

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole Counsel of GOD

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Table of Contents		
Article	Author	Page
Victory Over Amalek	Dr. Vicky Moots	7
Serenity Through Acceptance	David Bradley	10
Power of Jesus' Name	A.S. Copley	12
War is Declared (Part 1)	A.S. Copley	20
A Garden Enclosed (Part 1)	Frankie DeGan	23
Golden Calf	Ray Quintana	27
Tabernacle in the Wilderness (Part 15)	Dr. Vicky Moots	33

DIVINE HEALTH



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“For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:” - Deut 7:6, 7

It is very evident that Israel continues to take center stage for God’s agenda in these last days. World leaders also rise and fall according to His plan and purpose (Dan 2:21). God is sovereign in these choices, and it behooves all men to agree with Him. It is also vitally important that the Church (the Body of Christ), specifically, supports Israel. This is according to God’s will and declared in His Word.

There are many groups that have decided to take a stand against Israel, and we see them in action on our streets and campuses of this country. One such group is the Presbyterian Church USA. This is a quote from their website. “Last month [June 30, 2026] the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s General Assembly voted to recognize Israel’s war in Gaza as a genocide, and the United Church of Christ’s General Synod has passed a similar declaration.”

First, it is interesting they call this “Israel’s war.” This war started October 7, 2023, by Hamas and was supported by Iran. Gaza allowed this enemy of God and of Israel to take over their community. This is exactly how Satan works and has great spiritual applications, which is another study in itself. But the majority of governments and mankind do not support Israel, and they have become extremely bold in their stand against this tiny nation. As Christians, it is imperative 1) we know God’s Word, 2) we believe God’s Word, 3) we come to understand and grow in God’s Word, 4) we agree with His Word, and 5) when the door opens, we enter as directed by God and we stand and withstand for His truth.

This brings us to a couple of questions we might ask. The first, “What is God’s will and purpose for His people, Israel?” Which brings us to our text verse: “For thou art an holy people

unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people." There are those that will ask, since God knows all, why would He choose such a rebellious people? First, God is sovereign and all that He does is to bring about His will and purpose. Second, can the clay instruct the potter?

4 God further instructs us in His ways in Isaiah 55:8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD." Also, the Apostle Paul says in 1Cor 1:27 "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." We must never try to understand God or His word by using our reasoning mind, nor dilute it with man's philosophies. We receive God's word by faith and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth. So, the sum of these verses is that God chose Israel but also the Gentiles to show forth His glory, holiness and righteousness, His love and grace, and His mighty power through all His people. Israel was to be a witness of all that God is, for the world to see through His Son Jesus Christ. In all of Israel's disobedience and rejection of God's Son, the Lord still shows His mighty hand upon this small nation. He is longsuffering and will not allow them to be destroyed.

The other question is, "What instructions does God give to the Church as well as the Gentile nations concerning Israel?" The Apostle Paul has shared those exhortations for all to understand and the responsibility that we have toward Israel. Paul tells us multiple times throughout his writings to be "followers" of him, that we might learn of the fulness of Christ. In Romans 9:1-3 we see Paul expresses deep divine love and "great heaviness and continual sorrow" for his brethren, his kinsmen in the natural and says, "For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ," meaning Paul had such an intercessory divine love for his Jewish brethren, he is saying, "If I could I would be accursed as Christ was at Calvary." Not that Paul was looking to be a martyr but rather this shows his heart attitude, and he is expressing the love of Christ. Paul is being an example for all believers of the burden we should carry for God's chosen people.

Rom 11:11 "I say then, Have they [Israel] stumbled that

they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy." Has Israel stumbled so terribly that they will disappear from the map, the world or be forgotten forever? "GOD FORBID! But rather through their fall," This is where we must have a revelation of what Israel did for the Gentiles. "But rather through their fall salvation is COME unto the Gentiles." Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

Every Gentile is indebted to Israel because of their fall, that is, their rejection of Christ and the Gentiles should love them as Paul expressed in Romans 9. We love Israel and the Jewish people not only because they are God's chosen but also because of their rejection, we were brought into the plan of God. God knew all along this would happen and He did not cause Israel to rebel as we have seen them do time and time again, but He was to go to the Jew first and then to the Greek [or Gentile]. So, when Paul began his ministry, he would continue the order God established by going to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles. And the Gentiles accepted the very Gospel that the Jews rejected.

Paul then explains in Romans 11 how the Gentiles [branches of the wild olive tree] have been grafted into the "good olive tree." This is accomplished by God's grace through faith. Paul provides a warning which we should take heed as individuals, but he is specifically giving instruction to the Gentile nations. Rom 11:18 - 23 "Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear [reverence]: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise, thou also shalt be cut off [Gentile nations/ "goat nations"]. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again."

We are not to speak against Israel [boast not against]. The only boasting that can be done is in Christ Jesus for He is the root. Paul reminds us [the Gentiles] "be not highminded". Do not be conceited or full of pride thinking we are above Israel, for we are nothing without Christ. We did not come into this New Creation Life of our own strength and goodness,

but because Israel rejected the Gospel and God gave us the glorious opportunity. We have nothing to boast in ourselves, and we are to stand in reverence for Who God is and the grace He has shown to each of us by grafting us into the "good olive tree." In verse 23 we see God's desire toward Israel, as a nation, that they not remain in unbelief and be grafted in again to the Olive Tree, which God is more than able to do. This is the result of "salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy." God is using our salvation to stir up the Jews, to bring them to the place of accepting Jesus Christ as their Messiah.

Though the animosity of this world continues to build against Israel, let us continue to stand on God's Word and pray for His people, as they have yet the time of "Jacob's trouble" to go through. But praise the Lord, we have read the end of this story, as a nation they will bow the knee to Jesus Christ and God will raise them up as the head of the nations rather than the tail.



HE WILL COME

He has said He will come, and I know He cometh,
No power can make Him His purpose forget.
As sure as the dawning is the Word He has spoken:
His schedule runs true and the time is all set.
His promise has never been forfeited yet.

He has said He will come, and I know that He cometh.
As sure as the print of the nails in His hands,
So surely He'll come for His saints who are waiting,
And take them away to the heavenly strand.
On this sure Word of promise we've taken our stand.

He has said He will come, and I know that He cometh,
It may be at midnight, at morn, or noon.
Down from the archives of heaven come ringing
These words of good cheer, I am coming soon.
And away we shall fly on a long honeymoon.

