

# Glorious Gospel Publication



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# S E T



From the  
Editor

## What is set before us? Is anything lacking?

In our Father's great love and tender mercies, He, in Jesus Christ has **set before us** multiplied blessings. We begin to enter into this unsearchable wealth, by faith unto Salvation. The Old Testament in type and shadow point us to spiritual blessings. But God has used Paul's epistles to call us to God's best for the Church Age. He also points us to our great need for God's abounding grace. We find God's supply is sufficient as we walk on by faith. Phil. 4:19; II Cor. 12:9,10; II Cor. 9:8.

### Blessings earthly and heavenly

God promised Israel, "Behold, I have set the Land before you, go in and possess the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers" - Deut. 1:8. "The Lord thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: He knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the Lord thy God hath been with thee; **thou hast lacked nothing**" - Deut. 2:7. "For the Lord thy God bringeth you into a good land...A land wherein thou shalt eat bread **without scarceness**, thou **shalt not lack** anything in it - Deut. 8:7,9. "Behold, **I set before you** this day a blessing and a curse" - Deut. 11:26. "See I have **set before thee** this day life and good, and death and evil...I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that **I have set** before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore **choose life**, that both thou and thy seed may live" - Deut. 30:15,19. Of the great material blessings promised them that was mostly of an earthly nature, temporal and temporary. The New Testament blessings **set before us** are especially spiritual blessings in heavenly places, in Christ Jesus - Eph. 1:3. Praise

God! Today we are urged to go on, and into **all He has set before us.**

Jesus expressed tender loving care for His disciples when he asked them if they **lacked anything** after they had returned from their ministry, on the course He had sent them. They answered Him, **“nothing”** - Lk. 22:35. We read, “And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: great grace was upon them all. Neither was there any among them that lacked” - Acts 4:33,34.

### **Where are we to focus?**

Paul’s example encourages to forget those things behind us and to reach forth unto those things which are put before us, in the Lord - Phil. 3:13. Many fear and fret over the things behind us as well as things around, above and ahead of us. With the wrong focus, on that which looms before us such as conditions, situations, which cause almost overpowering forebodings. Satan would like us to succumb to dread of whatever may be in the road ahead. But forward still is Jehovah’s will. From the wrong viewpoint things may seem to loom high as impossible obstructions, but as we move on in confidence in our Lord, they begin to dwindle. Well, when the outlook is dark, in faith try the glorious up-look.

### **Golden opportunities and priceless privileges**

Great and glorious **wonders are set before us.** Our Father speaks to us of valuable items, elements of untold worth. In this church age we are made to know of golden opportunities, priceless privileges that would be otherwise unimaginable. These are divinely revealed challenges to our hearts. It is hard for us to grasp what all God has prepared for them that love Him, whether by a combination of eye, ear, and enlarged heart - I Cor. 2:9-13. Oh, Yes, God hath even chosen the poor of this world rich in faith as heirs of the kingdom

which He hath promised to them that love Him - James 2:5. The Lord has promised the crown of life to them that love Him enough to successfully endure temptation - James 1:12. What value? How could the exceeding great and precious promises be measured, other than by the riches of His grace and glory? Thank God there is promised a crown of righteousness to be rewarded them that are loving His appearing. Glory to God! that it has been paid for and packaged in God's beloved Son. "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things - Rom. 8:32. Oh, love Him for Himself, and even for yourself. He will soon be realized as having been, all we needed.

Have you, are you making spiritual progress? Stepping out, stepping up, stepping along? He has wonderfully provided for our growth, even spiritual advancement. Let us be sowing, and growing, for soon we will be going. Thank God for some of His marvelous "sets before," for us! There is a spiritual *race* set before us, and even a blessed *hope*, and yet more, a glorious *prize*.

