

Glorious Gospel Publication



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Contents

ALL THINGS NEW	2
THE LAST DAYS	5
ROMANS	10
“Things New and Old”	14
Outlines of Prophecy	16
Testimony	21
Jeremiah 29	23

ALL THINGS NEW



“And He that sat upon the throne said, **Behold**, I make all things new. And He said unto me, **Write**: for these words are true and faithful.” Rev. 21:5. He that is enthroned speaks with authority, as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords Rev. 19:16; He that must reign, and is the maker of all things new. Important, astounding statements generally follow the command “Behold.” Attention! look up here! He might say, be aware, be amazed. Those, who by faith have been looking for new heavens and new earth will soon realize it coming to pass. Rev. 21:1.

“And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish but thou remainest; and they shall wax old as doth a garment; and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.” Heb. 1:10-12. What a comfort! To be able to completely depend upon the most dependable One. Even for the most necessary changes we are pleased to set our focus on **Him**.

The Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, who promises to make all things new, assures us that His words are faithful and true. Here He requires that what He said be recorded, “**Write**.” He tells us that we who have been thirsting for more of Him, and the Holy Spirit, will be satisfied, from the fountain of the water of life. Rev. 21:6. Thank God for the **Satisfier** and fountain **Supplier**.

He speaks to me of a **New Creation** being totally and everlastingly new, in a land where we will never grow old. “Therefore

if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away, and behold all things are become **new**. II Cor. 5:17.

We are made weary of so much of the old decaying corruptible of this earthly scene. As we face a new year we are gladdened for the passing of the old, but even happier for the bringing in of the new.

Do we who know the Lord sense a readiness to enter into the glorious era of all things new? Shall we not rejoice in the glorious changes that will have made it so? We often enjoy considering new beginnings. When thinking of the Maker of all things new, joy fills our hearts. By His death and resurrection Jesus paid and provided for and will produce it. We gladly count on it coming to pass. Being one new man in Christ, a glorious new creation. It becomes more evident all the time, that we, who, according to His promise look for a **new heaven** and a **new earth** (II Peter 3:13), are about to have our faith realized. We very soon may actually experience being part of the **New Jerusalem** coming down from God out of heaven.

A New Dwelling: Rev. 21:3

Oh, that day of suddenly enjoying in the truest sense of the word that new place of the tabernacle of God being with men and we as His people being with Him.

New Conditions: Rev. 21:4

For the former things will have passed away. He says, "And God shall wipe all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain:" There God will have taken away any cause for these. We have been provided a new life, a new heart, a new mind, and we will have a new body, in glory.

Wonderfully Changed: Rev. 21:6

“And He said unto me, It is done.” I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to him that is athirst of the fountain of water of life freely.”

No sooner said than done. We think of the earth in it's thousands of years of decline since the fall, and then how suddenly it will be changed. That change seems to be quicker than it takes to read it. He says “it is done,” I am the beginning and the end. When He that set's on the throne, says it's new, IT'S NEW. Earlier He said, “Let there be light and THERE WAS LIGHT.”

“Behold, I Shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but WE SHALL ALL BE CHANGED, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” I Cor. 15:51,52.

by J. D.

*Oh, hour of bliss when we shall hear
The trumpet peal so loud and clear,
And sail away to yonder sphere,
Changed in the twinkle of an eye.*

*At once our faith shall change to sight,
And we shall gaze on scenes of light,
In jasper halls of radiance bright,
Changed in the twinkle of an eye.*

*Then we will see our Bridegroom's face,
And praise Him for abundant grace,
That brought us to perfection's place,
Changed in the twinkle of an eye.*

—M.M.B.



THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark

“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.” Daniel 7:7.

Daniel the prophet saw a vision of the Gentile world powers which would rule over all the earth, beginning with Babylon and ending with the great Roman empire. All four of these world powers ruled in succession, fulfilling the prophesy of this vision God gave to Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream (Daniel 2) concerning Gentile times, in which he saw the same four world powers portrayed as a great image. Both show a last kingdom, which would be diverse from previous ones, more powerful and stronger than any before. The fourth kingdom is the Roman Empire. In the time of Jesus Christ the Roman Empire was in control. Luke 2:1 tells us that Caesar Augustus decreed that all the “...world should be taxed.” God used this taxing to cause Joseph and Mary to travel to Bethlehem from Nazareth, because Joseph was “...of the house and lineage of David.” Vs.4. Ultimately, it was the Roman government that put Jesus to death, after the Jews demanded it.