~Unknown

VICTORY OVER AMALEK

Vicky Moots

In Exodus 17:8 we read that Amalek went to battle against Israel in the wilderness in a place called Rephidim. Amalek is the grandson of Esau. He is a type, or spiritual picture, of the flesh in the life of the believer.

When we are born again, we become a new creation in Christ, but we are still living in our old creation body which is subject to the desires of the flesh. Satan tempts us to yield to the flesh instead of to the Spirit.

This battle with Amalek represents our spiritual battle with the flesh. We will see in the rest of this chapter how that God gave Israel the victory over Amalek that day. God will also give us the victory over the flesh when we yield to Him, as Paul tells us in Gal. 5:16: "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

Exodus 17:9: "And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, and fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand." God gave Moses a special plan to fight back against the enemy. The first step was to choose men to go into battle. We, as Christians, have been chosen by God for His army, as Paul tells Timothy in II Tim. 2:3-4: "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." As soldiers of Christ, we must be careful to not let ourselves become so entangled with the affairs of this life that we have no time for God or His Word.

The next thing that Moses did was to take the rod of God which he had used to divide the Red Sea and go up to the top of the hill above the enemy. Earlier in this chapter, God had told Moses to take the rod and strike the rock in Horeb, and out came water for the people to drink.

Was that a magic rod? No! Moses had used the same rod as a shepherd's rod when he tended his father-in-law's sheep before God called him to lead the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt. The power of God was what performed the miracles. God used what was in Moses' hands. God will use whatever He puts in our hands, too, to perform His will if we will

yield it to Him.

Exodus 17:10: "So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill." So, we see in the first part of this verse that Joshua and the army were fighting a physical battle on the ground, while Moses, Aaron and Hur were waging a spiritual battle on top of the hill.

Moses did not go up alone. Neither are we to fight our spiritual battles alone. God had apparently told Moses to take Aaron, his brother, and Hur up with him. We need each other in our battle against Satan and the flesh. We need to encourage each other and to lift each other up in prayer.

Exodus 17:11: "And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed." Notice that Israel's success in the battle against Amalek was dependent upon the uplifted hands of Moses with the rod of God. Uplifted hands are a symbol of prayer and praise in the Scripture. David prayed in Ps. 28:2, "Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle." Paul also stated in I Tim. 2:8, "I will therefore that men pray every
8 where, lifting up holy hands without wrath or doubting."

Exodus 17:12: "But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun." In this verse, we see that Moses, their leader, grew weary and could not keep his hands raised. Aaron was the high priest, and he represented Jesus our High Priest, who intercedes for us in our time of need. But he and Hur also represent us as spiritual priests who intercede on the behalf of other believers who grow weary and become weak. They both recognized Moses's weakness, and his need for help, and stood beside him to elevate his hands for him. They also recognized his inability to continue to stand, and sat him down upon a rock.

Paul instructs us in Heb. 12:12 to intercede for other saints who are no longer able to stand against the enemy, those who have no strength in their battle against the flesh: "Wherefore lift up the hands that hang down, and the feeble knees." We must lift them up in prayer when they no longer have strength to pray, or even know how they should pray. The

Holy Spirit will guide us in knowing how to pray: "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself [Himself] maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (Rom. 8:26).

As a result of the intercession of Aaron and Hur, Israel was able to be victorious in this battle against Amalek, as Ex. 17:13 declares: "And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword." The sword, of course, represents the "sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph. 6:17). This same weapon also enables us to be victorious in our battle with Satan.

In the morning watch, 'neath the lifted cloud,
You shall see but the Lord alone,
When He leads you on from the place of the sea
To a land that you have not known;
And your fears shall pass as your foes have passed,
You shall be no more afraid;
You shall sing His praise in a better place,
A place that His hand has made.

9

~Annie Johnson Flint

I'M THANKFUL

thank God for the bitter things;
They've been a friend to Grace.
They've driven me from the path of ease,
To storm the secret place.
I thank Him for the friends who failed
To fill my heart's deep need -
They've driven me to the Savior's feet;
Upon His sweet love to feed.
I'm thankful too, thru all life's way,
No one could really satisfy -
And so, I've found in God alone,
My rich and full supply.

- Eleanor Berchtold

Missionary to Colombia

SERENITY ... THROUGH ACCEPTANCE

David Bradley

"For I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need." (Philippians 4:11, NKJV)

The Apostle Paul learned many wonderful truths from God and a great revelation of Jesus Christ. Although his calling was spectacular in nature, he was not privileged in the lessons that he learned in his life and ministry. He had found through life's experiences and in his Christian walk to appreciate all things from the hand of God. He was not handed spirituality on a silver platter, but learned to deal with life on life's terms by practical experience through God's Grace (II Corinthians 11:22-33).

10 One time I prayed for God to give me patience, but afterwards all manner of trials came my way. I was bewildered as to why God had not answered my prayer, and then I realized that He had. I found that I could only learn patience through tribulation. It was only through overcoming that I could realize the Grace of God and appreciate the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Throughout my life I have received the opposite of what I expected to receive in the way of blessings or instruction in my Christian growth. For this I am truly grateful. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord" (Isaiah 55:8).

Paul, The Apostle, encourages us to glory in tribulation, "knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope" (Romans 5:1-6). We see that there is a process which we go through in our spiritual growth. Christianity has its simplicity through the work of the Cross, but living a Christian life is not always an easy way. Some have sought an easier, softer way, and in the process have lost out on many blessings. The minds of some believers have been corrupted from the simplicity and purity that is towards Christ (II Corinthians 11:2-3).

"... All who desire to live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (II Timothy 3:12). With the blessings of God there is a corresponding price to be paid. "If we suffer,

we shall also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us (the right to reign)" (II Timothy 2:12). Those who want to go on with the Lord in their Christian growth must learn to accept all things from His hand and recognize that it is for their good. When we can see this, then we can gain acceptance in the things that God allows to come our way and have serenity in knowing that God has allowed it for our good, and that He has everything under control in our lives. This is faith in action. (Romans 8:28)

"Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy" (I Peter 4:12-14).

ENCAMPING ANGELS

No days are drear; for God is near
And angels round us camp.
All days are bright; for rays of light
Shine from the angel's lamp.

11

As flowers bloom in times of gloom
'Neath God's sweet, tender care,
So His dear child midst dangers wild
Doth in His keeping share.

The falling rain and racking pain
Are no real cause for fear.
In times like these, the good Lord sees,
And angels hover near.

The angels round about encamp
All those who fear God's name.
As in the times of long ago,
They are today the same.

~ Goldie Finch

POWER OF JESUS' NAME

A. S. Copley

"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His Name." John 20:30, 31.

