

Glorious Gospel Publication



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Great Gifts



“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” James 1:1 7.

The greatest of all gifts by the greatest of all givers, was indeed prompted by God’s great love. I believe that, all that believing humanity may eternally enjoy, exists because of our Father’s immeasurable desire to give. Oh, Shall our hearts and life shout out, “Thanks be unto God for **His unspeakable gift.**”

This giving grows, even multiplies with a vast return from one only begotten Son unto many sons being brought unto glory! “But to every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.” Eph. 4:7. How much of Him do we want? How much of Him will we take? He is all available for the taking. Let us each take all of Him. The love that He gave and the love that He gives is ever expanding, producing more and more love.

“Be ye followers of God as dear children; And walk in love as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.” Eph. 5:1,2.

A precious thing to realize, Jesus came to give and died giving. Now He has gone to heaven, but is still giving as He intercedes for us at the throne of God. Heb. 7:25; 9:24; Rom. 8:34.

But consider this, He that so graciously gave and is richly giving every day, is coming soon to gloriously receive of His gift immeasurably increased and ever increasing. His giving was such a true and wise investment of the greatest love.

I wonder that God our Father felt something of Jesus suffering, and of the greatness of the cost to His Son. He that had been equal with the Father in owning the universe but would forever there after be subject to the Father. I Cor. 15:24-28.

Our heavenly Father and His beloved Son gave until it hurt and more. What an expression, what does it mean? Some times expressions have amusing interpretations and some times they are not so funny. At times they seem to get very strange applications. Some say we should give until it hurts. How about giving until it stops hurting?

Love that avails, often travels, and travails on painful trails, yet ultimately prevails. CONSIDER HIM, lest you be weary and faint in your minds.

by J. D.

There are three kings of giving: Grudge giving, duty giving, and thanks giving Grudge giving says, "I hate to;" duty giving says, "I ought to;" thanks giving says, "I want to."

The first comes from constraint, the second from a sense of obligation and the third from a full heart. Nothing much is conveyed in grudge giving, since the gift without the giver is bare. Something more happens in duty giving, but there is no song in it. Thanks giving is an open gate into the rewards.

THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark



“Therefore wait ye upon Me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for My determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them My indignation, even all My fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy. Sing, O daughter of Zion: shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, He hath cast out thine enemy; the King of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more. The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love, He will joy over thee with singing.” Zeph. 3:8,14,15,17.

How precious are the promises of God to Israel. Throughout the prophecies God declares that although He set aside Israel because of their disobedience and idolatry, He will restore them again in their land, as His chosen people. The stage is being set for the nations of the world to be judged. They will come up for a great battle as the Scripture declares, but God will intervene and save Israel from their hands once again as He did in the days of old. This is a great comfort to know that He keeps His promises. As surely as He is faithful to Israel, just that surely He will keep His promises to the church. Jesus Christ is coming very soon to establish His throne in the heavens. He will snatch away His overcoming people from the earth (I Thess. 4:13-18 - the “thief in the night coming”), then will come unparalleled judgment on the earth for almost seven years duration. Matt 24:22 says that the day of judgment will be shortened or no flesh

would be saved. Then, He will come with power and great glory (Zech 14:3-6; Matt.24:27-31;Rev. 1:7). The verses in Zephaniah to Israel will then be fulfilled. He will reinstate believing Israel as His chosen people at that time. Even though we have not arrived at that time, God still blesses Israel and is bringing them back to their land to set the stage for the curtain call which very soon will take place on the last and final act as far as Israel is concerned.

AL QAEDA SEEN PLANNING MAJOR STRIKES - According to Interpol and Reuters reports, these militants are preparing simultaneous attacks in different countries including the United States. The head of Interpol (French operation that coordinates international crime fighting) says that despite cracking down on militant groups, the risk of attacks is as great as before Sept. 11, 2001. These groups have so called “sleeping cells, “ which remain undetected, but are ready to attack when the signal is given.