Another part of the prophecy shows the revived Roman Empire in the last days as “the feet and toes” of the dream image (Daniel 2:41,42) and the beast of Daniel 7, with its “ten horns.” This revival will cause the Roman Empire to become very strong again. Out from the horns (Ch.7:8,11) will come

forth a “little horn” speaking great things (Vs.11). This little horn is the beast of Rev.13, which will come to power during the tribulation of seven years. The European Union is the revived Roman empire. It is exciting to witness God’s Word being fulfilled. The news is boldly telling us that times are changing, and readying the world for the AntiChrist to come forth. Before that time we believe that Jesus Christ will come for His bride, the overcoming saints. So, we look attentively at the signs of the times unfolding before us.

EU - PLANS TO BUILD EURO-PENTAGON - According to the London Daily Telegraph newspaper, the European Union is planning for a central command structure in Brussels from which they could “...launch military operations anywhere in the world.” This proposal would dictate that the EU defense minister (one man in control) would be responsible for running operations of this central headquarters for all Europe.

Recently, The Convention on the Future of Europe, met to discuss and formulate the plan for this EU military headquarters. At this meeting the EU leaders stated, “Since 9-11-01, the world has changed so dramatically, that national defense is no longer sufficient. The plans go far beyond the EU’s 60,000-man rapid reaction force, which is to take on its first peace-keeping mission in the Balkans early next year.”

There will be a need for someone to be appointed to be Defense Secretary - “a beefed up version of the current post of High Representative held by Javier Solana of Spain...which would have powers to make “necessary decisions in an emergency.”(quotes from the London Daily Telegraph). The EU is expanding to include many nations which formerly were in the Soviet Union. An article from the BBC News reports: “The European Union has reached a financial deal with 10 candidate members, paving the way for the largest enlargement in the Western club’s history.” This expansion will include eight former Communist states from Central and Eastern Eu-

rope plus Cyprus and Malta by 2004. Roman Prodi, the president of the European Commission, the EU's executive arm stated recently, "For the first time in history Europe will become one because unification is the free will of its people. Accession of 10 member states will bring an end to the divisions in Europe." When these nations became part of the first Roman Empire, it was not the free will of the people, but because the Romans conquered and enslaved other nations.

EU TO DEPLOY TROOPS AFTER DEAL WITH NATO

- According to the Financial Times, "The European Union will for the first time deploy its own soldiers, in the Balkan republic of Macedonia possibly by February, following a landmark agreement between NATO and the EU." The EU's Copenhagen summit between the member nations of the EU and NATO brought an agreement to let the EU's 60,000 - strong rapid-reaction force by mid - 2003, take over some of the duties of peace keeping which NATO formerly would engaged in. The plan called the European Security and Defense Policy, would allow the Europeans access to NATO's planning and military assets for missions independent of NATO. It well may be that NATO has outlived its usefulness, and may be dissolved in the near future. As the Revived Roman Empire comes more and more to the front, the Scripture teaches that the AntiChrist (Rev. 13) will gain popularity and become the leader of all the world.

NORTH KOREA REVIVING NUCLEAR POWER

- North Korea said recently that it intends to restart a nuclear reactor which has been mothballed since 1994. CNN reported recently that, "the North Korean army and people are "...burning with hatred for the Yankees and are in full readiness to fight a death-defying battle." This was reported by North Korea's official Central News Agency. It remains to be seen what the U.S.A. will do about the threatening of North Korea. Pres. Bush has

called them one of the Axis of Evil, which also includes Iran and Iraq.

WAR HOVERS IN THE AIR - Preparations are being made for war with Iraq. Massive U.S.A. troop build-up in the Middle East is taking place. U.S.A. states that Iraq is in “material breach” by omitting details of their weapons of mass destruction. We pray for God’s will to be done in all this. There has been talk that other Arab countries may join in a fight against us, if we attack Iraq. We pray for our leaders to have wisdom in all their dealings with other countries.

