

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole Counsel of GOD

Volume 116

September 2026

Number 9



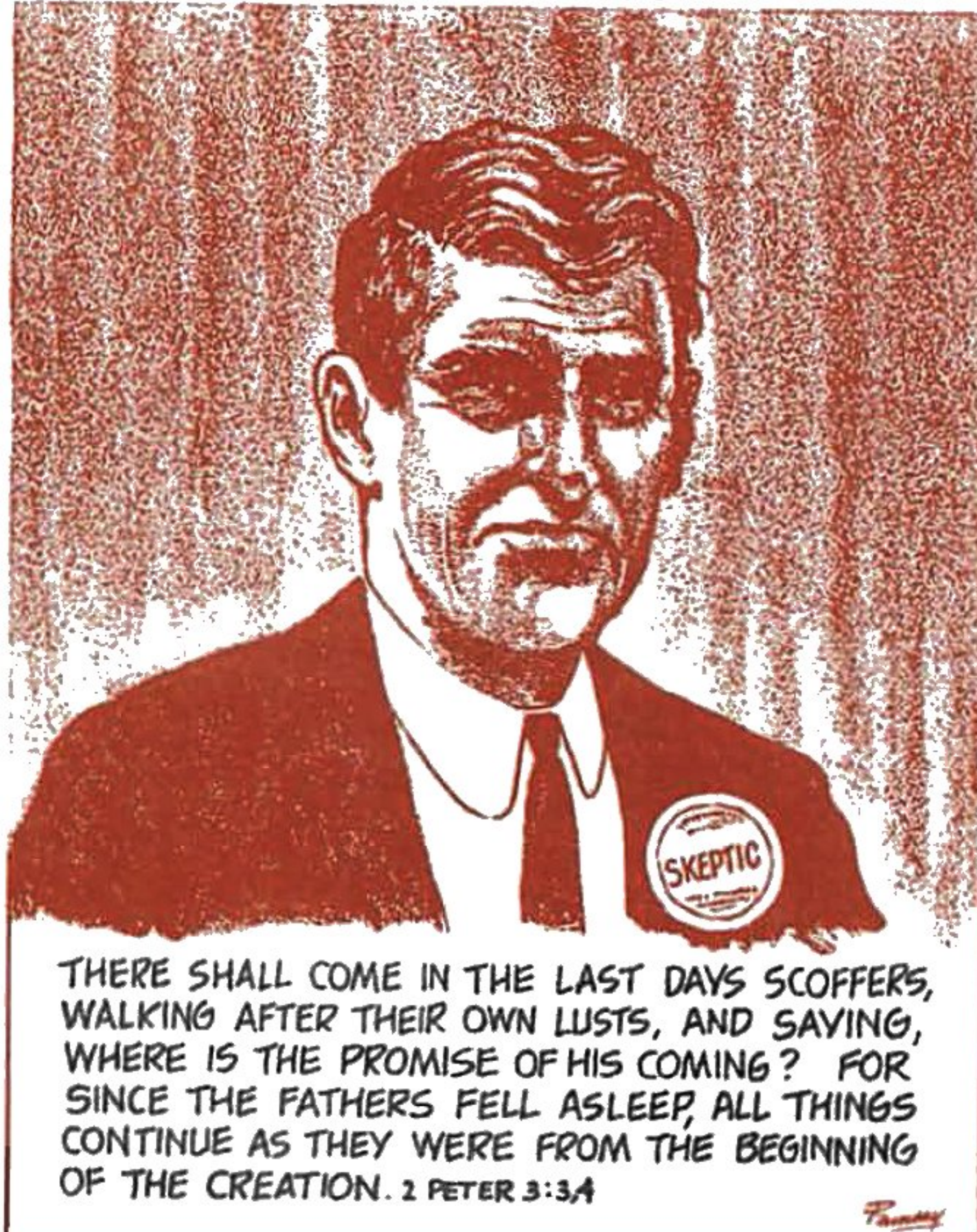
Hold fast the
form of sound
words, which thou
hast heard of me,
in faith and love
which is in
Christ Jesus.

II TIMOTHY 1:13.

Table of Contents

Article	Author	Page
Two Trees in the Garden.....	Dr. Vicky Moots	3
The Stretch.....	Carson Richards	10
More Than Enough.....	David Beck	13
War is Declared (Part 2).....	A.S. Copley	20
A Garden Enclosed (Part 2).....	Frankie DeGan	24
Surrendered! The True Armor of God!	Ray Quintana	28
Tabernacle in the Wilderness #16.....	Dr. Vicky Moots	33

ONE OF THE SIGNS



"Grace & Glory" (USPS # 224-300 EPS # 000008923) is published monthly by Grace & Glory Gospel Society, P.O. Box 831, Grandview, Missouri 64030.

PERIODICALS postage is paid at Grandview, Missouri.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to "Grace & Glory" P.O. Box 831, Grandview, Missouri 64030

Telephone: 816-618-3306. Email: gjhawk1@msn.com Print Shop #: 816-322-2257

Web site: www.gracegod.com Bible lessons and audio sermons are downloadable.

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)

GRACE & GLORY has had continuous publication without subscription price since 1910. We are able to continue this ministry by your kind financial support.

Editor: Gene Hawkins



“And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by. Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. Luke 21:8-11

In our text it says in verse 9 “But when you shall hear of wars and commotions...” As this article is being written, we have the continuing war between Russia and Ukraine, China threatens to take over Taiwan, and the U.S. is scaling back military exercises with South Korea. In verse 11 of our text, it says, “great earthquakes shall be in divers places.” Some of the major earthquakes occurring the past few weeks were in Southern Peru, Vanuatu Islands, Indonesia, and Colombia which was a magnitude 7.4 on August 10th. Colombian President Abelardo de la Espriella announced almost 300 were killed, over 3,900 people were injured, and more than 350 people were missing. Following on August 15th was a 7.7 magnitude earthquake in Indonesia, half-way around the world from Colombia.

Earthquakes are truly of divers places [“throughout places”] and God is using all these signs to shake people, that they might wake up before Christ returns. Many people want to blame God for such tragedies, but He only allows them to happen, He does not produce them. These tragedies are of the enemy. Our Father is longsuffering, using these circumstances that the people would cry out unto Him for deliverance. Our Father shows forth His love and grace to this world. He is giving them another opportunity to call on the name of Jesus.

All these earth events mentioned so far, are just the tip of the iceberg. For we also have the conflict in the Middle East which continues and has a direct effect on Israel.

The host of “The Watchman”, Erick Stakelbeck, reported on August 10, 2026, that “Israel was just threatened by Pakistan,

a nuclear armed nation.” This comes just after a new Islamic alliance “MECCA Defense Pact” was signed on August 7, 2026, by Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan. On the surface, this alliance sounds similar to NATO, in that if one of these nations are attacked the other two must come to their defense. However, the report continues by explaining the threat made against Israel... “Pakistani Defense Minister Khawaja Asif called Israel an illegitimate state and a threat to the entire Muslim world, and he called for all Islamic nations to unite against Israel, especially over the Palestinian issue.”

There are so many more moving parts taking place on the national front such as Russia, Iran, China, and North Korea conspiring together like we have never seen in the past. Erick Stakelbeck describes this group as “the unholy alliance.” We should all agree with that statement, but any alliance that comes against Israel is unholy, though God will use these Gentile nations (goat nations) to bring the nation of Israel to bow before their Messiah, Jesus Christ.

4 Additional news is the USS Abraham Lincoln returns home after 9 months of deployment as the USS George Washington makes its arrival in the Middle East. The US is policing the Strait of Hormuz as Iran and Oman team up to create their own management system of the strait. Trump is calling for economic sanctions “toughest in history”, the “Economic D-Day of Iran,” with the prediction they will collapse Iran. The Iranian president Masoud Pezeshkian said, “It is better that we bring the war to an end now as we are in a position of power and dignity.” Iran is an expert in propaganda, and we find many around the world who also use this tool of deception. “Take heed that ye be not deceived...”