What should we do in view of all this? Trust in the Lord more fully than at anytime before. That is the answer to our problems no matter what the source. Lean heavy on the Word of God. Recently, a sister in the Lord who withstood the horrors of war in Nazi Germany, told how much stress there was there, and about the shortage of food. She said her mother gave a beautiful old solid gold pocket watch for a half loaf of bread, because they were so hungry. Many of us have never suffered any kind of deprivation. We are a spoiled bunch, who do not understand the word “hungry.” What will the future hold? No one but God knows, and we are assured that He holds our hand. Jesus said, when speaking of the times coming in tribulation on the earth, “See that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.” (Matt.24:6).

WAR LOOMING ON THE HORIZON - At this moment Saddam Hussein has agreed to accept the United Nations resolution against Iraq, requesting that they make known immedi-

ately their arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. Iraq denies that they have any such weapons while at the same time are issuing gas-masks to their troops, who might be affected in the war zone if they used such weapons. Iraq has said they would allow inspectors before, but have not allowed them to do their work successfully. It is looking like we could be at war with them in the very near future. How much we dread that! We pray that it will bring our nation back to reliance and trust in God in a greater measure than ever before. We pray for the Christian young men and women who will be sent that they will let their lights shine for Christ in these difficult times.

ISRAEL TESTING HIGH POWERED DEFENSE WEAPONS - Israel has successfully tested the PAC-2 anti-missile system. They have declared that they have a “very active robust defense system” at the present time. These systems are designed to protect Tel Aviv, Haifa and Arad from Iraqi ballistic missiles. There is great fear that Saddam will bomb Israel if the United States goes against Iraq. Israel would like to stay out of the conflict, but has vowed to retaliate if Iraq bombs them. There is increasing fear that threats of attacks by Hizballah, which is perched on the northern border will be carried out in earnest if the war begins. The Scripture says, “...Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be pestilence (disease) and earthquakes in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.” (Matt. 24:7,8). So, we wait and pray. God is bringing about His purposes in the earth.

EUROPEAN UNION - Javier Solano, Secretary General of the Western European Union is in the news again. Newsweek (17 June 2002. Pg.22) says, Solano, called the “EU’s foreign-policy czar and a catalyst for change,” is helping to forge a “common European foreign policy.” Two sides of the new thrust for power are what is called the “soft policy,” which is a move to initiate ten new member nations into the EU, (many of the former Soviet Union satellite nations) and its “hard policy,” which

Solano promotes, and which is being implemented.. The ‘hard policy’ is to put in place the “EU’s 60,000-strong rapid-reaction force,” which is scheduled to be ready by January 2003.

At recent meeting European Defense ministers, meeting in Brussels, agreed to spend more on precision weapons and rapid-deployment forces as Javier Solano has urged.. It is said of Solano that he is determined to “change an inward-looking group of nations into a serious global player.” This is what he is credited to have accomplished. He recently clocked up over 274,500 air miles, visiting 40 countries and attended 17 summit meetings. Newsweek states, “Solano’s critics joke that he seems to believe there isn’t a problem in the world he can’t solve by appearing on television and his efforts to build a global profile have paid off.” The aim of the EU is to have a United States of Europe (recent news CNN), and to forge complete peace for all of Europe. Some have voiced that this will make NATO obsolete. It will be interesting to watch developments in the days ahead.

One of the greatest challenges which Solano is credited to have accomplished is “to get the European Union to speak with one voice, by forging a middle-of-the-road policy to negotiate for Europe.” At a Arab summit in 2000, Solano represented the EU (instead of several EU nation representatives with varying views) with one message from all the members. This is the first time this has ever taken place, and is considered by EU members to be a great feat of diplomacy. In past articles we have stated that Solano is a man who is accomplishing remarkable things. We are not saying that he is the “Beast” of Rev. 13, but it is interesting to see how one man has risen to such acclaim and fame so quickly. He very well could be the “man of sin” the Scripture speaks of, who will wield power over all the earth in the tribulation time. Revelation 13:3-4, states, “...and all the world wondered after the beast... and they worshiped the beast, saying Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”

Israeli leader, Eliezer Cohen recently attended a meeting of the EU's Alliance for Europe in Brussels. He is seeking stronger ties between Israel and the EU. We know from the Scripture that the unification of Israel and the Revived Roman Empire (Dan. 7:7-11) will ultimately be to her detriment. Israel will make a treaty with the Anti-Christ, which will no doubt guarantee her safely, but will bring such sorrow to her, which the Bible calls "Jacob's trouble," the greatest trouble that has ever been known by Israel to date.