## The Race

Heb. 12:1-4, With a great crowd, or cloud of witness surrounding us whose faith we may follow from the report of Hebrews 11; let us stripe off every encumbrance, every weight and besetting sin that would hinder freedom to run successfully the **race set before us**. A fervent action overcoming distraction, with our focus upon the author and finisher of our faith. He that passed through the greatest suffering and sorrow, persevered with sustaining joy set before Him, that would be a delight to Him for ever. He who sold out, sacrificed all, foresaw a prize that was worth all to Him. He as the bridegroom came out of His chamber rejoicing as the strong man who ran his race - Ps. 19:1-6. He completed the circuit, finished His course with joy (Luke 4:50,51) and is set down at the right

hand of God. What a privilege to consider Him and His race and thus be encouraged for our's. Our race set before us doesn't contain exactly all the same obstacles as His, but His faith and faithfulness is available to bless and strengthen us and sustain us on the way. We may also finish our course with Joy. The apostle Paul in I Cor. 9:24-27 instructs us of some important aspects and attitudes concerning our race to make us winners also. We must be the anchor leg on this across - the age race. So run that you may obtain. We cannot afford to run the race He has set before us aimlessly, nor try to fight our fight of faith against an imaginary foe, nor make up our own rules, but must subject these bodies to the victorious new life. II Tim. 2:5. It is important to keep the pace, and depend upon the grace.

### **The Hope**

Our God has given those who have fled to Him for refuge, strong consolation to lay hold of **the hope that he has set before us**. What sweet comfort and powerful encouragement is our's, from His heart and hand. Heb. 6:18-20. It is a great privilege to know what He has laid up for us in heaven, having heard before in the Word of the truth of the Gospel - Col. 1:5. It powerfully challenges our faith, and inspires our running. God so kindly excites us by telling us what He would have us to exceedingly expect. "The law made nothing perfect but the bringing in of a better hope did and does drive us forward - Heb. 7:19. Whereby we gladly draw nigh unto our Father and Lord. Laying hold of this hope, we have it as an anchor to our soul. And it has and holds us, keeping us on course. We are taught by the grace of God that has brought salvation to be denying ungodliness and worldly lust and living soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world, and looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ - Titus 2:11-13. These tell us

in part, how we are running our *race*, laying hold of our blessed *hope*, and loving His *appearing*.

We are so blessed in knowing that we are beloved as sons of God, and that Jesus is about to appear, and that we are to be like Him. This is in us a purifying hope on our course. What a day when we shall see Him as He is - I Jn. 3:1-3. As each of us submit to the transforming power and developing life of Christ in us, we are being changed from glory to glory. These changes taking place *now*, will determine how much of his glory we will radiate *then*. Oh, what God has set before us! Col. 1:27.

## The Prize

Reaching forth to those things which are before, I press toward the mark for *the prize of the high calling* of God in Christ Jesus - Phil. 3:13,14. On our *race*, in our *hope*, shall we expect a *prize*? Has not our Father and our Lord set this before us as well? What a special spiritual reaction toward the ultimate reward. Are we given a *high, holy, and heavenly* calling from the almighty God? Have we ears to hear? Did not God say to Abram, "Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward?" - Gen. 15:1. It sounds like the most fantastic offer to me. But In the Church Age, Jesus offers Himself as **the prize of the high calling**. In other words as the Bridegroom. What more can the fully overcoming Son of God expect? Or for that matter, want and enjoy? Rom. 8:16-18; 7:4. Suffering with Him prepares for reigning with Him - II Tim. 2:12. The amazing grace of God will have proven sufficient to those that have availed themselves of all he has set before us. "Behold, I have set before you an open door" – Rev. 3:8. Let us enter the total blessings from God. What valuable access!

By J. D.



# **I imitate Paul**

**(Philippians 3:17; I Corinthians 4:16)**

**Thank you Father for Jesus our King  
Who came to recreate everything  
O what Love You have for man  
That You should devise so great a plan.**

**Your Love never thinks of drawing a line  
Measureless Love is Thine all Thine  
You showed us in Jesus how far You would go  
To save and to sanctify sinners below.**

**We groan in shame when we see the pain  
That it took to bring us home again  
God knew it would bring us to the place  
Where we could accept His Wonderful Grace.**

**Now we are accepted, our journey begins  
Washed away are all our sins  
Gratitude glows from our every song  
We've entered the Way where we belong**

**The Church Apostle, Christ waylaid  
All his life for the saints he prayed  
God changed his name from Saul to Paul  
Surely the greatest Christian of all.**

**God kept Paul's letters the church to feed  
With the Spirit inside, our greatest need  
O what a way to open our eyes  
To imitate Paul and to win the Prize.**

**–Grace Livingstone**

# THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark



“But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend. Thou who I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Behold, all that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded; they shall be as nothing; and they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought. For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not: I will help thee. Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the Lord, and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. Isa. 41:9-14

