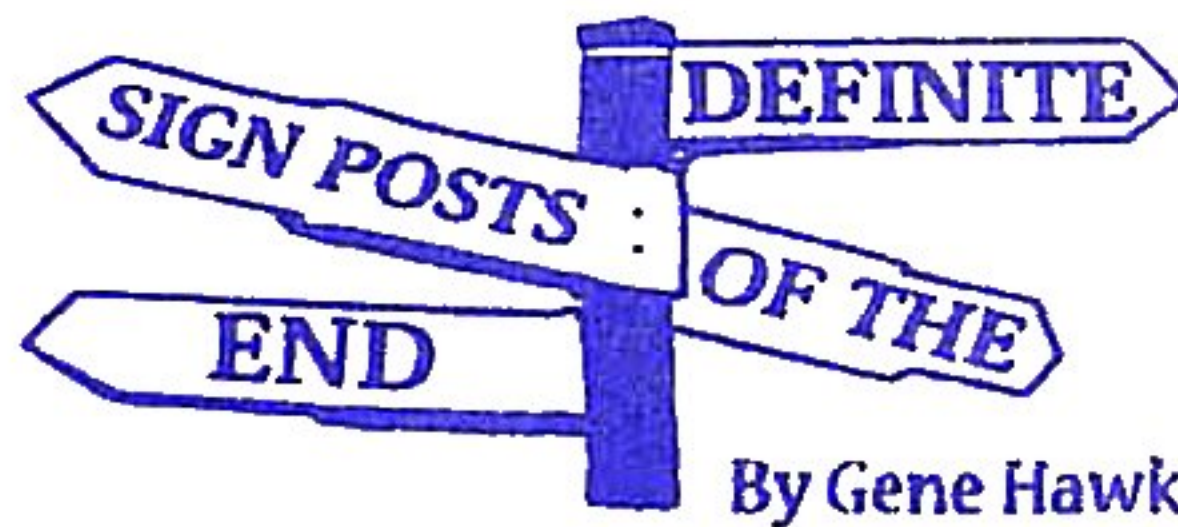
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Editor: Gene Hawkins



By Gene Hawkins

“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;” Rev. 8:8

“And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.” Rev. 6:5-6

Israel continues to dominate the news, not just in America, but around the entire world. The Trump administration along with that of Israel, have succeeded in an effort to destroy several nuclear facilities belonging to Iran. There are a few current White House representatives who have declared absolute peace and safety in the Middle East.

God's Word prophesies a different story relating to Iran. Revelation 8 informs us that, "... 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;" Rev. 8:8 Iran is the most likely candidate to be that mountain. Her primary motivation for a multitude of years has been to destroy Israel and "drive them into the sea." She also has absolutely no regard for her own people. This was demonstrated on 9/11 when her pilots were instructed to fly their planes into the World Trade Center, which was nothing more than a suicide mission. This same sacrificial attitude is currently manifest by the fact that she has been willing to gun down her own people if they dare to resist her purposes. She has, in addition, not hesitated to bomb her own Middle East Neighbors and Allies including Syria, Afghanistan, and others. All of this is due, once again, to her hatred for Israel. The extent of the nuclear holocaust, which Scripture plainly outlines, is found in the following verses. "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. And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star (Satan) from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter. And the fourth angel

sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound." Rev. 8:9-13

4 All of these things will transpire just prior to the time when Jesus takes His throne in heaven, whereby He will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords for a 1000 year period known as the Millennium. This era will be a very devastating period which Jesus termed "...the beginning of sorrows." Matt. 24:8 He also emphatically declared that, "...except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days." Mk. 13:20 The "...elect..." of whom He speaks is none other than Israel. Current activity in this region seems hopeless for this Chosen People, but God will intervene once they are brought to their knees and accept Jesus as their Messiah. All the present trouble and turmoil will do exactly that, and then shall be fulfilled their glorious preservation as seen in the following text. "And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent." Rev. 12:14 That woman must be identified as Israel and she will be preserved and "...nourished..." for the duration of the great tribulation. That time is recorded here as "...time, times, and half a time..." Translated, it means that "...time..." is one year, "...times..." is two years, while ".half a time..." is six months. The total period refers to the reign of antichrist who is given no more or no less than 1260 days to complete his reign of terror. When "Gentile Times" are replaced by "Jewish Times" wherein Jesus begins His Millennial reign, there will be exactly 30 days in a month and 360 days in a year. This simply means that God will reduce the time in which the earth revolves around the sun from the current 365+ days per year to an exact 360 days per year. It is also rather interesting that God gave His two witnesses the first 1260 days of the tribulation period. "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth." Rev. 11:3 Since the woman, Israel, is said to flee from the face of the serpent for 1260 days, it must be concluded that this is also a reference to the reign of antichrist.

The good news, for those who have purposed in their hearts to be a part of the Philadelphia Church, is found in

Rev. 3. "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan,... behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from (out of) the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." Rev. 3:7-13

"...my new name..." which must be coupled with the fact that "...I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God:..." clearly indicates Jesus' new role in The Church Age is that of "Bridegroom." He has been known as "Master, Saviour, Teacher," as well as The ONE who is "...full of grace and truth." However "Bridegroom" is entirely new and will not be realized until shortly before Jesus takes His throne in heaven, for this prized woman must be there to witness His inauguration. The four "....beasts..." or "living ones" along with the twenty four elders are a fitting portrait of the Bridal Company who will reign conjointly with Jesus. "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." Rom. 8:17 The key to reigning with Christ is to suffer with Him and all believers are not willing to make that sacrifice!

There is another portion of Scripture which is being fulfilled in its entirety before our very eyes. "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; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. 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. Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation,

and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven." Lk. 21:7-11

All these "signs" have been manifest down through the ages. Numerous wars have been fought throughout history. Earthquakes and famines often due to destructive weather patterns have been commonplace. Such patterns would be included in "...fearful sights and great signs....from heaven," which signifies that which is under God's control, rather than man's. Deception, like unto that wherein Balak persuaded Israel to commit idolatry against God, has been repeatedly used against Israel and other nations. The unique character of these verses is that all the "signs" are now appearing simultaneously. Every one of them are a daily occurrence in these closing days of the Church Age. Daniel summarized all the "wickedness" at the end of this age with this account. "And he (antichrist) shall confirm the covenant with many (not all) for one week: (7 year tribulation) and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to
6 cease, ...for the overspreading of abominations..."

