

Glorious Gospel Publication



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RESURRECTION'S

Realization and Reactions



From the
Editor

“The chief priests and the Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, after three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so that the last error be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, you have a watch: go your way, and make it as sure as you can. So they went and made the sepulcher sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.” Mt. 27:62-66.

It is strange that these people seemed to remember that Jesus promised to rise again. They seemingly hoped that Pilate’s command and their plan could keep the tomb secure, after all who could overrule Pilate? He expressed their limit. *“Make it as sure as you can.”* Who could break into and out of that mighty stone-sealed tomb, so great and secure? Who could overcome those weak and deceitful protectors of the tomb? They did shake and become as dead men, when the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, rolled back the stone and sat upon it. Mt. 28:2-4.

The women that came to that empty tomb, were indeed comforted to hear *“fear not ye, for I know that ye seek Jesus which was crucified.”* To fully trust and seek the Crucified One, provides wonderful **relief from fear**. He also told them to come and see and go quickly and tell that joyful message, that good news from the grave-yard, *“He is risen from the dead.”* V. 5-7.

After the women told the disciples where Jesus would meet them, they went and met with him. “*And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.*” Seeing the risen Christ, should produce total **worship**, but there are always some that doubt. V. 10,16,17.

When Mary Magdalene had seen the risen Christ and told them that had been with Him, as they mourned and wept, they believed not. We read that Jesus afterward appeared unto the eleven, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had **seen** Him after He was risen. Mk.16:9-14.

We read of those that came to the empty tomb being much perplexed and bowed their faces to the earth, were asked, “*Why seek the living among the dead?*” They had to be reminded of what He had told them while He was alive. Lk. 24:1-11. Lack of spiritual memory **hinders** faith. Shouldn’t they have expected to find Him alive? Shouldn’t they seek Him among the living? Shall not many today be asked the same question? What a wonderful life is there among the dead? Those dead in trespasses and sins cannot tell you where to find the risen Jesus. He had promised to be alive. God’s resurrected Son has come to **live** among those He has made alive for evermore.

The two companions on the Emmaus road were so sadly focused upon the events of recent days, that their reaction to the presence of the person of their risen Lord was slow in coming, but oh, how blessed when they recognized Him. “And it came to pass, as He sat at meat with them, He took bread and blessed it, and break, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened and they knew Him...And they said one to another. Did not our heart **burn** within us, while He talked with us by the way, while He opened to us the Scriptures.” Lk. 24:30,31.

We notice in John 20:8-9, that when some of Jesus' disciples came to the empty tomb, how they reacted. "Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw and believed. For as yet they knew not the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. It seems strange that they seemed to need to realize fulfillment of Scripture, in order to recognize the risen Son.

Mary weeping at the sepulchre was so occupied with where He had lain; that she missed knowing Him when she saw Him standing. John 20:13,14. What a privilege to be able to see the **Crucified One standing**. Steven did (Acts 7:55,56); and the elder and us (Rev. 5:4-6). **Oh glorious victory!**



**Redemption's wrought; the night is gone.
All grief and pain fled at the dawn.
Oh, wondrous day when Christ arose,
And conquered all His mighty foes.**

**Redemption's wrought: the last tear shed.
The Lord has risen from the dead.
Oh, glorious triumph which He had.
The grave is open, and I am glad.**

**Redemption's wrought; what can betide?
No more shall He in tomb abide.
How strangely sweet it must have been.
Oh, let us tell the news to men.**

**Redemption's wrought; the work is done.
Oh, hail the Victor, God's own Son.
He is alive for ever-more,
The glorious Lord whom we adore.**

-M. M. B.



The Last Days

Anita Clark

“The Lord shall roar out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake; but the LORD will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel.” Joel 3:16

WAR WITH IRAQ NOT ARMAGEDDON - At the time of this writing, the USA with its allies are at war in Iraq. There is hope that this conflict will be short, and will accomplish its aim of disposing the Iraqi leadership, so that a democratic government can be established in Iraq. President Bush has stated his case that this war is about stopping terrorism, which Iraq has been engaged in and has harbored for many years.