The U.S. Treasury Secretary, Scott Bessent announced these sanctions will bring “global isolation upon Iran” and warned all nations and entities, “Do not discount the cost of testing Washington’s resolve.” “No one is above U.S. sanctions,” that “helping Iran will bring economic consequences.” “The U.S. sanctions aim to target every source of Iran’s revenue.” It is interesting that Secretary Bessent mentioned the Iranian leadership has already voiced the effects these sanctions are having on their country. Only time will truly tell just what the sanctions will accomplish. Will this bring the necessary parties to the table to complete the Abraham Accords so man can declare “peace and safety?” It is apparent the “MECCA Defense Pact” between Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan is not the route to the “peace and safety” spoken of in 1 Thes 5:3

with the threat from Pakistan against Israel announced with great hatred. Israel must be at the table.

It is hatred that controls the words and actions of these nations and groups. It is so easy for people to get drawn into the rhetoric and believe the lies being put forth. As saints of God, we must look to His Word, accept His thoughts and ways and make them our own. This is accomplished by being in His Word continually. Jesus said, "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake." – Matt. 24:9. Although Israel has not yet believed on Jesus Christ as their Messiah, the hatred they are experiencing is actually hatred directed toward Him. They cannot reach Jesus, so they take their hatred out on Israel and Christians around the world. But Jesus is putting this all into perspective for the believers. We must view the hatred as "for His name's sake."

Christ is warning His disciples in Luke 21 of the deception that will come, and not to fall for it. That warning is for us as well. The deception is growing greater every day, both religiously and politically. Men are trying to set themselves up in a place of authority that only belongs to Christ. There are Church leaders who think it is their place to dictate what their congregations are to believe rather than teaching the truth, rather than teaching Paul's epistles and allowing God's Word to penetrate the heart. Church leaders have adopted man's thinking, allowing God's pulpits to be hijacked by wolves in sheep's clothing (Matt 7:15) and interfering with the workings of the Holy Spirit who was sent to guide (John 16:13) believers, that they might receive revelation upon revelation of THE TRUTH and submit to Christ. At the same time, there are political leaders that think they are a "god" and will rule over all they can conquer, and/or destroy what they cannot conquer. The best example we have is Iran. God is using every one of these evil leaders to bring about His will and purpose.

For many years, the workings of Satan through nations, organizations and even individuals has been very subtle. But in the past decade or two they have become emboldened to come out of the shadows and bring forth their agendas, which falls under "commotions" of verse 9. That word means "instability, a state of disorder, disturbance and confusion." That is the description of this world today, both of religious and political realms. These people will find out very soon who the True Head of the Church is and that He, Jesus Christ, will make Himself manifest as ruler over the nations

when He takes His throne as "King of kings and Lord of lords."

Deception can have many faces. Israel made the mistake centuries ago when God delivered them from Egypt and crossed the Red Sea in a miraculous way, a three-day's journey into the wilderness. They began to murmur needing water (Exodus 15) and God provided water. Next, they were hungry in Exodus 16, accusing God in verse 3, "Would to God we would have died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger." In Exodus 3:7 God told Moses, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows." The Lord had not forgotten His people, He did not close His ears to their cry or close His eyes to the treatment they had received by the hands of the Egyptians. The whole point of the journey was for them to come to know their God, to trust Him for their every need, to worship and praise Him in the good times and the times of sorrow. But they quickly forgot the whips of the taskmasters, desiring the things left behind in Egypt, the world.

6

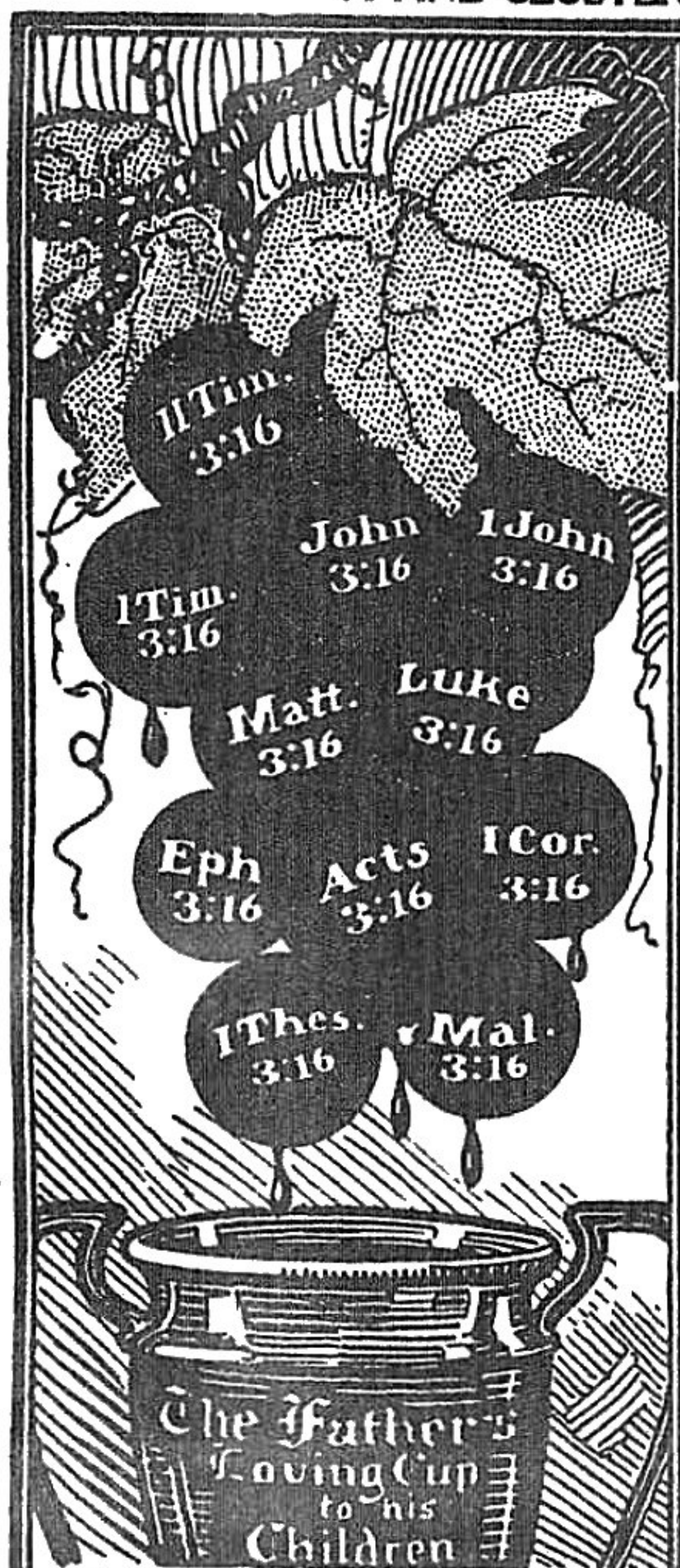
The enemy can deceive us by tempting us with things God would not have in our lives. This is believing the lie. This has been the issue with Israel down through the ages...creating an idol of a golden calf versus yearning to hear what the God of Israel had shared with Moses on the mount, desiring slavery of Egypt over the journey to the Promised Land, wanting Saul over David. Israel knew the prophecies foretold of the virgin birth but turned a blind eye to them when Jesus was born. They preferred the suppression of the Roman government over being governed by God, crying for Barnabas, a known criminal to be released from prison in place of Jesus. And here we are today.

The Middle East and other world leaders are trying to decide, whether to stand with the United States or Iran. Only time will tell, but no matter which avenue God chooses to swing the Tribulation doors open, we need not fear. Whatever may happen until Christ calls us home to Glory, we are comforted by the Word. God tells us so many times "FEAR NOT". "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." – Isaiah 41:10. "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." - John 14:26, 27

With all the chaos and uncertainty found in this world, as believers sojourning through this world, not being a part of this world, we find rest and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." - Matt 11:28 - 30

A FINE CLUSTER OF THREE-SIXTEENS



"I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord."

Psalm 116:13.

Psalm 116:13.

2 Tim. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

1 Tim. "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh."

John "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

1 John "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us"

Matt. "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him."