There is also another great sign which has occupied current news for the past few weeks. "And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." Rev. 6:6 Those words are so very meaningful in view of the blockade imposed by Iran on the Strait of Hormuz. Ships loaded with oil have been unable to move except for those which would benefit China and perhaps Russia. Oil is literally the life blood of every nation. Heating, cooling, raising crops and activity in every other area of life is dependent on it. Thus, once again, Iran is at the center of end time destruction.

Reference is also made to "...the wine...." The great probability here is that water supplies have been contaminated by the effects of the afore mentioned nuclear explosion, and purified wine is the only thing that is drinkable. All these traits surely describe the tremendous devastation that will occur in the end days of tribulation when the antichrist is in power. The glorious news for the believing Gentiles and some Jews is that we will be in in glory. It has already been stated that the Bridal Company will be found before Jesus' throne prior to the time that the hour of tribulation even begins. The bulk of the Church known as "...the innumerable company,..." will arrive sometime before the middle of the week. "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the

Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." Rev. 7:9-10 "After this...." refers to the arrival in heaven of the 144,000 as "...the man child.... And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne." Rev. 12:5 There are many who identify the "...man child..." as Jesus. That cannot be, for Jesus has not been "...a child..." since He lay as a Babe in the manger at Bethlehem. He is at this time a full grown Man, set to rule on the universal throne of God over both heaven and earth. So, the "...man child..." is the 144,000 who will arrive in heaven 250 days before the middle of the week. This is an exact number for when Jesus takes His throne, time will revert from Gentile Times which began with Nebuchadnezzar, to Jewish Times wherein Jesus now becomes the Head of all God's Purposes. There will be exactly 30 days in a month, 12 months in a year which will occupy exactly 360 days rather than the 365 plus days which now exist. This simply means that God will shorten the days in which the earth revolves around the sun. Will men notice? Perhaps not since they are in such rebellion 7 against even God's Existence!

Nevertheless, despite all man's unbelief, God's Word will be fulfilled to the letter, and all the aforementioned characteristics of these last days will be fulfilled.

Daniel once again explains the 250 days wherein the tribulation will be shortened. Two time periods are measured from the same time of; "...taking away of the daily sacrifice...." Daniel first explains: "Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Dan. 8:13-14 These verses reveal the fact that the antichrist will be deposed 2300 days after the daily sacrifice has been removed since the temple cannot be cleansed until after he is gone.

The second timeline which also begins when the daily sacrifice is taken away is recorded in Daniel 12. "And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days." Dan. 12:11 There are only 1260 days from the beginning of the tribulation to the midst of it. Thus, the daily sacrifice must be removed exactly 30 days before the week of tribulation begins making a total of 1290 days from the time this sacrifice is removed to

the midst of the week.

Exactly 2520 days are designated for the 7 year era of tribulation, that is 360 days per year times 7 = 2520 days. Add 30 days to that because the daily sacrifice is taken away 30 days earlier and the result is 2550 days. Since the temple is said to be cleansed 2300 days after the daily sacrifice is taken away the antichrist must of necessity begin his 1260 rule 250 days BEFORE the midst of the week. 2550 days - 2300 days is 250 days. If the reign of anitchrist began in the middle of the week there would be only 1010 days left because as noted above trbulation days have been cut short by 250 days. (1260 minus 250 = 1010)

Some have also concluded that since the Philadelphia Church is to be translated before the tribulation begins and the daily sacrifice is taken away 30 days earlier, then Jesus must come for His Bride during that 30 day period. However, Jesus has indicated more than once that He is coming as a thief. Why would He give a 30 day warning announcing that arrival?

8 He also said, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Lk. 21:28 These words were spoken to Israel, but Paul also concurred when he used his own life as an example in writing to the Philippians. "Not as though I had already attained, **either were already perfect:** but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. **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." Phil. 3:12-14

Paul's message changed when he wrote to Timothy: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." II Tim. 4:6-8 Paul had reached the end of his race. He was taken out of the world into glory, but did he receive his crown at that moment? Had the bride been joined to Christ at that moment? NO! He could not be called a part of the Bridal Company reigning conjointly with Christ because ".... **Henceforth** (*from this time forward*) there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me **at that day:** and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." The rules would be the

same for all those who love His appearing. No one has been joined unto Christ as His Bride at this hour.

Peter also publishes this same truth. "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be (*they have not yet been perfected*) in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, **be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.** And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, (*It was hard for Peter to understand because he had received the kingdom message while Paul preached the message of Divine Grace*) which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction." II Pet. 3:11-16

Finally, Jesus seems to corroborate all these points in Rev. 3. "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; 8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. 9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. 10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. 11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." Rev. 3:7-11

"...hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." One need not wonder or speculate on what is to be held fast, for Jesus stipulates 5 major advantages that "...thou hast..." (1) V. 8 "...thou hast a little strength. (2) thou "...**hast not denied my name...**" (3) V. 9 they had a special place at the feet of Jesus, for "Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship **before thy feet,**..." Such statements indicate that these saints had a *special position!* These of Satan's

synagogue did not come to worship these saints but to bow before Jesus. Since this special group was already there, they must of necessity "...worship before thy feet..." (4) **to know that I have loved thee.**" These saints enjoyed or "...hast..." a special love (love of the Bridegroom) that went far beyond the fact that "...God so loved the world that he gave...." (5) V. 10 "...thou hast kept the word of my patience..." meaning that they had been willing to abide in the place He chose for them until His work was completed in their lives. Jesus' ultimate promise for us is Rev. 22:12

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

The Fruitful Life

A little song When things go wrong,
A little kindness shown,
Will soothe the care and make folk bear
Their trials without moan.

10

A word of cheer to those in fear
Will comfort all the day.
The effort made will be repaid
By many on life's way.

A little smile to make the while
Of somber fellow's life
Devoid of tear and much less drear
Midst sorrow and midst strife.

Who can define the worth divine
Of saints that are thus kind?
Their names will live and strength will give
To others left behind.

So let us trust; indeed we must,
That Christ in us will shine,
That men may know down here below,
He was the Lord Divine.

"GET HIM"

Carson Richards

“THEREFORE TAKE UNTO YOU THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand.” Eph. 6:13.

