

Glorious Gospel Publication



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INHERITANCE



**Inheritance, God-given,
taken by faith is to be Inhabited,
and we are not to be Inhibited
by our adversary, from taking it.**

All that our God has freely given us, He has wonderfully promised **in** Christ Jesus. He has made us eligible for it by a new Spiritual birth. He has provided everything necessary for us to enter into the fullest enjoyment thereof. God has reminded His people over and over how marvelously available it is unto us in **simple faith**.

God illustrated to Old Testament overcomers how they could lay claim to an earthy inheritance to also teach us some wonderful lessons, on the way of taking possession of our eternal heavenly inheritance.

OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES

They were urged on to go after all that He had promised to give them. The word of the Lord came to Abram: “...**I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward**. And Abram said, Lord God, what wilt thy give me...?” Gen. 15:1-2. And the Lord said...I am the Lord that brought thee out to give thee this land to **inherit it**. And he said, Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? Vs. 7 & 8. God was pleased when Abram showed a **genuine interest** in God’s promises.

Moses like Abram believed God’s Word. God allowed them to send in spies to search out the land He promised to them. The spies brought a mixed report part of faith and part of fear.

Some focused on the enemies of the land, their size and equipment, but two men, Joshua and Caleb had their focus on God's enabling.

Now after many years had passed they had moved into the promised land, God spoke to Joshua as recorded in Joshua 13:1. "Thou art old stricken in years, and there remaineth **yet very much land to be possessed.**" God was encouraging him on to take their God-given possessions. And so are we blessedly urged on by our Lord to keep going on in our Lord's will by faith in His enabling.

Although we have grown and gone on faithfully for years in His will, don't give in, let down, give up, the end is in sight. Posses your possessions, fully inherit your inheritance. Don't forget that you ARE blessed with all spiritual blessings and seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus by the full provision of God's grace. Eph. 1:3; 2:6.

WHY THE CONFLICT

There remains much to be laid hold of, gained, claimed, and reigned over. Now if God hath given this all to us, why would this spiritual fervor be necessary? Our loving Father delights that we in a practical sense take our place in Canaan now. 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. Yet we are being forcefully resisted by a fierce adversary. Satan operates on our fallen nature every opportunity he gets.

Thank God we need not be inhibited nor intimidated in spiritual conflict now. Greater is He that is in us. 1 John 4:4. We are not ignorant of Satan's devices. 2 Cor. 2:11. We know his purposes are to kill, steal and destroy, but Jesus has come to destroy the works of the Devil. Jesus came that we might

have life more **abundantly**. John 10:10. We are to understand that we are no match for our adversary in the wisdom(?) strength(?) or action(?) of the flesh. When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will raise up a standard against him. Though we walk in the flesh we do not war after the flesh. Thank God! Isa. 59:19; 2 Cor. 10:3.

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. “If ye then be risen with Christ, **seek** those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. **Set** your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is **hid** with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also **appear** with Him in glory.” Col. 3:1-4.

No wonder there is an awful battle going on. Some have said, “I am so blessed, I can’t be stressed;” but others will say, “I am so stressed I can’t be blessed.” Real Spiritual maturity can say, having often realized that there is real blessing in or during the stressing that we are allowed to experience, we are made **more than conqueror through him** that loves us. Rom. 8:37.

See 1 Peter 5:5-11: thank God we are equipped wonderfully to resist our enemy steadfast in the faith. True believers are told to resist the devil and he will flee from us. Resistance is best accomplished by submitting wholeheartedly unto God. Oh, what a gracious privilege is our’s. We are thus also **staking our claim** to our heavenly inheritance. Let us also put on the whole armor of God. Eph. 6:10-18. Let us **apprehend** that for which we also are apprehended. Phil. 3:12-14. Let us be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, for we can do all things through Christ that strengthens us.

Our apostle Paul urges us of things to flee from, follow after, and fight the good fight of faith, seizing on the valued elements of eternal life. Laying hold on that which is laid up for us. 1 Tim. 6:11,12 & 17-19. We are partakers of the divine nature and are to have an **abundant entrance** into that eternal state. 2 Pet. 1:4-11, 12-16.

Consider and rejoice over the saints and our Lord's victory over our adversary in Rev. 12:9-12. Our enemy's time is about up. Oh, Glory! glory! Rev. 21:7, "He that overcometh shall **inherit all things**; and I will be his God, and he shall be my Son." When the battle is over we shall wear a crown. Faith focused on our faithful God, we are to possess all the inheritance which the Lord our God hath given us.
by J. D.