Iraq has issued a report supposedly detailing their weapons of mass destruction. According to Sec. of State Colin Powell, Iraq has not been honest about these things, and has caused “a material breach,” which would give the U.S.A. the reason to go in to Iraq and destroy these weapons themselves. Saddam Hussein is accused of being in non-compliance with the U.N. Council Resolution, and will bring war upon itself. The Scripture tells us there will be “wars and rumors of wars.” These are troublesome times. Fear could grip our hearts, if we did not know that God is in control. He will be our help, no matter what comes upon the earth. We need to look up and keep our faith strong in the Lord, knowing that the Lord Jesus could appear any time to catch away those who are watching and waiting for Him.

Finally, there will be the war of all wars, the battle of Armageddon, spoken of in Scripture, but before that time the AntiChrist will be revealed. “And in the latter time of their kingdom, when transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; and he shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy

many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of Princes; but he shall be broken without hand.” Daniel 8:23-25. Revelation 19:19 says, “And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army.” Christ will come (at the end of the tribulation, with His saints, who are already there in heaven with Him) and fight against the beast and his armies and cast them into the lake of fire. (Vs. 20.) The Lord Jesus Christ will right the wrong! Our future is bright! We have a great hope set before us!



*The end is at hand,
The end of men, of sects and state;
The end of all the world calls great;
E'en now the judgment thunders peal
The doom. To Christians only is the weal,
The royal glory land.*

*The end is at hand,
The anti-christ may soon arise—
A man of peace—in blind disguise,
A covenant with Jacob make,
The nations win a treaty quickly break:
The gaze of all command.*

*The end is at hand,
The Word is true, “The heavens rule;”
The anti-christ—the greatest fool—
And prophet false, to lake of flame shall go.
The happy saints all free from blame,
With Christ in white shall stand.*

—A.S.C.

ROMANS

W. J. Franklin



Chapter 1:28-32

MAN'S APOSTASY CONTINUED

“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”—V. 28. In verse 24 men were given up to uncleanness and vile passions. In V. 27 they did that which is unseemly. The word “Unseemly” is a strong word in evil. We refrain from giving the full meaning here, but some of the meanings are external indecorum. Nakedness, shame, indecency, infamous lusts, or lewdness. In this verse, they do that which is not “Convenient.” This means what is not right, but also, to do abominable or detestable things. Since they did not think it wise to have God in their mind, God left them to an abandoned mind, a mind which rejected God and was in turn rejected of God. Reminds us of our day in which men have put God outside of secular education. Their minds became moved on by Satan and all their faculties became his workshop. Evil doing follows evil thinking. Since man was given up as to his mind, he can be expected to go his limit. Since man did not approve of knowing God, God gave him up to a mind disapproved of Him.

“Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers”—V. 29. The twenty-three sins of these verses are laid to the charge of the pagan world. This is the first and worst of Paul’s seven catalogues of sin. Men are said to be filled with these things. Let us examine the meaning of each word. You will not find these meanings in any

given Greek dictionary, as several dictionaries have been examined.

1. “Unrighteousness” – injustice, placing my claim above all others regardless of their right claim, wrong, to violate a law.
2. “Fornication” – whoredom, adultery, lewdness, uncleanness, figuratively, idolatry.
3. “Wickedness” – bad condition, evil disposition of mind, wicked deeds.
4. “Covetousness” – the desire for more, desire to have more than another, to take advantage of by selfish tricks, to make gain of, to get the better of, to be greedy or grasping. Covetousness is idolatry–Eph. 5:3,5; Col. 3:5.
5. “Maliciousness” – malignity, desire to injure, depravity.
6. “Envy” – spite, ill will, the feeling of hatred toward one above us, ill will toward others for being what we desire to be and are not.
7. “Murder” – this word rhymes with the preceding word in the Greek, and often are together in practice. See Matt. 27:18.
8. “Debate” – strife, a contentious disposition, to beat down in wrangling.
9. “Deceit” – guile, contrivance for entrapping, fraud, to catch with bait, to beguile.
10. “Malignity” – a bad character, disposition for mischief, putting an evil meaning on all things.
11. “Whisperers” – a calumnious whisperer, a detractor, a slanderer, to speak against, incriminate, secret detractions.