Who are these spiritual gangsters? They can be none other than ‘depicted in Ephesians 6:12 of God’s Holy Word, thus’ — Powers—the rulers of the darkness of this world—the spiritual wickednesses in heavenly places”. They are the hoodlums apparently ruled over by “the Prince of the Power of the air”—Eph. 2:2, Satan, known as “the Dragon, that old Serpent, which is called the Devil and Satan”—Rev. 20:2. These “overworld” creatures must form the pattern for their type on the the earth. As sure as Mr. Stooze is lined up for death by gangsterdom so must the hordes of demon spirits above and in the earth ,do concerning their enemies. We wouldn't think on the surface that gangsters could form a sermon topic. Nevertheless the words of our title "Get Him," ¹¹ are two which we understand have been used of the underworld for a person on their elimination list. They mark out a man, and all their cunning, skill, and perverted wisdom is directed toward removing the unfortunate one from the scene of life. He who stands in the way of evil intent, is a hinderer to bloated ambition, an obstacle to rising captains of the scum army of society. Where, then, you ask, do such ideas get us as regards spiritual things? Contrarily, to tend Godwards, such thoughts give us the shivers. Why lower our sights, one could say?

Well, in the spiritual realm, these underworld creatures have their counterpart. This world is a figure of the unseen, we believe, both good and bad. Every phase, no doubt has meaning in relation to the new race of men to live with Christ. On the negative side, most likely, the shady layer of society reflects some such beings above. These latter too use the phrase "Get Him", in essence at least. There are creatures on their black list to "get", to erase, or at least to render useless. Who are these spiritual gangsters? They can be none other than those depicted in Ephesians 6:12 of God’s Holy Word. Thus, the terms, “ Power... the rulers of the darkness of this world...

the spiritual wickednesses in heavenly places.” They are the hoodlums apparently ruled over by “the Prince of the Power of the air.” (Eph. 2:2) which is Satan, known as “the Dragon, that old Serpent, which is called the Devil and Satan.” Rev. 20:2.

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12 When then, do they mark for destruction? Whom do they desire to “get”? Who are their enemies? None other than God, Christ, and His people. These evil forces have been unable to touch higher heaven, so we understand by Ephesians 6:12 and Revelation 12, to mention particular references, that they have set up camp in the lower heavens and set out to inflict all the damages and loss in God’s kingdom that they possibly can. They are as real as Mr. Public Enemy Num. 1. Their weapons are as efficient and deadly as the “rat-a-tat” of the machine gun, which indicates that the action is down here against a marked individual. As down here, the whisper passes over the lower “grapevine communications” — “get him”, so it surely goes about up there. They have failed to “get” Christ, though they thought they had Him at the cross at His death. However, they still are in the “getting” business. Some human beings have their names on the heavenly racketeers’ enemy list. These marked ones are none other than true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Sad, it is, but true.

Most specifically we think, the “get him” call comes from the wicked-spirit general, Satan, against those accepting the offered place, the highest place in the heavenlies, as offered by the gospel for this Church Age. These favored, but marked few, are

special targets for the Devil's gangsters. The Christian who takes his place, actually by faith, in the heavenly places, believing he is to reign there with his Lord, Jesus Christ, is a mortal enemy of the present inhabitants up there. The "rulers of the darkness" resent any encroachment on their dominion. As is man in his fallen estate, they cannot stand to be brought down, even though the God over all has decreed it from an unchangeable will. Hence, it may be in a given experience, wherein a dark-realm spy says of some Christian, "get him," henchmen pass on the cry, and Satan, the Prince gives the order, "get him," for he or she, "is a detriment to our cause." Study him, probe him, harass him, beguile him, or at last, attack him. He must be eliminated from the fight, if not possible to physically remove him from the earth.

Perhaps then, there are many, many incidents, experiences, decisions and conflicts of the seen and known world, that spring from the hidden, unseen source of the spiritual world. Many a Christian warrior drops out of the battle, perhaps for unknown reasons, but those above, God's kingdom and Satan's kingdom know why. The defeated one had been set apart for elimination. They had said "get him," and he, weary, or beguiled, or bitter at it all, gives in. Tears are shed by others; some companions berate the one, but we might remember — it is no light thing to be a marked man by Satan's gangsters. They give nor ask no quarter. They know their job, they have no scruples to impede them, as do not their figures in the earth's underworld. They have a thorough knowledge of mankind and a great experience in their dirty work. If the power of such creatures is not infinite, it is tremendous. Though their cunning may not be omniscient, it is exceedingly astute. When the Apostle Paul said, "But we had the sentence of death in ourselves that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead," (II Cor. 1:9) he reveals himself and companions as some of these key figures written on Satan's list. He was appointed to destruction by the King of Evil. Why? Because he was God's number one man on the scene. The implication is obvious. To get to be one of these primary targets of these princes of blackness, one has but to receive and go all

out for the message given to and by the Apostle Paul. Just set out for his goal, the bridehood of Jesus Christ, and give your all for that and your name is "mud" for these powerful, but corrupted creatures. They say of you, "get him," and the fight is on. The life of such a Christian is no longer normal as man sees other people. He cannot have the same things. He cannot think, act, or react as values, ambitions, or attitudes as ordinary to others. Did not Paul say, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17 These words are fulfilled in the Christian's life in more ways than one. Even his enemies are new, as to their special attacks upon him.

14 Yes, evil eyes search out the Christian's soul and life, evil devices are set up, and evil traps are laid. No doubt the Christians are cataloged; that is, their specific weaknesses are known in relation to others gone before, and a set plan is followed to defeat them. Ah, it happens so often! An opening in the armour is found, guns are levelled, wounds are made, and if faith doesn't lay hold of the Divine Remedy, Christ, a growing cancer halts and finally cuts down the former warrior. Sad it is, very, very sad. None of us are exempt. These evil technicians know their job. They know our fears, flesh ambitions, flesh-desires, even legitimate desires and how to defeat through them. Money, families, health, and many other things are their tools of work. Some of us are defeated by things too favorable in this world, and others by things too unfavorable. The enemy attackers use all means. No holds are barred, to use wrestling terms.

Finally, in any touching on this subject, we can't leave out dear old Job. His sufferings to man's eyes just "happened," the "time and chance" of all men. However, the Holy Spirit tells us that the "Lord said unto Satan, "Behold all that he hath is in thy power, only upon himself put not forth thine hand." So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord." Job 1:12. Satan went out to "Get" Job. He used power and adversity. He used similar tactics against the early Church of our age. However, as many Christians have said, he has revised his tactics for the age, as our

Apostle Paul said: "For we are not ignorant of his devices." His subtle astuteness and wily cunning is pitted against the true believers in Christ. We have the same weapons Job had, faith used with patience.