*Are you standing at "Wit's End Corner,"
Your work before you spread,
All lying begun, unfinished,
And pressing on heart and head,
Longing for strength to do it,
Stretching out trembling hands?
Remember—at "Wit's End Corner"
The Burden-bearer stands.*

*Are you standing at "Wit's End Corner?"
Then you're just in the very spot
To learn the wondrous resources
Of Him who faileth not;
No doubt to a brighter pathway
Your footsteps will soon be moved.
But only at "Wit's End Corner"
Is the "God who is able" proved.*

—Selected

THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark



“I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd. And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.” Habakkuk 2:1-3.

Apostle Paul quotes from these verses in Hebrews 10:37, using them to refer to the soon coming of Jesus Christ. The admonition from the prophet Habakkuk is to “watch.” Paul also admonishes us to watch and not sleep as do others. We are so glad that others in the past were faithful to the call of the Lord and wrote down the “vision, and made it plain upon the tables, that he may run that readeth it.” Many saints who have gone before have proclaimed the truth, and were faithful unto their dying breath. Their admonitions ring in the hearts of those who have laid hold of the message, and have ran with it.

Paul speaks of the race course in several places in his writings. In I Cor. 9:24-27 he urges us to “So run that you may obtain.” In Phil 3:7-14, he speaks of his attitude concerning Christ, “What things that are gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.” Further he says, “I follow after if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.” The word “apprehend” means, “to seize or attain.” He was like a long distance runner who stretches out reaching forward to

grasp the baton or to mark the finish line tape. He says in vs 14, “I press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Paul was not talking about gaining Christ as our Savior, but winning Him as the prize of the high calling. We believers are set upon a race after we are saved. Running the race is a metaphor representing the long hard struggle of the life of an overcoming Christian, who loves Jesus supremely and sacrifices all to have a place of honor with Jesus Christ for all eternity. All believers could have this place, but so many do not care that much. Many are half-hearted at best. In Hebrews 12:1-2, Paul warns, “Let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith.” This we will do by the grace of God! There are many events and happenings that show us that Christ could come at any moment. The end time is fast shaping up.

PUTIN ATTACKS THE ‘VERY DANGEROUS’ US – Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke at a security summit meeting in Munich and criticized the United States very harshly saying, “The world is witnessing an almost uncontained hyper use of force in international relations. One state, the United States, has over stepped its national borders in every way. This is very dangerous. Nobody feels secure anymore because nobody can hide behind international law.” He stated that Washington has a “very dangerous” approach to global relations and is fueling a nuclear arms Race.

Many news correspondents said that they believe that the speech may signal a more assertive Russia. The press secretary of the White House National Security Council, Gordon Johndroe, said, “ We expect to continue co-operation with Russia in areas important to the international community such as counter-terrorism and reducing the spread and threat of weapons of mass destruction.”

None should be surprised at this display of hostility toward the U.S. In September, 2005 Putin said he would not support United Nations Action against Iran. His government is helping Iran build a civilian nuclear plant despite U.S. objections. Putin said, “Ahmadinejad (present leader of Iran) assured him in their meeting in New York September 15, 2006 that Iran does not want nuclear weapons.” And he stated that Russia is against Iran becoming a nuclear power.

Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has urged his people to prepare for the coming of an Islamic “messiah,” raising the concerns a nuclear-armed Islamic Republic could trigger the kind of global conflagration he envisions will set the stage for the end of the world. The Bible teaches that in the last days, Russia will join with Persia (ancient Iran) along with several other Moslem nations and fight against Israel. (Ezekiel 38-39)

OIL IN ISRAEL – An oil company in Israel reports that it has struck oil in the Dead Sea region, possibly worth up to \$350 million. Ginko Oil Exploration Company says that oil spurted from a depth of 1.800 meters (1.12 miles) and that further tests will be conducted. About 6.5 million estimated barrels’ worth, was discovered just north of the Dead Sea. About ten years ago, Ginko had drawn out about 120,000 barrels of crude oil from this site. In April 2004, Ginko discovered a seven-meter layer of natural gas in the same region, but then gave up. Israel has produced only 20 million barrels of oil in the last half-century, less than what the Saudis produce every three days. This new found oil is a advantageous find in the world today. So many products are made with petroleum. We have gotten so use to it that we would have a hard time living without. In the endtime oil will become more and more valuable. Everyone is effected by it, whether we have it or whether we don’t have it. Oil and gasoline rules this world at the present time.