Luke "John answered, -- I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, -- he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire."

1 Cor. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

Eph. I pray "that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man."

Acts "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."

Mal. "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name."

2 Thes. "Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all."

Two Trees in the Garden

Dr. Vicky Moots

In Gen. 2:9 we read the account of two specific trees which God planted in the Garden of Eden: "And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil."

Then vv. 16-17 record the commandment which God gave to Adam regarding eating of the fruit of the trees in the garden: "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: from the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

When God created man and woman, He gave them the ability and the right to make choices. They could choose to obey God or to disobey Him. He has given us the same freedom of choice today. We can choose to heed God's Word or choose to rebel and go our own way.

8 I would like to discuss the spiritual meaning of these two trees and their fruit, and then contrast them. I believe that the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" represents the law. The law revealed the sinfulness of man and pronounced the penalty of death to those who could not keep it. Disobedience to God's commands is sin, and we read in Ezek. 18:20, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die..."

Paul declared in Rom. 3:20, "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." The law brought knowledge of good and evil, but not wisdom, nor the ability to do good. It could not bring life; it could only bring death.

The other tree in the midst of the garden was called "the tree of life". It is in sharp contrast to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It would therefore be a picture of grace and also of Christ Himself, based on John 1:17: "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

In Prov. 3:13,18 Solomon describes wisdom as a person and also as a tree: "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding...She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy **is every one** that retaineth her." But who does wisdom

personify? Paul answers that question for us in I Cor. 1:30: "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom..."

According to Gen. 3:1-7, Satan persuaded Eve to gaze upon the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The more that she looked upon it and its fruit, the more that she desired it. Verse 6 states, "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food [a lie of Satan], and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise [also a lie of Satan], she took of the fruit thereof..." As a result, death entered the world.

The law was likewise desired by Israel, and it is still desired by many people today, even though they do not understand it. Paul warned the saints in Gal. 4:21 of the consequences of trying to keep the law: "Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?" The law pronounced a curse to those who were unable to keep all of it. Christ is the only one who was able to keep it.

In contrast, Christ, who is represented by the Tree of Life, was not desired by man; He was rejected. His rejection was prophesied in Isa. 53:2-3: "...he [Christ] hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, 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]." Mankind as a whole is still rejecting Christ and the grace of God that is available through Him. Instead, they desire to put themselves under the law of works to try and earn salvation. 9

In summary, the law brings the knowledge of sin and results in death, but grace, in the person of Christ, brings life. The Tree of Life bore its fruit on calvary when God's grace was manifested to all. It is still bearing fruit today. This fruit of salvation brings eternal life and is available to all who will partake of it through faith.

Did you know that the Tree of Life was not only in the first paradise in Eden, but will also be present in the heavenly paradise in the New Jerusalem? This fact is recorded in Rev. 22:2: "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit each month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

Let us not wait till we get to heaven to feast on the delicious fruit of the Tree of Life. Let us partake of Christ in all of His fulness and beauty now, and enjoy the riches of His grace. The more that we fix our eyes upon Him, the more that we will desire Him. Only He can satisfy our hunger and the longing of our heart.

THE STRETCH

Carson Richards

“WHEREFORE SEEING WE ARE COMPASSED ABOUT WITH SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily besets and let us run with patience the race that is set before us;” Heb. 12:1.

What do you know about race horses? They ought to form an interesting sermon topic, no doubt. Paul used athletic gladiators of his day for figures of our spiritual career. Why do not we also? Some months back we heard a portion of a “Voice of America” broadcast for Latin America. As it came on, a horse race was being broadcast, the great annual classic known as the Kentucky Derby. For a major part of the race several horses were mentioned as leading, but one came plunging thru at the end, and gained the prize. In horse racing terms, he won in “the stretch.” The stretch is that final straight-away when it is all out for the finish line with full speed ahead. It is the thrill of the race. As in the above example, those in the lead are often overtaken and outrun in the stretch.

10 We remember in school days of being quite a baseball fan. Being a Missouri lad, naturally the heroes were the St. Louis Cardinals. Several times they thrilled their followers with a great finish spurt that gave them first place, also known as winning in “the stretch.”

The lesson to us Christians is obvious. The Apostle Paul says, “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that ye may obtain” - 1 Cor. 9:24. As in the natural examples which he gave too, “One” wins, whether it is one person in individual contests or one team in collective competitions. Praise God, we believe this Scripture speaks of one “team,” the Bride of our Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, there is a spiritual race course set out before us as Christians as most of us have heard. It is a course held out for all to run and for all to be on the winning team, but as in all human enterprises, one gains the coveted goal.

However, not focusing our attention on the course of the race, let us consider momentarily that part, then the last part which we shall call “the stretch.” Surely this principle may apply to the Christian race in different phases. It may apply to the Church as a whole; it may apply to a particular generation of people, or it may apply to an individual Christian. Each undoubtedly has its stretch experience or period of his race course.

First, let us look at the Church in its full course thru this age under God. She began her race, she has had, or is having the development of it and she is having her culminating period. This last we shall call the stretch. The New Testament of God's Word gives us the history of the Church's beginning. It was glorious and blessed indeed, though not without its bitter trials. The Apostle Paul was the primary human guide but under the actual direction of the Holy Spirit, the Executor of the Godhead. The quality of the Church's leaders is shown in that they were characterized as, "men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" - Acts 15:26. Praise God this is truly sterling character-Christ-character. The first runners were good. Yet even in this period there were signs that not all would win the prize, Christ as Bridegroom, for such we believe is the promised Prize. Such lapse is indicated near the end of Paul's career when he said, "Demas hath forsaken me having loved this present world (religious no doubt)" - 2 Tim. 4:10. Even then the strenuous nature of the race, its lack of flesh or adamic appeal is apparent. Love for Christ had to and has to exceed any other love that a Demas might have.

Next, of the main duration of the Church's course not a great deal is known. The known history tells of the Church-truth's corruption into darkened religious Romanism. The visible picture of that period of over ten centuries is black. Whether there were individual runners during this time, we do not know. Possibly there were. God never seems to leave Himself without a witness in this earth. Some sincere souls may have "run well." 11

Shall we leave the dark side for brighter things, then? Some more energetic runners appeared as the period known as the Reformation in church history, began. Luther, Calvin, Tyndale and others seemed heading in the right direction. Surely the turn on the backstretch was begun. There being, "So great a cloud of witnesses," heavenly beings, surely they cheered fervently when these men took up the race of faith unto Christ Jesus, the Goal. Revivals, movements, persecutions, and increasing light speak of some competence as the Church started down the homestretch.

We believe the real grueling "stretch" began soon after the 1900's began. The Church received a renewed divine blessing, the nearest approach to Apostolic days-the revival of the in-filling of the Holy Spirit, and accompanying gifts. If the coming of the Lord is the goal, then a clearer view of Him and this great event was really a sign of His

nearness. Also, the impediments and pitfalls of the race course came to the front with new vigor. A tried and increasingly wise adversary, Satan brought forth new and old bags of tricks to waylay the Church in her onrush, the goal ever nearing. Nevertheless, out of all these obstacles and the slackening pace of many, the clearest vision of the goal yet, most likely flashed into the eyes of the racers. The glittering prize appeared in surely first-century glory to the Church. A remnant took up the challenge and took off for the finish line. Now, then, we come up to date in the race course for the Church. Our opinion is it is the rear testing time of the stretch right now. Satan is harassing, diverting attention, hamstringing the horses, blustering, lying on, and in every way all out to check the racing portion of the Church. Since these few are pulling her on to the goal, the Church needs their constant attention and exertion to the race. Yes, surely it is the "stretch" of the Church's running. Praise God she shall be there.