We also have a more complete equipment, the full-gospel message of the Apostle Paul. We have to be fully equipped, and we add, fully dependent on God, to withstand the evil attackers. Our enemies mean business. So must we. We have a wonderful goal, the Bridehood of Christ, and it is worth the test. The strain is inhuman but super-human strength, the grace of God is on our side. May we successfully through Christ, overcome the order given by the "boss" of the spiritual gangsters, which says "Get him!"

15

THOU REMAINEST

Thou remainest, what a comfort In this transient scene of life,
When our hopes so full of promise Crash to earth in life's mad strife.
Thou remainest—friends have failed us, Friends that were—while
skies were blue;
But as sorrow's dark'ning shadows Overspread, they proved untrue.
Thou remainest—wealth has vanished, Comforts too have taken wing;
Poor our lot of earthly treasure, Yet our hearts can gaily sing.
Thou remainest—health has left us, Bloom of youth ebbed all away,
Beauty gone and charm departed, Things of time, born for a day.
Thou remainest—hope is kindled, Come what may, yes, weal or woe;
This enough, our hearts to comfort,
THOU REMAINEST—what else may go.

—W. R.

One good word can warm three winter months.—Chinese Proverb.

Friend, Call Back

If you have gone a little way ahead of me,
call back—

'Twill cheer my heart and help my feet
along the stormy track.

And, if perchance, Faith's light is dim, be-
cause the oil is low,

Your call will guide my lagging course as
wearily I go.

Call back, and tell me that He went with
you into the storm;

Call back, and say He kept you when the
forest's roots were torn;

That, when the heavens thunder and the
earthquake shook the hill,

He bore you up and held you where the very
air was still.

Oh, friend, call back, and tell me for I can-
not see your face;

They say it glows with triumph, and your
feet bound in the race;

But there are mists between us and my
spirit eyes are dim,

And I cannot see the glory, though I long
for word of Him.

But if you'll say He heard you when your
prayer was but a cry,

And if you'll say He saw you through the
night's sin darkened sky;

If you have gone a little way ahead, oh
friend, call back—

'Twill cheer my heart and help my feet
along the stony track.

—Sent In.

Calvary!

"...When they were come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified him..."—Luke 23:33. Calvary! what does it mean? A mocking multitude. A crucified malefactor. Silence. Apparent triumph of the mob and the powers of darkness. But in the unseen realm victory and afterwards millions of souls brought through that death and darkness into life and light. Oh, glorious Victory!

Likewise in the case of the children of God in personal experience. They too will, without doubt, be "...pressed out of measure, without strength, despairing even of life..."

I Am The Lord

Be still and know, that I am God
The Lord of all creation.
O'er kings and princes I hold sway
The hosts of heaven will obey
I am the Lord.

Be still and know that I am God.
No harm shall ever befall thee.
I am thy Sun, I am thy Shield.
Against thy foes my sword I wield.
I am the Lord.

Be still and know that I am God.
Thou' waters surge around thee.
Thy soul in safety I will keep
Thru' raging torrents dark and deep.
I am the Lord.

Be still and know that I am God
Till round my throne in glory
You're gathered with the blood-washed throng
Who sing the sweet redemption song.
I am the Lord.

Leslie Barrowcliff

REFLECTIONS

. . . From the Editor

“For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.” I Cor. 15:16-17

18 There have been quite a number over the years who have claimed these verses as justification for their belief that a believer can “lose his salvation,” because his “... faith is vain...” They take these words completely out of context, ignoring the fact that Paul is speaking of Christ’s resurrection. Note the consequences if that glorious event did not occur. “Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.” I Cor. 15:12-15

The Chief Apostle to the Church quickly erases all this negativity with one stroke of the pen, declaring plainly: “But now is Christ risen from the dead,...” I Cor. 15:20 Furthermore, Paul assures all humanity that this same Christ has “...become the firstfruits of them that slept,” meaning that His resurrection as the “...firstfruits...” is the guarantee of our own which will follow. Thus, the terms “...your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins,” have nothing to do with our conduct, be it good or bad. They are rather directly dependent upon the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ!

The Gate of Heaven

Sermon by S. O. Sheldon

I want to talk about God's Dwelling House tonight—the place where God abides.- Hallelujah! We sang that precious song a few moments ago, "Christ in me the Hope of Glory." remember a German girl sang it in our meeting many years ago. I thought it was a peculiar song, but as I began. to get the meaning of it I thought it precious. Christ dwells in me, Hallelujah! I am a house of God. Glory to God! Amen!

I will read' a few verses from the 28th. of Genesis—the story of Jacob. Jacob was fleeing from his brother Esau. He . was running away. He had gone a day's journey and camped for the night and he took a stone for a pillow and lay down to sleep and he had a dream.

"And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set: and he took one of the stones of the place, and put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep, And he dreamed; and, behold, a ladder set upon the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold, the angels of God ascending and descending upon it. And, behold, Jehovah stood above it, and said, I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac. The land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed.... And Jacob awaked out of his sleep and said, Surely Jehovah is in this place and I knew it not. And he was afraid said, How dreadful is this place. This is none other than the gate of heaven." Vs. 11-17.

19

I believe we can say of this place, that the Lord is here. It may be a dreadful place to some folks. If a stranger had come in here for the first time and heard the loud demonstration and praising of God a few moments ago, he probably would have said as Jacob, "This is a dreadful place." God is awe-inspiring. He is a dreadful God to the natural man. He does not want to face God. The natural man hates the thought of God. The very thought of coming into the presence of God is terrible to him. He shrinks from God. He thinks that he would like to go to heaven when he leaves this earth. Oh, yes, he has enough faith to think that thriere is a hell and he does want to go to heaven. But there must be a fitness before he can come into the Presence of God. And he is not willing for the change. The natural man can never understand God, can never enjoy God, can never find God by his own intellect. He must come to know him in the power of the Spirit. Jacob got a revelation of God that night. He came to know God. Praise the Lord! The natural man thinks he is fitting himself for the Presence of God because he lives a good life. Many people try

by their own efforts to live a good life, to be honest, sincere. They hope for the best; but they never seem to come into the place where they get a revelation of God. They want to go to heaven with their boots on. That is, they want to take the old creation with them. I used to know of a place they called Boot Hill. They told me in the early days when the cowboys drank and gambled in that town some times there would be a fight and a cowboy would get killed, and they would take him up on that hill and bury him there just as he was without any change of clothes, with his boots on. Some folks think they would like to go to heaven without any preparation. Oh, there must be a change! The natural man must come to find out God by the revelation through the Spirit of God I praise God that we can know the Lord.