DRUG USE AT ALL TIME HIGH IN U.S. – Statistics show that people in the United States make up about 4% of the world’s population, but sad to say statistics show that we consume about 2/3 of the world’s illicit drugs. Almost everyone has a friend or loved one on drugs. Drug addiction is at epidemic proportions. It will eventually destroy the people of the U.S.A. Only God can deliver from drug addiction, but He is able. He has done it before and He will do it again if we will only trust Him. All these conditions are showing us that Christ will have to return soon, or times will be so bad that they would envelop the whole world in darkness.

MUSLIMS INCREASING IN EUROPE – The Islamic revolution is fast growing in Europe. In Holland their numbers have grown in population until there is great concern. There have been murders of outspoken anti-Muslim critics - politician Pim Fortuyn in 2002 and film director Theo Van Gogh in 2004. Because of this there is a lot of catering to Muslims and issues promoting them. Some politicians are now saying that Europe is “rapidly becoming Eurabia” There is a very high birth rate among Muslims, which adds to their multiplying numbers. Anti-Semitism is a big problem in Europe, and is growing rapidly, with school professors finding it hard to teach about the Holocaust because the Muslims will get up and walk out. This may well have an affect on the future European positions on Israel and the Middle East.

All these things mentioned and so much more in the News everyday speak loudly that Jesus Christ’s coming is very near, even at the door. Let us stand fast and bear up under our burdens. He is Faithful Who promised and will fulfill all His good promises to us. Praise the Lord!



ROMANS

W. J. Franklin



Chapter 16:17-27

WARNINGS AGAINST FALSE BRETHREN

“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.”—V. 17. “Mark them which cause division!” Oh, that it would be so! Watch them or give them a sharp look is the meaning and as other versions render it. They not only make divisions but cause offence. Avoid or turn away from them is the meaning. The doctrine they had received was to be their criterion with which to measure individual conduct.

“For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple”—V. 18. Their bellies become their gods, See Phil. 3:19. The Cretians were slow bellies, lazy gluttons, as the word means. See Titus 1:12. They live by their good words and fair speeches. “Good words” means, plausibility or fair speech. “Fair speeches” mean, flattery, fair speaking, elegance of language. “Simple” means, those who are innocent, artless or simple.

“For your obedience is come abroad to all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil”—V. 19. The obedience of this church as well as its faith, was widely known. See Rom. 1:8. Paul wished them to continue in their obedience. He was glad and rejoicing for this. But also, wished their knowledge to abound in good and for them to remain simple regarding evil. Some of God’s dear people feel that they must experiment with all knowledge, even to being wise in forbidden knowledge. The word “Simple” in this verse means,

unmixed, without mixture of vice or deceit. One can easily be wise in the wrong kind of knowledge. This, we have no reason for being.

“And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen”—V. 20. God is a God of peace, and is not in the kind of division Paul just spoke of. Satan is back of those divisions.

When Israel conquered certain kings, Joshua had the leaders of Israel to place their feet on the necks of the kings. See Joshua 10:24. Also, 2 Sam. 22:41. Also, note Gen. 3:15. Unless there is, and certainly there is, an abundance of God’s grace, we would be the bruised ones, but God will bruise Satan under us. Hallelujah.

AGAIN, SALUTATIONS

“Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you”—V. 21. Four of Paul’s friends sent greetings in this verse. What a friendly spirit prevailed in the early church!

“I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord”—V. 22. With the exception of Galatians, Paul always used a secretary when writing his letters. He may have found it easier to dictate, or it may have been his eyes that caused him trouble and he used someone else for that reason. This stenographer went his greetings along with the rest.

“Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother”—V. 23. There is a “Gaius” of Macedonia mentioned in Acts 19:29, and also a man by the name of Derbe—Acts 20:4. John wrote one of his letters to a man by the same name—3 John 1. It is doubtful whether any of those were identical with the man before us. This man lived at Corinth and hosted the whole church there. He is probably identical with the man whom Paul baptized in Corinth—I Cor. 1:14.

Erastus was “Chamberlain” of the city, an office of high position in the days of the apostle. He was actually the city treasurer. We believe he is the same whom Paul sent into Macedonia—Acts. 19:22; and at a later date, he was still in Corinth—2 Tim. 4:20. Nothing for certain is known of Quartus.

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen”—V. 24. Again, we have the wonderful benediction of grace. It has twice been pronounced on the church at Rome. See V. 20.

CONCLUSION

“Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to my Gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began”—V. 25. God is able to establish us, and was able to establish that church at Rome, whose obedience and faith were spoken of throughout the world. But it was according to Paul’s Gospel, and the way Jesus Christ was revealed in it, that is, the way Christ was preached.