ARCHBISHOP OF PARIS, JEAN- MARIE LUSTIGER -

This archbishop is very close to Pope John Paul, and many view him as the candidate most likely to be the next pope. What is interesting about this man is that he is also a Jew. His mother dies in the ovens of Auschwitz. He was guarded from harm and converted to Catholicism at a young age, and now is a very popular Archbishop. It is said that thousands throng the arenas, when he is announced to be the speaker. He has also written a book entitled "Choosing God, Chosen by God."

Speculation about this man causes us to consider what we know from the Scripture. The one world religion and the Anti-Christ will be hand-in-hand with the false religious leader, called the False Prophet. Rev. 13:11 tells of a "beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke like a dragon." "The earth" in prophetic Scripture usually speaks of Israel. It is believed that the False Prophet will be an Israelite, who joined with the Anti-Christ will become very popular and will promote worship of the Beast (Rev. 13). Interesting! We are so glad that the Lord Jesus Christ is coming so soon. We are thankful that we will not have to be here during that terrible part of the tribulation.

Look up weary believer! Christ will soon appear! He will reward the "good and faithful servant." Praise the Lord!

“Called aside—

From the glad working of thy busy life,
From the world’s ceaseless stir of care and strife,
Into the shade and stillness by thy Heavenly Guide
For a brief space thou hast been called aside.

“Called aside—

Perhaps into a desert garden dim;
And yet not alone, when thou hast been with Him,
And heard His voice in sweetest accents say:
‘Child, wilt thou not with Me this still hour stay?’

“Called aside—

In hidden paths with Christ thy Lord to tread,
Deeper to drink at the sweet Fountainhead,
Closer in fellowship with Him to roam,
Nearer, perchance, to feel thy Heavenly Home.

“Called aside—

Oh, knowledge deeper grows with Him alone;
In secret oft His deeper love is shown,
And learned in many an hour of dark distress
Some rare, sweet lesson of His tenderness.

“Called aside—

We thank thee for the stillness and the shade;
We thank Thee for the hidden paths Thy love hath
made,
And, so that we have wept and watched with Thee,
We thank Thee for our dark Gethsemane.

“Called aside—

Oh, restful thought—He doeth all things well;
Oh, blessed sense, with Christ alone to dwell;
So in the shadow of Thy cross to hide,
We thank Thee, Lord, to have been called aside.”

ROMANS

W. J. Franklin



Chapter 1:21-27

MAN'S APOSTASY

“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened”—V. 21. With a darkened heart, and thrice given up by God, man was left to his own ways, and history sadly tells the results. Man “Knew God,” not in the sense of being saved, but deep enough that it gave God a claim over his conscience and his moral being. Man has a deep dislike toward the claims of God and these lead to bad thoughts and questions regarding God. Clearly, the knowledge God gave primitive man was not appreciated, hence, man was not thankful nor conscious of the favours received. They failed completely to glorify their Creator. Their vain imagination led them astray and their undiscerning heart was judicially darkened, as a just retribution for their terrible failure.

Regarding man’s knowledge of God, or knowledge about God, see Pharoah’s words to Moses—Ex. 10:16; the Philistines—I Sam. 4:7,8; the proclamation of the King of Nineveh—Jonah 3:7-9. See the record of the Word of the Lord in the mouth of Pharoah-necho—II Chron. 35:21,22. These were all heathen people, but knew of the true God.

“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools”—V. 22. Surely, Paul was acquainted with all the philosophies of Greece. He knew the vauntings of the east regarding its claim to be wise. He met certain Philosophers of his day.

He was aware of the so-called great religious leaders that had come and gone. Still he calls them fools. Their imagination, unguided by the Lord, but inspired of Satan, turned them into rank fools. They did not know that the source of all truth was in God, and that He and He alone could sustain them in the truth and the truth in them. They were like the builders of the tower of Babel of old whom God so completely confused that they could not complete their foolish task.