“BACKBITERS, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents”–V. 30.


12. “Backbiters” – railers, to blab out, speak against, calumniate, evil speakers, talkative against.
13. “Haters of God” – God-haters, to hate and contemn

God, hateful to or toward God, impious.

14. “Despiteful” – insolent, arrogant, prideful, overbearing, a wantonly violent person, an insulter.
15. “Proud” – Arrogant, assuming, haughty.
16. “Boasters” – vain-glorious, ostentatious, presumptuous speech, a braggart.
17. “Inventors of evil things” – or bad things. “Inventors” means to come upon, discover. Some people make evil or try to big up evil, or try to keep it alive many years after it has happened.
18. “Disobedient to parents” – not youth only but men, adults depart from their teaching and instruction. Paul said men would be disobedient to parents—II Tim. 3:1,2. Parents could save their offspring such great grief if the offspring would listen.
“WITHOUT understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful”—V. 31.
19. “Without understanding” – undiscerning, unintelligent, reckless, perverse, unenlightened. Here, ignorance is guilt because it is willful.
20. “Covenant breakers” – perfidious, faithless, disregarding covenants, treacherous to compacts.
21. “Without natural affection” – void of natural or instinctive affection, without affection to kindred, hard-hearted toward kindred.
22. “Implacable” – truceless, unwilling to make a treaty, irreconcilable.
23. “Unmerciful” – uncompassionate, cruel, merciless.


As stated, this is the largest array of sins in any listing in Paul’s writings. They well cover in principle, the sins of the flesh. The sins of the Jews take on sin of a different character, and its character takes its nature from the fact that they had the revealed righteous law of God. Stated together, these sins left the Gentile without excuse.

“Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only to the same, but have pleasure in them that do them”—V. 32. “Worthy of death.” Many of crimes which are recorded here had the death penalty attached under the law of Moses. However, the pagan was not under the law. By the example of God’s judgment on men at the flood, the overthrow of Sodom, and the plagues and visitation of death on the firstborn in Egypt before the law was given shows that those who practiced the above-mentioned sins were worthy of, and in many instances received, the death penalty. They knew the fates of those wicked men but still practiced the sins, and applauded those who committed them.



Out of my poverty into His wealth,
Out of my sicknesses into His health,
Out of what measured the full depth of “lost.”
Out of it all, and at infinite cost;
Into that which there is nothing beyond,
Into that to which my heart doth respond,
Into that union which nothing can part,
Into what satisfies His and my heart;
Wonderful Person, whose face I’ll behold,
Wonderful story, then all to be told,
Wonderful all the dread way which He trod,
Wonderful end, He has brought me to God.

—A. S. C.



"Things New and Old"

by Carson Richards

We count it important, for God's Son said it. He referred to OLD Testament and NEW Testament. To be sure it would be difficult to comment on all of both. We have tried to give some fundamental points of both divisions of God's Word.

A good place to start is the beginning, so we will do so. You can't go back farther than Genesis 1:1. "In the beginning, God created the heaven and earth." All we know about that is that we never saw that earth structure.

Going to the New Testament we read about a man of the Old Testament or a Being, not yet a man. We see Him called "The Word of Life." Note in this first verse of I John 1:1 we find this Person "from the beginning." We know our only **hope of life** depends on that man.

Since our thoughts go back and forward, we will follow a few points of old time. We come to Genesis 4:8 and 9: "And Cain talked with Abel his brother, and it came to pass when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew him." Murder came to pass early in our human history. It is good God has offered **eternal life** to his people.

In Gen. 6:9, we see a good thing. "These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a **just man and perfect** in his generations; and Noah walked with God." Even after the terrible flood we read in Gen. 9:1 "And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth'." Yet in Gen 11:7-8, we see "Go to, let us go down, and there

confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth, and they left off to build the city." So the failure by man caused his scattering.