See Eph. 3:1-5 for the exposition of the same mystery spoken of here. God is calling the Gentiles into one body, one household, one blessed new creation, along with the believing Jews. He had kept this secret from all the Old Testament prophets, and indeed it was a well-kept secret. However, it is now made manifest.

“But now is made manifest, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith”—V. 26. The words “Scriptures of the prophets” according to Nestle’s text is, “Through writings prophetic,” which we believe to be correct, as we believe it to refer to New Testament prophecies, and not to the old. This secret concerning which God was silent, is now made manifest

according to the commandment of the everlasting God. He gave Paul the revelation of His plans for this age and commanded him to make it known by word and pen.

“To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen”—V. 27. The Scriptures say, “Only Thou art holy”—Rev. 15. Here God is mentioned as the fountain and source of all wisdom. Glory will come to His glorious name for the ages through and because of Jesus Christ. Amen.

It is marvelous that this book so fittingly end with the grand word of affirmation, “Amen.” It is the transliteration of the Greek word, pronounced slightly different from the English. This is also in turn, the Hebrew word, exactly transliterated into Greek. The Hebrew means, sure, faithfulness or truly. The Greek means near the name, as follows, trustworthy or surely, and as an interjection, so be it. It is a particle of affirmation, and can mean, Most certainly. Jesus is called the “AMEN, the faithful and true witness”—Rev. 3:14. The promises of God receive through Him, the “Amen”—2 Cor. 1:20. So fitting that all the great truths of Romans should have the suffix, “Amen.”

FAITHFUL

*I cannot do great things for Him,
Who did so much for me,
But I should like to show my love,
Dear Jesus, unto Thee;
Faithful in very little things,
O Savior, may I be,*

—Selected

Moderation

Part 9

Doug Delhay

Philippians 4:5 - *Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.*

As we have summarized, the apostle Paul demonstrated his deep, sincere desire to intimately know and take part in the sufferings of Christ by being made conformable to His death. In doing so, he would also come to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. These four aspects of the purpose of God in the life of His children all go hand in hand. We cannot have a working knowledge of Christ without a similar degree of understanding in the working knowledge of His suffering. Nor can we be made conformable to His death without also experiencing the power of His resurrection. To truly have knowledge of one is to truly have knowledge of the other three.

We read in Romans 8:29, *“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”* **The fact of Christ in us changes everything about us.** Whether or not that is personally apprehended and made manifest in our lives here on earth is dependent upon whether or not we reckon in our lives according to the example of Paul’s reckoning. The will of God toward us is that we should be conformed to the image of His Son. The leading of the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth, reveals things to come, glorifies Jesus, and shows us the things that the Father has bestowed upon Jesus (John 16:12-15). Christ lives in us. Could we be any more blessed? Could we possess any greater assurance of success? Could the

purpose of God in our lives here upon this earth be any clearer? Yet this treasure comes to us as a revelation that Paul spells out to the Philippians through the joy of his own experience that they, too, might share in the fullness of the blessings of God according to His perfect will.

We now come to Philippians 3:11 in which Paul sets before us a realm of possibility that grips the heart and mind with an amazing vision. It is a vision of what could be, though Paul himself states that he had not yet fully taken hold of or obtained it. Yet it is this very vision that we have been discussing throughout our study. It is, as Paul plainly states in verses 12 and 13, the apprehending of that for which we have been apprehended. It is being **moderated**. That is, to have the person of Christ superimposed upon our self with the intent of doing so out of an appropriate acceptance of and submission to the will of God. It is an entering into that to which we are called. It is the very antithesis of self-serving, rebellious sin; it is an abhorrence of self and a submission in love.

It is of great interest that Paul begins this 11th verse with the thought, "*If by any means*". In so saying, he expresses the uncertainty as to what exactly may be involved in attaining unto the goal. All he knows is that reaching this goal is of utmost importance to him and that he is willing to involve himself in whatever it takes to achieve that end. He has already come a great way insomuch that some would think that he had already attained it. But he debunks this thought and readies his heart for whatever else may come his way because he has already settled himself on the eternal value of what has been set before him. He has caught a glimpse of the great price that was paid for his redemption and realized the greatness of the One Who paid such a price for him. He has also come to understand that the Father considered us to be worth the great price of His Son's blood and thereby the utter pureness of His

divine, merciful motivation. *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* (John 3:16) Again, Paul stated in II Corinthians 5:14-15, *“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”* What can possibly be more precious than the love of God toward us in Christ our Lord? What can possibly be of more value? Where can we find greater treasure in all of the universe than what we currently have set before us in this glorious, gracious gift? *“If by any means”* Paul states; he deems the cost clearly worth it.

