

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the  
whole counsel of GOD

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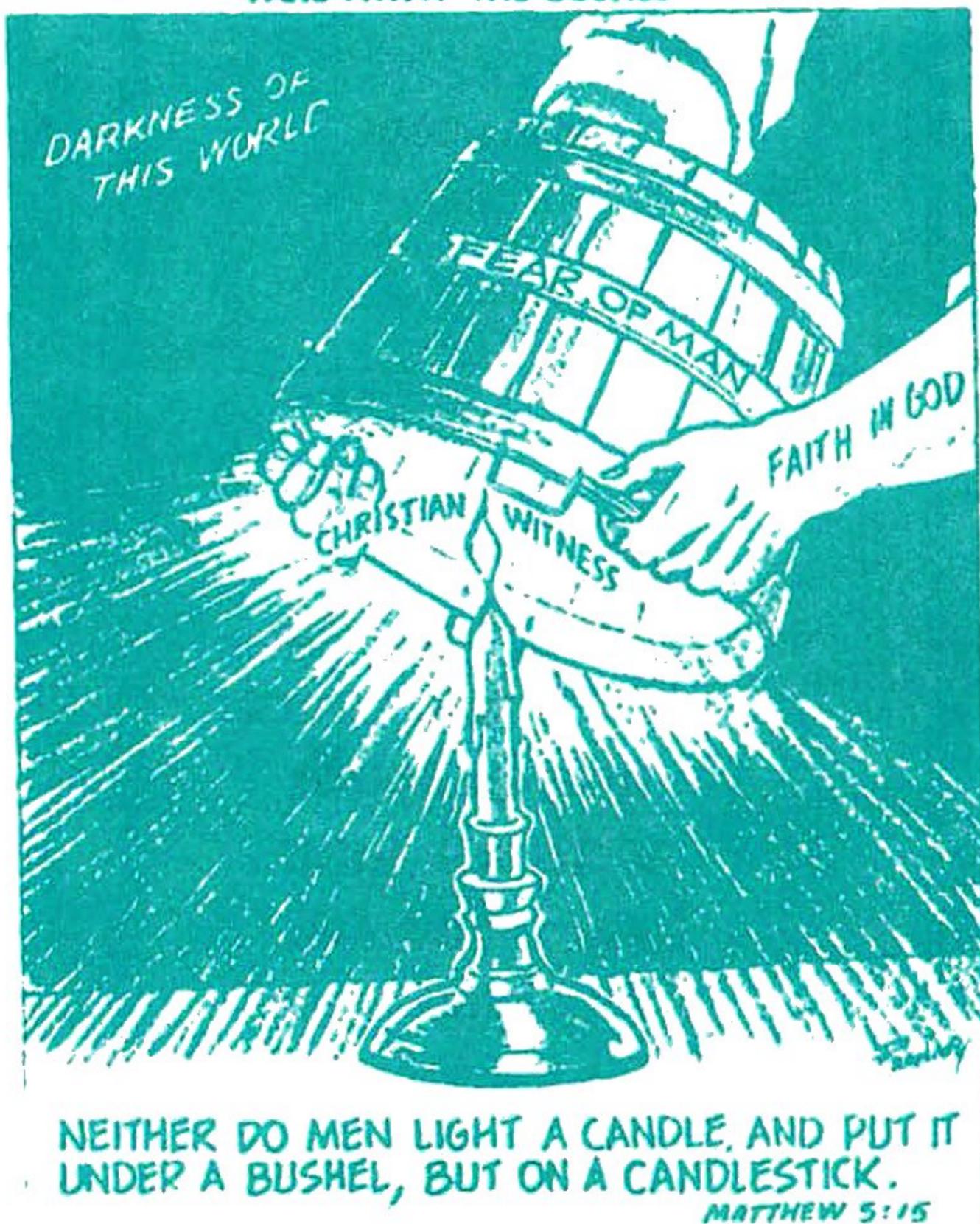
**O**nly fear the  
Lord, and serve  
him in truth  
with all your  
heart: for con-  
sider how great  
things he hath  
done for you.

*1 SAMUEL 12:24.*

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## TAKE AWAY THE BUSHEL



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

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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God. Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God.” Hos. 1:9-10

The above verses are not contradictory to one another. They simply reflect God’s dealings with Israel which actually cover thousands of years. The words of Jesus further uncover this mystery as He described the rebellion of God’s Chosen People in Matt. 23. “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!” Matt. 23:37

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Paul also addresses both the rebellion and restoration of these people with this account: “But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.” Rom. 10:20-21 He too proclaims their restoration as a nation, asking first, “I say then, Hath God cast away his people?...” and immediately answering “... God forbid...”

The Chief Apostle to the Church then uses his own life as an example of the fact that God has indeed NOT cast away His People. “...For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Even so then at this

present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." Rom. 11:1-5

There indeed is a "remnant" at this present hour, but the entire nation is yet to occupy the place which God has ordained for it. Some have concluded that Isaiah's prophecy regarding a nation that should be born in one day was fulfilled in 1948, but that simply cannot be. Note a number of specific conditions which Isaiah stipulates. "Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God. Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her: That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory. For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem." Isa 66:8-13 First it is stated that "... as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children...." This travail resulted in the birth of the "man child" or 144,000 that would come forth before the entire nation was born in one day. That did not happen in 1948. Secondly, Isaiah invites the nations to "...Rejoice ye with Jerusalem,...be glad with her...rejoice with joy with her, all ye that mourn for her:...." Third: When these verses are fulfilled, "...then shall ye (Gentile Nations) suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees..." Jerusalem will be the authoritative one and the very source of all blessing and even "glory" to these Gentile Nations, which are literally carried by her or "...borne upon her sides, and...dandled upon her knees." It is also important to understand that though all this will not be fully realized until the Millennium, it will begin in during the tribulation, once again, none of these things came to pass in 1948.