12 As we mentioned the stretch in relation to a given generation, the above phrase brings us down to this fact also—the present generation very probably is a "stretch" generation in the Church course. We know every generation of men has had their part in the spiritual race. Each has had to win in his own day, if he wanted the Prize. None could rest on other's laurels, or bemoan the past, and murmur about the present, or fear the future. "For David after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on asleep" - Acts 13:36, Paul said. So, it is with each generation of the Church. Therefore, the present generation must run its peculiar race, not lament the joys lost, the crowds departed, nor accept a lesser place than the "one (that) receiveth the prize." We can't even get too occupied with the possibilities of being a "stretch" or closing generation. To stand and stare at the goal would be fatal. We must run on, according to Paul's rules, looking at Christ, Paul's Prize, and drawing on the lung reserve, God's grace as given to Paul. We may have to have several "second-winds." We can get fouled out too, and not win in our day. This reminds us again of another sports' event, attended in boyhood, the World Olympic Games a day or two. The great thrill to the boyish soul was one of the longer races, five or ten miles, one or the other. The beautiful afternoon drew to a close and the sun dropped behind the stadium; shadows fell on the field. This particular race neared its close. As the runners went round and round the track, several had the lead and relinquished it. The strain became pressing; some were losing wind. The

(continued on page 23)

MORE THAN ENOUGH

(JOHN 6: 1-14)

David Beck

I know this is a very familiar story. Most of us remember it from Sunday School. It's found in all four Gospels and has been preached on countless times. Some may even be wondering why I chose to write on this. Well, actually I did not choose to do this...the Lord impressed it upon me by the Holy Spirit! So, let's get into this story, this account of a huge miracle. One definition of a miracle is "supernatural intervention by God in the ordinary course of nature." Some say we just don't see miracles anymore. If you are a Born-Again Christian, go look in a mirror and you will see a miracle! All of us were sentenced to die because of sin...BUT GOD!!! He intervened in the person of Jesus Christ and that was forever changed for ALL who believe in that finished work of Calvary.

We see in verse 2 "a great multitude followed him..." and in verse 3 that Jesus sat on the mountain with his disciples, separate from the multitude. I thought of those who take their place in the heavenly places in Christ by faith. These are those who walk with Jesus daily and learn of Him. So, who am I listening to? Who am I spending time with? Am I following to be in the crowd, or am I following Jesus to be with Him? 13

In verse 4 we read that the Passover was near. This is no coincidence because Jesus is the Substance of God's Passover! Not only is HE the ONE who would supply more than enough food for this multitude...HE is the ONE whose sacrifice would be "More Than Enough" to provide for eternal life to all who believe on Him.

So, in verse 5, Jesus sees this great multitude approaching and I do not believe He was at all surprised. But he asks Philip where bread could be purchased to feed them. Yet, He himself knew what He would do. I also believe he knew what Philip's answer would be, what His "solution" was. It seems as if Philip realized the futility of his suggestion even as he spoke. So, why did Jesus ask him? I think He wanted Philip to know HIS OWN ATTITUDE. God will allow us to peer into that mirror and see an attitude, opinion, or interpretation that does not reflect the viewpoint of one who is wholly dependent on Christ.

The 200 denarii equaled about a year's wages and was

probably all the money they had, but not enough to solve this problem. There was such a great need before them and their resources were so small. How often do we face an imposing obstacle or a serious trial and it seems to consume us so that our faith may dwindle and even possibly unbelief begins to creep in. Unbelief leads to doubt and fear: fear of failing, of letting others down, even doubting that God will answer or supply the need.

In her commentary on John, Mary Bodie wrote, "Philip saw the crowd not the Christ." Do we sometimes see the need or the demand and not the Supply? We have all these questions, and HE is the answer! We are so limited and HE is not! I heard a preacher say, "Are you impressed with the need, or are you impressed with God?" When did so much of Christendom get to the point that Jesus is not enough?

Then we see in verse 9 that Andrew has made a discovery. We may not have enough money, but this boy has his lunch. So, Andrew has an idea, a suggestion. He also has doubt as well. Why even start? We have gone from spending all of our money for bread that won't even begin to be enough
14 to having something on hand that may feed a family or two. Oh my! Don't we come up with some of the greatest ideas!

In Isaiah 55:8 (NLT) the Lord says "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts. My ways are far beyond anything you can imagine." We simply cannot limit God to our own understanding or expectations. The Word of God is not bound and God is not bound. My wife will say, "You can't put God in a box." The Lord wants to move in ways to inspire you, to put you in awe, cause you to be grateful, joyful, and to trust and love Him even more.

In verse 10, notice Jesus really doesn't answer Andrew's question, but He most certainly responds. He says "have them sit down." He does not explain his solution, or bring them into a huddle for a step-by-step action plan. Jesus gave instruction. Have the multitude "sit down," get in position to receive, to be ministered to. This tells us to submit, wait, and to acknowledge HIS power, HIS authority, HIS ability, and HIS headship as opposed to our own or anyone else! We are to be expecting even before we see anything happen. A friend of mine says "do the next thing." God wants us to trust Him to deliver us, and He also wants us to trust Him each step of the way. Don't ignore or disregard the process. It is often during that time we can receive the greatest

blessing and revelation from the Lord.

Then in verse 11, "And Jesus took....and gave thanks " He did not say, "Well, I wish there was more, but if this is all you can come up with, let's give it a try." A great example of being thankful in little, not just in much. And now, notice..... It is in HIS hands.

We have gone from "that each may have a little" in verse 7, to "as much as they wanted" in verse 11. All were given opportunity to partake; regardless of race, religion, gender, age, education, or class of society. No discrimination here! (God is no respecter of persons.) All are welcome at the table of Jesus.

So, what happened? Everything changed when it was put IN HIS HANDS. And it still does-think of the change that takes place when something, or someone, is placed in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In HIS hands..."a little" becomes "abundantly above all we could ask or think." Weakness becomes "strong in the power of HIS might;" sickness turns into health. The impossible becomes possible, "things that be not" become "things that are." Mourning turns into dancing, death becomes life, and life more abundant. A problem becomes a process as stumbling blocks become stepping stones, and the most difficult experience brings the greatest revelations of truth!

15

Many in scripture are examples of putting their life in the Lord's hands and the miraculous changes that occurred. Abraham was an idolater who became the father of faith. David was a scrawny teenager who defeated an unbeatable foe. He later committed acts contrary to God's standard but was still "a man after God's own heart". A man named Saul hunted Christians and had them put to death. But, in the hands of Jesus he became the great apostle to the Church who was given the marvelous message of Divine Grace and the Bridal Truth that we cherish today. I'm sure there are some (if not several) who read this and realize it is only by the grace of God that I am what I am. That is so true for me, as I was a mess. But in the hands of Jesus that mess has become a message. Now I am still a work in progress. There was a plaque in our church that read, "I'm not what I want to be, and I'm not what I'm going to be, but thank God I'm not what I was!"

Let's get back to our text in verse 11. Some manuscripts read "He distributed to those sitting down", indicating the disciples did not hand out the food. Either way, Jesus is in control: not the disciples or the lad or the

multitude. HE is the Source! At the end of verse 11 we see "as much as they wanted." All were satisfied. Any of us would eventually fall short, but not Jesus! He is able to provide super abundantly far over and above all we dare ask or think.

Verse 12 is interesting because we live in a "throw away" society. Things that are unused or not considered needed are disregarded, forgotten, dumped in the trash or left "on the ground". They are not wanted or just not liked. How many treat Jesus, and the provision He has for them, in this manner?

Notice that even if not all consumed, nothing is wasted. The fragments are gathered up in obedience to Christ. There were leftovers!? So, was this a "wasteful miracle?" "Did Jesus do too much? Was He just showing off for the crowd? Why not leave it? After all, He can always do this again if needed. Maybe Jesus wanted to make the point that He is MORE THAN ENOUGH.

16 In verse 13 John writes that twelve baskets were gathered up of the barley loaves. Mark tells us that it was "of the fragments and fish." Matthew and Luke simply read "fragments," not specifying. The number 12 is consistent in all 4 Gospels and 12 speaks of God's government. So, the righteous government of God was satisfied with the sacrifice of the true Passover Lamb, the true Bread from heaven, who gives life. The fish show us coming out of the waters of judgment in resurrection. Since there were "leftovers," the sacrifice at Calvary and the Resurrection not only give new life, they are enough to sustain that life. There is more than enough love, grace, wisdom, power, and righteousness for me, for you, and for all who will partake as much as they want!