The word "these" refers to the signs mentioned in the preceding verses of this chapter, in contrast with the unrecorded "other signs." The most stupendous sign of all is the fact that Jesus came up alive from the grave; for He was "quicken" in the tomb. (Eph. 2:5). "He showed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs." Acts 1:3.

12 When Mary Magdalene arrived at the sepulcher, she found that the stone had already been rolled away. His foes said that His body was stolen away, while the guards slept; but not so. Peter and John found the tomb empty, as Mary said, and the linen clothes and the head napkin lying in an orderly fashion at two different positions, as if an intelligent hand had quietly and purposely placed them there. John "saw and believed." Mary lingered about the grave, alone, and presently beheld "two angels in white sitting, the one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain."

While in conversation with the two angels, Mary turned and "saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus." Then she addressed Him as the gardener. When He called her name, "Mary," she recognized Him and exclaimed, "Rabboni," or "My Master." This was early morning. Jesus said unto her, "Go to My brethren and say unto them, I ascend unto My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God."

Here is another striking supernatural phenomenon. Immediately He departed, went to heaven and later returned. "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst and saith unto them, Peace be unto you." From whence did He come? From a visit with His Father in heaven. How did He get into that closed room without opening a door, or window? Too wonderful for words! They were convinced that He was indeed their Master and Messiah, who had been in their midst for three

years past. Were those things not positive proof of His Divine sonship? He showed to them His hands and His side and assured them that He would send them forth as witnesses.

A week later, when the disciples were again assembled within closed doors, Jesus stood in the midst and said, "Peace be unto you." He spoke directly to Thomas, who was absent at the former meeting, and said to him, "Reach hither thy finger and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand and thrust it into my side; and be not faithless, but believing." This time, Thomas was overwhelmingly convinced; for he exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" There and then, he received an unquestioning revelation that Jesus is the Anointed Son of God.

Hence, John ends this chapter by saying, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that ye might have life through His name." Let us consider the power of Jesus' Name. Our text gives the first point.

1. "Life Through His Name." John wrote, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." Jesus announced, "I am the Light of the world he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 1:4; 8:12. Then He demonstrated His ability by giving to a blind man, both life and sight, which came to him as both physical and spiritual sight. 13

In the beginning, God's Son was the only channel of all forms of natural life - animal, vegetable, and human; "for all things were created through Him and for Him..." (Col. 1:16). But our text speaks of a different life, a far greater life, which is spiritual, heavenly, and supernatural. It is the result of extreme sacrifice, even the death of the spotless Son of God. This is supremely wonderful. When a sinner believes on the Name of Jesus Christ, he receives this life into his very being; and this life is eternal. As Christ could never die a second time and go into the tomb, even so, he, who receives this life can never lose it; for we were "quickened together with Christ". (Eph. 2:5). The life we receive is resurrection life, which can never see death.

2. Salvation through His Name. "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Acts 2:21. In his first great pentecostal message, the Apostle Peter quoted from the prophecy of Joel.

The prophet looked through his telescope of hope and beheld this marvelous truth and announced deliverance to the world for every person who would call upon the name of the Lord. How easy, then, it is to be saved! How simple is the plan of salvation! And yet, how few, comparatively, avail themselves of this great privilege.

This point is akin to the first one, for when a sinner receives life, he also receives salvation. The one implies the other. David said, "The Lord is my light and my salvation." And, "Christ is my life." Col. 3:4. When a sinner believes on the Name of Jesus Christ, he obtains forgiveness, or justification from all his past sins; he experiences a new, or spiritual birth; he receives peace with God; he is translated into of the Kingdom of God's dear Son, and he passes out of death into life. Of course, he shall never come into judgment. (John 5:24). To believe on that Name is to rest upon it, bank upon it and find that it never fails. That faith gradually grows into assurance, into the full assurance of faith, as to our state here upon earth, and finally into the full assurance of the hope of seeing Jesus some day and of being with Him and being like Him.

14 3. Baptism in Jesus' Name. Peter said to his powerfully-convicted hearers, "Repent and be baptized every one of you into the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38. God had brought His people Israel under a new covenant, a spiritual covenant. The anti-type of Moses had come. (Deut. 18:15 with Acts 3:22). The real Redeemer had died for all mankind and was buried and raised from the dead, and ascended into heaven, whence He had come 33 years before. The people could no longer bear the banner of Moses, unto whom they were once baptized. (I Cor. 10:2). Therefore, they were bidden to repent or turn from the types and shadows of the Mosaic ritual. The Substance had come in the Person of God's Son, the promised Messiah.

The most fitting and outspoken way of expressing their faith in, and their acceptance of the new Leader, was by being baptized, immersed in water "in the Name of Jesus Christ." Baptism is a symbol of death, burial and resurrection. Hence, by being baptized in water in His Name, they signified that they died to Moses and all his typical forms and had been resurrected to walk in the power of Jesus' Name, and by His life. They died to the Law and to the entire old, legal covenant. It meant

more than that, however, as Paul afterwards taught. (Romans 6.)

Were these people saved by baptism in water? No, emphatically NO! Peter taught that salvation was through the Name of Jesus, and not through water. He declared with unmistakable clearness that baptism does not put away the "filth of the flesh," but it is simply the "answer of a good conscience toward God." Their salvation was through the resurrection of Jesus Christ and not by baptism in water. As Noah and his family were "saved by water" (or, literally carried safely through the water, actually being saved by the ark); so, "after a true likeness" does baptism save us, but it is through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The ark was Noah's savior from drowning; likewise, the risen Christ is our Savior from judgment. In both cases, the water was only a symbol. (I Peter 3:20,21 R.V. Study I Peter 2:22-25). Men are born again by the Word of God, and not water. Souls are purified in obeying the Truth through the Spirit. Water is not named, nor even intimated. He contended for the same simple way of salvation by grace through faith at the great conference in Jerusalem. (Acts 15:9-11). He agreed perfectly with Jesus and Paul, that "by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8.

Every instance of water baptism recorded in the Acts of the Apostles was in the Name of Jesus, or in the Name of the Lord, or in the Name of the Lord Jesus. But, in no case, did baptism mean more than a sign, or a symbol. That was in harmony with what Paul wrote many years later - "Whatsoever ye do in word, or deed, do ALL in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father of Him." Col. 3:17. (You may ask, "How do you reconcile baptism in Jesus' name with Matt. 28:19?" Send for our booklet on "Water Baptism").