Current conditions in the Middle East, however, are focusing the attention of the entire world upon Israel. The Great Tribulation will begin shortly, wherein the antichrist will make every effort to destroy this people. That endeavor will not succeed. Scripture is very clear that after the man child is brought forth this tiny nation will be ushered into the wilderness and protected. John records all these events as follows: "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman (the twelve tribes of Israel) clothed with the sun, (Christ Himself) and the moon (The Church as a whole which must take a lesser place at this point in time) under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. 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. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. (1260 days) And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he

knoweth that he hath but a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. 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, (1260 days) from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Rev. 12:1-17

6 The bulk of modern-day teachers declare that the “man child” is Christ because he “...was to rule all nations with a rod of iron:...” Be it ever remembered that Jesus is no longer a “child.” He is a full grown Man, and at this time has been anointed King of kings and Lord of lords. The way He will rule is through His Chosen People Israel. It is that people to whom the nations will run as again Zechariah prophesies: “Thus saith the LORD of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also. Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.” Zech. 8:20-23 It is these same nations who will bear witness to the fact that God did indeed protect this tiny nation from all the onslaughts of the antichrist during his 1260 day reign of terror. That reign would begin about 250 days before the middle of the week because Jesus prophesied that “... then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for

the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Matt. 24:21-22 This 250 is an exact number derived from Daniel's prophecy of these same end times.

Those who would take their place as a member of the company called "the Bride of Christ," can be greatly encouraged because this company, represented by the Church of Philadelphia received this promise: "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write;... 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.... Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from (out of) the hour of temptation, (tribulation) 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." Rev. 3:7-11

Believers in the Church are not automatically in that choice company, as some seem to suppose. They must meet the qualifications recorded in these verses. Paul issued this glorious summation: "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things,...that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness,...That I may know him,... If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. (out from among the dead) Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after,... 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. 3:7-14 All these terms express stringent effort which must be exerted for one to reach the desired goal of being in **this very choice Bridal Company!**

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

## Matters for Thanksgiving and Prayer

George Meyer

For all the blessings of God granted to the testimony of salvation in Christ Jesus to the Jews and others.

For the knowledge of God's Word, the scriptural truth about the Lord Jesus, that He is Israel's Messiah and Savior, and the influence of His salvation by grace brought to bear upon many Jewish people.

For God's expansion of our ministry on 16 fields among many Jewish people in recent months and many large cities.

For the Jewish acceptance of the Gospel with interest and gratitude; their respect to the Messiah testimony according to Moses and the prophets; for listening attentively to the witness of Christ and His salvation.

For divine guidance and health; for lifelong friendships; for helpers and love and mutual confidence; for grace to be patient and blessings it contains; for safety in much movement; for the strengthening assurance of being in a God-appointed post.

8 For the supply of funds to meet the actual needs of the Mission; for grace to look to no other intervention of supplying a sufficiency of funds than to God alone. "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord; and my prayer came in unto thee, and to thine holy temple." Jonah 2:7.

That an intelligent and Spirit-guided appreciation of Bible teaching about Israel may spread to wider circles of God's children everywhere. That no opportunity of showing loving personal interest or concern for Jews may be lost; that all ground gained may be held.

That every effort among the many Jewish people who have received the Gospel and the Messiah testimonies may be very singly owned of God the Holy Spirit in their coming to a true scriptural knowledge of Christ and His salvation by His grace; that they who perceived the light of the Gospel may be kept in touch with the best spiritual and prayerful influences, with a view to their acceptance of Christ.

That those men and women of God in the Church who

have discovered that when faithfully undertaken, the mission to the Jews is an effort of divine love for Israel.

That a true deepening of spiritual life may be manifest among Jewish believers who are at times silent because of their unbelieving relatives; that God may strengthen their faith in God's grace and mercy, and have a fuller knowledge of the Word of God.

That we may look to the faithfulness of God to expand the work of God in Israel. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength" Isaiah 40:31.

That "Now the God of peace make us perfect in every good work to do His will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory forever and ever."

\*\*\*\*\*

### "With Christ" Phil. 1:23

9

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

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

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

J. Danson Smith

## The Marriage of the Lamb

Mary M. Bodie

“AND I HEARD AS IT WERE THE VOICE OF A GREAT MULTITUDE and as the voice of many waters and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia; for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come and His wife hath made herself ready.” Rev 19:6-7.

10 The MARRIAGE Of the Lamb is the significant item listed at this stage of progress in the Book of Revelation. Whoever heard of such an event? It is a most unusual affair. All the redeemed of heaven are astir with delight in anticipation of the wedding of the Lamb. They voiced their approval and interest in praise and adoration. We can almost hear them singing--that great multitude in heaven--with a mighty voice, chanting the praises of the Lamb and of his wife. The sound is as that of many waters swelling in sublimity and grandeur, even as we might say, the terrific booming of Niagara in its fall. It comes from the glorified saints, the “much people,” a great multitude of whom we read in the preceding chapters—7:9, 14:1 and 15:2. These unite in one grand chorus, an anthem of triumph which begins and ends with “Alleluia.” Here is the first mention of this expression of praise in the Book. We find it in the very first verse of the Song of “the much people” and then again in the anthem of “the great multitude.” It betokens the fact that the Lamb is actually accomplishing the purposes of God and taking to Himself the glory which belongs to Him. His marriage is the climaxing event up to that moment.

The four living ones and the 24 elders stand out, distinct from the throng. When the multitude, rejoice and sing, comment. They fall down upon their faces and worship God, answering the anthem of praise, saying “Amen! Alleluia!” And their voices come out of the throne with the authoritative command “Praise our God.” Then they call upon all the redeemed of heaven, “All ye servants, and ye that fear Him, both small and great,” to magnify the Lord; and they themselves lead in this anthem of praise. But this is the point to which we desire to focus attention. All

of these glorified folk in heaven are not the Bride of the Lamb. Some are rejoicing in the fact that the marriage of the Lamb is at hand and that the Bride has made herself ready. They no doubt are the guests at the wedding, or the servants, for observe that these several companies will attend that unheard of event--the marriage of the Lamb. All weddings of royalty and the great of this world have guests and servants; hence, why not the celebration of that heavenly union--the Lamb and his bride?

The Lamb is out to the front in these visions, as we have noted. As the Lamb, he has won a wife. He stooped to conquer--leaving his Father's bosom and the throne of Deity to die upon a cross of shame--to redeem humanity and win for himself a bride.