20 So Jacob in this experience got a vision of the Lord. It was --ly a dream and yet it was prophecy also. God revealed Himself this man when he was running away from his brother Esau whom, some say, he had wronged. He was already convicted of his sins. He was ready for God's revelation. So God appeared to him and gave him these wonderful promises. He said, "**I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac. The land whereon thou nest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed.**" And glory to God! He has partially fulfilled this promise to Jacob, and it shall be completely fulfilled. Praise the name of the Lord!

"And, behold, I am with thee, and wilt keep thee whithersoever thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. And Jacob awaked out of his sleep and he said, Surely Jehovah is in this place; and I knew it not." —V. 15—16. I expect some of the neighbors are saying a good deal like Jacob did. "**Hou, dreadful is this place!** This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." They hate the thought of this little tabernacle being built on this corner. They wish it would go out of this vicinity, but it may be those very neighbors will come in here and get a revelation of our Christ and they will have to say like Jacob did, "Surely the Lord is in this place and I knew it not." I have faith that some of them will

come in and get a revelation of the God we are acquainted with, that they will come to know that he wants to dwell in their life. So to the natural man God's Presence is dreadful; but to us who are saved it is precious and satisfying.

Someone said to me, "I want to go see that new tabernacle of Sister Bodie's." I said, "I don't know whether you will take the place or not. They were talking of not putting any floor in, and of taking the platform from the tent and using that for the present, also the old benches and piano." "But when I came in the door, to my surprise, here was this beautiful floor and this nice rostrum. I said, "I never expected to see this. Surely the Lord is in this place." I didn't know the Lord was going to furnish these things. I was impressed with the lights and I said, "There must have been many lights in the Upper Room." Oh, I am expecting to see God fulfill His Word and give us this land, I expect God 21 to fulfill his promise to Jacob and give us faith to take this neck of the woods for Him. Hallelujah! The Lord is able to give us the hearts of the people round about as we preach this glorious gospel of the grace of God. What a wonderful revelation God has for them if they will come to this place. They may be in a dark condition when they come, but the glory of God will shine around them and they will awake, like Jacob from their sleep and acknowledge that God is in this place. Praise the Lord!

And Jacob said, **"This is none other, but the house of God and this is the gate of heaven."** We say, "Amen! Jacob." We don't meet God in the theatre or the dance hall. We meet God in the place that is dedicated to the worship of God. We meet God where his Word is proclaimed. Yes, this is the house of God. This is the gate of heaven. Amen! "What do you say?" I believe this is the gate of heaven. I can see precious souls being saved here and going through this gate into the glory gate. I praise the Lord for this golden opportunity that has been brought to the people in this vicinity. I am impressed with that thought of the gate of heaven. So many people have an idea that when they die they are going to enter the gate of heaven; but here at this altar is the place to enter into heaven. God brings heaven right down here on earth. Where we meet God is the gate of heaven. We enter that

gate when we get a revelation of the Presence of God. Glory be to God! Nobody ever gets to heaven without a revelation of Jesus Christ. They have to "Believe that He is, and is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." "If there is a soul that is unsaved here tonight, it is your privilege to enter into the gate of heaven now. I praise Him tonight that the Lord is in this place. Brother Foster said in his prayer, "Lord we are not going to ask you to come, you are here." But the natural man cannot discern this fact. He is in thick darkness.

22 Let us turn to I Kings, chapter 8:12,13. **"Then spake Solomon, The Lord said He would dwell in thick darkness. I have surely built thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in forever."** That is fine. Solomon said these words as inspired by God. It was a wonderful prophecy, but God didn't dwell there forever. The people got out of order and He left them, but He did dwell there for a time and the presence of the Lord was manifested. That material temple was a most beautiful type of that eternal temple where Jehovah will dwell forever. In that temple which Solomon built there was a place called the "Holy of Holies." Everything was in darkness, but right there the presence of God was manifested. In order to meet God men had to come by the way of the brazen altar and brazen laver and then into the holy place and on into the holiest, the very presence of God. This teaches that the natural man cannot come into the presence of God. So if you want to come to the Lord you must come by the way of the brazen altar, which is a figure of Calvary's Cross where the debt of sin was paid, That is where provision was made to bring us out of darkness and death into life and light, into His presence. I am glad that for us who are saved, God is no more in thick darkness. He dwells in the light unapproachable. But I am glad, dear ones, by the power of the Spirit we can come into His presence so unapproachable to the flesh. We can adore Him. We can worship Him. We can have fellowship with Him. We can come to know Him. Paul desired to know Him intimately. He says, "That I might know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering, being made conformable to His death." I am sure

that is the desire of our hearts. Paul did know Him in a great measure and we know Him in measure, but we want to know Him in all His fulness. That is the desire of my heart that I might be filled with all the fulness of God, and I am sure the way to know Him is to come to the house of God, the gate of heaven, and hear the Word preached over and over. That is the way to learn the Word, come where it is preached, where the saints of God are testifyig to what god works in their lives. I thank God for every assembly. I thank God especially for every Grace Assembly. I praise Him that I heard of the Gospel of Grace. I never will forget the first night I went to the meeting in Topeka. I had an errand there and Brother Copley was preaching from chapter three of Revelation. That was nearly twenty three years ago. Glory be to God! God spoke to my soul. He made me to realize that He was in that message and He got a grip on me. He drew me on and I have learned to run after Him. I am so glad for that night. It was a turning point' in my life. Some of my people thought I turned the wrong way, but I turned the way God wanted me to turn. I praise the Lord that He has lead me these many years, that I have been growing, getting more and more the revelation of His power and His presence and His Word. So I praise God that He is not dwelling in thick darkness to me; but I can say with Paul, I am being "changed from glory to glory. " I am beholding Christ with an unveiled face. I am not looking at Him through the law but through the grace of God. The law has been done away with. **"I through the law am dead to the law that I might live unto God."** So we are under grace and are getting a few visions of the revelation of the glory of God through the revelation of the Word of God. I thank God for it. So God dwells with us, not in thick darkness, not under law; but under grace. God dwells in our hearts. He is manifest in man uponl the earth. **"The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."** Jn. 1:14 God was manifest in Jesus Christ; but that time has come and gone. Tonight He dwells in all who elieve. Isn't that precious! "Christ in me, the hope of glory." Amen!