It is sufficient for us now to quote Peter once again: "Therefore, let all the house of Israel (and the Church also), know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ." Acts 2:36. This was in immediate connection with that statement and based upon it, that the Apostle instructed his audience to be baptized in the Name of the Lord, in whose name he had announced before that they should be saved. 2:21. The logic and Scripturalness of baptizing in Jesus' Name appears increasingly evident as we proceed with our study.

4. A lame man healed in Jesus' Name. The cripple sat at the gate of the temple, asking for alms. When Peter saw him, he exclaimed,

"Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." Acts 3:6. When the onlookers marvelled at the victorious recovery, Peter said, "The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified His Son Jesus,...and His Name, through faith in His Name hath made this man strong whom ye see and know; yea the faith which is by Him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all." 3:13, 16. Does it not also follow that baptism should be in the same worthy and mighty Name?

The officers of the temple were angered at the fervor and boldness of Peter and John, and arrested them. They asked, "By what authority, or by what name have ye done this?" There is great meaning and power in a name. If I have \$200,000 in a bank account, my name, signed to a check will draw out any sum up to that amount. My name has power and authority over that large sum. Likewise, since Jesus Christ is one with His Father, and mutual owner of all things, His Name has unlimited power in the universe, especially now; for God has made Him Lord of all during this age and the next age.

16 Therefore, the disciples insisted that "by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead; even: by Him, doth this man stand here before whole. This is the Stone which was set at nought of you builders, and is become the Head of the corner." Psalms 118:22; Isa. 28:16. Now mark and marvel at the following: "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is NONE other NAME under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:7, 10-12.

5. Signs and wonders wrought in Jesus' Name. Such was the over whelming power of that Name over the disciples' foes, that they had to release them. The worst they could do was to give them the imbecile charge, "Not to speak at all, nor teach in the name of Jesus." 4:18. But the disciples met with the other believers, and they prayed together, saying "And now Lord, behold their threatenings, and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy Word, by stretching forth thine hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done by the NAME of thy holy Child Jesus." The sequel was, that the room where they assembled, was mightily shaken by the power of God. "And with great power, gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus; and great grace was upon them all." Acts 4:29-33.

6. The Supremacy of Jesus' Name. Paul records the unspeakable humbling of Jesus Christ, His seven steps downward, from equality with the Godhead to His ignominious death on the cross. Then he adds this master-stroke of highest eulogy – "Wherefore, God also hath highly exalted Him and given Him a name, which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of things in heaven and upon earth and under the earth; and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is LORD to the glory of God the Father." Phil 2:9-11.

What sublime and awe-inspiring language! God has exalted His Son; yea, highly exalted Him. He gave Him the name JESUS, which name is above every name. Every knee in the universe must bow to Him, and every tongue confess Him, though they do not all yield to Him to be saved by Him. Even His arch enemy, Satan, must submit to His authority. Is it then not becoming to a sinner, who has been saved by that Name, to be baptized in His Name?

7. The Great Commission is in Jesus' Name. Among our Lord's last words to His disciples before ascending to heaven were the following: "These signs shall follow them that believe. IN MY NAME, shall they cast out demons, they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover" Mark 16:17, 18.

Five signs in His name should follow the preaching of the Gospel. Six positive "shalls" were guaranteed in His Name. Oh, the power of that Name! Oh, the unspeakable privilege of using that Name for the glory of Christ. Oh, the solemn authority through that Name, put into our hands! Before the crucifixion, Jesus said to Peter, "Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Matt 16:19. A few days later, He put that same authority into the hands of others, as if including any believers, which harmonizes with His words in Mark 16. See also Matt 18:11-20

A mother may claim the healing of her child in Jesus' Name. I may lay hands on my own body and take a deliverance in Jesus' Name. You may put that Name against any spirit of hatred or envy that rises up against you. All forms of evil must retreat as you advance toward them in Jesus' Name. How marvelous! The Almighty Name of Jesus Christ is placed at the disposal of simple faith – "These signs shall follow them that believe." And, "All things are possible to him that believeth."

REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

"...the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." Psa. 84:11

Many may recognize this verse as that from whence the title to this magazine was derived. The characteristics of "... grace and glory..." present only two major examples of the goodness extended to "...them that walk uprightly." Divine grace permeates this psalm, which begins with identifying those to whom it is directly written, for the heading indicates that this is "A Psalm for the sons of Korah." Korah was the son of Kohath, a family of the Levites which had been charged with carrying the furniture of the tabernacle in the wilderness when it was in transport. The account in Num. 16 indicates that Korah and his band were not satisfied with the ministry given to them and emphasizes the fact that Korah actually wanted the place which God had given to Aaron. Num. 16:9-10 God's judgment is swift, as "...the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up..." Num. 16:32 However scripture does reveal that "...the children of Korah died not." Num 26:11

This psalm begins with, specifically identifying that many good things are reserved for "them that walk uprightly," including the sons of Korah, shouting "How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts!" The word amiable means "loved, or well-beloved." What a glorious blessing it is to realize that we can become the very tabernacle wherein God doth dwell, and indeed we are the beloved of the The Lord. Intimate fellowship with God is then offered, for "My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God." V. 2

Next, we must realize that we are identified with the heavenly band, as "...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." V. 3 It seems that these heavenly beings have found a home in the very altar of God, signifying the fact that we too must discover our own home on the altar of sacrifice, presenting ourselves as a living sacrifice unto Him. Rom. 12:1

This list of "... no good thing..." being withheld continues, proclaiming: "Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah." V. 4 This close and intimate fellowship with God is not a temporary hit and miss experience but rather becomes a customary place of constant dwelling in the very Presence of The LORD! Praise is then a constant companion which results in the glorious blessing of discovering that we can be "...the man whose strength is in thee..." V. 5 Refreshing wells even in the valley of Baca (weeping) come next, followed by the assurance that The Lord of hosts will hear my prayer and surely become my own personal shield of protection. This account continues, proclaiming more good things available to these sons of Korah. The impetus here is that they are not responsible for the acts of unbelief and rebellion committed by their father, but as Paul exhorted the Galatians, "... let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden." Gal. 6:4 Divine grace allows us to stand on our own merit in Christ Jesus regardless of what someone else may or may not have done.

19

ANNOUNCEMENT:

STREAMING OF SERVICES

Gospel Fellowship worship services are being streamed weekly on the website: www.gracegod.com

Sunday School begins at 10A.M. with the Worship Service following at 11 A.M. CST.

Sunday Afternoon Service begins at 1:30PM

Wed. Evening Prayer Meeting & Bible Study starts at 7 P.M.