We can state equivocally that this war does not correspond to any of the wars mentioned in the book of Revelation. The tribulation of seven years have not begun yet. Before that time the rapture of the overcomers of the church will take place, and false peace will finally be achieved, which will hasten in the AntiChrist. Some popular Bible teachers try to create sensationalism through publications of books that proclaim we are experiencing wars which are yet future. Let us stick by the truth we have been taught. God has a plan which will be worked out in fulfillment to His Word, which does not change. He may be arranging the nations for the final end time situation.

The war is going very well, with only a few allied casualties. Actions of anti-war protestors in the USA and other nations are reminiscent of the Vietnam war days. Many are terribly frightened about the outcome of the war. Fear rules in many hearts.

The Scripture warns that “And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of war” (Matt.24:6) before the end comes. Jesus beseeches us in this text, “for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.”

There are many motives for war, the greatest of which is greed. President Bush seems to be convinced that America is acting nobly to free Iraq from a murderous dictator, and to establish a government that will live peacefully with the rest of the world. We can rest assuredly of one thing: God is in control. He is working all things together to fulfill His divine plan. We know He is preparing the way for Israel to be in circumstances which will compel them to sign a treaty with the nations for peace.. (Dan. 9:27). Whatever is taking place in the Middle East will ultimately bring about the fulfillment of Prophecy for the end time. Jesus tells us to have no fear (Vs. 6 “Be not troubled”). Let us rest in the Lord that His divine purposes are being fulfilled. He sees the end from the beginning.

There will be a great battle at the end of the seven years of tribulation with all nations gathered around Jerusalem. Joel 3:2 tells us, “I will gather all nations and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them for my heritage Israel, who they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.” Obadiah 18, tells us, “And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, ...and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau.” Prophecies foretell that all Israel’s enemies, descendants of Ishmael, Esau, Ammon, Moab, and Lot, as well as the Gentile nations, will be devoured and debased under the coming King Jesus, and will not trouble Israel anymore. Praise the Lord!

JIHAD CONTINUES IN ISRAEL - “ Hamas and Islamic Jihad have discussed plans to conduct major attacks on Israel during the Iraq war,” according to Palestinian security sources.” (The World Tribune). Palestinians have fired Kassam-2 short-range missiles from the northern Gaza Strip toward Israel. Ancient Biblical prophecies against Gaza are interesting. (Zech. 9:5; Zeph. 2:4) We know that Gaza was the land of the Philistines. God brought great judgment against these fierce enemies of Israel in Old Testament times. He will also bring down the modern enemies of Israel. The outcome is sure! God’s Word will be accomplished.

IDENTITY TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES - COMING INTERNATIONAL CONTROL - Recently, technology has advanced in several new ways of identifying individuals. One of the latest is “Gait-recognition technology,” which can recognize individuals by the way they walk. This would be very useful in the war on terrorism and for public safety. This technology has a ways to go before it will be totally useful.

Another interesting technology is “Iris control,” which uses the human eye as a faultless way to identify individuals. This system is being tested for a period of one year, and then will be used permanently in airports around the world. Passengers will be able to avoid a long line with just a boarding pass, and a quick look into the camera, when embarking on an airplane.

Of course there has been the research into DNA identification, which has been going on for several years. It is amazing to think that the DNA information in every cell in the human body is different in each individual human being, making identification possible. A human cell no bigger than a period has a nucleus where the DNA resides. To identify a particular individual the DNA has to be unwound and chromosomes and gene traits compared with another sample. God in His matchless

intelligence and wisdom created all this, but man has only come to know this truth for the last 30-40 years. Much progress has been made in this field, which has led to the ability to clone animals and possibly humans. Amazing! God will no doubt stop man before very long for his arrogant headlong plunge into things which God holds the key. He judged man at the "Tower of Babel," for trying to elevate himself, and I feel soon He will stop man again.