**ISRAEL’S PAST** - In 1920 Britain received a mandate over the Holy Land. At that time they were told to implement the Balfour Declaration, which called for a national home for the Jewish people. This land included an area including all of Israel today, plus all of Judea, Samaria (West Bank), the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and all the area which is now, Jordan today. A year later Britain gave 77 percent of the land allotted for Israel to the Arabs creating Transjordan (Jordan). Despite this creation of a homeland for the Arabs, riots broke out and finally in 1947 the U.N. passed a resolution 1947 dividing the remaining 23 percent of the land into two areas, one for the

Arabs and one for the Jews. The area now designated for Israel is only 13 percent of the territory given them by the Balfour Declaration. God used this declaration to fulfill His word that Israel would once again be brought back to their land.

Settlers coming to Israel did not steal land from the Arabs. They bought land that was considered worthless, often covered with salt water swamps. The Arabs wanted it back after the Israelites, through a lot of hard work brought the land back to fertility. When finally the Arabs living in the area began to call themselves Palestinians, they began claiming that Israel stole the land from them, and drove them out of the land. This is a lie, as Israel allowed 170,000 Arabs who remained in the land to become citizens and to be represented in the Knesset (Israel's Parliament).

In 1948 when the British pulled out of what was then called Palestine, many thought the Jews would be defeated by the Arabs, who were far better armed and greater in number. History has shown how God has worked and fought for Israel through several wars in which Israel was outnumbered by the Arab nations surrounding them. Israel declared their statehood in 1948, a fact which the Arabs have never really accepted. Palestinians do not recognize Israel's right to exist and do not even show the state of Israel on their maps. God has fought for Israel, and caused them to triumph in every war they as a nation have fought since their return to the land.

**ISRAEL'S PRESENT-** Israel is going through a constant battle with terrorist attacks. The majority of world opinion is against Israel. Despite the fact that they are surrounded by

Arab nations who have never signed any peace treaties with them.

The majority of Israeli's are not religious. In fact only 2 percent are. God is doing a work in Israel. Some are coming to know Messiah Jesus, a fact we rejoice over. After the seven years of tribulation, the rest of Israel who remain will all believe in Him, whom "...they have pierced."

**ISRAEL'S FUTURE** - Scripture shows that Israel again will go through a terrible time of tribulation. They will make a covenant with a leader of the nations in the end time, (Dan. 9:27) and will not realize that it is "...a covenant with death, and with hell." (Isa. 28:15). This leader, who is called the AntiChrist, will turn on Israel, and set up his image in the temple, which shall be built in Jerusalem. (Matt. 24:15). This setting up of the AntiChrist's image in the Holy Place is called the "abomination of desolation." The AntiChrist will be Israel's greatest enemy. This terrible time of suffering and trial is called the "great tribulation," (Matt. 24:21) and "the time of Jacob's trouble," (Jer. 30:7). At the end of the tribulation, Christ will come in power and great glory. Israel, who are left alive after the tribulation, will accept the Lord and be born again. Zech. 13:8,9 intimates that two-thirds of Israel will be slain during the tribulation. Zech. 12:2,&3, tells us, "I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about...And in that day I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered against it."

It may seem that nations against Israel are about to win the battle, but ultimately God will triumph and Israel will become the "...head [nation] and not the tail." (Deut. 28:13).

Some do not believe that God will again deal with Israel as a nation, but the Scripture is clear. Read Romans 9,10 & 11, where Paul teaches that God will again deal with Israel. He will honor His promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part has happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." (Romans 11:25). The time allotted to the Gentiles is just about over. God has patiently presented the message of salvation to them. Soon, He will turn back to His people, Israel. Praise the Lord! The most important thing for us to remember is that God is in control. He will accomplish His will and fulfill His Word.

**THE END TIME IS HERE** - We are living in the last days. We see "wars and rumors of wars," Our nation is about to go to war with Iraq again. We are compelled to be on our knees for our nation and our young people going to war. The call up of troops is affecting all of us. We must be in prayer for our leaders. Even if we do not agree with the war, we should pray for God's will to be done. Often He allows a war, to bring about change in the world. He is in charge! We can trust Him!

The news agencies report that terrible pestilence in various places are of very great concern. In California San Mateo County a bacterial infection that overpowers most antibiotics is spreading outside of hospitals and is showing up in alarming numbers. The infection causes painful skin boils and ab-

scesses, and can lead to fatal blood infections and heart damage. This infection is spreading especially among gay men. (The San Mateo County Times.)