In Gen. 15:18, another man was called by God, and was promised **great blessings**. This was followed by a future step of God through him. This man Abram, became Abraham, and he went into the future of God's order. Then in Gen. 28:6 the severance of Jacob and his twin brother, Esau is revealed. Abraham's line of people, (continued by God's purpose) were those of Jacob.

Deut. 33:1-3: "And this is the blessing, wherewith Moses, the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. And he said 'the Lord came from Sinai and rose up from Seir unto them; He shined forth from Mount Paran, and He came with ten thousands of saints: from His right hand went a fiery law for them. Yea He loved the people, all His saints are **in thy hand**, and they **sat down at thy feet**; everyone shall **receive of thy words**'."

Finally, I Chronicles 29:18, the great King David said, "O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, **keep this forever in the imaginations of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee.**" David prayed for their future, and it will be answered!



*One of these days a stone cut not with hands
Then will amaze the nations break their bands.
Jesus our Lord will reign in righteousness
Over the earth, and Jews and Gentiles bless,
One of these days.*

—A.S.C.

Outlines of Prophecy

God's self-revelation to Man

Part 1

By Orville Freestone, Jr.

Prophecy is the way God chose to reveal himself to mankind. This fact distinguishes prophecy from all forms of prognostication or soothsaying, which are futile attempts to predict the future. This also means that Bible prophecy should not be viewed as a way to divine the future in the manner of fortunetellers or a Nostradamus or a psychic. All studies of Bible prophecy should be to learn God's lessons of His self-revelation. In this sense, the entire Bible is prophecy, God's self-revelation to mankind, first by the prophets of the Old Testament and then in Jesus Christ. Heb. 1:1

The Nature Of History

The ancient, "classical," view of history was that it is cyclical, that "history repeats itself," that historical events go in circles or cycles. This would make "progress" impossible. This is also the view of Hinduism and its "reincarnation." The modern view is that history has no meaning, that "the only lesson that history teaches is that it teaches no lessons." This has spawned both existentialism and nihilism. These philosophies are the assumptions of this modern age. The biblical view is that history is linear, that it has a beginning, that it was begun with a purpose and that it progresses to a goal or end. This view gives profound meaning to history and it is in this sense that we speak of Bible history.

The Nature Of Divine Revelation

Prophecy was God's way of revealing Himself to mankind and it was always in the context of history. Heb. 1:1 He used many means to reveal Himself and His truth: dreams, visions, angelic appearances, audible voice, miracles and even disasters. It is of prime importance to note that God's self-revelation was progressive. Adam did not know God in the way that Noah knew Him. Noah did not know God like Abraham did. Abraham did not know Him as Moses did. And Moses did not know Him like Isaiah and David. Then the revelation was fully completed for all time in Jesus, the Christ. Without understanding this progressive nature of revelation, the Old Testament and its message cannot be understood.

The Prophetic Mountain Peaks

In the western United States there are a number of mountain peaks that were monuments for the westering pioneers. There are Devil's Tower in Nebraska and Long's Peak, Mount Evans, Pike's Peak and the Spanish Peaks in Colorado. Seeing these mountains, the pioneers knew they were on course and could tell their progress on each of the trails.

There are "mountain peaks" of God's revelation that form a framework for understanding God's Word and its prophetic message. The first mountain peak of prophecy is Genesis 3:15. This is the prophecy of "the seed of the woman." In this chapter man realizes that he is a sinner and fears God's holiness. But a redeemer is promised, "the seen of the women." We do not speak of offspring as the "seed" of the woman, but of the man. Children are the "fruit" of the womb. This is a clear prophecy of the virgin birth of Christ. And this promise was sealed in a sacrifice of blood, and blood of the victims to make clothing for Adam & Eve. The second great mountain peak of prophecy is found in Genesis 12:1-3. Here God makes a sev-

enfold promise to Abraham and in chapter 15 seals the promises in a covenant of blood sacrifice. This mountain peak revelation is that the Promised One will be of “the seed of Abraham.” Gal. 3:16 Each of these seven promises that God gave to Abraham is bound up in Christ! A third great Mountain peak of prophecy is II Samuel 7. In this chapter God promises to David to establish and build his royal house **forever**. Here the Coming One will be royal and eternal. This prophecy concerns “The son of David.” A fourth prophetic mountain peak is Isaiah 53. Here the Promised One is the “suffering servant of the Lord,” who is rejected by his brethren and whose death is an atonement for sin. These prophecies have been fulfilled. A fifth mountain peak is Matthew 24-25. Here Jesus sets a framework for the consummation from the viewpoint of the Jewish experience that was then future.