All man's achievements mean nothing without a knowledge of God. The question for all time, now and in the future, is not, "How much education did you receive?" or "How much is your I.Q.?" but rather, "What have you done with Jesus?"

Tribulation is coming, the wrath of Almighty God! We have a promise to escape that horrible time, as Jesus tells us in Rev. 3:10, "Because thou hast kept the Word of My patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation (tribulation) that shall come upon the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." The promise is given to the overcoming Christians. Do you desire that place with Christ? Some Christians are preparing today for that beautiful place over there, and for that wonderful Lord. Keep going! Be faithful! Time is almost done! Christ will soon appear! Praise the Lord!



Hope we not in this life only.
Christ Himself has made it plain
None who sleep in Him shall perish,
And our faith is not in vain.
Not in vain our glad hosannas;
Since we follow where He led,
Not is vain our joyful anthem:
"Christ has risen from the dead!"

ROMANS



W. J. Franklin

Chapter 2:19-29

THE JEWS' GREATER LIGHT CONDEMNS THEM - continued

“And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness”—V. 19. “A guide of the blind.” We are reminded of what Jesus said, “if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall in the ditch”—Matt. 15:14. Even though encased in darkness, the religious man before us fancied himself a light to those in darkness. Nothing is so blind as false religion, because it is fully of Satan. While the Law and the things associated with it were of God, the Jews had so incrustated it and themselves against it with tradition that it was no longer the religion of God, but something debased and vile before God. At the time of which Paul wrote, they were under judicial blindness—Rom. 11:25. There are four kinds of darkness. Physical darkness that renders the eye a useless organ. Then, the natural darkness into which we were all born with our faces estranged from God. There is the darkness that deepens with rebellion against God, then there is the darkness that may be called judicial darkness that is sent on men when they reject light, such as that which the Jews labor under at the present time—Rom. 11:25, and the same that is called “Strong delusion” in II Thess. 2, when God permits Satan, or He Himself sends the antiChrist to deceive the world.

“An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law”—V. 20.

“Form of knowledge” means that it was not left to mere chance or guesswork as with the Gentiles. There was nothing vague but a specific revelation from God. However, the

“Form” had become lifeless, and had no breath of life. It no longer had the blessing of God upon it, but was mere empty profession. The Jew believed himself capable of teaching the foolish, of leading babes into knowledge. However, Paul, with the arrows of truth, endeavors to reach his conscience and jar him out of his complacency.

“Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? Thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?”—V. 21. Beginning with V. 21 and through 27, Paul asks seven penetrating and searching questions in an effort to probe the conscience of the Jew. “Teachest thou not thyself?” Do you practice what you preach? It is easy to give precept and rule and tell the other fellow what to do. It is easy to point out the other man’s sin. However, these seven questions seem to point up the inconsistency of saying, “Do as I say, not as I do.”

“Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? Thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?”—V. 22. They taught against unchastity, but could they be the first to throw a stone? Though they abhorred idols, did they rob temples? As the word “sacrilege” really means. No doubt, many Jews quailed under the whiplash of Paul’s questions, and since the Holy Spirit inspired him to write as he did, no doubt, some were converted.

“Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?”—V. 23. Though he could boast in the law, the Jew, by breaking the law, brought dishonour to the name of God by continually disobeying his law.

“For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written”—V. 24. No other people have become a byword the world over as have the Jewish people. This is what God said He would do to them, and it has come to pass—See Deut. 28:37; I Kings 9:7; Psa. 44:14. Also, they have been the cause of many turning their backs on God, and also, they have provoked men to blaspheme the Name of Him

they should have loved. The prophet Isaiah had written against their falsity—Isa. 52:5. It is as Jesus said, “There is one that accuseth you, even Moses in whom ye trust”—John 5:45. The very Scriptures they claim to believe will be the condemning witness against them.