“And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things”—V. 23. No marvel that Paul classed all the wise men of yore under one heading, “Fools.” Out of the fearful depths of this foolishness came a repudiation of God and a complete sinking into utter idolatry from which any evil can and will flow. Men sank from the light to an absolutely darkened state. His struggle to continue has been in the awesome depths of mental and moral darkness. This is still as it was. Man goes on in utter confusion trying to guess his way out of the darkness. He bartered God’s glory for an image of man. The Greeks were very skillful at producing images of men. But man sank lower, as his mind degenerated in to the awful depths herein described. He finally was worshipping the loathsome reptile (creeping things) which the Egyptians worshipped, No marvel that the prophet said, “Cease ye from man whose breath is in his nostrils.” He was not risen from the low to the high, but, as Scripture abundantly testifies, he has gone from a state of contact with God, down to the worship of snakes.

The word, “Uncorruptible,” of our verse means, undecaying in essence or continuance. It is translated “Immortal” in I Tim. 6, but incorrectly so. God is neither mortal nor immortal, as these words refer to the body, and God is a spirit, hence, has no body as we understand that term. However, He is truly incorruptible, as the same word is translated.

“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves”—V. 24. There is a sure consequence when one harbours wrong thought regarding God. These will develop into the worst forms of moral and physical wrongs. After the fool says, “There is no God,” all that is recorded here and in the following chapters will ensue. A man cannot think lightly of God and not degrade himself. Likewise, there will be action taken on the part of God, as we read, “God gave them up.” Man was made in the image of God. He alone of all God’s creatures has this said of him. When he loses sight of this fact along with his responsibility in such position, he will sink lower than the most vile and repulsive beast. See what God said of those who took Him lightly in the past—I Sam. 2:30. What an awful and terrible blank is in the life of a man when God is deliberately left out of it.

On the “Giving up,” see Psa. 81:12; Acts 7:42.. Note also verses 26,28 of our study chapter. Man chose his state. God chose to leave him in it. Man’s body was made for a temple of God. Here it is made to minister to the degraded lusts of a vile fallen nature. There is here an abandonment of man by God. Man refused to honour God so God left him to dishonour his body with vile use. When God gives a man up, there is nothing left for him but judgment and revealed wrath.

“Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen”—V. 25. God is so infinitely glorious that an image made to honour Him, though it be made of the most rare metal or precious stone, only serves to corrupt the truth concerning Him.

Man exchanged truth for a lie and in their affections, gave the creature the place reserved for the Creator. Truth regarding the true God was lost to them. In the midst of this foul idolatry, Paul shouts that God is blessed forever.

“For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature”—V. 26. “Vile affections” is a deeper thing than lusts of the flesh in V. 24. There is ever a deepening of the rift between God and man as man continues to sink deeper into sin.

The vices of verses 26,27 are too vile and shameful to be discussed, and we are told that it is a shame to mention those things done of them in secret—See Eph. 4:29; 5:4,12. We are told that these are the reasons why God gave them up. In the preceding case, God gave man up in his body. Here, in his affections. The word translated “Women” is not the usual word so translated, but simply means, females. In this sphere, chastity, modesty and purity are especially appreciated and expected, but here as in the garden, the woman takes the lead, and there is a complete breakdown and declension. How deeply the nature of the whole human race is ruined. Humanity has sunk into a moral stupor to serve passions of disgrace and degradation. They became utter slaves to the lusts of the flesh and vile passions.

“And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet”—V. 27. Men did as the women. They became inflamed and blazed out, as the word “Burned” means, in their lusts toward one another. Strong and strange comment on conditions of our own day. The word also means, to kindle up. This is to stir up the desires in the wrong way. God gave them a just recompence in this life, but their real reward for such actions will come later.

“Man’s Apostasy” - Continued next issue



The Church Ministry

Carson Richards

The effective ministry the apostles had is pointed out from a Scripture: Acts 5:12, “And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people (Jewish), and they were with one accord on Solomon’s porch.”

This era passed and another man was brought to the front. His name was Saul in the first part of his life. Several meanings of his name are given. “Requested” is one of them, and he got another from God that explains his life in Christ. Of course, it is Paul, “Little.” Such is strange to us people who live in an age of “biggies.” We are all saved the same way, and the big side of our experience comes from God. There is evidence that He is present in all areas of matter, so we learn not to try to fool Him, for that is a useless practice, since He knows everything.