Take your liberty and tune in for all these opportunities to learn of God's Word.

War Is Declared

A.S. Copley

Given at Topeka Camp Meeting 1934

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." -- Galatians 1:8.

The Apostle discovered a foe encamped in the regions of selfish flesh. No greater enemy, except Satan, ever arose. Paul was five years or more, gathering ammunition and making preparations to declare war on this foe. He is a very subtle enemy, adroit and powerfully entrenched in the minds of men. Nevertheless, Paul openly and boldly declared war against the whole empire of the religion of works. Seven other valiant soldiers "the brethren," joined him in hot combat – Gal 1:2 with Acts 20:4. They poured forth six violent volleys in a little country called Galatia.

THE FIRST VOLLEY CHAPTER ONE

20

Paul and his comrades each had a four-barreled rifle, which discharged four great bullets – the death, burial, resurrection and exhibition of Jesus Christ – I Cor 15:3-5. Their first fire was with the third barrel – God "raised Him (Christ) from the dead" – Gal 1:1. The second fire was with the first barrel – "Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us out of this present evil world (age)" – Gal 1:4 Revised Version. These two fires are sufficient to blow all religions of works into smithereens. If humanity is so wicked and vile that God's Holy Son must die as a criminal in man's stead in order to recover him, then nothing else could be done to save him nor to help save him. Death, and only the shameful death of the only sinless and perfect Man, identified with ruined man, was divine wisdom's only way of dealing with mankind without destroying him utterly. He took the entire race to the Cross and into the grave.

"He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" – I Cor 15:4. Loud and long is the report of this third fire; for, by His resurrection, Jesus Christ brought up a new creation – a sinless, holy, perfect, and victorious new race. Hear the mighty vibrant reports: "Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" – II Cor. 5:17. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" – Rom 8:1. "For in Him (Christ) dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him, which is the Head of all principality and power" – Col 2:9, 10. These are the glorious, Christ-honoring, sin-conquering, and flesh-subduing truths, for which Paul and his associates were contending.

Now the crime of the ages is that self-seeking teachers have introduced other gospels, which are not gospels at all; but

they pervert the Gospel of Christ and trouble the saints. It is simply a revival of Cain's turnip-raising religion, but his turnips contained no blood. "Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord" – Gen 4:3. He refused the way of the living sacrifice, thus denying that he was a sinner and deserved death. Cain was the father of all religions of works. Human religions are the bane of this age. Efforts to save by works, rejecting the atoning death of Christ, or mixing human works with God's salvation – these make this the "present evil world (age)" – Gal 1:4.

All the divisions in Christendom are traceable, directly or indirectly, to this hideous crime which is against the atoning death of Christ. Next to the devil, SELF is the biggest fellow in the world, and self-effort salvation is the greatest stench in Jehovah's nostrils. Unity and Christian Science, and all other religious philosophies sprang from SELF. The Apostle abominated man's works so deeply, that he would not count even water baptism as an item of the Gospel. Hence, he said, "Christ sent me NOT to baptize, but to preach the Gospel" – I Cor 1:17. Against the accursed religions of works, Paul laid siege in holy combat, as outlined in this little book. Christendom is honeycombed, poisoned, leavened, and bewitched by it today. The hydra-headed monster will soon climax in wondering after and worshiping the anti-Christ, who will display himself as God in the temple. O God, save us from every tinge of works or law-keeping. Should we not join the Apostle in a relentless war against this deadly foe? It is impossible to overexaggerate the terribleness of self-effort or legalistic religions. Therefore, let us listen to the Apostle's fearless cannonading of this root foe of the Gospel.

21

Observe that grace, faith, love, hope, liberty, promise, life, and the Spirit, are all and always on the side of THE Gospel. Legality, works, bondage, human perfection, unbelief, witchcraft, works of the flesh, strife, corruption, are all and always against the Gospel of Christ. A score of deserved detestable titles are here ascribed to propagators of religions of works; for example: troublers, perverters, false brethren, separatists, devourers, biters, bewitchers, etc. Therefore, in Paul's first onslaught, he roars aloud, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, LET HIM BE ACCURSED. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, LET HIM BE ACCURSED" – Gal 1:8, 9. Shall we lend any sympathy to doctrines which share in such scathing condemnation? A thousand times NO!

“By the revelation of Jesus Christ” – Gal 1:12. God Almighty is back of His valiant soldiers of grace. Paul exclaims, **“But I certify you, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached of me is NOT AFTER MAN.** For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but (it came) by the REVELATION of Jesus Christ” – Gal 1:11, 12. Also, **“it pleased God...to REVEAL His Son in me, that I might preach HIM” – Gal 1:15, 16.** Saul of Tarsus was an extremely zealous legalist, willing to die for the traditions of the fathers. By his works of the flesh and moral endeavors, he destroyed the faith of the Gospel. Note Gal 1:13, 14, 23. But the bright revelation of Christ exploded all his self-effort, traditions, and theories forever. Behold the incurable harm which results from man’s doctrines. If people would read the Scriptures with honest hearts they, too, would receive the glorious revelation; but they cling to human teachings.

22 “NOT I, BUT CHRIST” – Gal 2:20. Observe that the core of Paul’s message, as to personal experience, was Christ; not a blessing, nor good feeling, nor determination, nor resolution, nor a cleaning up, nor quitting. It began with the revelation of Christ within, based upon his death with Christ. Hence, he could say, **“I am (have been) crucified with Christ (his old man was reckoned dead): nevertheless I live (a new creation); YET NOT I (no self-glorying), BUT CHRIST LIVETH IN ME” – Gal 2:20.** And, to prove further that his salvation was wholly divine, he added, **“And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.”** Again and again, he shot these two irresistible bullets – the substitutionary death of Christ which dispatched the old creation forever, and the resurrection of Christ which brought forth the new creation.

So unquestionably sure was the Apostle that he had **THE TRUTH** and was right, that he counseled with no man – not even with the twelve apostles, though they were filled with the Holy Spirit. After spending three years in Arabia (where the law was given) and in Damascus getting the new doctrine line up according to the Old Testament, he went and spent fifteen days with Peter. Gal 1:16-24. He was a divinely chosen vessel with a new and superlative message for a superlative purpose – Acts 9:15; Eph 3:3-5, 9. He spent a year with the church in Antioch, after which the Holy Spirit sent him and Barnabas forth to proclaim the Gospel to the Gentiles. Acts 11:25, 26; 13:1-4.