THE REAL JEW AND TRUE CIRCUMCISION

“For circumcision verily profiteth, if you keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision”—V. 25. Circumcision was a sign of the covenant in which the Jew was infolded. See Gen. 17:11-14. If the heart was in harmony with the outward sign, all was well. Otherwise, the Jew was worse than the Gentile. God looketh on the heart as He told Samuel long ago—I Sam. 16:7. Circumcision may be said to pledge one to keep the whole law. See Gal. 5:3. However, to those who were continually breaking the law, both as to its spirit and letter, they would be treated as worse than the Gentiles, and ceremonial observance would be reversed.

“Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision?”—V. 26. There are a number of men in the Bible who may come under this. Noah, Enoch, Abraham, Melchisedek and others lived before the law, and were highly honored of God. Cornelius was a Gentile, a professional soldier, and a leader of men in his profession. Yet he was pleasing to God. God sent a leading apostle to minister to him. See acts 10. We could also mention Job who lived apart from the law of Moses but was well pleasing to the Lord. Their lives spiritually, were far above many of the Jews.

“And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfill the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?”—V. 27. Even as Noah who by faith condemned the world (Heb. 11:7) so the lives of these will

serve to condemn those of the Jews who were or are disobedient. How deeply do these questions probe the hearts of those who make a profession yet have no possession.

“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh”—V. 28. Belonging to the Jewish nation and observing its ceremonies did not change the heart. Jesus said to Nicodemus, “Ye must be born again,” Unless the heart and life were in harmony with the profession, nothing was right. What is external in the flesh has no bearing whatsoever with God unless there is an internal change wrought by the Spirit of God.

“But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God”—V. 29. The true Jew like true circumcision, must be of the heart in the spirit. Ours is the true “Cut offness” as Col. 2:11 teaches. All rites and ceremonies, whether found in the Bible or not, avail nothing toward constituting a man a new creation. Water baptism and the Lord’s supper, though taught clearly by the New Testament, are for Christians, and are never the basis for hope of salvation, neither are they designed to regenerate man.



*Happy moments, praise God.
Difficult moments, seek God.
Quiet moments, worship God.
Painful moments, trust God.
Every moment, thank God.*

Testimony

My family originated from south India, the State of Andhra, in a small town called Suripuram. A larger village named Kavali was about six miles away. Our mother tongue is Telugu and we were of the Hindu religion. No Christian missionaries had ever visited our village, so there were no Christians among us. In my childhood, some evangelists and a pastor of a Baptist church from Kavali used to walk to our village now and then (because there was no transportation in those days) to preach the Gospel. Eventually my father and two other men of our village accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour.

Our culture has a caste system and our community excommunicated these three families from all kinds of social connections with others because of accepting Jesus as Saviour. Western people may find it difficult to understand some of the peculiar things and events of the oriental people. In our village, every caste has a different well of water from which they are allowed to draw and one caste will not allow those of another caste to take water from their well. "Untouchables" are those who are excommunicated from society and they will experience an isolated life such as that of St. John in Patmos. The family will not be permitted to even work at any daily coolie jobs in fields or in houses. They are cut off from all social functions, friendships, and relationships. If one becomes Christian, being excommunicated is the result and no one cares whether he lives or dies.

Because of this severe problem, the other two families who were baptized with my parents turned from Christianity and rejoined Hinduism. My father also was forced to profess to come back the Hindu religion, but God gave immense grace to

my parents not to leave HIM. My father strongly told the community leaders that he would never leave Jesus if it meant life or death. From then on the critical days began for my parents. Every event of hardship is a small, pathetic, sorrowful story. If you, the readers are interested, I will write them bit by bit, but at this time I will tell you one horrible and marvelous incident.