Let’s think on the last account of Paul’s calling. Acts 26:16-18. “But rise and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and those things in the which I will appear unto thee. Delivering thee from the people and from the Gentiles, unto which now I send thee to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”

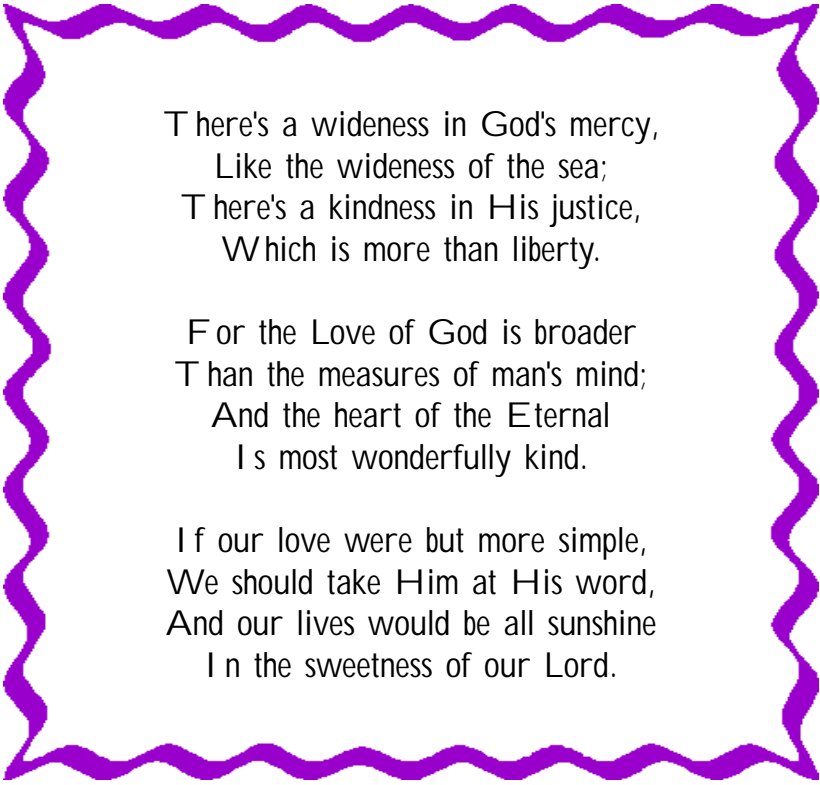
It would be practical to review the ministry of the Apostle Paul, which is contained in 14 books of the Bible. The first is the

Book of Romans. It was written “to all that be in Rome,” Romans 1:7. It is the foundation of all Bible doctrine of the Church. We will run down through Romans to reveal this fact. Romans 3:23,24, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:4, “That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” God’s purpose is to have His people to be filled with the Spirit.

Romans 6:6, “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” This is a great truth, but verse 11 of this same chapter, gives a problem, but also a victory: “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” God also taught the church to be subject to their earthly government. In Chapter 13:1 of Romans He tells us “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God. The powers that be are ordained of God.” As many Scriptures, this one surprises us.

Finally, the great bridal truth comes in Romans 16:1. “I commend unto you Phoebe, our sister, who is a servant of the Church which is at Cenchrea. God somehow got this chapter in Romans though it has the marks of Ephesians, the bridal chapter, in it. A quick rundown of the other Pauline Epistles is instructive. I Corinthians 1:10 says “Now, I beseech you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

II Corinthians has the fundamental thought in Ch. 13:3 "Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me (Paul), which toward you is not weak, but is mighty in you." Galatians says: "I do not frustrate the grace of God, for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." The book of Ephesians sounds like an impossible book, but God says "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, Who created all things by Jesus Christ." And so the truth is proclaimed in the rest of the Apostle Paul's epistles, but we think we have given a fundamental foundation of his revelation. Note it is a Revelation from God, not some bright mind of man. May God help you, me, and whosoever will to trust these wonderful declarations.



There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice,
Which is more than liberty.

For the Love of God is broader
Than the measures of man's mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple,
We should take Him at His word,
And our lives would be all sunshine
In the sweetness of our Lord.



He's Coming Here!