All of Bible prophecy must be put into this framework to be rightly understood. Thus the theme of the Bible is Jesus the Son of David, the Son of Abraham, the Seed of the woman. Luke 3:23-38

Prophetic Eras

The eras of prophecy are: the patriarchal, the former and latter prophets of Israel and prophecy in the church. As each of these ages is a different stage of God’s revelation, the character of prophecy differs in each of these times. The simplest definition of a prophet is “one to whom the word of God comes.”

The Patriarchs

The first prophetic era was the age of the patriarchs. Since the word of God came to Adam, he is the first of the prophets and his revelation from God was the promise of a

redeemer for sinful mankind. Genesis three is the foundation for all prophecy that follows. Enoch was a prophet who “walked with God” and one of his prophecies is in the New Testament. Jude 14,15 This prophecy has to do with God’s judgment at the consummation when he will judge the ungodly. Noah’s prophecy concerned the course of nature to come and concerning human government. Gen 9 The key characteristic of his revelation was a covenant of God with all mankind. God’s revelation to Abraham was also in the form of a covenant with a seven-fold promise for all time. Joseph, too was a prophet. His revelation was in the form of dreams.

The Prophets Of Israel

The second prophetic era is the prophets of Israel. Moses is the first and greatest prophet of Israel. His position is unique, as he is the prototype for all who would follow and he gave the requirements for a prophet of the Lord and defined the nature of prophecy in Israel. Deut 13:1-5 & 18:15-22 A prophet was to speak God’s **words**. He would not speak of himself, but as God “commanded” him. He could give a “sign” to confirm his words. How could the people know a false prophet? If his sign did not come to pass or if he advocated “other gods,” he was to be rejected. Isaiah 8:20 says that if a prophet did not speak according to the “the law and the testimony,” (The Torah or all God’s previous Word) there was “no light in them.” Further, Moses said, (Deut 18:15) that the Lord would raise up a **final** prophet. This is quoted three times in the New Testament regarding Christ. John 6:14, Acts 3:22 & 7:37 Thus did God’s Word come to man gradually and came to completion in Jesus the Christ. Heb 1:1

The Former Prophets

The Bible books that we call “historical books” are in the Hebrew Bible called “the former prophets.” The books from Joshua to Second Kings are more an interpretation of Israel’s history from a prophetic viewpoint than a chronicle of the times. Though the authors are unnamed, likely they were prophets. Since the Word of the Lord came to Joshua and the Judges, they were all prophets in the broad sense of the word. The Former prophets begin with Joshua and end with Elisha in Second Kings. Among them are Deborah (Judges 4:4) the only woman named, several are nameless, (Judges 6:8; 10:11; I Samuel 2:27; I Kings 13:1,11-13) Samuel (I Samuel 3:20) who is also called a seer, (I Samuel 9:9) David, (Acts 2:29,30) Nathan, (II Samuel 7) Gad, (II Samuel 24:11) Elijah, (I Kings 17:1) Elisha, (II Kings 2:11) and Jehu, son of Hanani the seer. (II Chron 19:2) None of these prophets left writings, unless they were authors of these “Historical” books.

The Former Prophets were men of action whose ministries were occasioned by crises in Israel and Judah. They were not “professional” prophets in the sense of earning a living by their prophetic gifts. Thus they were able to fearlessly confront any and all with God’s message.

Part 2 will be in February’s issue of Glorious Gospel.