Thus, it is that He is the only Man who has been found worthy to open the book and reign as Almighty God. He has overcome and found a wife who has also overcome. Notice this fact. She too has been found worthy, which is the truth conveyed in the words—"She has made herself ready." She is a fit mate for the Lamb--"of Him, for Him made." None other could mate with Him. Oh, what a union; indissoluble! Eternal! Wonderful! Oh, glory! What will it mean to be a part of that glorious company who will satisfy the heart of Jesus? We can but faintly realize the satisfaction and delight when which they will experience, who have qualified for that transcendently glorious place. And we do yearn to attain to that image of the Lamb that will be counted worthy to be His wife. 11

In the Parable of the ten Virgins (Matthew 25), there is no mention of the Bride. The scene points beyond the first-rank rapture of the Church. The conclusion is obvious that the intent of the Lord's teaching is to distinguish the virgins as a class apart from the Wife of the Lamb. In the Song of Solomon, the Divine Love Song, there is reference to various classes making up the heavenly redeemed. "My Love among the daughters," "My Spouse," "queens," "virgins," etc., are mentioned. The 45th Psalm also contains a life-size portrait of the King and the Queen. He is portrayed as coming forth from ivory palaces, all His garments redolent of myrrh, aloes and cassia, perfumed with the anointing of the "oil of gladness above His fellows." "The Queen" upon His

right hand is arrayed in “gold of Ophir,” “The king’s daughters” attending her. “The daughter of Tyre” will also be there with a gift.

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb occupies the center of the stage at this point. It follows the marriage as is evident. The wedding procession begins with a proclamation, “Blessed are they that are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” The Bride is not called to her own wedding. Did not the Lord refer to this when He declared, “Many are called, but few are chosen”? Matt 22:14. There is a distinction here which is often overlooked. We must be called—born of God—before we are able to qualify and be chosen for the exalted place as the Bride of Christ. It is a CHOICE PLACE, even as that of Rebekah, the wife of Isaac. May we indeed seek that attainment and covet that honor. It calls for deepest surrender and consecration to the Lord. “To her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white, for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints.” V. 8.

The Revised Version is the better translation of the above.

12 “It was given unto her that she should array herself in fine linen bright and pure; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” In other words, the Bride weaves her own garments of beauty in which she will array herself for the wedding. Her trousseau is the work of her own hands—her RIGHTEOUS ACTS. We say again, that the Bride’s royal robes are distinct from the righteousness of Christ. These are not the “best robe” of the prodigal. When God clothed Adam and Eve, He made coats of the skins of the slain beasts, which figures Christ’s righteousness. The linen garments of the wife of the Lamb are different.

Wool expresses the divine righteousness of Christ. It grows. It is the product of His very life; but linen is woven by human hands. All who are born again are clothed with the garments of salvation. They are covered with Christ’s righteousness and thus fitted for the presence of God, without spot or blemish. This righteousness refers to our justification--our standing—without regard to our sanctification, or state. These two experiences are distinct. One is finished the moment we believe. The other is progressive. The Bride company is composed of those who have

brought their state up to their standing by the enabling of God's grace. They will be chosen for the honorable office of the queen of the Sovereign of the universe, because they yielded to God and let Him work in them so that their righteousness was made manifest. It was practically lived out in the world. Their own righteous acts are their adornment. They have shown forth the Lamb nature in the world in the midst of wolves. They have yielded up their lives unto death for the Truth and Christ's sake. They have served others. They allowed the Holy Spirit to work in them the righteousness which the Lamb provided by His death. This is being filled with all the fullness of God. Thus, Paul's prayer will be answered--Ephesians 3:19.

It is plainly evident that all the Saints are not so yielding and qualifying. Many do not know anything of overcoming. We cannot seek our own things and hope to attain to the state of the Lamb's wife. Many are ignorant of the Scriptures. They do not know of this chosen company, who count not their lives dear unto themselves; but SUFFER THE LOSS OF ALL THINGS, that they may win Christ. This loss is not in theory only, but in actuality. A real experience of overcoming which justifies the Lamb in sharing His throne and sovereignty over all things with the qualified saints.

The Song of Songs and other descriptions of this fair woman are not imaginary or extravagant exaggeration. "The King's daughter is all glorious within; her clothing is of wrought gold. She shall be brought unto the King in raiment of needlework, and so shall the King greatly desire her beauty." Psalm 45 "Her eyes are as doves' eyes within her locks, while her hair is as a flock of goats that appear on Mt. Gilead. Teeth are like ewes; lips like scarlet; temples like pomegranates and neck like a tower." Song of Solomon. These expressions typically indicate the presence, power, discernment and work of the Holy Spirit, as well as the consecration unto God of this company. Also the capacity to receive Divine Truth and make it practical in life--the conversation, chaste, holy—the adornment of a meek and lowly spirit as well as a steadfast state in the strength of the armor of the living God.

Again we declare, the Bride of the Lamb will have the nature of the Lamb exemplified in her character to the uttermost. And even though we may not be pressing on and attaining to the superlative degree, God forbid that we lower the standard to suit anyone. Let us trust the Lord that we may not fail to win the race, and say like Paul, before departing, "I know there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness," and thus find our place in that company of overcomers who will sing forever as the wife of the Lamb.

### *THINK AWHILE*

14           Stop! Think awhile before you take  
              A step that leads you to forsake  
              The code you've lived by for so long,  
              The trusted Word that made you strong,  
              When you were weak, and did not know  
              Which way to turn or where to go.  
Christ found you then, bemused and lost,  
              Revealed to you the awful cost  
              Of Calvary --- so moved your heart  
              You followed Him and from the start  
              you found new hope and lasting peace,  
              And joys that never seemed to cease.  
              This latest setback hurts you so,  
But those who follow Christ must know  
The sheep He found. He will not leave.  
              Do not despair --- press on, believe  
              That He will take you onward through  
              Each fiery trial, defend you  
              From every enemy and harm.  
He's led you through the storm to calm.  
              Don't give up now in this last mile.  
              Stop! Brother, Sister, think awhile.