Thank God.

God testified of His Son **"This is my beloved Son in**

whom I am well pleased.” Matt. 13:17 God was manifest in His Son, but how did man receive Him? When they heard the truth He taught they said “...Away with him...” Jn. 19:15 Release Barabbas, crucify the Son of God. They didn't want Him. They would do the same thing if He were here tonight. But I am glad for we who have believed and received Him. He becomes precious, our Bridegroom, friend and lover, and tonight our hearts go out to Him in great praise and adoration. Surely the Lord dwells in us by the Holy Spirit. We are not our own. We are bought with a price and we are to glorify God in our body and in our spirit, which are His own property.

24

But there is another dwelling place of God. He will not only dwell in our bodies then; but we read in Rev. 23, “**Behold the tabernacle of God is with man.**” God will actually come down here and dwell with men upon the earth. God cannot dwell in a people that are not redeemed, but Oh, in that day, redemption will have been completed. The annulment of the power of the devil will be seen. “Old things will have passed away and all things will have become new.” The victory of Calvary will be manifested. God will have a new creation complete. Everything will be in subjection to Jesus Christ. He will reign in absolute dominion. God will come and dwell among men. I am glad He has already come in Spirit and is dwelling in our tabernacle here: but many more will share in redemption blessings then.

I thank God for the Gospel of grace, saved by grace, kept by power divine and being prepared for translation. When we first heard of this wonderful Gospel plan we did not realize it was God's way for us. We did not know God would take us out as He willed. If He had asked us, we probably would have refused to go this way; but as we look back over our past life I am sure we can say we are glad we let Him lead. Oh I am so glad tonight that God made me say, “Amen” to His will. It may have been dark when we started out; but God had spoken to us and He led us on from victory to victory and He will bring us off more than conqueror. He will bring us into His Presence and present us faultless before His throne with exceeding joy. Does it pay to go this way? Are we satisfied to go on? Sometimes the trials press upon us until we

hardly know which way to turn, but we hear the voice of the Lord say, **“I will be with thee, I will never forsake thee.** I will do what I said I would do.” Sometimes everything looks so dark and all at once we get a vision of the glory of God. He lifts us out of that darkness and we see that he is guiding us to a city of light where He Himself dwells. Thank God the Lord is in this place. This is the gate of heaven. This is the House of God and God dwells in us tonight. I am impressed with that thought. There is only one gate of heaven; but I read of the **gates** of hell. There is more than one gate to hell. Jesus Christ Himself has opened the gate to heaven, and you can meet Him down here at this altar. He has closed all the gates to hell for all those who believe. **“The gates of hell shall never prevail against us.”** We have something that will endure through time and eternity. If God be for us who can be against us?

They Stand Firmly

25

There's nothing quite so grand in trees
As the oak that grew alone,
Unsheltered from the stormy breeze
That laid the forest prone.
The trests swept around it boughs
And tore and beat and tugged,
Unable to uproot the sod
Its roots are fast in rocky clefts,
It lifts its head to God.

There's nothing quite so grand in men
As he who's one with God
And lets Him lead him even when
He wields the chastening rod.
Safe from the tempest's subtle wile,
In God's whole armor clad.
All Satan's darts are out of style,
Tho' he be ere so mad.
He's hidden in the cloven Rock,
His heart is light and glad.

Hattie Thayer Moore

The Sparrow Psalm Sermon by C. E. Foster

"Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God" Psa. 84:3.

Brother Copley brought us a message last night concerning the house that David desired to build for God; but instead He built a house for David. Brother Desha brought a message this afternoon, starting out concerning the child Samuel; but he ended up with the house. While he was speaking, the Lord gave me my text for tonight. So it seems that the Convention is going to be a dedication service all the way thru.

26 I want to call your attention especially tonight, as God enables me, to the subject of the sparrow. It is wonderful how God's Word talks about little things. In the 14th chapter of Leviticus, we have the story told of two birds, in the marginal reading, called two sparrows. In that chapter, we have the description of the cleansing of the leper, and that one of those birds was to be killed. The live bird was to be dipped into the blood of the slain bird, then let loose into the open heaven. We who understand the types of the Old Testament, know that those birds, those sparrows, speak to us of Christ. They speak to us of His death and resurrection and ascension. Our Saviour, although He was the Lord of glory, came down to the place of humiliation and into that place of insignificance where He is likened to a sparrow. We, His people, also are likened unto sparrows. Praise the name of the Lord! In the 10th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, we will read a verse: Sparrows on the Market

"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall to the ground without your Father"—V. 29. Our brother mentioned this at the beginning of the testimony meeting. It seemed that he was going to preach my sermon: but God did not allow it. One of those sparrows was to fall to the ground, referring to our Lord Jesus Christ, who died on Calvary and was buried. His life was taken. His precious blood flowed out for the redemption of the lost world. In Psalm 102:7, we have another scripture that no doubt refers to our Lord. "I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the housetop." Jesus was despised and rejected of men. He came to His own and His own received Him not. They looked upon Him as a malefactor and an imposter. His was a lonely life. So He is compared here to a sparrow, watching in

loneliness upon a housetop; But praise God, through redemption, He is not alone. Thru redemption, He is "bringing many sons unto glory." Thru redemption, thank God, He shall have a spotless Bride. I was impressed with that Scripture in Matt. 10:29. One of those sparrows shall not fall to the ground without our Father. Jesus was the one that fell to the ground. He took your place and mine, and we love Him tonight for so doing. We glorify Him. You know that a sparrow does not amount to much in the eyes of the world. They are not protected by the laws of the land. In fact, men give orders to kill them, because they are looked on as a nuisance. A short time ago, our next door neighbor in Topeka built a bird-house in his back yard. He built it especially as a nest for the martins; but behold the sparrows came and took possession of it. When our neighbor noticed that, he tore out the nest. I just thought of the Word of God along this line, and how insignificant and despised the sparrows are, and Jesus was looked upon as a sparrow. But praise God, we are redeemed sparrows tonight.