In the Congo the Ebola bacteria is raging in epidemic proportions. AIDS and HIV are out of control in many African countries. India has an enormous epidemic of AIDS at the present time. The BBC News reports, "The World Health Organization has warned that terrorist groups could try to contaminate food supplies and has urged countries to strengthen their surveillance." The United States has issued gas masks to workers in the Pentagon. Thousands of masks were delivered to Capitol Hill last summer for use by lawmakers, employees and tourists in case of an attack by terrorists in this manner. CNN reports that many Americans have heeded the government's advice concerning being ready for a chemical or biological attack, emptying hardware store shelves of duct tape, plastic sheeting and other emergency items.

All these news reports are showing us the fearsome time we live in. We could be overcome with fear. We need to remember the promises of the Word of God. The Scripture has forecast these events of the end time. We can rest assured that God is not taken by surprise. He is working His plan and purpose. We can rest secure in Him. If you have fear in your heart, seek God. "For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (II Tim. 1:7). Christ is coming soon! "Therefore, be ye also ready: for in such an hour that ye think not the Son of man cometh." (Matt. 24:44). Keep your eyes on Jesus! It will be more than worth it all, when we see Jesus. Praise the Lord!

# Sufficient

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

He tempers each wind  
That upon me doth blow,  
And tenderly whispers,  
“Thy Father doth know.”

His pow’r is sufficient,  
Then why should I quail,  
Though the storm clouds hang low,  
And though wild is the gale?

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.

–Selected



# ROMANS

W. J. Franklin



## Chapter 2:10-18

“But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile”—V. 10. Again we are told what will come to every honest seeker after God, glory of position, honour before all the universe, peace in our experience now and for eternity. For us, that will indeed be the manifestation of the sons of God.

“For there is no respect of persons with God”—V. 11. This verse expresses a great truth and a principle of God in His actions toward men. The Jews had an advantage positionally above the Gentile, but as to his person, none whatsoever. In the Scripture, from the law of Moses onward, man has been taught not to esteem the rich above the poor, the learned above the ignorant or the cultured above the rustic. However, they have based much of life on this form of flattery. Men’s persons are held in esteem because of advantage. God will deal with all men on the basis of facts and truth.

“For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law”—V. 12. This verse should forever answer the question, “What will God do with the heathen who have not heard?” As for God’s absolute justice Who taketh vengeance, we will wait until we get to chapter three for an answer.

As to the manner of their “Perishing,” see Mark 9:42-48. It is not cessation of existence, but the entire loss, completely and absolutely, of every thing, of any form of joy or pleasure whatsoever, of peace or anything that could contribute peace as well as any form of hope for things to be better, and

this state to be forever. Positively, they will endure the settled wrath of God in the form of fire everlasting.

As for those who had heard the law every sabbath in the synagogue, and boasted in its possession, that very law will form the basis of their judgment. Again, their greater light carried a greater responsibility.

“For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified”—V. 13. We shall hear Paul make the statement later in this epistle that by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified in His sight—3:20. Also, we may read the same in Galatians. Here he is appealing to the conscience of the Jew who had the law read in the synagogue every sabbath day, but failed to keep it.

“For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves”—V. 14. Paul shows us that Gentiles can be in a better state than the Jews. Abraham, Job and Melchisedec had not the law, yet were they accepted with God. By no means can Abraham or the other mentioned be called either Israelites or Jews, as neither of those words were used until many years later. God is the God of the Gentiles as well as of the Jews according to chapter three of this book.

Let this verse conclusively and finally show us that the Gentiles had not the law of Moses. Neither do they now have it as a religious economy. We have never had the unbearable yoke which galled the necks and hearts of the Jews. Since God never gave it to us, as either Gentile or Christian, let us not imagine ourselves under it in any possible way, shape or form.

“Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the meanwhile accusing or else excusing one another”—V. 15. It is the works which the law demanded, not the law itself, that was written in the heart. The law is not written in any heart except those who are the objects of the covenant that God promised to make with Israel according to Jeremiah and quoted

in Heb. 8. The Gentile is responsible before God, but in a different way than the Jew. The Jew had the law with its well-defined outline of duties toward God and man. This the Gentile had not. The Gentile had to define his duties and perform them, and God could speak to him through his conscience. He could live so as to have the testimony of his conscience, and seemingly by turns, his thoughts either excused or accused him. While the Jew had greater light, it is evident that many of them had much lower practice than some Gentiles.