None of HIS sacrifice, blessing, or His Word will be wasted. It is all useful and profitable. It will not return void for it has a purpose.

Well then, what about those fragments gathered up? Who are they for? What are they for and when are they for? Possibly for someone else at another time? Maybe for the disciples later? We are not told (as far as I know). The Lord is responsible for the supply and how it's distributed the first time and every time. It's His business and He is in control of His business. Nothing God has done in our lives, is doing, or will do is lost, wasted, thrown away, or left for naught.

Then in verse 14 we find that these men who witnessed this, acknowledge Jesus as "the Prophet..." I call this "the attitude of the multitude." All saw the miracle, but not all understood. They may have seen the power in His hand, but did

not Hear the power in His Word. They witnessed a change of circumstances, but had no change of heart. And they saw there was more than enough bread to eat, but not that this Man was more than enough of the true bread from heaven.

Today, many see miracles, but do not really know the Miracle Worker. Referring again to Mary Bodie's comments, "They were astonished but not convicted." And there are others who know Jesus as Savior: the one who gives life and sustains life. This is the multitude, the bulk of the church.

However, praise God, there are some who have discovered that you can have more, as much as you want! For there is a higher calling, a Bridal calling. These have a desire to be completely in love with Jesus, to be filled with all the fullness of God in Christ. For those, He's not just enough, He's **MORE THAN ENOUGH!**

Philippians 4:19 is one of my many favorite verses. It is because of and through the Lord Jesus Christ that God supplies my needs. Not by my so-called works of righteousness or any merit I may think I have. Because Jesus Christ is my source, I have access to all of God's spiritual riches, and they are paid for in full.

Vicky Moots wrote a short but wonderful piece on this verse called "Christ our Supply." The last line of the article reads "If Christ is all you have, then you have all you need." 17

Indeed, HE was, HE is, and HE always will be.....
MORE THAN ENOUGH!!

Jesus uses tools of
forgiveness,
grace,
love
and mercy,
as He continues to reshape
us to be more like Him everyday!"
~Unknown

"Life is fragile, handle with prayer."

REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

"Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." II Tim. 3:7

18 What a description of this present day of learning! But such knowledge is not always profitable. This is the season when so many are "going back to school," on one level or another, but we fear much of that learning is directly opposed to truth. Paul gives the example of Jannes and Jambres who resisted Moses when he appeared before Pharaoh. These were among the magicians who tried to duplicate Moses' feat "For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods." Ex. 7:12 God let them know that He was Superior, but these men, along with Pharaoh, simply did not get the message.

Today seems to be no different. Though God has shown Himself Mighty over and over again, men still pursue their own avenues of learning and never come to the knowledge of the truth.

Jesus declared to Pilate "Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice," to which Pilate responded "What is truth?" John 18:37,38. It seems that men have been asking that question repeatedly down through the ages and the answer is still exactly the same: "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

The problem in our day is that men are obsessed with knowledge rather than truth. Romans 1 tells us plainly that God revealed Himself unto men, "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them." V. 19 The apostle then gives creation as the proof of God's Existence: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." V. 20 However, men have pursued their own theories of "evolution" in an effort to completely eliminate The Creator, and Paul again reveals "....that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their

imagination, and their foolish heart was darkened." V. 21 This chief apostle to the Church then describes the penalty for such rejection in V. 28. "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient."

He then reiterates this same message in this second letter to Timothy, describing men like Jannes and Jambres as those "... of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith." II Tim. 3:8

The good news is that there is a glorious path to the "knowledge of the truth." Paul exhorted his young son with these powerful words of instruction. "But thou hast fully known my doctrine...But evil men and seducers shall wax worse... But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them...from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable...That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." II Tim. 3:10-17

Let us also spend our time pursuing this path to real and profitable knowledge of truth!

19

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

STREAMING OF SERVICES

Gospel Fellowship worship services classes 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.

Grace & Glory Bible College 2026

Thursday Night- Exposition Class begins Sept. 10th @ 7:00PM

Friday Night - Prophecy Class begins Sept. 18th @ 7:00PM

Classes are streamed also at the above website.

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

(Part 2)

THE SECOND VOLLEY

CHAPTER TWO

"Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also." After fourteen years of a successful and triumphant ministry, proclaiming divine grace, planting churches in many cities, ordaining elders, helping others to proclaim the same Gospel of grace and glory, he and Barnabas and Titus went to Jerusalem. Why? Because certain legalists from Judea taught the saints in Antioch and Galatia, saying "Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved." – Acts 15:1,5 with Gal 2:4. Now we have two grave questions – Is salvation absolutely and only by grace? Or, is it by grace and works intermingled?

20 The Spirit of God sent Paul to Jerusalem, and he went up by revelation. He did not go to learn whether he was correct or not, but to know how the kingdom apostles stood on that subject. After much discussion for and against salvation by grace, it was unanimously settled by the apostles and elders that Barnabas, Paul and Titus were right. Salvation is by grace apart from all human efforts. Now the Apostle, armed with the fiery facts of that conference, shoots them into the Galatian camp. Hence, observe ten sword flashes from that conference – Acts 15.

1. Peter was the first to announce the Gospel to the Gentiles. He said, "God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the Word of the Gospel, and believe."
2. "God...bare them witness" – a double witness, that they were saved by grace alone. He purified "their hearts by faith"; and gave them the Holy Spirit, as He did the one hundred and twenty, ten years before. Hence, Paul offered to the people the same Gospel on the same condition namely, faith, as did Peter.
3. Peter said that salvation by works is tempting God.
4. He said that legality is "a yoke upon the neck of the disciples."
5. "Neither our fathers nor we were able to bear" that

yoke, he declared.

6. "We believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they." This Peter declared, after twenty years of personal experience in the Gospel work.
7. Barnabas and Paul declared "what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them."
8. James confirmed Peter's words by quoting from Amos 9:11, 12 – "To this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written."
9. James advised saying, "That we trouble not" the Gentile saints.
10. That significant conference sent a certified letter of comfort, caution, protection, and freedom from the law, by our beloved Barnabas and Paul, together with two "chief men" to the Gentile assemblies.

All of these ten facts unite to prove that all of the apostles and elders and the assembly in Jerusalem knew that the Gospel of Grace is the only Gospel; and they were fully persuaded that Paul and Barnabas were in God's perfect will in proclaiming the Gospel to both Jews and Gentiles.

Observe five other evidences that the Apostle Paul was **21** right and was God's chief man:

1. He went "with Barnabas, and took Titus...also."
2. Lest prejudice might hinder his testimony from being fruitful at the conference, he "communicated unto them that Gospel" which he preached, "but privately to them which were of reputation" – namely, Peter, James and John.
3. Though Titus was a Greek, yet they admitted him to a seat in the convention.
4. Paul gave no place "by subjection" to the false brethren, the legalists.
5. "Those who were reputed to be somewhat" (James, Cephas, and John) ... "imparted nothing to me," exclaimed Paul. – Gal 2:6 Revised Version. How dared he to write thus, if he did not know that he was the Lord's "chief speaker" even at that conference? They were unanswerably convinced that Paul's message and mission were ordained by God.

Sometime after that notable conference, Peter visited Antioch and refused to fellowship the Gentile Christians, "fearing

them which were of the circumcision"; that is, the Jewish legalists. Therefore, Paul reproved him – Gal 2:11-13. Evidently, though Peter had been filled with the Spirit for years and was the chiefest of the twelve apostles, he had not yet learned fully the weakness of the flesh and that we must know "no man after the flesh." He had yet to learn to "walk in the Spirit," and "not fulfill the lust (desires) of the flesh" – not even the desires of his friends, the Jews. If Christ had been formed in him (Gal 4:19), how could he have lapsed back under law? See Rom 8:14.

Peter "withdrew" from the Gentile saints; he "separated himself"; he feared the law keepers; others "dissembled...with him"; even "Barnabas (an apostle) also was carried away with their dissimulation"; thus they "walked not uprightly"; Peter compelled "the Gentiles to live as do the Jews"; he built again that which he had destroyed; he made himself a transgressor; and thus he made "Christ the minister of sin." – Gal 2:12-18. What a blow at Calvary!