27

Sparrows in the Tabernacle

How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God." I was impressed with that little word, "nest." It refers to God's people, who are likened here to a sparrow and a swallow. The sparrow hath found a house. Yes, the sparrow, that has been driven from pillar to post by the storms, has finally found a house, a dwelling place, which she calls home, and from which no one can drive her out. The sparrow hath found a house because another sparrow built her house. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, went to Calvary and provided redemption that you and I might come under His protection, stand in His goodness and be clothed with His righteousness and rest under His sheltering wings. She has found a nest for herself where she may lay her young." Here we see fruitfulness. Others also come to this house and nest, which God has built. How true that is of this tabernacle. How beautiful it is. Many have spoken of its beauty. Why is it so beautiful? Not merely because of these bright lights, these white walls and fragrant flowers; but the presence of Jehovah makes it so beautiful. That is what made the tabernacle, the temple and all of those things mentioned so often in God's Word glorious. God was there. So we glorify Him tonight for this beautiful building where God's name is and where the people of

His grace will meet and feast together on His wonderful Word. The nest also speaks of rest. Oh, Hallelujah! We can lay down on the promises of God and enjoy the riches of His grace, and what we are enjoying tonight is just a little foretaste of what we will enjoy through the endless ages of eternity.

The Sparrows and Altar

Then the most impressive part of this verse, it seems to me, is “Even thine altars, oh Lord of hosts, my King and my God.” Where is the sparrow’s house and the swallow’s nest? It is the altars of our Lord Jesus Christ. I noticed that it is in the plural. Again the tabernacle comes before us where there were two altars. There was the brazen altar in the outer court and the golden altar in the holy place. The altar of brass in the outer court speaks to us of Calvary, where Jesus bore our sins and was made sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. Yes, it was at the brazen altar; for brass speaks of judgment. It was at Calvary where we were judged, and sin was set
28 aside. One thing has impressed me so deeply while studying of late in Leviticus. Sin was disposed of at the brazen altar. That is, the sin question was settled at the cross. The golden altar speaks of worship and praise and of the presence of God, where sin can never come. Sin was put away at Calvary; hence, sin cannot enter into God’s presence. Now that we are saved, we enter into the holy place as priests to worship in spirit and in truth and in the beauty of holiness. God has nothing marked against us. Satan can say nothing against us, because we are a new creation in Christ Jesus. Praise God for the brazen altar and for the golden altar, where the sparrow finds a house. Everything, thank God, is based on Calvary. Even the blood was carried from the brazen altar and sprinkled before the ark of the covenant. Jesus has entered into heaven itself, not by the blood of others, but by His own blood. In the value of the blood that was shed on the cross, He entered into the holiest of all; and you and I also can enter in tonight without sin, and worship God. We can look into His face and realize that His smile and approval are upon us knowing that “there is now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus.” The old account was settled on the cross. We are just as free before God as His beloved Son. Is that not wonderful?

Sparrows and Grace

What did the sparrow have to give that he might have that wonderful place? What did you and I have to give that we might be here in this place of wonderful privilege and blessing tonight? We had nothing; but Jesus gave all that He had, and thus redeemed us unto

Himself; and we will glorify Him throughout the endless ages.

“Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah” – verse 4. David said “One thing have I desired of the Lord” – Psalm 27. David longed for a resting place, which he could call home, just like all of God’s children do. They are tired of wandering here and there, driven and tossed. They long for rest and contentment, if only they may learn more and more of His wonderful grace. What shall we render unto the Lord tonight for all His benefits to us? What can we do to pay Him back? All we can do is do as David did. He said, I will take the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. I will just say, Lord, I will take a little more of your grace. Pour it on. And as He pours it on, our faces will be made to shine with His glory and our hearts will be filled with His victory. We will dwell in His presence and worship Him in spirit and in truth. “They will be still praising thee, Selah.” This word “Selah,” I understand, means to pause and meditate upon what has just been said. As we pause and meditate upon the wonderful works of God, surely many times a holy awe comes over us. The presence of God seems so sacred that we do not feel like 29 saying a word, because we are in His presence. “In His presence is fulness of joy,” tho, we be very quiet.

Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them” – verse 5. Yes, blessed is the man whose strength is in the Lord. I have often read that verse and wondered what it meant, but as I was looking to the Lord today, I saw what it means. The ways of the altar, is the meaning. The way of the brazen altar and the way of the golden altar. The cross of Calvary and the place of worship lead us into the presence of God. We are blessed of course, happy and contented. We are satisfied with the fatness of God’s house and have a place at His table continually. We know whence the next meal is coming.

Turning Sorrow into Joy

“who, passing through the valley of Baca, make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools” – verse 6. This word “Baca” means the weeper. Yes, surely we have to go thru some valleys. The valley of weeping becomes a well of refreshing. The margin reads, “Who, passing through the valley of mulberry trees, make him a well.” This seems to be taken from David’s experience, mentioned in II Samuel 5, where the Philistines came against him. David inquired of the Lord, What shall I do? Shall I go up against them? The answer came, Yes, go up by the way of the

mulberry trees; for I will deliver them into thy hands. When you hear a going in the top of the mulberry trees, you shall bestir yourself, for then shall the Lord smite the Philistines. When we feel and hear the mighty moving of the Holy Ghost in the midst of God's people, we know the victory is at hand. We can pass thru the valley of weeping and convert it into a well of great blessing. The rain also fills the pools. The Holy Spirit fills others with living streams.

Is it not wonderful? We go into a place of suffering, weeping and sorrow and we are able to bring a well into that valley. We can give a word of comfort, a gospel of cheer, of healing and salvation. Thank God for His blessing upon us tonight.

30 "They go from strength to strength. Everyone of them in Zion appeareth before God" – verse 7. The margin reads, "From company to company." That is true of all of us. As we go on with the Lord, we go from company to company. Therefore, we have gotten into this company; but this company is not going from company to company anymore. We will all be of the same company over there. A company of priests is associated with the High Priest, a company of saints who are going on. Thank God forever; and we are going to appear before God.

"O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob, Selah. Behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed" – verse 8, 9. Praise the name of the Lord for Jesus, the Anointed One. We too are anointed as well as He. It is wonderful to be anointed with the Spirit. If there is a believer here, that has not been filled with the Holy Spirit, you can receive this gift tonight. One moment enjoyed in the presence of God, is far better than a thousand out yonder in the world. I would rather be the least of them who are the Lord's alone, than wear a royal diadem and sit upon a throne. I would rather be where I am tonight, in the midst of God's people, than to have all the wealth of the world laying at my feet. We are serving the God to whom all things belong. The silver, the gold and the cattle upon a thousand hills belong to Him.

"For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly" – verse 11.