There is a stirring throughout the village
And welcome news to every ear
There is a prophet, a Galilean,
O, come and hear him.
He's coming here!

You say a prophet?
A Galilean.

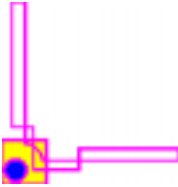
They come and go; I've heard the claims.
But everything he says comes surely to pass
And "Jehovah Saves" is his name!

His fame precedes him,
This Galilean.
They call him, Jesus—
I've heard the name—
And when Messiah comes, will he do more miracles
Than those the Nazarene has done?

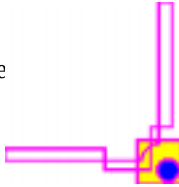
He raised up Lazarus, the Bethanian...
He said of Herod, the Idumean,
Go tell the king, "I do miracles today and tomorrow
And the third day my work is done."

The Pharisees, they say, oppose him madly
But the common people have heard him gladly.
The Sadducees, who deny that those passed on
will ever live,
Seek his life—for they know He's raised the dead!

Let's go to meet him—
I think I SEE him!
O, tell the news to every ear!
There is a prophet, a Galilean,
come and hear him. He's coming he



By Rebecca Asbury
(printed by permission)



The Two Covenants

We are going to look at two covenants: **The Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants**. These covenants are in direct contrast one with the other. The first (Abrahamic) was a *covenant of grace*. God obligated Himself by a promise to bless Abraham and His Seed forever. Abraham could do nothing but receive by faith the blessings of this covenant. The second (Mosaic) was a *covenant of law* and was conditional upon the obedience to its demands. It was given to Israel as a test that they might learn their weakness and failure, and that they might see their need of a Saviour.

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

This Covenant is found in Genesis 12:1-3. It was given by *promise*, not by law. In Genesis 15:1-8 the promise was renewed to Abram. Abram asked how shall I know this? Verses 9 and 10 tell how God *proved* His covenant. God had Abram to sacrifice a 3 year old heifer, a she goat of three years old, a three year old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon. What or *who* do these sacrifices speak of? They speak of **the Lord Jesus Christ**. The sacrifice of Himself is the basis or back up and proves what God had promised. He is the proof that the covenant will come to pass.

Verse 17 speaks of the *judgment* that was put upon Christ (for fire or burning generally speak of judgment prophetically). Jesus **bore our judgment** in His own body. Because of this God saw holiness in Abram and He was able to make a cov-

enant with him. Note verse 18, “In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram...” (based upon the sacrifice).

A covenant takes two people and it is worthless unless it has been ratified. Notice, this contract God made with Abram was **all one sided**, it had nothing to do with Abram. This is a contract between the *Father* and the *Son*. Abram ratified this contract simply by **believing God** and it became effective. It is an *unconditional promise*. Read Gal. 3:15-18. The Abrahamic Covenant was really made with Christ. If anything such as the law had been added, it would have made the promise conditional and destroyed the very nature of the covenant. Thank God the law was not added to the covenant of promise nor did it set it aside.

God made the Abrahamic covenant a permanent affair and called it an *everlasting covenant*, long before the law was given. Gen. 17:19. The blessings of God for the Gentile nations are deposited in that covenant of promise. Gen. 17:13; Gal. 3:13,14. If the law set it aside, there is nothing for the Gentile.

MOSAIC COVENANT

This covenant is found in Exodus 20. It is a *conditional covenant*.

In Exodus 19:1-5, God spoke to the children of Israel saying, if ye will obey my voice and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people. “Peculiar treasure has the meaning here of **“a people wholly set aside just to Him.”** Titus 2:14 calls us a peculiar people and it has a similar meaning, a people wholly separated unto the Lord, as different from anybody else. This is what God wanted Israel to

be, different from all the other nations, not to be like them at all. God was to rule and Him alone, *a theocracy*. They were to look to Him and trust Him.

Verse six of Exodus 19, "...ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation..." God is going to have this out of Israel, but it wont be **until Christ is sitting on the throne** of Israel.

When Moses gave the message from the Lord to the people, they all answered together, *All that the Lord hath spoken we will do*. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the Lord. Vs. 7,8. They may have had good intentions, but they couldn't do it, because they were sinners. So, **God then gave them 10 things to do**, chapter 20. They couldn't do any of them.