Frank Roberts

## *The Rightful Ruler*

A. S. Copley

“Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. And to this agree the words of the prophets-as it is written, After this, I will return and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down, and I will build again the ruins thereof and I will set it up, that the residue of the men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles upon whom my Name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth these things.” Acts 15:14-17.

A company of apostles and elders and a multitude of believers convened in Jerusalem about 17 years after the day of Pentecost. It was a very important convention. It was settled there forever that God's salvation for Jews and Gentiles was by grace alone thru faith, without a scintillation of works, or law-keeping. Peter said, "God put no difference between us (Jews) and them (Gentiles), purifying their hearts by faith." -V. 9. At the same conference, a great prophetic truth was declared. James quoted Amos 9 :11,12 almost verbatim. Apparently, they both contradict portions of the 89th Psalm, wherein God's "faithfulness" to David is mentioned seven times. God said of David, "He shall cry unto me, Thou art my Father, my God and the Rock of my salvation. Also I will make Him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. My covenant shall stand fast with him. His seed (David's seed) also will I make to endure forever, and His throne as the days of heaven. My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. His seed shall endure forever and His throne as the son." But the 38th verse points out a sudden, radical turn in the road. "Thou hast cast off and abhorred. Thou hast made void the covenant, thou hast profaned the crown." "Thou hast broken down his hedges. Thou hast made his glory to cease and cast his throne to the ground." Exactly so, for Jehoiakin, the last king of Judah in David's line, was taken captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar. All the treasures of Solomon's temple, the princes and mighty men, also were taken captive. The house of the Lord and the king's house were burnt and the walls of Jerusalem were broken

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down. Read II Kings 24 & 25. The discrepancies vanish when we see the Lord Jesus in the royal lineage. He is God's "firstborn." He is David's seed that shall endure forever, and His throne as the days of heaven." Vs. 27,29,36 When the angel announced the birth of Jesus to Mary, He exclaimed, "He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David, and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1:32,33. This is exceedingly interesting, that the birth of Jesus takes us back to David, then sweeps us forward 1900 years to Christ's reign. The slips and slides of people are little items to God. He said to Israel, "For a small moment have I forsaken thee," but in the same breath, He exclaimed, "With great mercies will I gather thee and with ever-lasting kindness will I have mercy on thee." Isa. 54 :7,8. The Ingersolls (An Agnostic U.S. Lawyer) may discover the mistakes of Moses, but they fail to see the wonders and secrets and glories of God's precious Word. He permits perishable governments, thrones and capital cities to fall, but His Word will never fail. Jehovah stepped from Isaiah and Amos (about 800 years) to James at the great convocation in Jerusalem. In His second step (19 centuries) His royal foot is nearly touching the ground. The wings of His kingly chariot are disturbing the elements --- physical, religious and national--- Psa. 18:10. He is about to set up the tabernacle of David in Jerusalem and reign. The remnant of Israel and all the nations will then seek the Lord. During this age, the Lord has been visiting the nations to gather out for Himself a body and a bride. Let us be sure that we understand His plan for this age.

### **A Burlesque on the Above Hope**

Some false prophets have the ignorant audacity to tell us that King George of England is the lineal descendant of David. Maybe that is true. But he is not the royal descendant. David's throne was in Hebron 7 years, then in Jerusalem for 33 years. David's throne was never moved to London, and it never will be. His tabernacle fell down and into ruins when Jehoiakin was seized by the king of Babylon. And according to James, it had not yet been set up in his day. False prophets fool some folk

by catch questions. For example --- "Will Christ come to a non-existent throne? Has the scepter departed from Judah? Has the throne ceased?" He quotes the strong utterances of God's promise in Psalm 89:1 to 37. but slips silently over the remainder of the Psalm. Possibly he never read Amos 9 and Acts 15 and other similar Scriptures. The angel did not inform Mary that an unknown link, now discovered to be King George of England, should come in between her Son's birth and His rulership.

Observe how illogical and impossible is such a proposition. If the King of England is David's successor, then there is no chance for Jesus, for the same prophetic Scriptures cannot be fulfilled by two parties. If King George is in the royal line, then the Lord Jesus must be his son in order to get the throne. That is impossible. And there is not the faintest hint in the Old or New Testament, that David's throne or government was transferred to any other city from Jerusalem. No. It fell into ruins. On the other hand, both Testaments abound with proofs that Christ's millennial throne will be in Jerusalem in Palestine. The Latter Day Saints expect the Lord to come to Independence, Mo., so we are told. Anglo Israel look for Him to light on London, England. Paul tells us that the Lord will descend with a shout, and we shall meet Him in the air. Later. His feet shall stand on Mt. Olivet. Where is that mount? Not in England. Not in America, but where it was when Jesus left His disciples and went up to heaven. Hear Isaiah. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous BRANCH and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In His days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell safely. And this is His Name whereby He shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."-Isa. 23:5.

17

- \* The old man's garments do not fit the new man."
- \* Christ was not the victim of the Will of God, but rather the Victor through the Will of God.
- \* God's things must be taken by force as it were because the devil hinders. Matt. 11:12

# REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS

. . . *From the Editor*

"Cast me not away from thy presence;... " Psa 51:11

18 Though these words were penned by David, the actual plea must be attributed to Jesus, and such a request would of necessity be soundly rejected if the redemption of humanity is to be provided. Jesus was in fact "**cast out**" of God's Presence as He hung on the cross, "For he (God) hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." II Cor. 5:21 Thus, Jesus became the very "personification" of sin and therefore must be cast out of God's sight. The fact that this happened is clearly evident from Jesus' cry in Psa. 22. "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?" Psa. 22:1 God had to "cast Him out of His Presence" due to the promise found in Psa. 103:12 "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." Since Jesus had become that atrocious and despised sin, God had no choice but to totally reject His cries for deliverance. Jesus continued to plead His case, however, crying out " ... O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent." Note that He does not address God as "My Father," but as the Sovereign God of the universe. He is also quick to justify this righteous God, declaring plainly "But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel." Psa. 22:3 Howbeit, His cries of agony continue as He compares Himself with others whom God did deliver. "Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded." Psa. 23:3-5 He did feel "confounded," further asserting that "... I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him." Psa. 23:5-8