“In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my Gospel”—V. 16. All men shall face God. They will have the secrets of their hearts made manifest. This will be according to Paul’s Gospel. Eccl. 12:14 states that God will bring every work into judgment. This does not mean that the saints will come into judgment personally, since Jesus has said, “He that heareth my word and believeth on Him that sent me hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation but is passed from death unto life”—John 5:24. Our sins have been completely forgiven. Let us believe what Scripture tells us. The Gospel, as it is fully revealed in this book later, will tell us that there is no condemnation for us who are in Christ Jesus. However, I Cor. 4:5 makes it plain that the depths of each heart will be plumbed and all will be manifest. However, let us not think that God is going to do this just to embarrass us. It will be for our good and for His glory. However, note the comforting words, “Then shall every man have praise of God.” This latter text for the saints only.

### **THE JEWS’ GREATER LIGHT CONDEMNS THEM**

“Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God”—V. 17. Even though a man were called a Jew with all his religious advantages, a Gentile, if he kept the law, was better than he. Paul proves in this section that the Jew was in many respects worse than the Gentile because

he had greater light, yet failed to appropriate what was given him or appreciate his position.

May God pity the man who “Rests in the law.” Actually, apart from deception, there is no rest in the law. The Jews tried to rest in it, rest in the fact that they were under it, and that they had it. They deceived their hearts into believing that they were at rest in the law when there is no rest in it. Rest not until you rest in Christ.

“And knowest His will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law”—V. 18. “Approvest the things that are more excellent” or triest the things that differ. See Phil. 1:10 where exactly the same expression occurs in the Greek.

Since he was instructed out of the law, and that law was the revealed will of God, no marvel that he felt himself above the rest of the world. He, in his own opinion, was what every other man should be but was not. For a good illustration of his boasted, bloated self-righteousness, see the vauntings of the Pharisee—Luke 18:9-14.



## Will You Let Him

The Lamb without a blemish came one day  
Came to save the world from sin  
He's the only way to peace with God  
Will you let the Saviour in?

Will you let Him, will you let Him?  
Will you let the Saviour in?  
He's the only way to heaven above  
Will you let the Saviour in?

—Grace Livingstone

## Thank God For My Heart Attack!

I'm a forty year old man that didn't know the Lord. I was between jobs, and we had just dropped our family insurance. On September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002, on my eighth wedding anniversary, I had a heart attack. The doctor told me there was a chance of dying. So when they were wheeling me off for my heart catheterization, I looked to my left at my wife and my eight year old son not knowing if it would be the last time I would see them. You would think I had a fear of dying, but, no, I knew the Lord was with me.

As I was laying on that cold steel table, I asked the Lord to spare me. I just couldn't think of leaving my wife with these hospital bills. I have been with my wife twelve years. I have always known in my heart that the Lord gave her to me. She has ALWAYS been there for me and that's more than I can say for myself. That's a BIG DITTO for the Lord Jesus Christ. He's always been there for me, too, even though I was afraid of what people would think of me if I admitted that. That was so wrong, yet the Lord still took care of me.

Two weeks after I got out of the hospital, I had a dream. I did not know the Bible or the scriptures, having just started reading the New Living Bible. In this dream, I saw Isaiah 12:1-2 and did not know what it said until I looked it up the next day. I then knew the Lord loved me for the scripture said to me: *"IN THE DAY YOU WILL SING "PRAISE THE LORD!" HE WAS ANGRY WITH ME, BUT NOW HE COMFORTS ME. SEE, GOD HAS COME TO SAVE ME. I WILL TRUST IN HIM AND NOT BE AFRAID. THE LORD GOD IS MY STRENGTH AND MY SONG. HE HAS BECOME MY SALVATION."*

Also, the Lord has helped me with my smoking. I smoked three packs a day and I was overweight. I never thought I could quit smoking, but it's been relatively easy with the Lord and my wife. I lost fifteen pounds and I feel great. That hospital bill of \$22,000.00 that had been eating at me, well it had been reduced to \$0 a few months later. I have learned so much in the last few months. I have found a nice little church to praise the Lord in and I will never forget what the Lord has done for me.

By Marvin Littrell  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Never mind the clouds which gather  
Over the pathway as you go,  
Each will have a silver lining,  
I have always found it so!