Though we had a small piece of land to cultivate, my father was a hawker. He would purchase certain commodities and take them to far villages to sell. He would often be away from home for ten or fifteen days. During one of his trips, my brother fell terribly sick with a fever and there were no doctors or hospitals to which my mother could take him. No one in the town would come to help my mother because we were eliminated from society. At last, my brother died about 12 o'clock in the morning. All my mother could do in this heartbreaking situation was to cry and weep because she didn't know where my father was or when he would be home. Being excommunicated, she had no one to help or comfort her.

Then, at one o'clock in the noon hour, a nice gentleman visited my mother. He was a handsome man, very tall and stout with long white hair and a long beard. He asked my mother, "Why are you weeping?" She told him every thing and showed him my dead brother. He answered and said, "Do not worry!" He then took some mud from in front of my house and made two small tablets and put them in my brother's mouth. Immediately my brother opened his eyes and saw. As soon as my brother came back to life, that stranger disappeared.

It is proven in our lives that Jesus will be on our side even though everybody else abandons us. My brother lived on for 67 years, was the father of six children, received a good education and became one of the best teachers in the state. He served the Lord heartily, built some churches in poor villages, appointed

pastors and helped many poor students with their studies. All of his children are saved and now they, too, are in God's work. My brother fell asleep in the Lord in September 2002.

If you are interested in knowing more of how my parents faced problems and stood for Christ, serving Him sincerely in their poor and uneducated life, I will be glad to write more to you, piece by piece.

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CHRIST IN ME

Greater is He that is in you
Than he that is in the world
Happy those who trust God
His truth to them unfurled
They grow by grace into glory
Each kept by God above
Through all the years
Of their joy and tears
Kept secure in God's great Love
-Grace Livingstone

Testimony Of My Salvation

I will go back to when my friend Karen witnessed to me. She had told me of her salvation and I could see the change in her. I went to church with her several times and then I was even more miserable.

I think I must have been under conviction for six or eight months as I was really tormented. My nerves were shot so I went to the doctor and took tranquilizers. Well, those pill didn't work so I tried a different kind. None of them helped. I really thought I was headed for a break down.

It is really funny as I look back on it. One evening Karen came over and witnessed to me again. She read John 3:3-17 and told me that you must take Christ as your personal Saviour. This got me to thinking and I really wanted what she had but I still didn't want to admit I was a lost person.

You see I use to think I was saved but I really didn't know. It was two Sundays after Easter when I went forward. Oh, did I have a battle with myself that Sunday night. I wanted to be helped but I was so afraid and something kept holding me back. I now know it was the devil. Well, I broke through that barrier and took the first step. As I was walking down that isle, oh there was such a relief – I really felt like my sins were being washed away then.

I felt so guilty though and I couldn't understand it all. I thought I was saved but I didn't know why I felt so guilty and ashamed. I think the moment I was saved the devil thought he was going to move in too. He put doubts in my mind and I really wondered if I was saved or not. I wanted to be sure.

Well, Monday morning came, I woke up and still had my doubts. I called Karen and told her I still didn't know as I was still the same person – I guess I expected a miracle or something. She told me to pray some more which I did and shed some tears.

I called the pastor and told him of my doubts and he said that it was the devil putting those doubts in my mind, and it was the same as calling Him a liar if I didn't believe Jesus saved me.

I just couldn't begin to tell you the feeling, the wonderful thrill that was in my heart when I finally realized that Jesus did save me and that all my sins were forgiven. It was like I was on a cloud – everything was good in the world – nothing bothered me at all. All I wanted to do was tell the world about Jesus and what he had done for me.

The reason I had those doubts in my mind, I think is because early Monday morning I had the chance to tell my husband and I didn't. All I Said was that I had gone forward Sunday night. You see I didn't tell him that I went forth to be saved. Well naturally the first person I wanted to tell was my husband, after I realized that I really was saved but I couldn't get in touch with him. I called my friend and the pastor, but I still had to tell somebody who didn't know.