It must be remembered that this entire Psalm reflects Jesus' thoughts and feelings as He hung naked upon the cross, and though He is in the throes of agony and despair, hope seems to spring eternal as He cries out, "But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts. I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly." Psa. 23:9-10

The next portion of this text reveals something else that Jesus saw, as He once more pleads His case. "Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help. Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture." Psa. 22:11-18 All these show the presence of ungodly Satanic spirits which surrounded Jesus as He hung helpless on the Cross. Such Satanic influence was surely manifest in the faces of mortal men who cast these insults in His Face. Satan also most assuredly assumed that now he had achieved his goal of defeating God and His purposes, but he is shortly to be very surprised, for God does answer the cry of His heart after He has accomplished the very foundation for the redemption of all humanity. Thus, Jesus is surely confident and secure as He again cries out " ... be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me. Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling (His Bride) from the power of the dog. Save me from the lion's (Satan) mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns." Psa. 22:19-21

19

The next verse echoes the reason for His hope because it is a direct reference to His resurrection. "I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee." Psa. 22:22 Psalm 16 likewise confirms the victory of this same resurrected Christ, "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." Psa. 16:10 God did honor Jesus confidence in Him when three days after the crucifixion He was indeed raised up in newness of

life, never to experience death again. That fact also gives rise to the glorious hope of all believers today and thus this exhortation: "Ye that fear (reverence) the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel. For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard. My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him." Psa. 22:23-25 All the blessings that God poured out upon Jesus are also a guarantee that those same glorious blessings and provisions of redemption belong to us. So it is that we too can claim David's request in Psa. 51:12. "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit." Some erroneously conclude that David is calling for his salvation to be restored, but that is not what this verse declares. Rather, this Patriarch wanted once again to be literally saturated with the "... joy of thy salvation,..." and such salvation includes any deliverance, not just that from the depths of hell fire and damnation. The point here is that believers are to be obsessed with Him, not with their own conduct, be it good or bad.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ladies Retreat

April 24-26

For further information please contact:

Sis Pat Bryan

417 - 540 - 2088 or

e-mail: [pbsunflower68@gmail.com](mailto:pbsunflower68@gmail.com)

### GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP STREAMING:

Sunday School 10 A.M. CDT

Worship 11 A.M. CDT

Sunday Afternoon: 1:30 P.M. CDT

Bible College Classes will continue until May 31, 2026

Exposition: 7-9 P.M. Thursdays

Prophecy 7-9 P.M. Fridays

## **Christ, The Head Of The Body**

**Carson Richards**

“THEREFORE I also after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, cease not to give thanks for you making mention of you in my prayers, that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the exceeding greatness of His power to usward who believe, which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His own right hand, and hath put all things under His feet and gave Him to be the Head over all things to the Church which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.” -Eph. 1:15-23

There is not a word in the above Scriptures that means a thing apart from faith, nothing tangible there that you can reach out and take hold of with your hand. There is the Lord Jesus, revelation, power, understanding, principalities, powers, and there is a body, a Head, a world today and one to come, but there is nothing there you can take and put in the bank. As far as natural things are concerned, there is nothing. The Word of God is really spoken from faith to faith since there is the age to come. **21** Those who really take hold of these eternal things by faith are the wise ones, because there are certain indications that this earth is passing out. It is quite a failure.

There are religious and national heads and we must try to make the best of things, but the indications are that the present age will end as all the other ages, in failure. There is perplexity among nations, as Jesus said, "the sea and waves roaring," nations unsettled and tossed about by a wicked power, the devil himself; therefore, a man needs something to rest on, something outside of himself. It is evident to men today that they need something, and some seek to find that something. The only way to get it is through the Word of God. It is not just for us, but for all men, yet all men will not believe it. I thank God that this Head, this Man, Jesus Christ, who has been raised above all men, all things and all power, seated in the heavenly places, is the One we sang about, who died, rejected by those for whom He died but He was raised from the dead, and is now seated in the heavenlies, and He lives for you and for me. Furthermore, "all things are under His feet

and He is the Head of all things to the Church which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all."

Nevertheless this is not tangible. It is by faith. It has not yet come; but the Lord Jesus Christ is actually going to fill all in all. He is not here in Person today except in the Person of the Holy Spirit and in those who have received Him in their hearts. And since He is in their hearts, He is the Head. He has that office. God has given it to Him. Jesus Christ is the Head of every one that is born again, whether he realizes it, or not. What is known as religious activity is not always God activity. Jesus has been given that place of headship and is to be allowed to direct the spiritual activity. If He is not able to build something that stands, if He is not able to make us to weather the storms by His power, what is the use of having Him as Head? If we need machinery and organization and man-made heads and directors to further the work of God, then it looks like Christ is not enough.

22 Anyway, we see more now than ever that this is a way of faith, the way God is dealing with hearts, with men and not with things. Christ is in rejection and we need not think it strange if we also are rejected, we who yield to Him. It is the few who yield to Him and acknowledge Him as the Head of their lives, or the Head of the Church, or assembly. That is ONE great fact in which many Christians fall short. "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will, that we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ." Eph. 1:11,12. We agree with Paul, that it is the Word of Grace that builds up the saints and gives them this inheritance. Sometimes people look at things present, but we are not living for the present, but for eternity. Jesus Christ is not one of the most popular Men in the earth, but rather otherwise --- one of the most unpopular. Actually, people hate that Name. They even take His Name in vain. Of course, they are moved by Satan; nevertheless it does not excuse them because there is a way out. And it is through Him, Jesus Christ, who is given to be the Head of all things. So today governments, principalities and powers are against Him. We cannot do anything ourselves, we cannot

overthrow governments opposed to us, but we can believe God, that His will be done in this earth, because Jesus Christ is the Head. It is faith that brings things to pass in this earth. It is those of faith that hinder the bringing of Satan's kingdom on earth.