*Though heart grows faint and spirits sink,
By every wind of feeling blown:
Though faith itself may seem to fail,
I rest upon Thy word alone,
‘Mid shifting sands of doubt and fear
This is the one foundation-stone;
My soul hath cast her anchor here;
I rest upon Thy word alone.*

God's Faithfulness

“But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.” I Thess. 3:3

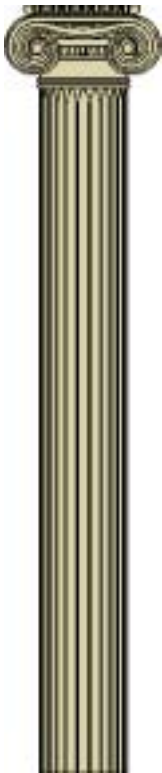
This is one verse I have stood on since I first read it many years ago. I have found it true. December 5, 02, He reminded me of just how faithful He is and how He truly keeps us from the evil. I do not go around trying to test the Lord. It is things that has just happened to me, not of my choosing. It is for His glory and honor I write this.

Returning home, driving down the street heading North. The Lord spoke to my heart just as clearly and what He said came not in words as we speak, but in a vision. It was white and red and I heard Him say, “Put on your seat-belt.” I am not one to deliberately disobey, but I truly cannot remember to put my seat belt on. I have prayed and asked Him to help me remember this, but as yet I do not. Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know unto God. And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:6-7. Through the “grace” given to me, I have learned you don’t worry if you trust in Him. Worrying breaks the trust and fellowship we have in Christ Jesus. He is well able to keep us, this I know, and when it is time, I shall remember to put this belt on when I get into the car.

I stand amazed how the Lord brings everything together. I am in the middle of the street with cars on the right and on the left, so there was no way for me to put my seat belt on immediately. But, Glory to God, He does it all. Upon coming to the intersection the light turned red and I had to stop. Praise His Holy name! I proceeded to buckle myself in the in doing so I had to turn to look down for the connection. In trying

to get the belt locked my head was down and I did not see the light turn green. When I looked up and saw it was green I started to go and lo and behold a red car, driving quite fast, came across the intersection, heading West. Had I not stopped to put my seat belt on, the person would have hit me broad-sided and only God knows what would have happened. My belief is that He knew I wanted to obey Him, for it is written; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He changes not for He is faithful and will continue to be faithful. I just praise Him and thank Him for saving me from what could have been something very bad.

By Carolyn Rountree
Denver, Colorado

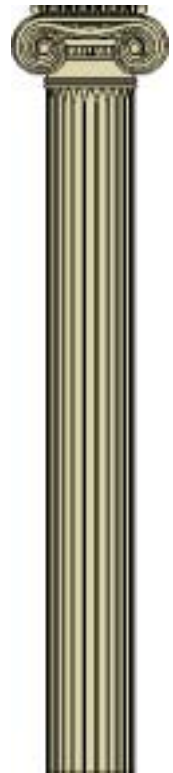


*His grace is sufficient,
Then why need I fear,
Though the testing be hard,
And the trial severe?*

*His strength will not falter,
Whatever betide,
And safe on His bosom
He bids me to hide.*

*His love is sufficient,
Yea, boundless and free;
As high as the mountains,
As deep as the sea.*

*Ah, there I will rest
Till the darkness is o'er.
And wake in His likeness,
To dwell evermore.*



Jeremiah 29



Part 7 (vs 5)

By Debra Isenbletter

The next three verses of this chapter begin the first paragraph of the letter and are Encouragement for the Captives. Verse 5 speaks of Labor and Rest, verse 6 tells them to Be Fruitful and multiply and verse 7 promises A Peaceful Captivity. All three subjects are words of encouragement for these captives. Whereas the false prophets told the captives that their captivity would soon be over and encouraged the captives this way, Jeremiah tells them what they may do while in captivity. The Lord asks them to accept their captivity and shows what is positive about their captivity: He shows them what they can do and what He will do. The result is the blessings they will enjoy because of their obedience.

vs 5: Labor and Rest: “Build ye houses and and dwell in them and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them...” Two separate occupations are seen, they are to Build and Dwell and Plant and Eat, building and planting shows labor and dwelling and eating shows rest).