Well, I called my sister in Wichita, Kansas and that is when I really got a blessing. It was such a wonderful feeling to know that Jesus was with me and always would be. The first three or four days I must have had a shirt of armor on as I was patient with my boys, I just really love everybody.

I was really close to God – so close I felt like I could touch Him. But as I said I was only on that cloud for a few days. I have prayed and prayed to be back on that cloud again but I

know I can't expect to be that close to God unless I really give myself completely to Him. You see I had a bad habit I had to give up (I should say some bad habits) and I expected to start at the top. Oh what a blessing it was to have those few days on that cloud and I know that I will be back there again someday. It is really going to be a battle with the devil, but with Jesus I know I can fight him.

The more I learn about Jesus the more strength I will have. I really shudder when I think of what might have happened if Karen hadn't witnessed to me. If she hadn't told me about Christ I might still not know about Him. I am really thankful to her. We were always good friends but now we are closer than ever since we both have Christ as our precious Savior.

I know that this witnessing course will help me witness to more people, even strangers and the Holy Spirit is always there to guide me. Nothing can take Jesus away from me – I may fail Him but He will never fail me.

Lovingly with Christ as my Precious Savior.
Mrs. Deanna (King) McLenegan



Satisfied

*I tried to live by bread alone—
The bread of earthly store;
I hungered more and more.
I came to Christ, the Living Bread,
In hungry need I cried;
I feasted at His table spread,
And I was satisfied.*

I Thessalonians 1:2-3

Linda Shepard

“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;”

Paul begins his letter to the Thessalonians remembering three qualities in their character. While he knows their existing qualities, he further expresses they should not stop there.

Perfect your faith – “Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?” I Thes. 3:10

Increase your love – “But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;” I Thes. 4:9-10.

Soberly watch, wait, hope – “...let us watch and be sober.” I Thes. 5:6.

He remembers they have these special qualities, yet he further expresses they should be perfected; they should increase; they should patiently continue to wait and hope. It really makes you think how you can never let down, but must be both established

and manifesting a good testimony and also growing up into Christ unto that perfect man.

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breast-plate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.”
I Thes. 5:8.



I Shall Not Pass Again This Way

**The bread that giveth strength I want to give;
The water pure that bids the thirsty live;
I want to help the fainting day by day,
Because I shall not pass again this way.**

**I want to give the oil of joy for tears;
The faith to conquer cruel doubts and fears;
Beauty for ashes may I give away,
Because I shall not pass again this way.**

**I want to give good measure running o'er,
And into angry heats I want to pour
The answer soft that turneth wrath away,
Because I shall not pass again this way.**

**I want to give to others hope and faith;
I want to do all that the Master saith;
I want to live aright from day to day,
Because I shall not pass again this way.**

–Anonymous



Preparation Process

Corina Medina

In this world we live in today of wars, hatreds, unrest, uncertainty and fears, may we be encouraged and comforted for as Sons of God we are blessed immeasurably. We don't follow some man-devil-made religion – we, guided by God's Word and by the blessed Holy Spirit of God, follow Jesus Christ, the Almighty God and Savior of His people. He is a living god, a righteous Lord, a kind, trustworthy and faithful friend.

Psalm 23: “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He Maketh me to lie down in green pastures, He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for they rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”

We stand on the edge of eternity with His banner of LOVE overshadowing us – His all sufficient grace meeting **daily** all our needs, and His Holy Spirit preparing and adorning us for His soon coming. “Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me. The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy oh Lord endureth forever” Psa. 138:7,8.

***Be glad and rejoice for the bridegroom cometh!
Come Lord Jesus!***

Jeremiah 29

Part 10 (vs 7)

By Debra Isenbletter



Verse 7 concludes the paragraph of *Encouragement for the Captives* and shows us *A Peaceful Captivity* in which *Two Requests* are made (**seek** and **pray**). One request pertains to their *Public Life* and the other request pertains to their *Private Life*. After these two requests the Lord makes *One Promise* and it is that they have a *Peaceful Life*.