When we think of Germany with her wonderful equipment and army we are awed. We might well ask "Why are they losing out?" Not because there are some giants over here, but because there is a God in heaven Who is on His throne. There are few people that believe that fact. We will see the most blatant boasting after this war is over. Men will claim that they stopped the enemy, "that they killed the bear." But no, it will be God. It is true --- God still rules and He moves in behalf of Jesus Christ and for His people, because they are joined to Jesus Christ. He does not intervene because they are Americans, but because they are Christians, born-again ones, a new creation, and the Head of this new creation is Jesus Christ. We realize that those that acknowledge this today are on the outside in rejection with Christ. The Scripture says, "Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach." Jesus Himself is still on the outside. In His birthplace He was outside --- born in a stable, not a palace. He lived on the outside. He was never in the midst of things, never in the center at any time in His ministry except in the midst of the two thieves. Men were drawn to Him by the power of God and followed for a while, but they left Him when He was rejected by the leaders ---even His own sheep were scattered. He will be in rejection until He comes.

So Jesus is the unseen Head, the Power, the Leader. I thank God that Jesus Christ is my Head, my Leader. If He does not give me a chance to preach, I have to be quiet. If they won't listen to Him, there isn't much I can do about it. Thank God, He can give us what He wants us to have without any worldly conniving. Even the Lord Jesus will have to make a forced entrance soon to crash through the ways of men. He will have to come down from the outside instead of from the inside. The kingdom of God will not come from anything that is here. The Church itself will have to be taken away and God will work through Israel, the people that are here, but even their power has to come from God.

not from the kings that are here. God's purpose on the earth must come from the Lord Jesus Christ. So to the Ephesian Church God most remarkably declared Jesus to be the Head of His people, His Church.

24 This Ephesian Epistle represents a heavenly people, those who live by faith in the heavenlies; though they walk among men and do not look much different, yet they have the promise that God is holding their lives sacred and safe. He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit and that spirit cannot be joined to anyone else. It is a new creation. It seems a strange way, even strange to Christians. The more I go on with God the more of a stranger I seem to be. If the Lord desires to veil this new creation, the Lord help us to stay veiled. We can come out in the open when He wants us in the open. It looks to me today in this closing age, and near the day of judgment, that the most pertinent thing about God is His absence. The most sure thing we can find out about God is the lack of Him making Himself known. It seems that way because this earth is the domicile of Satan, into which He entered. That is the idea I get, that He keeps away from this wicked world as much as possible until He brings in His Kingdom. The way to move God is to pray to Him for His Church in Jesus' Name and for His glory. The things of this world are rather disgusting, and we can scarcely pray for them.

We read in the second chapter of Revelation of the Ephesian Church. Chap. 2:6 These messages to the Churches have a doctrinal and dispensational meaning to the whole age. "But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate." Some leaders were lording it over others in that local assembly. It was the clergy over the laity. Bombastic usurpation of Ecclesiasticism was beginning in that early day, and such self-styled heads are still with us. Has God changed His mind about Christ being the Head? Does He change with conditions? People say, "You must keep up with the world, go its way; that you have to be like the world to reach them, be organized, use their methods, etc." The Scriptures do not so teach. In Colossians we read, "And He is the Head of the body the Church. He is the beginning the first born from the dead, that in all things He might

have the preeminence, for it pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell." Chap. 1:18,19 God dwells in His people through Jesus Christ, Who is the Head. In Him dwelleth all of God's fullness. Someone asks, "What is the fulness of God?" You will have to wait a few years and we will show it to you. God is a little too big for us to explain His fullness. By faith we understand there is a fulness, that dwells in Jesus Christ.

What is the difference between Jesus Christ and those He raised from the dead? There is this distinction. Those that He raised are not yet glorified as He is. And it is wonderful to know that God is pleased with Himself in what he is making out of such creatures as we are. It is according to the good pleasure of His will. He did it and He showed it to us. The only thing He is happy about in this world is the new Creation. The way to please Him is to believe Him and yield to Him, for without faith it is impossible to please God. We might as well please Him, trust Him and believe Him. He is the Chief One. The head is the one that does the thinking, which directs the activity. It is the important part of the body. The head directs all the vital functions of the body, controls its voluntary activities. But as far as we see the body of Christ, it appears rather defeated. The members who ought to be spiritual are not so. They do not listen to the Head. In many places the body is twisted and contorted because He does not have His way. Sometimes it is hard to see that they are Christians, but Christ prophesied that the Church would grow into a great spreading tree, a great organization, a great system—Matt. 13: 31,32. He knew it would grow that way. Why is this the case? They do not believe that Christ is the Head. The people do not understand what is true and real. If we want to go all the way and accept all the Truth, we have to go outside the camp. There is something to be gained by going on with Jesus Christ alone as our Head. It pays eternal dividends to follow this Head. Thank God, I have such a Head as Jesus Christ. I am joined to Him and to those who acknowledge and believe in His Headship. We realize in the days to come we will have to test the faithfulness of this Head because the world is going the other way, along with the professed Church. The great mass of believers still want to

go the way of the world, but I want by His Grace to be faithful to Jesus Christ, and no man can touch me unless He allows it. Such is the way that God has made provision for every man. The time is now. If anyone does not actually acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Lord and Head of his life and does not completely surrender to Him to have the right of way, he will be sorry to die and go to the tomb because he has no assurance that he will rise again.

### *SECURE IN CHRIST!*

Secure in Christ, blest Lamb of God  
Who died to set me free.  
And in His body bore the rod  
Designed for you and me.

Secure in Christ, when foes assail  
And try to make me doubt  
I'll trust in Him Who will not fail,  
Nor ever cast me out.

Secure in Christ, not I alone  
Can merit one good thing.  
No work of mine could e'er atone,  
Or satisfaction bring.

Secure in Christ, when days are dark,  
And I but dimly see.  
Some day to glory I'll embark,  
And ever with Him be.

Secure in Christ, 'till I shall stand  
Before His shining face;  
And ever dwell in that blest land  
For all those saved by Grace.

Secure in Christ. Oh Praise His Name,  
My song shall ever be.  
His blood with power still the same  
Gives me security.