(To Be Continued)

"A Garden Enclosed"

Introduction – Part 1

Frankie DeGan

"A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed. Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with spikenard, Spikenard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices: A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon. Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits." - Song 4:12-16

First, we want to notice this garden belongs to the Bridegroom. "I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse:" Song 5:1. All the components of this garden represent Him. In studying this garden, I pray we see how important it is not to skip over the details that God has placed in His Word and showing Christ throughout His scripture. Also, when studying the whole book of Song of Solomon, we learn this is in type the beautiful relationship between Christ and His bride and how that relationship develops. This study of the garden provides wonderful details of Christ and the characteristics He is looking for in His bride, for they are the characteristics we find in Him. 23

The Apostle Paul tells us in II Cor 3:18 we are to behold the glory of the Lord in order to be changed into His image. Let's look at His glory.

"A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed." Song 4:12. The Bridegroom is calling His bride "a garden enclosed" ...a garden that is closed up to Him only. "A spring shut up, a fountain sealed" speaks of the Holy Spirit. The one desiring to be the bride is going to absorb all Christ has to offer us and the Holy Spirit will lead and guide us into the fulness of Jesus Christ. At this point and time, it is about her growth and maturity **in Christ**. It is about being separated **unto Christ**. We cannot give or share with others what we have not taken in for ourselves first. This occurs through the watering of the Word. Please note, the bride is not complete until chapter seven. We see in Song 4:9, she only has one eye upon Christ. She is not fully committed or fully focused at this time upon Him.

But what I want to see is how she is well on her journey as I hope and pray, we are too.

In our journey of this study, we are going to see this garden is an intimate place. We are also going to see this is a place of growth and change. When studying each of these items listed, we find a beautiful descriptive picture of Christ and Paul's Gospel, of the truth to the Church to "run that you may obtain". At the start we saw Christ claims this garden as His garden. He claims her as His. Eph. 1:6 tells us, we are "accepted in the beloved". As a new creation in Christ Jesus, everything we are is of Him. This garden expresses the love, commitment and characteristics of Christ. It is all things in Christ Jesus. "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." - 2 Cor 5:17.

24 We also see in this garden the bride is changing into the image of Christ - "from glory to glory." This can only occur by spending time with Christ and becoming the garden. In other words, we are becoming the inheritance God is looking for, that we see in Eph 1:18. This is only possible through the studying and meditation of God's word, of walking in the Spirit daily.

In this garden there is water, trees, fruit, fragrances, oils and many spices. So, let's go on an exploration of this garden. "A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed." - Song 4:12 The word "enclosed" means "bar, bolt or lock." It means "a fenced garden." A fence speaks of protection. We know from Job chapter one God places a hedge of protection about us. This garden is protected by the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

"Sister" in our verse means "beloved," it means "bride." "Spouse" is interesting. So, I would have thought spouse would mean wife -- as in married. Looking it up I discovered it also means bride and is fitting, based on where we are in Song of Solomon. The bride must be complete before the marriage occurs, and as stated earlier that does not happen until Song 7:10 "I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me."

"A spring" means "something rolled, a wave, billow." Webster defines a "spring" - "with speed," "force for growth," or "to rise." There is movement in a spring of water from deep within the earth. It is the same with us; this water is the Holy Spirit working in us; purifying us with the water of the Word, making the Word of God alive to us.

"A fountain" also means spring or well. Being a fountain, the source of this water which is a spring or well has broken loose. It is overflowing with praise and worship for the "all things" we have found in Christ. [Ref. Rev 5:9-14.] "Fountain" is figurative of a source of happiness or enjoyment. Webster says "a structure from which the spring of water rises." But we see this fountain is "sealed". Moffat translates this verse "a spring of water sealed secure!" "A fountain sealed" is defined "to close up." Ephesians 1:13 says, "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise." We must experience Christ personally before "rivers of living waters" can flow out of us. "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." - John 7:38. To believe on Christ is not just when we received eternal life but it is throughout our life thereafter.

It will be the Holy Spirit that leads us into the truth and for a time we are closed up to Jesus, getting to know Him and learning of this new relationship. Do we desire this for our own life? "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:"-Eph 1:17 25

The Brown-Driver-Briggs Lexicon points out that "A fountain sealed" is a metaphor of "a chaste woman." The Apostle Paul instructs us in 2 Cor 11:2 "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." "Chaste" means "clean, innocent, modest, pure, and perfect." We are of the righteousness of Christ. The new creation, which is Jesus Christ living within every believer, is free of sin. The bride is free of spiritual fornication and when complete she will be manifested spotless because while on this earth she had only one head, Jesus Christ, her first Love.

Being a chaste virgin means the perfection of the new creation has been manifested from the spirit, to the soul and outwardly in the body. This change occurs by the love of God, by the washing of the water of the Word flowing through us daily.

(to be continued)

CHRIST MY PRIZE!

MARY M. BODIE

If I may but win Him, If Christ I may gain;
I care not how hot is the fire.
Tho' dark be the way and tho' stormy the day;
The Christ is the Prize I desire.

I've counted the cost, yes, I've counted the cost -
The loss of all earth-winning gain.
The cross I will bear, and His sorrow will share,
That jointly with Him I may reign.

His cup I am drinking, His cup I will drink;
For this is the price I must pay.
Tho' pleasure it cost and all Egypt is lost;
I'll go every step of the way.

For thus would I know Him; His suffering know,
Be found in His fulness as mine.
In fellowship deep the good harvest to reap,
United in wedlock divine.

My heart is a glow with a vehement flame,
To win the Beloved as mine;
All else I forego to be called by His name,
United in wedlock divine.



This song is found in the Grace & Glory Carols Hymn Book - page 107.
The music was written by James H. Yoaman.

The Golden Calf!

Ray Quintana

Exodus 32 to 34 of the tabernacle are very different. Note the sin that transpired among the congregation while Moses was in the mount. This is the awful sin of Aaron and the people during Moses's absence. Ex 32:1 "And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him." Moses figures Christ who is gone at this particular time, gone from the world. He is in the mount or He is with God exactly the way that Moses was. The same thing has happened today, Moses represents Christ who is still up in the mount. Some today say that He has delayed His coming. Where is He? I've been hearing about the Lord coming and He is not here yet. People have been saying this for years. **27**

The people began to call Moses the man who brought us up out of Egypt. The gold in v 2 signifies deity and now they are breaking them off, meaning they do not hear the voice of God. Today many are not hearing the voice of God. We are right on the threshold of Jesus' return and men are breaking off their golden earrings, refusing to hear the Voice of God or the Word of God. Instead, they are listening to error! Ex 32:4 "And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt."