What dishonor against Jesus Christ! Little do we grasp the depths of the wickedness of the religions of works. Study the following twenty-four frightful titles.

TITLES OF LEGALISTS

22 These are easily deduced from this Epistle. Find them for yourself. They are troublers, perverters, persecutors, profiteers, wasters, zealots, destroyers, false brethren, spies, enslavers, make-believers, separatists, dissemblers, transgressors, necromancers, haters, hinderers, corrupters, biters, devourers, flesh-sowers, flesh-displayers, law-breakers, flesh-boasters. The most startling and terrible result of Peter's conduct at Antioch was that it effectually MADE "CHRIST THE MINISTER OF SIN." – Gal 2:17. Peter had claimed to be justified by faith in Christ alone, but his law-keeping indicated that he was not yet justified; hence, in that respect, he was still a sinner. That was equivalent to saying that Christ ministered sin to him instead of righteousness when he believed on Him. "FOR IF RIGHTEOUSNESS COME BY THE LAW, THEN CHRIST IS DEAD IN VAIN." – Gal 2:21 – Christ's death for us was a hypocritical act. If Peter was right, then it is not true that through "the obedience" of Christ unto death, "shall many be made righteous." – Rom 5:19. But, thank God, it is emphatically true "that a man is NOT justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ." – Gal 2:16. Finally, hear Paul's personal testimony – Gal 2:19,20 and Peter's plain eulogy of Paul and his writings. II Pet 3:15,16. Here he places Paul's letter to the Hebrews and his other epistles on a par with the other Scriptures.

(To Be Continued)

American entry, a long-limbed fellow had not been near the front the greater part of the race. Now, as the remaining laps came up, the long trained limbs began to lengthen out in almost imperceptible increase in rhythm, but it became very evident as the last lap neared. Finally, the last round began, many had dropped out, one, two, three dropped behind this runner, finally he was second. He and his competitor rounded the last turn-it was the stretch, there was the sprint. Somewhere around 80,000 spectators were on their feet. The other man had not the reserve left. The American was slowly passing with thirty yards or so to go. Then to make the figure more effective in the spiritual picture, the long tan limbs lost stride, it seemed as if the runner would fall on his face. His opponent had either accidentally or willfully shoved him as he passed. The cheering subsided, but reached a new roar when the racer with supreme will-power regained balance and sprinted to the goal ahead of his opponent. He had won in the "stretch" for his country and the chills rippled up and down many spines. 23

So also, with this present-day church race, the enemy would foul us out, maybe even use other runners whose heart has run out. One select group shall win as of other generations.

The application to the individual Christian race ties in closely here. He has his beginning, long grind and stretch. We can drop out, for failure to lay hold of grace along the way, and fall out exhausted in the stretch. Grace is the wind and muscle and lung power for running. Praise God for this grace in Christ Jesus. Many may make the last turn apparently running well, and fresh for the stretch, but failure of drawing on grace may show up when it counts; the soundness of spirit may not be there, for "the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong" - Eccl. 9:11. As regards natural equipment, only those taking Divine grace for every step will have the reserve to draw on for the stretch. It is there that the race is won or lost. The church will get there - prophecy says so. Some of our generation most likely will, for truth revealed indicates it, so the question for us is our individual "stretch." Hear the "clouds of witnesses" cheering? See the Prize? Wherever we personally are in our own race before Him who leads us, let us run so as to win in "THE STRETCH."

"A Garden Enclosed"

Pomegranates – Part 2

Frankie DeGan

"Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits;" Song 4:13. Looking up the word "orchard" we discover it means "forest". So, we are not talking about one tree of pomegranates. This garden has depth. It is a place of discoveries and treasures.

Fruit bearing trees take two to three years of healthy growing to produce fruit. To produce spiritual fruit, we must take in spiritual nutrients. Being fruitful means we become a witness for Christ by His attributes/characteristics on display in a practical way through our lives. It takes up to seven months for the fruit of the pomegranate to fully mature. The number seven scripturally speaks of full maturity in Christ, that is divine completion and divine perfection. "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:" - Eph 4:13.

24 In Deuteronomy 8:8 we see the pomegranate is one of seven fruits, grains, and special products of the land of Israel listed there. We see in Deuteronomy that the second generation of Israel is going to enter the Promised Land and the provisional promises God has made for them.

"And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land ... to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;" - Deut 6:10, 11. God provided all that Israel had need of. They only needed to accept, believe and obey God for the provisions He had already provided, as it is with us also. These provisions are found in Christ and become a part of us. In Song of Solomon, Christ sees His bride fully mature way before the work in her is complete (but everything in this garden has been provided by Christ, which the bride will become.)

The pomegranate was on the hem of the priest's robe alternating with the golden bells. The pomegranates placed on the priest's robe speaks of the fruit of Christ's ministry. "And they made upon the hems of the robe pomegranates of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and twined linen. And they made bells of

pure gold, and put the bells between the pomegranates upon the hem of the robe, round about between the pomegranates;" - Ex 39:24, 25.

The color blue speaks of Christ as a heavenly being and He has made us spiritual beings to take our place in the heavenlies. "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." - Eph 2:6. Christ provisionally has invited the whole church to sit with Him in the heavenlies, but only those desiring to feast at the table prepared by Him will sit down, just as Mary did.

Purple is representative of royalty. "And He hath on His vesture [official royal robe] and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." - Rev 19:16 and Rev. 5:10 will be fulfilled in the believers running the race to win Christ - "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign [over] the earth [from heaven]." We see the kingly characteristics of the bride through the twenty-four elders, and the priestly characteristics are on display in the four living ones in Revelation. Both represent the bride of Christ reigning conjointly with Him. "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." - Rom 5:17. Do we desire "much more" of this abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness? Are we searching out the treasure, the deep things found in the scripture about Christ and allowing Him to change us into His image...are we beholding His glory, allowing Him to rule and reign in every aspect of our life while on this earth?

25

The scarlet-colored pomegranates on the priestly robe represent the atonement Christ made at Calvary by shedding His blood for us. As believers we receive restoration or reconciliation. "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement." - Rom 5:10, 11. Reconciled means "to compound a difference." Webster defines "compound" as "to agree for a consideration not to prosecute an offense." Also, Webster defines "reconciled" as "to restore to friendship or harmony." By faith we have been redeemed. Christ paid our debt of sin in full and has reconciled us back to God.

We see "twined linen" listed with the colors above, however, it is a fabric. Though the KJV does not say "fine

twined linen", I am confident it was, as the Septuagint and other translations have referenced it as "fine twined linen." Why would anything else be associated with Christ but the very best? I believe we will see this as we take a quick look at the process of making the linen.

"Linen" means "white". The bleached fabric was often flashing white or "whiteness". So, in addition to being the fabric associated with things of the Tabernacle and the high priest, it does represent the color "white". With these facts alone it is easy to understand that "Fine twined linen" represents the righteousness of Christ. The moment we believe, we are made righteous. Righteousness is obtained by faith and by embracing the Grace of God offered to us in Christ Jesus. His Righteousness expresses His holiness. He is pure and opposed to all sin. The Righteousness of God is the same as saying He is a just God. God reveals His righteousness through mercy & compassion. Ref. Ps. 89:14, Rom 5:17 & 21

26 "Fruits of righteousness" is the manifestation of the life of Christ in us. "Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God." - Phil 1:11. Because we obtain righteousness through Jesus Christ by believing, by faith, God will receive the glory. All His attributes, characteristics and motivations that we find in Christ are to be found in us...THIS IS THE GARDEN OF Song of Solomon.

Fine twined linen was of the highest of quality made from yarn. Each thread was created by twisting [twined] many delicate strands together. This twisting made the thread strong. The Egyptians were experts in this work and the Israelites brought the linen making process with them from Egypt. According to various sources, the linen made by the Israelites became superior in quality.