The **First Request** pertains to their *Public Life*: “*And seek the peace of the city, whither I have caused your to be carried away captive...*” The request is that they “seek” peace while they are in the city of Babylon. They are to “search for, apply themselves, study to follow and practice” peace. That takes effort on their part; it is something they must actively choose to do. Before they can fulfill this first request they must accept that the Lord is the One responsible for their captivity and the Lord states this six times in this chapter (vs. 4,7,14,18,20). Until they accept this they can have no real peace.

Before they can enjoy a peace from without, they must first have a peace from within. The peace spoken of here is *shalom*, which means “welfare, prosperity, safety.” Matthew Henry writes, “*This forbids them to attempt anything against the public peace...not plotting to shake off the yoke but patiently leaving it to God to work deliverance for them. They are to live quiet and peaceable lives.*” The end of this promise is that when their captors enjoy “prosperity” and “safety,” then they will also. Peace and prosperity go together, if they seek peace then they will prosper.

This is peace made practical where they must “apply themselves” and make an effort. “*Depart from evil, and do*

good,- seek peace, and pursue it...” (Ps 34:14) The Apostle Peter says the same thing in the New Testament (I Pet 3:11-12). Seeking peace is simply submission to man and to God, which is what the Apostle Paul also tells us is the testimony we should have. We are to “*live peaceably with all men*” (Ro 12:8), notice it says “all” men, some men make this harder than others therefore Paul begins with “*If it be possible, as much as lieth in you.*” The admonition and the enabling come from the Lord, the flesh may rebel but our obedience shows that we are truly serving Christ and he says we can be “*acceptable to God and approved of men.*” (Ro 14:17-19).

As we serve our earthly masters we become a testimony for our Heavenly Master for we are also serving Him. Daniel, the three Hebrew children and Nehemiah, all served their earthly masters in Babylon, and prospered through their service. Their testimony was such that in connection with their service nothing could be said against them. The word “peace” also comes from a root word meaning “whole” or “entire” and I think that is very significant because it shows that we can never really be completely whole or entire until we are willing to do this.

The Second Request is in connection with their *Private Life*: “*and pray unto the Lord for it.*” Those in captivity are to pray for or “intercede” to the Lord *on behalf* of those who hold them in captivity. Jamieson, Fausset and Brown says: “*Not only bear the yoke patiently, but pray for your masters while captivity lasts. True religion teaches patient submission not sedition.*” What a test of faith this is for God’s people. Not only were they not to rebel, but also they were to pray that others wouldn’t rebel. The Lord would have them learn several lessons through this request. First: They must learn to pray for their enemies: Jesus taught the very same lesson when He said, “*Love your enemies...pray for them which despitefully use you...*” (Mt 5:44). Paul says, “*bless them which persecute you, bless and curse not...*” (Ro 12:14). Paul put this request of the

Lord into practical use in his own life for when he was reviled he said “we *bless*” and when he was persecuted he said, “we *suffer it*.” (I Cor 4:12).

Next: When they pray for their enemies they learn that everyone is included and no one is excluded. How the flesh rebels against this concept. The Lord shows them (and us) that whether we like the individuals we pray for or agree with their policy or treatment, we are still to pray for them. Paul says, “*supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks*” are “*to be made for all men*.” The result is a testimony that shows we are leading “*a quiet and peaceable life*.” (I Ti 2:1-4). Next: They must learn to pray with faith and not anger. Just going through the motions of prayer is not enough, and doing it because we feel we have to is not enough. Paul says we are to pray “*without wrath and doubting*.” (I Ti 2:8). He says that we must let go of anger and lay hold of faith; this is the obedience that truly pleases the Lord. Finally: Our prayers need to be constant and consistent, especially in tribulation or trials. This is part of overcoming. “*Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing instant in prayer...*” (Ro 12:12).