Ever keep a heart undaunted,  
Trust the One whose love you know,  
Christ will be your Guide and Saviour,  
I have always found it so.

Darkest clouds will have a rainbow,  
Light upon your path will glow,  
God is faithful who has promised,  
I have always found it so.

In the sunshine or the shadow,  
Anywhere He bids you go,  
God is with you as you journey,  
I have always found it so.

– Selected

# Five Powerful “P’s”

By Linda Shepard  
Springfield, Missouri

***“One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.” Psalm 27:4***

I see five Powerful “P’s” in this verse: ***Purpose, Perseverance, Presence, Praise and Prayer.***

1. “One thing have I desired of the Lord...” Our desire, while it may be many faceted like a diamond, has a single purpose of heart. By faith, our ***purpose*** of heart should be to love Him preeminently and put the Lord first in our lives in whatever way that He heads, and when we do that, everything else will fall into place.

2. “...that will I seek after...” The Lord would have us to ***persevere*** and be persistent in our seeking of Him and His will for our lives.

3. “...that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life...” There is no better place to be than in the ***presence*** of the Lord daily that we might know the fullness of joy.

4. “...to behold the beauty of the Lord...” What better way is there to behold His beauty than to be looking for His coming, to be loving His appearing and to ***praise*** Him. Praise should always go forth first.

5. “...and to inquire in His temple.” And last, but not least, ***prayer*** without ceasing.

All of these things speak of being ***Committed, Constant, Connected, Contented and Conversant.*** May we apply His grace to our lives that will enable us to be all these things and more to the One Who is both ***Willing*** and ***Able*** to make us thus.



## WHY WORRY?

When the birds begin to worry  
And the lilies toil and spin,  
And God's creatures all are anxious  
Then I also may begin.

For my Father sets their table,  
Decks them out in garments fine,  
And if He supplies their living  
Will He not provide for mine?

Noisy, common, dull, gray sparrows  
Can be found most everywhere,  
Unto some, just worthless creatures;  
If they perish who would care?

Yet our Heavenly Father numbers  
Every creature great and small,  
Caring even for the sparrows,  
Marking when to earth they fall.

If His children's hairs are numbered,  
Why should we be filled with fear;  
He has promised all that's needed,  
And in trouble to be near.

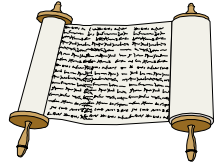
—Author Unknown



# Jeremiah 29

## Part 9 (vs 6)

By Debra Isenbletter



vs 6: This next verse is a continuation of the first paragraph (Encouragement for the Captives) and this verse shows the Lord's encouragement in that they are to *Be Fruitful and multiply*, also *Three Generations* are seen in this verse, along with *A Fruitful Remnant*.

**The First Generation:** “*Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters...*”; **The Second Generation:** “*take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands...*”; **The Third Generation:** “*that they may bear sons and daughters...*”; **A Fruitful Remnant:** “*that ye may be increased there, and not diminished...*”

**Three Generations:** There are several key words in this verse: “**take and give**” and “*beget and bear,*” they are words of action. “**Take**” and “**give**” speak of *obedience* and “**beget and bear**” speak of *fruitfulness*. Obedience must come first before fruitfulness is seen. First they must “take” wives and “give” their sons and daughters in marriage. This act of obedience is also an act of faith. They will be doing what Jesus tells those Jews who live in the last days to do, “*Occupy till I come.*” When He comes it will be to deliver, but they are to “occupy” or keep busy, to go on with their life and not give up hope. For those in captivity the very fact that they go on living and raising families is an act of faith showing they have an expectation of deliverance. Their fruitfulness is seen in their

“bearing” children, and it is the Lord who makes them fruitful, He makes them to increase. Their obedience comes first (they marry) and their fruitfulness comes next (they have children). Paul wrote the Corinthians and said, “I planted (obedience) .... but God gave the increase (fruitfulness)...” (I Cor 3:6). The same principal holds true. We have no sufficiency in ourselves; our sufficiency comes from the Lord. God’s people in captivity must step forward in faith, even in the face of despair, they cannot give up but must lay hold of hope and look forward to His promises. This is where the ministry of the “elders” and “priests” and “prophets” is seen, their messages and ministries will give the people hope. It is hope that energizes faith and they must act upon faith whether they feel like it or not. They may not want to raise children in captivity because they see no future, but the Lord sees a future for this remnant.