Linen is made from the plant fibers of the flax stalk. They are harvested, dried in the sun, pounded vigorously and then soaked to separate the fibers [sanctifying work of Christ - "That He might sanctify and cleanse it [the church] with the washing of water by the word," - Eph 5:26]. According to other sources, "the fibers are washed and bleached, then spun into yarn and woven into fabric, creating a strong and smooth material highly valued. The quality depended on the fineness of the fibers and the skill of the weaver. The yarn at times was so fine it was almost invisible." The inward work of Christ in our lives is invisible until it is made practical outwardly.

We see in Joshua 2:6 "But she [Rahab] had brought them [the Israelites that were to spy out the country]

up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof."

"Stalks of flax" - the fiber of the flax stalk was pulverized to make linen. This speaks of the sufferings of Christ presented through this fabric used in the Tabernacle finishings and the Priestly garments.

"Hid them with the stalks of flax" means the Lord desired the men to trust Him, to relinquish their strength. The Lord wanted them to rest in Him, to depend totally and completely upon Him as He desires all believers to do and those found in this garden of Song of Solomon will do so; "A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse..."

"Laid in order" is defined as "arranged, set in order, prepare, join battle" - When God is in it, there is always order. He will always prepare the way for us and we are asked to suffer with Christ [join the battle] to be joint-heirs with Him.

"Roof" - This was their hiding place, hidden completely out of sight and in the place of protection God had prepared for them. We are hidden in Christ. We enjoy this place of protection as we submit to Christ and rest in Him.

The many strands of linen twisted into one thread or cord speak of Christ strength. As we walk with Christ, we learn that operating in His strength is the way of righteousness. Operating in our own strength is of self-righteousness and self-works. "When I am weak then am I strong." The Lord is faithful to provide all the strength needed in our journey with Him. The twisted linen cord also speaks of His work in making His body "fitly joined together", "in one accord", "of one mind". Only Christ can accomplish this in the life of the believer, but we must desire it and submit to His working in our life. We find all of this in His Garden!

Now, in Exodus 39:25 let's take a quick look at the golden bells on the priest's robe, as they speak of Deity and redemption. The redemptive plan was a divine plan of God which is the foundation of Christ's ministry, hence the bells hung from the hem of the robe. The pomegranates embroidered between each bell, as we just looked at, signify that God truly placed Christ in the center of His plans. All requirements to satisfy His righteous government were accomplished by and through Christ to make us free.

(to be continued)

Surrendered! The True Armor of God!

Ray Quintana

Eph 6:11 "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Spiritual forces (v12) are not controlled by human intellect, physical strength, or fleshly determination. If we attempt to engage spiritual warfare in our own strength, we are relying on the flesh. Satan easily defeats the flesh because the flesh is already fallen.

28 In 2 Kings 6:15-17, when the King of Aram surrounded Elisha's city with horses and chariots, Elisha's servant panicked. Elisha prayed for the servant's eyes to be opened, and suddenly the servant saw the hills filled with horses and chariots of fire surrounding them. Just as the servant initially only saw human soldiers, we often see only physical threats, but Paul calls believers to recognize God's unseen power in the middle of spiritual conflict. Then, in Matthew 4:1-11, when Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, he did not use physical force, but rather Satan used wiles, which is twisting Scripture, appealing to physical hunger, offering instant earthly power, and inciting pride. Jesus defeated him not with human arguments, but with spiritual authority, responding every time with, "It is written." It was by the word of God!

Paul is explaining warfare to us because our primary battle is spiritual rather than physical; relying on human strength is insufficient. To stand firm, believers must put on the full armor of God, depending entirely on His truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Word. When Paul penned these words, he was under house arrest in Rome, bound by a heavy iron chain to a rotating guard of Roman soldiers. For months, Paul lived directly with these men, meaning he could not move, eat, or sleep without hearing the clinking of metal armor, the thud of heavy leather boots on stone, or the shifting of iron chains. As Paul observed the soldier standing guard beside him every day, God likely used the man's everyday military equipment as a living object lesson for spiritual reality. For example, a Roman soldier never went into battle with a loose tunic fluttering in the wind, so he buckled a thick leather belt tightly around his waist to hold his weapons and allow free movement. As Paul watched

the guard tighten his belt, could God have inspired the thought that truth is what pulls everything together and holds the believer's life in place? The soldier also wore an iron breastplate of interlocking metal plates across his chest to protect his heart and vital organs from fatal blows, which Paul connected to how righteousness protects the believer's heart from lethal accusations and guilt. Looking at the soldier's heavy leather boots, which were studded with iron nails on the soles to provide traction on slippery terrain, Paul recognized that the peace of the Gospel provides the sure-footed stability needed to stand firm when evil presses in. Hanging nearby was a large, wooden shield covered in leather, which soldiers would soak in water before the battle so that flaming arrows shot by enemies would extinguish upon impact. Paul saw that faith functions as this exact kind of shield, quenching the fiery, toxic lies of the enemy. The guard's bronze or iron helmet was designed to absorb crushing blows to the head, prompting Paul to realize that salvation protects the believer's mind, thoughts, and hope from crushing attacks. Finally, the only offensive weapon the guard carried at his side was a short thrusting sword used for close-quarters combat, leading Paul to explain that the Word of God is the living, active sword used to cut through deception. 29

Rome believed Paul was captive with physical chains and guards, but through the Holy Spirit, God was teaching Paul about a surrendered life submissive to Him alone. The Scriptures demonstrate a profound transformation in Paul. Before his encounter with Christ, Saul of Tarsus was driven by self-righteous pride, human credentials, and his own physical zeal (Philippians 3:4–6). However, through his sufferings and imprisonment, God systematically broke down his reliance on self-will and taught him total submission to Jesus Christ. Paul was actively learning and living this surrendered, submissive life while in prison.

While the world saw Paul as a prisoner of the Roman Empire, Paul's letters written from prison show a completely surrendered perspective. He did not view Rome as his master, nor did he view his chains as an unfortunate accident. He submitted to the circumstance because he saw himself as entirely under the sovereign authority of Jesus. Ephesians 3:1: "For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles." In his Prison Epistle to the Philippians, Paul uses the word "learned" twice to describe his experience with hardship

and restriction. Submission to God's will in difficult circumstances is not an automatic trait; it is a process. Philippians 4:11–13: "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

The Holy Spirit allowed Paul to see past the physical guard and realize the conflict was not between the Roman Empire and a prisoner in chains. While the physical soldier was equipped to enforce an earthly kingdom through physical force, God used that visual picture to reveal to Paul that believers are soldiers in a far greater spiritual battle. We are not equipped with iron and bronze, but with the divine, indestructible armor of God to stand firm against spiritual darkness. Through this, Paul was taught that everyday submission builds Spiritual authority. Authority in the spiritual realm is tied to being under authority.

30 In Matthew 8:8–10: the Roman Centurion told Jesus, "I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth." The Centurion understood that his command carried the full weight and might of the Roman Empire only because he himself was fully submitted to Caesar's authority. It works the exact same way with the Holy Spirit: If a believer refuses to yield to the Holy Spirit in their home (rebellion against parents, or toward children, or strife in marriage); or if a believer refuses to yield to the Holy Spirit in any part of life, they are walking in self-will, not the Holy Spirit. If they try to stand against the devil in Ephesians 6:10, they will be operating out of their own fractured authority. However, the believer who daily practices the Spirit-led submission in the mundane, hidden, and simple details of life crucifies the flesh. Paul was learning this in the very prison that held him. Why? So, we would know these things. This is Paul's personal experience in prison with the command to put on the armor of God. The armor is not a set of tools a believer picks up to use in their own strength; it is the character, power, and presence of God Himself, which can only be worn when self-will has been surrendered. When Paul says to be strong in the Lord, he is pointing out a simple reality: we cannot use human muscle to fight a spiritual battle. Trying to take on spiritual trouble using our

own willpower, anger, or cleverness is like bringing a plastic butter knife to a sword fight. When a person acts out of self-will, they are relying on their own personal strength, and Satan knows exactly how to break that strength because he understands human weakness, pride, and fear. When Paul tells believers in Ephesians 6:10 to be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might, he is saying that spiritual authority is outside of human effort. A believer operating in self-will is trying to fight a spiritual enemy with carnal strength, which creates a fatal mismatch.