Did you ever try to keep from coveting, wanting something you don't have? Jesus claimed this was one of the most important of the laws. The apostle Paul said, in Romans seven, he would not know sin except the law said, "*thou shalt not covet*." God asked them to keep just 10 little laws and they were not able to do it. Israel could not keep the 10 commandments.

Colossians 2:16,17 informs us that the law was just a shadow, but **Christ is the substance** (the reality of this). God never intended anyone to keep the law. His purpose in giving the law was to show people they **couldn't** keep it. Romans 3:19 tell us the purpose of the law, to stop mouths and to bring all the world **guilty** before God. If God intended for people to keep the law, then God was a failure because it didn't fulfill His purpose. But His purpose was to show people they couldn't keep it.

We read in Romans 3:20 that “by the law is the **knowledge** of sin.” So the covenant of law was not to make people good, but to show people what they really are. It did what God intended it to do. Romans 7:13 says, that by the commandments sin became exceeding sinful. It did not cause sin, but aggravated it. Where there was no law there was no transgression. By the law, sin became transgression. It was not set to check sin, but to manifest it. It set a barrier against the will of man, but man leaped over the barrier and continued to sin as he had before. Now it was manifest, the open rebellion of man to God’s righteous requirements. This rebellion reached its *climax* when man crucified the One with Whom the law originated.

The law could not bring man and God together, it could only put them further apart. Moses was a “Go-Between,” the people did not talk with God at all. What a contrast with the Abrahamic covenant, God spoke in the *sweetest fellowship* with Abraham alone. “And if ye be Christ’s then are ye Abraham’s seed, and **heirs** according to the promise.” Gal. 3:29. Praise God!

by Earlene Davis



*You may think
you'll never make it through
the hustle and bustle
of the Christmas season.
Let us not forget that the
most inconvenient Christmas...
was the first.*

Jeremiah 29

Part 6 (vs 4)

Debra Isenbletter



vs 4: This verse begins *The Salutation* from the Lord and includes *His Titles*, *His Remnant* and *His Declaration*.

The Salutation: “*Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel*” Notice **Who** it is that is really writing this letter? Jeremiah is the one writing everything down but the letter is *from the Lord to His people*. The Lord uses **two titles** in His salutation and in this letter He uses the combination of these two titles **four times**. The Lord uses these two titles of authority, these two names to identify Himself to them because these two names are the foundation for believing *His Declaration* at the end of this verse. If they accept these titles, they can then accept their circumstances. What is so sad is that they should already know the Lord by these two titles, yet they do not.

The Lord of hosts **is the One who chastens and disciplines them:** He is Jehovah, the self-existent One and here He is revealing Himself as the Lord of armies. As Lord of hosts He has control over all the armies of the earth and if they accept this title in all its fullness then they must accept that Babylon is His army too and since that army has brought them into captivity then the Lord must be in control and it is because He has allowed it. Also, because they are part of His “hosts” he has a right to discipline them. (Is 2:12) “For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon everyone that is proud.” Isaiah tells us that all that are lifted up and proud will be brought low and God’s people will be brought to this place through judgment and it will be the Lord of hosts, using the armies of the earth that does this. Isaiah also says, “the Lord of hosts shall be exalted in

judgment...and shall be sanctified in righteousness.” (Is 5:16) Where they are brought low through judgment, the Lord is lifted up and exalted. If they accept Him as Lord in judgment He will protect and care for them because they are His “host” also. This is the lesson they need to learn and it is a lesson that holds true even in the day we are living. There are times that trials bring us low and rather than struggle against them and wear ourselves out, let us stop and look up at the Lord and let Him show us what He would have us to see. In the end we will see Him more clearly.