Idolatry is the result of not listening to the voice of God. When men turn from the truth to error; and turn from listening to God's voice, error always leads to some type of idolatry. Ex 32:5 "And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD. 6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and **rose up to play.**" We find the same thing today in the church, as Paul said, having the form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. Some

have their church service, but it is summed up with people, who sit down to eat and to drink, and rise up to play religion. There is no reality at all. It is worship without Calvary as the basis.

28 They are looking at their crowns, which is their works. They look to a golden calf and not to Christ. They are looking to some image created by error. They are only worshiping what they could see rather than God. Ex 32:7 "And the **LORD** said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." When the Israelites looked at the golden calf, they were trying to make God manageable. It is spiritual blindness. People are looking at their crowns (their works) instead of Christ. This is the ultimate molten calf of the modern church. In Exodus, they used their own jewelry (gold they brought from Egypt) to create their god. They literally worshiped what they had contributed. In the Church today, when the sermon is always about our crown, the focus shifts from what Christ has done to what we are doing. The phrase **rose up to play** in Hebrew suggests a type of partying that was self-satisfying. They used the **peace offerings**, which were intended for fellowship with God as an excuse for a party. It became about their own pleasure.

Many church services today have become experiences designed to stimulate the senses rather than convict the soul. If the music, the lights, and the vibe are the primary draws, then the worship is often just a sophisticated form of playing religion. It provides an emotional high without the power of a transformed life through Calvary. In Exodus 32:8, the people said of the calf, "These be thy gods... which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." This is the most offensive part of the error: Giving the glory of a past deliverance to a current idol. Just as the calf didn't part the Red Sea, an organization didn't die for our sin. Only Christ did! When we lift up the image created in error, we are robbing Christ of His glory.

This was done in the absence of the intercessor Moses. While the people were playing at the bottom of the mountain, Moses (the mediator) was on the mountain with God. The people grew impatient because they couldn't see Moses. They wanted a "now god" that they could see and touch. Christ is our Intercessor at the right hand of the Father (unseen). People often grow impatient

with a faith that requires walking by Spirit and Truth. They create golden calves, instead of relying on the work of the Cross.

In the Church today there is a dangerous form of **spiritual presumption**. It's the idea that because a believer has all the provisions of Christ (positional sanctification), they can retire from the practical walk (progressive sanctification). When people gaze at their crowns, and the spiritual status or blessings they believe they've already secured, they stop looking at the Author and Finisher of their faith. They turn the grace of God into a license for spiritual laziness. The New Testament addresses this Crown-Gazing error as follows: It is the Laodicean Delusion: It says, "I have need of nothing!" The Church of Laodicea is the perfect New Testament mirror for the Israelites at the foot of the golden calf. They looked at their gold (their provisions and status) and felt self-sufficient. The same with the Laodiceans. They were rich, and increased with goods, and needed nothing; but they were wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. Like the Israelites' error, who thought the calf represented the God who brought them out of Egypt, the Laodiceans also thought their material or spiritual wealth was proof of God's favor. They were looking at their own crowns and jewelry while Christ was actually outside the door knocking to get in. 29

Some today teach that because we are complete in Him, there is no need for a disciplined, practical walk. They treat the crown as something already attained, requiring nothing practical. The Apostle Paul, who arguably did more for the Gospel than anyone, flatly rejected this: Philippians 3:12-14: Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect... 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. If we are looking at our crowns, we look back at what we did. We are looking behind us. Paul says we must look forward to Christ. If the greatest Apostle didn't consider himself to have already attained, it is dangerous for a modern believer to stop their practical walk because they feel they have spiritually arrived. To look at one's crown is to look at self. But to look at the Cross is to look at the Savior. When a believer thinks they no longer need a practical walk because they have all the provisions, they have fashioned a golden calf out of the very jewelry God gave them.

The belief that under grace, the moral law and the

practical walk doesn't matter is wrong. When people think there is no practical walk needed, they are saying my sins are already forgiven past, present, and future, and I am justified by Christ's work alone, then it doesn't matter how I live. My behavior cannot un-save me, so the moral law is irrelevant to my life. This is absolutely wrong. Jude 1:4: "For there are certain men crept in unawares... ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." Lasciviousness means turning Grace into a License: ungodly men turn the grace of God into spiritual arrogance. They use the Cross as an excuse for the very behavior the Cross was meant to crucify. The crown becomes the goal, when grace is viewed only as a provision to be used for our comfort. It is then, they stop being Christ focused and become lovers of pleasure (2 Timothy 3:4). When people say, I have Christ's provisions, so I don't need to watch my walk, they are doing exactly what Israel did. They take the Gold (Grace) and mold it into a Calf (a version of God that doesn't demand holiness).

30 Many in the church today are polishing their crowns, boasting of their positions, their ministries, or their spiritual rights. Ex 32:9 "And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: 10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation." While the people were at the bottom of the mountain with their golden calf, Moses stood on the mountain as a type of Christ, the Great Intercessor. The Stiffnecked Pride of the people when all the intercessory Grace required for a true practical walk was there for them was a shame. A stiffnecked ox was one that refused the yoke. It would not bend its neck to the master's direction. This is the heart of the error of "No Practical Walk." People want the provisions of the Master, but they refuse the yoke of the Master (His Lordship). When believers focus only on their crowns, they develop a stiff neck. They become unteachable and unbending, believing that their position in Christ exempts them from the yoke of daily obedience.

When God offered to consume the people and make a great nation of Moses alone (v. 10), Moses had a crown offered to him on a silver platter. He could have been the sole heir of the promise. Instead, Moses practiced the Spirit of Calvary: He rejected the crown of being the sole patriarch. He interceded and pleaded for the people based on God's Glory and God's Promises, not the

people's gold or crowns. True worship and a true walk are never about our greatness; they are about our total dependence on the Intercessor, Christ. If Christ stopped interceding for us for one moment, where would we be? Our practical Walk is the evidence that we understand Christ's intercessory work.

We are still in a wilderness world and still in desperate need of Jesus's active support. If we didn't need a practical walk, Jesus wouldn't need to ever live to intercede for us. The fact that Jesus is currently interceding proves that we are currently in need of His grace to sustain our practical walk. We are kept only because Jesus is praying for us.