A.J. Staire

## The Tabernacle in the Wilderness

### The Mercy Seat Part 9

by Vicky Moots

The Ark of the Covenant would not be complete without its cover, the Mercy Seat, which was made separately from the Ark itself. It was an extremely important part of it. The instructions for making it are given in Ex. 25:17-22: "And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mere seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. And there will I meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony ... "

27

We see from this that the Mercy Seat is of a different composition than the Ark. It is made of pure gold. The length and width of it are exactly the same as the Ark, so that it will completely cover it. The fact that the Mercy Seat is made entirely of pure gold shows the preciousness of that which it represents.

The term "Mercy Seat" is derived from the Hebrew word "Kippurim" which means "expiation" or "atonement." Christ is our Mercy Seat, for it is through His blood that we have atonement. Once a year on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) the High Priest would enter into the Holy of Holies with the blood of the sin offering and sprinkle it upon the Mercy Seat to atone for the sins of the people. The Mercy Seat covered the tablets of the law which were inside the Ark. The law brought condemnation, but the blood paid the penalty. When God looked down from heaven, all He saw was the blood on the Mercy Seat, not the law.

Paul, in Rom. 3:24-25, wrote these words: "Being justified

freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood... " The Greek word "hilasterion," which was translated "propitiation" in this verse, is the same word that was translated as "mercy seat" in Heb. 9:5. The sacrifice of Christ on Calvary was the propitiation or payment for the penalty of our sins and fully satisfied and appeased God's anger and wrath.

The blood on the Mercy Seat was pointing forward to Christ and His own blood, as Paul declares in Heb. 9:11-12: "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

#### The Doors...Part 10

28

There are three doors which you must pass through in the Tabernacle to reach the Holy of Holies. They all represent Christ and His different aspects in our spiritual growth, starting from initial salvation all the way to bridehood, the deepest place of communion which we can experience with Him. In John 14:6 Jesus proclaims, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." I would like to compare these three titles of Jesus in this verse to those three doors.

The first door is the gate of the court, which is described in Ex. 27:16. This gate separates the court of the Tabernacle from the outside world, from those that need salvation. It is the only entrance to the court, and everyone must pass through this gate. This gate is the way, the only way. It is a type of Christ as the Door of Salvation, as He declared Himself to be in John 10:9: "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved..."

This gate was not locked. It was not made of bars of steel. It was a beautiful cloth hanging, fabricated of fine twined linen wrought with needlework, and blue, purple and scarlet. It was twenty cubits long and was hung on four pillars that were five cubits apart. Four is the number of the world (four corners of the earth) and signifies that this gate is available for all who recognize their need of salvation. Five is the number of grace, which

portrays the fact that salvation is by grace alone and not by our works. The work of salvation was accomplished for us by Christ when He died on Calvary. Our part is to believe and to enter in through the Door.

The first object which is encountered as one passes through the gate of the court is the Altar of Burnt Offering, which is a spiritual picture of Christ who offered Himself as a sacrifice for us. Jesus is the only way to God, through His death on the cross. Jesus said plainly in John 14:6, "... no man cometh unto the Father but by me." We cannot approach God's presence in the Holy of Holies except by first entering through the Door of Salvation at the gate of the court.

Our journey through the courtyard takes us past the Laver of Brass where we must cleanse our hands and feet in the water of God's Word before entering the next door: the door of the tent. Only the priests could enter through this door. This door is the passageway into the Holy Place, the place of worship, praise, and priestly ministry.

This door is described in Ex. 26:36: "And thou shalt make **29**  
an hanging for the door of the tent, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework." The hanging for this door is the same in appearance as the one used for the gate of the court. It is hung on five pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold, which picture Christ as the God-Man (humanity combined with deity). The number five again speaks of God's grace.

This door shows Christ as the Truth. In John 1:14 we read that "...the Word was made flesh, and dwelt [tabernacled] among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." The Word, of course, was Jesus Himself who tabernacled among us in a tent of flesh. He was the very truth of God's Word in human form.

John chapter four records the story of the woman at the well whose thirst was quenched when she met Jesus face to face and drank freely of the living water which He offered to her. In v. 24 He spoke these words to her concerning true worship: "God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Not all worship is done in truth. We cannot worship the

Father apart from His Son, who is the Truth.

Straight ahead, after entering the door of the tent, was the Altar of Incense. This altar sat in front of the inner Veil. It was used to burn the Holy Incense morning and night. The smoke of the incense ascended upward toward heaven. It also penetrated past the Veil into the Holy of Holies. Only the priests could offer incense. This incense represented worship and intercessory prayer. Spiritually it pictured Christ as our High Priest interceding for us.

Our prayers are likened unto incense by David in his prayer in Psalm 141:2: "Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting of my hands as the evening sacrifice." In Rev. 5:8 we read that the living creatures and elders fall down before the Lamb in heaven and worship Him: "... having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, [incense], which are the prayers of the saints."

According to John in Rev. 1:5-6, we have been given a priestly ministry if we choose to accept it: "... Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God..."

Also, in the Holy Place we encounter the Golden Lampstand and the Table of Shewbread. Both of these represented Christ as the Truth. One of the duties of the priest was to fill the lamps with oil and trim the wicks to keep the light burning brightly. It provided the only light with which to minister, since there were no windows in the Tabernacle. The light is Christ in us who enables us to minister and not walk in darkness. Christ is the main stem of the Candlestick, and we are the branches. He is the True Light that came into this world.

The Shewbread is the True Bread from heaven. The priests enjoyed fellowshiping around the table as they ate the bread each week when fresh bread was placed on the table of Shewbread. The bread strengthened them. As believer-priests, we, too, can feed upon our risen Lord and commune with Him and worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

The third door, the inner Veil, was also made of blue, purple and scarlet and fine twined linen with needlework, but in addition it was embroidered with heavenly cherubims. This was a

special door which could only be entered by the High Priest once a year on the Day of Atonement, when he placed the blood of the sin offering on the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies. This door would represent Christ as the Life because, according to Scripture, "the life of the flesh is in the blood." Lev. 17:11. It was His blood that brought life to us.

Paul declares in Heb. 9:11-12 that Christ as our High Priest entered into the Holy of Holies with his own blood: "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands...Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." He gave His life to give us eternal life.