The God of Israel is **the One who comforts and delivers them**. This is Elohim the Mighty or Strong One of Israel. It is only after suffering and weakness that they can truly appreciate this aspect of God. They need to see His strength and their weakness in order to really appreciate this name. Just as Jacob, after wrestling with the Lord felt his weakness, they too must acknowledge and embrace their weakness. This title for the Lord is first used when Moses spoke to Pharaoh and said, “thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, let my people go.” This is the name He uses in connection with delivering His people. He claims them as His and it is through His strength they are delivered. But though they began this way, they have forgotten this aspect of the Lord and all the promises that go with laying hold of and remembering this name. The day will come when they will once again remember this name and all the names of the Lord, for Isaiah says, “therefore my people shall know my name” (Is 52:6). During their captivity the Lord will teach them to remember these names. **It is the God of Israel** that “the poor and needy seek” and receive refreshment from (Is 41:17) and it is **the God of Israel** that will both protect them and deliver them: “for the Lord will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your rearward (protection)” (Is 52:10-12). These two titles are essential in this salutation and throughout this

letter they are repeated to show that they need to learn again *who* the Lord is and what He is capable of doing both in blessing them and chastening them.

His Remnant: *“unto all that are carried away captives”* All those that are carried away captive are His remnant whether they realize it or not. They must see the positive side to their captivity and this is that blessings can come from obedience and even be felt in adversity. They must see beyond the trial to what the trial teaches them. They are **His remnant** because of their relationship. The fact that the Lord speaks to them in this letter shows that he cares for them and acknowledges them. He has not cast them off, nor has He disinherited them, He has only disciplined them. Paul saw this great truth when he asked the question, “Hath God cast away His people?” The answer was No! The Lord would have them to see Him, see who they are, accept their circumstances and come to him! “I have cast them far off among the heathen, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary.” (Ezek 11: 16) What a precious promise to those willing to come to Him in the darkest moments of their lives, He becomes their sanctuary! The Lord is waiting for a cry from His remnant and it is the trials of their captivity that will bring forth the cry that acknowledges their iniquity and realizes the Lord pardons (Mic 7:18-19).

Jeremiah is a wonderful type of the remnant and his earlier cry mirrors what they feel in Babylon. “O Lord thou knowest - remember me - visit me.” (Jer 15:15-19) Jeremiah learned through experience and adversity that the Word had two edges, it brought both pain and pleasure, but ultimately it was “a joy and a rejoicing” to his heart. During his ministry he experienced suffering, separation, and anguish just as the remnant does in Babylon. In captivity they will be alone and mocked and will ask why? It will seem as though the Lord has failed them. Jeremiah came to that very same place, he had his

doubts and fears (Jer 15:18). The Lord's admonition to Jeremiah holds true for the remnant when He says, "If thou wilt return, then will I bring thee again and thou shalt stand before me." (Jer 15:19) Once Jeremiah stands before the Lord in faith and trust the Lord is then able to make Jeremiah into what He wants (a brazen wall) and he begins to fulfill his ministry and "take the precious from the vile" (separate truth from error). He will do the same for His remnant. Their captivity and trials will strengthen them, temper them, test them and forge them into what the Lord wants. The same holds true for saints today. It is the hard places, the painful places, the places of suffering, adversity, affliction, and persecution that forge us and test us and strengthen us. In the end we are stronger!

His Declaration: "*Whom I have caused to be carried away...*" This statement is repeated in various ways six times throughout this chapter, showing this is the lesson they must learn, it is the Lord who is responsible for their captivity. First they must see **who** He is (the Lord of hosts and the God of Israel), then they must see **who** they are (captives, yes, but still His remnant). When they see Him and see themselves, then they will finally see the need for judgment, it is the Lord who disciplines and chastises them. Chastening has an powerful affect on the lives of God's people, it shows they are sons (Deut 8:5) and the Apostle Paul tells us that it brings forth "the peaceable fruit of righteousness" (Heb 12:9-11). The Lord had shown Jeremiah in a vision (chapter 24) that they were sent into captivity "for their good," the lesson being that there is good in both judgment and in blessing. The day they see the good in their captivity is the day they have begun to overcome. God will preserve them physically and change them spiritually through judgment for He must first refine the gold before He fashions it, then He will have a vessel that He may use to fully glorify His name.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Camp Joy Haven: For those who have to set their vacations before or at the first of the year, the dates for 2003 camp is the week of June 30th - July 4th at White Memorial Camp, Council Grove, Kansas.

Commentaries and tracts: The following are available on a freewill offering basis: Paul Fellers, 15601 E. 42nd Pl., Independence, MO 64055-5006 or phone: (816) 373-9498.

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