2 Timothy 4:7-8: Paul says, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course... henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." Paul only looks at the crown after he has finished the practical walk. Looking at the crown as though we have it already leads to spiritual pride. If we think we are already crowned, we stop fighting the good fight because we think the fight is over. Scripture tells us to have assurance (knowing we are saved), but also, we must have vigilance (knowing we are still in a war). Error is taking part of a truth and ignoring the part that is "Not Yet." Paul says the "Not Yet" in 1Cor 9:24 "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain." When people focus only on the "Already," they become like the Israelites who thought they were already home at the foot of Sinai. They sat down to eat and drink because they thought the journey was basically over. Our race is not over; we have a practical walk that must be completed. This is the missing piece in much of today's teaching. The error of the Golden Calf is the error of premature arrival. Paul said in Colossians 2:6: "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him." Notice the verb: Walk. It implies movement, effort, and direction. It is true that Christ said the work was finished at Calvary, but to think there is nothing left for the believer to do, ignores the fact that while the payment is finished, the relationship and the race have just begun. 31

The Cross is not just a destination we visited once; it is the engine that powers our entire journey. When Jesus cried out, "It is finished!" at Calvary, He wasn't saying our life was over; He was saying our death sentence was over. The payment for our sin is 100% complete. We cannot add a single drop of effort to what He did

on that Cross. But while the payment is finished, the relationship has just begun. While the debt is settled, the race is now underway. Don't gaze at a crown that we haven't finished running for yet. Instead, keep our eyes on the Intercessor. Right now, at this very moment, Jesus Christ is at the right hand of the Father, praying for us, strengthening us, and providing exactly what we need for our practical walk today. The Cross is our foundation, but the Holy Spirit is our fuel. The race isn't over until we see Jesus face to face. So run in such a way that you may obtain the prize! Christ my Prize!

THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

The Bible contains 3,566,480 letters, 773,693 words, 31,102 verses, 1,189 chapters and 66 books. The longest chapter is the 119th Psalm; the shortest and middle chapter is the 117th Psalm. The middle verse is the 8th of the 118th Psalm. The longest name is in the 8th chapter of Isaiah. The word "Jehovah" occurs 6,855 times. The 37th chapter of Isaiah and the 19th chapter of the 2nd book of Kings are alike. The longest verse is the 9th verse of the 8th chapter of Esther; the shortest verse is the 35th of John 11. The 21st verse of Ezra 7 contains all the letters of the alphabet except the letter "J". The finest piece of reading is Acts 26. The name of God is not found in the book of Esther. The Bible contains knowledge, wisdom, holiness and love.

The Tabernacle in the Wilderness

(Urim and Thummim) Part 15

Dr. Vicky Moots

Ex. 28:30 gives the first mention of the Urim and the Thummim: "And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the LORD: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually."

Notice that nothing is said about making them, so that means that they were already existing objects. Although no one knows exactly what they were, we know by other Scriptures that they were used by the high priest to determine God's will in a particular matter. They, therefore, speak of judgment in the sense of divine guidance and discernment.

The Breastplate itself is called "the breastplate of judgment," most likely because of the presence of the Urim and the Thummim which were kept in it at all times. According to the writings of Bible Scholar Dr. Bullinger, the Urim and Thummim were probably two different precious stones which were drawn out of the pouch of the Breastplate as a lot to give God's judgment (decision) regarding a specific situation.

In Bible times, lots were pebbles or small bits of wood or stones that were used in making decisions. They were gathered into the folds of a garment or placed in a vessel and then shaken. The lot that fell out was the one that was chosen. This was often done prayerfully, as described in Prov. 16:33: "The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD."

But what do the Urim and Thummim mean to us spiritually? I believe that they both represent Christ, as we shall learn by the meaning of their names and the purpose for which they were used.

"Urim" means "lights." According to John 1:4,9 Christ is the light that came into a darkened world: "In him was life; and the life was the light of men...That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." Also, in John 8:12, Jesus declared, "...I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

In II Cor. 4:6 Paul clarifies to us the manner in which God imparts to us this spiritual light: "For God, who

commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." So, we can see from these verses how that Christ is the reality of that light of which the Urim was only the figure or spiritual type. The Urim was able to shed light upon that which was uncertain and dark.

What about the Thummim? How is it a picture of Christ? Its name means "perfection, or completeness, emblem of complete truth." Peter proclaims in I Pet. 1:19 that we were redeemed "... with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." He was the perfect Lamb of God. In Luke 23:14, Pilate declared regarding Jesus, "...I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man..." These verses show us that Christ was perfect.

In Col. 2:9-10, Paul proclaims, "...in him [Christ] dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him..." There is nothing in this world that is more complete than to be complete in Christ.

34 But Thummim also means truth, complete truth. How can we know the truth? Pilate asked Jesus in John 18:38, "...what is truth? ..." Truth is a person, not a thing, as we learn from Jesus Himself in John 14:6 when He stated, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life..." All of these verses together reveal how that Christ fulfills the meaning of Thummim: perfection, completeness, and truth.

It is through Christ, represented by the Urim and Thummim, that we can know God's will, just as the high priest did. Jesus is the Living Word, (John 1:1), and He will speak to us through the written Word as we read it. As our High Priest, Christ will guide us if we inquire of Him. He bears us upon His heart continually, upon His breast, just as the high priest, Aaron, did when he carried the Urim and Thummim in his breastplate.

(to be continued)

A MOMENT WITH HIM

We mutter and sputter,
We fume and we spurt;
We mumble and grumble,
Our feelings get hurt;
We can't understand things,
Our vision grows dim;
When all that we need is
A moment with Him!

~Unknown



A Problem, Solution & Triumph Arrangement & End of Ages Attack against the Truth A Burning Truth A Growing Relationship Caught up with Paul Cherubim & Seraphim Chaste Virgin Comfort in Time of Sorrow Death, Hell & Lake of Fire Destiny of the Wicked Diamonds in the Rough Dying Daily 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 Freedom Gifts of the Spirit Glossolalia God-A Triunity Gospel Records Gospels, Acts & Epistles Holy Spirit- Baptism & Anointing How to Receive Holy Spirit It is Finished Jesus Heals Today Judgement Seat of Christ Law or Grace Life Everlasting Light on the Law Living Ones Made Sin for Us Man Child. Rev. 12 Mercy or Judgement New Birth Not Legislation, Revelation	Oneness of Christ Pauline Sanctification Paul's Superlatives Phoebe Preaching Another Jesus Predestination Preparation of the Bride Ranks in Resurrection Resume of What we Teach Salvation for the Body Scriptural Terms Defined Words on Eternal Security The Adams Case The Two Adams The Sin Offering The Unforgiven Sin This is That Times of the Gentiles Tithing Water Baptism Wheat and Tares Why am I Not Healed
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