Thank God for the lesson concerning the sparrow, that we are redeemed by the precious blood, saved by an everlasting salvation. We

are just as sure of heaven as if we were already there. Do you believe it? Of course you do, and so do I. We do not only believe it; but we are enjoying it. We are enjoying something that is never going to end. Thank God for this marvelous truth. It almost confounds us when we see and hear it, and dumfounds us. As we continue to hear it, it separates us from everything and makes us grow deeper and deeper, and Jesus becomes sweeter and more precious to us. Our affections are set upon Him. We are running this race, determined to win, to be married to the King one of these days. I am so happy in my soul tonight. I cannot express it. I would like to tell it better if I could; but I cannot; but I am enjoying it to the best of my capacity and ability that God has given me. It is wonderful! One consolation in preaching the Gospel of Grace, is that we know it is so. Sometimes we have to preach it amidst opposition; but thank God, we know it is the Truth, and the Truth will stand the test. I am glad the Lord is building a house today. Jesus will say to His Father, here am I and the children. Thank God for the children He has given to His Son Jesus Christ. Thank God for the children that have been born in Kansas City, Kansas and for those that have been born on the Missouri side. I am glad that God is doing something the devil cannot undo. Many people talk as if the devil were bigger than the Lord; but I am glad that God is the greater; for "greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world." What God is doing you may be ignorant of; but if you are saved tonight, you are saved forever, tho' you may be so foolish as to think, oh, I can get away if I want to. Well, go to it and try it a while. You will get some hard knocks and find out that God is bigger than you. We will glory in the cross, not only now, but throughout eternal ages.

Soliloquy of a Worm

Death and Resurrection

Mary M. Bodie

*I am dead, I am dead, said the crawling worm,
As he entered within his prison form.
Never again shall I pillow my head
On the soft downy leaves; for I am dead.*

*Oh, my life-day is ended. I'm surely come
To the lonely place of solatium.
Never again shall I see the glad light.
Alas! alas! I am buried from sight.*

*But oh, what glad tidings that worm can tell.
One day, he moved in his dark prison cell.
The form gave way, and oh, glory! the bars
Were broken down, and he flew to the stars.*

*Up, up, he went soaring in his beautiful dress.
The colors of rainbow, we sure must confess,
Could never compare with his raiment's bright
sheen,
The glory of heaven in butterfly seen.*

*And so shall the saints, who are buried from
sight—
Hidden from sunshine in the darkness of night—
Come forth into radiant splendor and life
Into Christ's own likeness—His beautiful Wife.*

This lesson should have been printed before lesson 9 which was published in the March 2026 issue. Please excuse our error.

The Tabernacle in the Wilderness

The Ark of the Covenant Part 8

Dr. Vicky Moots

The Ark of the Covenant with its cover, the Mercy Seat, is the last piece of furniture which we will encounter in our journey through the Tabernacle from the outer gate into the Holy of Holies. It was, however, the first item for which instructions were given to Moses by God in the mountain, and was the first to be constructed. The Ark represented God's throne and His presence. It was the most sacred and glorious item in the Sanctuary, or Tabernacle. In fact, the Tabernacle was built to be a habitation for the Ark. The Ark foreshadowed Christ Himself. It was the only piece of furniture in the Holy of Holies.

The Holy of Holies, also called the Most Holy Place, was a room which was separated from the Holy Place by the inner Vail which only the High Priest could enter into once a year on the Day of Atonement. Moses, however, was allowed to enter it as needed to receive instructions from God.

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The instructions for making the Ark are given in Ex. 25:10-12. These instructions were given separately from its cover, the Mercy Seat: "And they shall make an ark of shitti_m wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold; within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about. And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it."

The Ark was basically a chest in which to place the tablets of stone which contained the covenant of the law, the Ten Commandments that God had engraved with His finger while Moses was on Mount Sinai. According to Heb. 9:4, there were two other items that were also contained in the Ark: "...the ark of the covenant overlaid roundabout with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the

tables of the covenant."

The contents of the Ark represent God's provisions that have been made for us in Christ. The pot of manna speaks of Christ, the Bread of Life, whom we can feed upon daily for our strength. Aaron's rod that budded is a type of the resurrection life of Christ in us. The tablets of stone hidden in the Ark and covered by the Mercy Seat show that the law was fulfilled in Christ, both the curse of the law and the righteousness which it demanded. Christ fulfilled every requirement of the law for us so that we could receive God's mercy and grace instead of condemnation.

The Ark was constructed of shittim wood, which is acacia wood, that grew in the wilderness. As has been discussed previously, this wood is almost indestructible and is called incorruptible wood. The wood is a spiritual type of Christ in His humanity, as "a root out of dry ground" (Isa. 53:2). It was overlaid with gold, within and without, which represents Christ's deity. The wood overlaid with gold therefore signifies the fact that Jesus was the God-Man, Emmanuel, God in the
34 flesh.

It is interesting to note that the dimensions of the ark are given in half cubits. The breadth and the height were both 1 1/2 cubits, which is 1/2 of three, and the length was 2 1/2 cubits, which is 1/2 of five.

The crown gold round about the top of the Ark was for the purpose of keeping its lid, the Mercy Seat, securely in place, so that it would not accidentally fall off. There was also a crown of gold around the top of the Altar of Incense and the table of Shewbread, which we have previously studied. Crowns of gold speak of glory.

Ex. 35 13:13-15 discusses the staves for carrying the Ark. They are also made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold. But notice that V. 15 states, "The staves shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it." This indicated that the Ark was always prepared to be taken with them wherever they went.

The Ark represented God's Presence, and the very present staves were a confirmation that HE WOULD NEVER LEAVE THEM OR FORSAKE THEM; AS IS PROMISED IN HEB. 13:5 Heb 13:5 "...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." This verse was quoted from Deut. 31:6 "Deut. 31:6 "... the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." We, too, can be assured by this promise, that no matter where the Lord leads us, His presence will always go with us.

(to be continued)



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 Death, Hell & Lake of Fire
 Destiny of the Wicked
 Diamonds in the Rough
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 Earnest but Wrong
 Eternal Life
 Extra! Extra!
 Fact of Tongues
 Faith
 Fear of the Lord
 First Day of the Week
 Five Much Mores
 5 Consequences...
 Friend Listen

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 Holy Spirit- Baptism & Anointing
 How to Receive Holy Spirit
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 Jesus Heals Today
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 Light on the Law
 Living Ones
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 Man Child. Rev. 12
 Mercy or Judgement
 New Birth
 Not Legislation, Revelation
 Oneness of Christ

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 Paul's Superlatives
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 Ranks in Resurrection
 Resume of What we Teach
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 Words on Eternal Security
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