Build and Dwell: The Lord says through Jeremiah, “Build ye houses and dwell in them...” To “build” means “to set up, to literally build a house and it also speaks of “establishing a family.” To “dwell” means “to sit down; to remain; to endure.” First they are to “set up” (build) then they are to sit down” (dwell). Building speaks of service and dwelling speaks

of subjection, both of which are hard lessons to learn. Both require their obedience and their faith. This is a lesson in contentment in the midst of chastisement, that is true overcoming. (Ecc 3:1-4) says that “To everything there is a season...a time to break down and a time to build up...a time to weep and a time to laugh...” The “breaking down” is the time to weep, it is the time of captivity and loss, and the “building up” is the time to laugh, it is a time in their captivity that they can still find blessing. Before they can learn to “laugh” again the Lord first teaches them how to “weep” and before they are “built up” He “breaks them down.” Jeremiah tells them that their blessings will actually begin the moment they obey this admonition to “build and dwell.”

There is a need for them to learn how to build and to learn how to dwell. They learn how to build by building a house, this is the first step towards building a family, they need to learn to take things one step at a time. This begins the first step in accepting their captivity. When they learn contentment in the midst of adversity, then they will have learned submission. Paul teaches this in the New Testament when he says, “But godliness with contentment is great gain.” (I Ti 6:6) and “I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” (Phil 4:11-12). We learn this lesson one day at a time. After they have taken this first step they are ready for the second step, learning how to dwell. There are three things they need to learn in order to grow and all are seen in the meaning for “dwell” (sit down, remain, endure). They must learn to “sit down” and this is the first position we learn in. There is a time to “sit” and a time to “stand” and a time to “walk” and we need to follow the order the Lord gives us. Jeremiah says it is time “to sit” (dwell) and after service (building) sitting reflects sub-

mission and not just submission to man but submission to God. Then they must learn to “remain” where the Lord has put them and this is “sitting still” and this just means to stay seated or stay where the Lord has put them. The blessings will come but sometimes it takes a while before we see the blessings. Finally they need to “endure” tribulation or hardship before they begin to enjoy the blessings. While “enduring” they can find that even the little things become blessings to be appreciated. They will learn to rejoice in what they have neglected in the past, in what was already there all the time: i.e. family, home, fellowship and worship.

Learning to “sit down” and “remain” and “endure” is the same as learning to be “content” and as mentioned previously, Paul learned this lesson. He wrote to Timothy “and having food and raiment let us be therewith content.” It doesn’t take much because we don’t require much. Faith teaches we can enjoy rest and peace in any circumstance because the Lord is there. David learned this lesson while he was in distress and wrote about his experience in Psalm 4:1,7-8 “Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress...” and “Thou hast put gladness in my heart...I will both lay me down in peace and sleep...” When the Lord becomes their (and our) Peace and Rest, then laboring becomes a joy. When they can rejoice in every circumstance, they have learned the lessons of service and submission. Learning to dwell in Babylon prepares them for the day they will dwell in Jerusalem. They must first learn to “dwell under his shadow” (Hos 14:7) and look to His promises.

Plant and Eat: “and plant gardens and eat the fruit of them.” This is the second part of their labor and rest while in

captivity. First they learn to “build,” then they learn to “plant:” both are lessons in service and submission. Planting speaks of labor (service) and eating speaks of rest (submission). The provision is when they begin with obedience they will end with blessing. What they are to plant is gardens and “a garden is also considered “a place planted with trees,” and “a place that is protected by a fence.” This shows that they will be there a while. The garden can include everything from vegetables, herbs and fruit trees to shade trees. The fruit trees and shade trees would need years to mature before they could enjoy them and enjoy the fruit which shows that some blessings, though promised, are not enjoyed immediately except by faith. Some of the meanings for “garden” describe their condition while in captivity, it is how the Lord sees them and how they need to see themselves. They are “enclosed,” “protected,” “stationary,” “dependent,” “cultivated” and “fruitful,” all descriptions of a garden, and all show wonderful lessons.



The Mighty Conqueror

He is a mighty conqueror
Who rules his spirit well
And slow to anger he is strong
To storm the gates of hell
As shields deflect sharp Arrows
And the warrior's fiery darts
Soft answers turn fierce wrath away
Melt anger from the heart.

By Rebecca Asbury
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