We see the true calling and future ministry of the Lord’s Remnant in this request. They are to be a priestly people, interceding and praying for others. “*But ye shall be named priests of the Lord*.” (Is 61:6) and as they fulfill their calling and ministry their obedience glorifies the Lord. “*Ye also are... a holy priesthood...a royal priesthood, a holy nation...that ye should show forth the praises of him*.” (I Pet 2:5,9)

One Promise: A Peaceful Life: “*for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace*.” At the end of these two requests the Lord gives this promise. This peace is a peace that is within and a peace that is without. This is their promised blessing and it is a millennial blessing. Before they can enjoy all the earthly “prosperity” and “safety” they must first experience a change that is inward. What is so significant is that their obedience or their disobedience has the power to affect the nations. Even in

the day Jeremiah is writing, if they obey and pray for their enemies, their enemies will experience “safety” and “prosperity” and they in turn will enjoy the same blessings for 70 years. They have the power to affect an entire nation.

In the future their obedience has the power to affect not only one nation, but every nation on earth, and rather than 70 years of blessing there will be 1,000 years of blessing. This request and just their partial obedience is a shadow of the day when Jesus reigns in their hearts and on the earth, it is then that He will be known as the Prince of Peace. For them to experience this peace, even in captivity they must Hear the Lord, Trust the Lord, Love His Word and Teach His Word. This is what they will do in the Millennium. The promise for hearing the Lord is peace (Ps 85:8; Is 48:18). The promise for trusting the Lord is peace (Is 26:3). Peace is promised those that love His Word and teach His Word. (Ps 119:165; Is 54:13) In each example we can see that peace has a price and that price is obedience.

This same peace is promised in the Grace Age and is just as sure a promise as the peace that is promised in the Kingdom Age. Our peace begins as an inward peace, it is the peace we have “*with God*” when we receive Christ and this peace comes from our obedience to the salvation call. Our peace continues with an outward peace, seen even in adversity, it is the “*peace of God.*” This peace comes when we serve Christ and is a result of our obedience to all He asks of us, even if it means praying for our enemies. When we have the “peace of God” it is as though there is a hedge around us and between that hedge and us is the soft cushion of peace. The terrible trials lie outside that hedge; but we are protected, we are “safe.” This promise of peace, whether inward or outward, will carry us through all circumstance and all trials.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Fellowship Meeting: April 12th at *Grace Chapel*, 419 S. 3rd, Carbondale, Kansas. Meeting begins at 10:00 AM, lunch at noon and afternoon meeting 1:30 PM.

Memorial Day Fellowship Meeting: May 26th at *Grace Christian Assembly*, 2309 Blue Ridge Blvd. Kansas City, Missouri. Meeting begins at 10:00 AM, lunch at noon and afternoon meeting.

Oklahoma Youth Camp: Sunday night June 8th through Friday 13th at *War Eagle Resort* which is 2 miles East and 5 miles North of Tahlequah on Hiway 10. Those wishing to register may call Harley Hunt: 918-224-3540. Those who want to reserve a motel room should call: 800-722-3834.

Camp Joy Haven: June 30th – July 4th at *White Memorial Camp*, Council Grove, Kansas. Reporting in Monday 10 AM with the first meal at noon and afternoon service. Last meal will be breakfast Friday with clean up and packing to leave before noon. Directions to the camp: Leaving Council Grove on Hwy 177 North, about 6 1/2 miles turn left at the green White Memorial Camp sign (which is Ave. K). Go 1 1/2 miles to 1050 Rd. and turn left. Road dead-ends in the camp. Registrations must be in by May 30th.

Do you know why I'm longing for the coming of the Lord,
And watching His glory to see?
'Tis because He's my Bridegroom, beloved, and adored,
And I know He is coming for me.