Obedience + Faith = Fruitfulness. Each generation is responsible to follow this pattern (take and give, and beget and bear) until the 70 years have ended. One of the meanings for “beget” and “bear” is not only “to bring forth” but “to bring up.” The first generation that obeys and “brings forth” children, also “brings up” those children with the same attitude of obedience to the commandments of the Lord. The final generation that is left at the end of 70 years is a generation that is fruitful because the Lord has made them to “increase.” The promise is that they will be “increased” and the surprise is that it is adversity that does it.

A Fruitful Remnant: *“that ye may be increased there and not diminished.”* Two contrasting words are seen “increase” and “diminish.” Their “increase” shows what the Lord will do for them through their obedience, He will “multiply” and “enlarge” them, He will make them to “excel.” If they are

“diminished” it is through their disobedience and it is what they do to themselves. They will be “brought to nothing” or made “small or few.” Since they have already been “made small” through judgment when they went into captivity the Lord doesn’t need to continue this work. His purpose is never to “diminish” to the point where there is no recovery, just to show them their need when He brings them down to this place and humbles them. His ultimate purpose is to bless and their obedience makes this possible.

The fulfillment of this promise is seen in Ezra when that final generation returns to Jerusalem. In Ezra 2:1-60 we find a wonderful chronology of all the generations that return and just how fruitful they have become. The word “children” occurs at least 99 times in this chapter. Ezra 2:64-70 tells us that the whole congregation that returned was 42,360, and that their servants were 7,337, then goes on to list their camels, oxen, asses and the wealth that they brought back with them. They went into captivity as slaves and a small remnant but they came out of captivity as a fruitful remnant, large in number, with servants of their own, with gold and silver and an abundance of oxen, camels, asses and everything they needed to start again in their own land. It is through their captivity or through their adversity and tribulation that the Lord made them fruitful. Captivity strengthened them as nothing else could. The same holds true for our lives, trials strengthen us, test and prove our faith and we come forth more fruitful.

There are many individuals throughout the Bible that the Lord made fruitful either through adversity or after adversity. *Noah* was told to be fruitful and his fruitfulness began after judgment, after the flood. (Gen 9:1,7) “And God blessed Noah and his sons and said unto them, be fruitful and multi-

ply...” *Abraham* was promised that he would be fruitful and he became fruitful after it was impossible for the flesh to do so. He was called when he was 75 years old (Gen 12:4) and he was told he would be fruitful when he was 99 years old (Gen 17:2-6) He waited 24 years and then when it was physically impossible, he believed by faith the impossible (Ro 4:18). It is Almighty God (El Shaddai) who did this for Abraham (and us). He uses suffering and adversity as tools to produce fruit in our lives and it is that fruit that is the sweetest.

*Jacob* was told to be fruitful but he was told this after he had wrestled with the angel and after he felt his own weakness. (Gen 35:11) “*And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply...*” *Jospeh* was made fruitful in Egypt, he became fruitful while he was in captivity and *after* he had suffered. He knew who made him fruitful and what made him fruitful! (Gen 41:52) “*Unto Joseph were born two sons...and the name of the second called he Ephraim. For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.*”

Jacob took Joseph’s fruitfulness (his two sons) and added it to his own and both were made even more fruitful. (Gen 48:3-6) “*and now thy two sons...which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt...are mine...and thy issue which thou begettest after them, shall be thine.*” Finally Israel was made fruitful in Egypt. They became fruitful while they were in bondage to the Egyptians and despite their slavery produced fruitfulness (Ex 1:7). The Psalmist tells us that it is the Lord that made them fruitful while they served the Egyptians. (Ps 105:23-24) “*Israel also came into Egypt...and he increased his people greatly.*” What a lesson to encourage weary saints today!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Fellowship Meeting:** March 15<sup>th</sup> at *Grace Assembly*, 796 N. St Paul St., Wichita, Kansas. Breakfast 8:00 AM, meeting begins at 10:00 AM, lunch at noon, and afternoon meeting 1:30 PM.

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

**Oklahoma Youth Camp:** Sunday night June 8<sup>th</sup> through Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> – July 4<sup>th</sup> 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  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles turn left at the green White Memorial Camp sign<sup>2</sup> (which is Ave. K). Go 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles to 1050 Rd. and turn left. Road dead-ends in the c<sup>2</sup>amp. Registrations must be in by May 30<sup>th</sup>.