The story of the seven sons of Sceva in Acts 19 shows what happens when someone tries to use spiritual authority without having a submitted heart. These men saw Paul casting out evil spirits and tried to copy him by saying, "We command you to come out in the name of Jesus whom Paul preaches." But the evil spirit answered, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?" The demon-possessed man then jumped on them, beat them up, and chased them out of the house naked and bleeding. They were using Jesus' name like a magic trick, but because they had no real relationship with God and no actual surrender to Him, they had zero real authority, leaving them completely exposed. True spiritual authority does not come from yelling louder, trying harder, or showing off that we have big faith. It comes from daily surrender to God in the quiet, normal moments of life. When we choose to forgive someone who hurt us, keep our temper in check, or obey God when nobody is watching, we are telling our own selfish nature that it is not in charge. By surrendering our will to the Holy Spirit in those small, hidden choices, God's actual power fills our life, giving us the real, solid ground that we need to stand firm when life gets hit by spiritual storms. 31

Daily surrendering to God is how we put on the whole armor of God. Many people have treated the Armor of God like magical gear that we pray onto ourself each morning like a protective shield. However, the armor is not a daily mental checklist or a set of objects we physically pick up. The armor is actually Jesus Christ Himself, and putting it on simply means surrendering our own daily choices to the Holy Spirit. Paul explains this clearly in another letter, Romans 13:12-14, where he tells believers to put on the armor of light and to put on the Lord Jesus Christ while turning away from selfish desires. Rom 13:12 "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore

cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.¹³ Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. ¹⁴ But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.” Paul shows us that wearing the armor and living like Jesus are the exact same thing, meaning we cannot truly wear God’s armor while continuing to follow our own selfish will.

Each piece of armor Paul describes in Ephesians 6 represents a real way of living that only comes through daily surrender, rather than trying harder on our own. Truth means choosing to agree with God’s Word instead of relying on our own feelings, pride, or excuses. Righteousness is not about being naturally perfect, but about having a clean conscience because we are obeying God and relying on Jesus’ goodness instead of our own. The peace that covers our feet is the quiet calm that stays inside us when we trust God, even when life around us feels out of control. Faith is not about trying to feel super confident or showing off, but rather choosing to trust God’s promises over what our

32 eyes can see right now. Salvation protects our mind and thoughts by keeping our hope fixed on God’s eternal home rather than temporary earthly problems. The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God, which we use to cut through lies and temptation in real time, just like Jesus did when He was tempted in the wilderness.

When a person chooses to live by their own self-will, they leave open gaps in their spiritual defense. For example, if we hold onto anger and refuse to forgive someone, we step out from behind the protection of righteousness. If we rely entirely on our own cleverness, we unbuckle the truth that holds our life together. If we let fear control our decisions, we drop our trust in God. The enemy is not afraid of human willpower or religious routines, but he is powerless against a believer who has surrendered their life to the Lord Jesus Christ, which is putting on the whole armor of God. A person who lets go of self-will is completely wrapped in the power and presence of Jesus. Ultimately, putting on the armor of God is simply the quiet, everyday habit of telling God, “I choose Your way instead of my way today.”

**It is better to look forward and prepare
than to look backward and despair.*

The Tabernacle in the Wilderness

The Priestly Garments

(The Robe of the Ephod) - Part 16

Dr. Vicky Moots

The Robe of the Ephod is described in Ex. 28:31-32: "And thou shalt make the robe of the ephod all of blue. And there shall be a hole in the top of it, in the midst thereof: it shall have a binding of woven work round about the hole of it, as it were the hole of a habergeon, that it be not rent."

This is the first use of the word "robe" in the Scripture. In all of the other cases, it refers to a garment worn by a king or prince. Therefore, it indicates a garment of dignity, a robe of a special office. This robe signified the importance and dignity which God gave to the office of the high priest.

Notice that no specific type of material was mentioned, but it was specified that the color would be blue. In Ex. 39:22, we also learn that it was woven: "And he made the robe of the ephod of woven work, all of blue."

The blue color represents heaven and shows the heavenly ministry of our High Priest who is now seated at the right hand of God, making intercession for us. Christ is our heavenly High Priest, and we are a heavenly people. Our citizenship is in heaven. 33

There was a special woven binding added around the hole for the neck so that it could not be rent (torn). It is forbidden in Scripture for the high priest to rend (tear) his clothes (Lev. 21:10). These were holy garments, garments for glory and for beauty, and to rend them would be a disgrace. Even when Jesus hung on the cross, God did not allow the soldiers to rend His coat (John 19:23-24). Instead, they cast lots for it. His coat was without seam and woven throughout just like the Robe of the Ephod, for He was our High Priest.

The Robe of the Ephod was a long, flowing robe that was worn under the Ephod and over the linen coat. The girdle of the Ephod was used to bind the Ephod to the Robe. The only decoration that was on the Robe was on the hem at the bottom of it, as we learn from the rest of the description of it which is given in Ex. 28:33-35: "And beneath upon the hem of it thou shalt make pomegranates of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, round about the hem thereof; and bells of gold between them

round about: a golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe round about. And it shall be upon Aaron to minister and his sound shall be heard when he goeth in unto the holy place before the LORD, and when he cometh out, that he die not."

So, we see that they made colored tassels in the shape of pomegranates, of blue, purple and scarlet, and attached them to the bottom of the hem of this garment. These are the same three colors that were used throughout the Tabernacle: on the curtains, the gate, the Ephod, and the Breastplate. We have discussed the meaning of these colors previously.

A pomegranate is a fruit that was in abundance in Canaan, but not in Egypt or the wilderness. The spies that were sent into Canaan from the wilderness to spy out the land brought back pomegranates and grapes as a sign of the fruitfulness of the land. Inside of a fresh pomegranate is a crimson liquid that is filled with many seeds. The liquid is a symbol of the blood of Calvary, and the seeds represent fruitfulness. Our High Priest, Jesus, was the firstfruit of the resurrection (I Cor. 15:20), and He will bring many sons to glory (Heb. 2:10) as a result of His death and resurrection.

34 In between each of these pomegranate tassels was hung a bell of pure gold. Each step that the high priest would take while he ministered would cause the bells to ring. Contrary to what some people think, he did not wear this garment with the bells on it when he entered the Holy of Holies with the blood of the sin offering on the Day of Atonement. The high priest removed his garments of glory and beauty and wore only the pure, white linen clothes: the linen coat, linen breeches, girdle and mitre.

There were no tinkling bells in the Holy of Holies while Aaron ministered in the presence of God. When he came back out, he would resume wearing his beautiful priestly garments. The ringing of the bells at that time would signal his coming back. It would be a testimony that God had accepted the blood of the atoning sacrifice. Even more joyous than the sound of the golden bells will be the sound of the trumpet when our Heavenly High Priest announces His return. Hallelujah!

(to be continued)



Our Corn Crib

"Buy The Truth, and Sell It Not"

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

Books Of The Bible

Genesis	Esther	Matthew	1,2 Thessalonians
Exodus	Job	Luke	1,2 Timothy
Leviticus	Ecclesiastes	John	Philemon
Numbers	Song of Solomon-A.S.Copley	The Acts	Hebrews,
Joshua	Paul's Gospel in S.O.S.-A Mooneyhan	Romans	James,
Judges	Isaiah (Books 1&2)	1,2 Corinthians	Titus
Ruth	Hosea	Galatians	2nd John
1,2 Samuel	Prophets-Joel, Nahum, Hab., Malachi,	Ephesians	Jude
Ezra	Zechariah	Philippians	Revelation
Outline Isaiah		Colossians	

Music CD's

*Wings of Faith- LIVE '79- feat. Greg, Milita, Rick, Sue & Frank
Tabernacle Choir Album- 1963- Beloved Grace & Glory favorites.*

Songs Of Time & Eternity

* All Titles free of charge. Call Write or e-mail your order.

grace and glory

P.O. Box 831

Grandview, Missouri 64030