At the time of Christ's death, the Veil was torn in half (Luke 15:37-38) by God's hand, signifying that the way into the Holy of Holies, into God's presence, had been opened for us to enter.

Paul explains this for us in Heb. 10:9-20: "Having therefore, brethren, boldness, to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh." Jesus' blood has forever opened up the way for us to come boldly into the presence of God. It is a new way, it is a living way, because Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Oh, how glorious it is to be able to enter into his presence day or night with any need which we may have, or to simply worship Him and adore Him, or to allow Him to speak whispers of love to our hearts.

31

#### The Coverings Part 11

There were four coverings on top of the Tabernacle building. These are described in Exodus 26: 1-14. The first covering was composed of curtains of fine twined linen. Then came the curtains of goats' hair. Above these were rams' skins dyed red, and lastly, a covering of badgers' skins. Each of these had a spiritual meaning which we will discuss separately.

In V. 1 we read that Moses was instructed to make "...ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them." These ten linen curtains would therefore form the beautiful ceiling of

the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. They would only be seen by the priests who ministered in the Tabernacle, and not by the outside world. The colors in these curtains have the same significance as in the other curtains which we have studied, but in this instance the fine twined linen is mentioned first instead of last, indicating that it is the most prominent.

The white fine linen speaks of the righteousness of Christ, and also of the righteousness of Christ in us. In Rev. 19:8 we read that the bride of Christ will be “arrayed in fine linen, clean and white.” The rest of that verse reveals to us the true significance of that linen: “... for the fine linen is the righteousness [righteous acts] of saints.” These righteous acts are performed by the life of Christ in us; they are not self-works. They bring glory to God, not to us.

32 The blue, purple and scarlet colors were used for embroidering the cherubim upon the white linen curtains. As stated previously, the blue represents the heavenly character of Christ as the Son of God. The purple refers to His royalty, for Christ is King of kings. Scarlet is typical of the blood of Christ as our sacrifice on Calvary.

When the priests in the Tabernacle looked upward at the ceiling, they could see the outstretched wings of the cherubim over their heads. Perhaps David was referring to this in Psalm 61:4 when he said, “I will abide in thy tabernacle forever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings,” and also in Ps 17:8: “... hide me under the shadow of thy wings.”

The cherubim overhead on the linen curtains could represent full overcomers in the heavenly places with Christ, as in Eph. 2:6: “And he hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” They could also represent the ministering angels which God sends to watch over us.

There were ten linen curtains total, but they were coupled together in two groups of five according to Ex. 26:3. As previously mentioned, five is the number of grace. This would indicate a double portion of grace. God’s grace is always sufficient. Verse 6 tells us that these two groups of five curtains were united together with taches of gold. These gold couplings united them together to

make one. Everything in the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies was either made of gold or overlaid with gold, which speaks of the deity of Christ and shows the riches of God's grace.

The second covering of the Tabernacle was curtains made of goats' hair, as we read in Ex. 26:7: "And thou shalt make curtains of goats' hair to be a covering upon the tabernacle: eleven curtains shalt thou make." The covering of goats' hair has a significant meaning spiritually. The goat was mainly used for a sin offering. On the Day of Atonement, two goats were used: one for the sacrifice and one for the scapegoat to carry the sins away into the wilderness.

Goats' hair was black which is a picture of sin. The goats' hair curtains therefore represent Christ as our sin offering. He who knew no sin was made sin for us (II Cor. 5:21). It should be noted that according to Ex. 26:11-12, these curtains were coupled together with taches of brass, not gold. Brass always speaks of judgment. The judgment for our sins was poured out on Christ on Calvary.

In Ex. 35:26 we find that these goats' hair curtains were spun by the women, which points to the fact that Christ is called the "seed of the woman." It was prophesied in Gen. 3:15 that the seed of the woman (Christ) would bruise the head of the serpent (Satan). That was the first promise of a redeemer, which was fulfilled when Christ died on the cross. 33

The goats' hair curtains completely covered the linen curtains, as they were long enough to reach the ground. On top of the linen and goats' hair curtains were two more coverings. These are mentioned in Ex. 26:14: "And thou shalt make a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering above of badgers' skins." The main purpose of these would have been to hold the curtains in place and to provide water proofing, but they both have a spiritual meaning.

The ram was the sacrifice used at the consecration of the priests (Ex. 29). In addition, we learn from Gen. 22 that it was a ram that took the place of Isaac when God told Abraham to offer up his son as a burnt offering. Isaac was bound up on the altar, and Abraham had the knife raised to slay him, but then he heard the

voice of an angel telling him to do his son no harm. Verse 13 then declares, "And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns; And Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son."

That ram was a spiritual type of Christ, our Substitute, who was caught in the thicket of God's will as He offered Himself up for us. The rams' skin covering was dyed red, which represented the blood of Jesus that was shed for the remission of our sins.

According to the KJV, the outer covering was made of badgers' skins, but this is apparently a mistranslation of the Hebrew word "tachesh." The badger is an unclean animal, and nothing unclean could have been used in the making of the Tabernacle. Other translations call these seal, dolphin or porpoise skins. However, these are also unclean animals. The best information that I have found relating to the word "tachesh" is that it probably indicated the color of the skins and not the kind of animal. These could, therefore, actually be rams' skins dyed a dark color (dark blue or violet is suggested). At any rate, the skins would have to be from a clean animal. No consensus exists regarding the meaning of the word "tachesh", and no actual dimensions are given of these last two coverings.

In summary, the beautiful embroidered linen curtains which formed the ceiling of the Tabernacle were on the inside. The other coverings completely hid the inner beauty and glory which only the priests were able to enjoy. The dark outer covering would likely represent Christ as He appeared to men while He was here on the earth, as described in Isa. 53:2-3: "...there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men...we hid, as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not [as nothing]." But to those who entered into the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies, He would be seen as the Shulamite in S.O.S. 5:16 described Him: "...he is altogether lovely..."

\* The garments of the old man will not fit on the New Man.



# Our Corn Crib

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 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  
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 How to Receive Holy Spirit  
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 Judgement Seat of Christ  
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 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  
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 The Adams Case  
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 Tithing  
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 Wheat and Tares  
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