Next, Paul speaks of “attaining” unto this goal. Like any goal or attainment, there are obstacles that must be addressed. This word means “to meet against, i.e. arrive at”. He knew of a certainty that the goal was attainable and he desired to reach it, and his heart was set for the required endeavor. But he had to get there; he had to do what was needed to enter in to it.

And what was this all consuming goal of which Paul spoke? *“The resurrection of (or out from among) the dead.”* Most commentaries reflect that this once used word for “resurrection” (exanastasis) is difficult to explain doctrinally. It was a relatively new Greek word for that time and is not even found in all of the Septuagint (Greek Old Testament), but it fits perfectly with the thought that Paul is led by the Spirit to convey. Though the word “resurrection” itself carries the thought of being raised up out of the state of death, the word in this text carries a double meaning of being raised up out of or from among the dead. It is a rising from death to life out of the realm of the dead.

. The word “*dead*” utilizes the most commonly used word for the term in the New Testament. It is used in reference to Christ being the first born or begotten from the dead in Colossians 1:18 and Revelation 1:5. It is used in Hebrews 6:1 as an adjective in referring to dead works and in Colossians 3:12-13 in reference to the fact that we were dead in our sins when Jesus died for us. It does not necessarily mean to be physically dead, but to be in the realm of that which is dead or unprofitable regarding things related to life. Someone dead in their sins performing dead works must of necessity be very much alive in the flesh though unprofitable in the things relating to the will of God. So then, possibly the best way to interpret Paul’s thought is to refer to his use of the word in Romans 6:11-13 where he is speaking to born again Christians, *“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be **dead** indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the **dead**, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”*

So then, our text in verse 11 can be better understood to depict that Paul sought by whatever means necessary to arrive at that place in his life before God where he would be raised up out of the things that were unprofitable or contrary to the will of God and up into the things that were well-pleasing to Him that so loved him. He whole-heartedly sought to be pleasing to the Lord in every possible aspect of His life here on earth. He was striving for the mastery, exercising temperance in all things. He was running the race, and running it to win.



Because of Calvary

*Because of Calvary, today I have found joy,
A peace long sought in worldly paths of sin;
A peace that slipped elusive through enchanted ways,
And vanished ere I gained an entrance in.*

*Because of Calvary, today I have found joy,
A joy that will not tarnish or grow dim;
A joy that will not perish in the using,
But constant, radiant, glows as some bright gem.*

*Because of Calvary, today I have found hope,
A "Blessed Hope" that brightens all my way;
A hope to which I cling steadfast, secure,
That I shall see my Lord some glorious day!*

*"Because of Calvary, because of Calvary"
May this thought shape my life beyond today,
That He who died eternal life to give
Is now to me the Truth, the Life, the Way.*

*Because of Calvary, oh, Lord, no longer I delay;
Because of all Thy love has done for me,
Today I yield my life, my love, my all,
Thine evermore, because of Calvary!*

—H. S. P.

A Good Report

Psalm 25:1 – 5 *A Psalm of David.* “Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause. Show me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou *art* the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.”

When we say unto the LORD, “Teach me and show me Thy ways, O LORD,” we should expect HIM to do just that. In early January I had a special time with the LORD. I poured out my soul to HIM. I cried out to HIM to teach me and show me HIS will and wisdom. I do not know how long I spent in prayer to the LORD but I do remember what the LORD showed me through HIS Word. I learned that evening that I am NOT responsible for the work that is done in the hearts of others. That is NOT my job and I am to leave them in HIS hands. I am responsible for my reaction to the events that happen around and to me. When we let the LORD do HIS work, our lives can be a testimony to anyone that might be watching.

Fourteen days later I had the opportunity to experience just what HE was talking about. The boys had the chance to go to Topeka for Day Under the Dome with the robotics team. I drove our van with all the moms and girls. After leaving a rest area I started to get a headache. It kept getting worse and moved down into my shoulder. I finally told the two moms that I did not think I was going to be able to continue driving. Karen, one of the moms, asked if I wanted prayer. I immediately said, “yes.” She then asked how I felt about the laying on of hands. I told her that I would not mind that at all, that I fully believed in the laying on

hands. She put her hand on my shoulder and started praying out loud. Beverly, the other mother, and the three teenage girls in the backseat got very quiet. After Karen finished praying Beverly massaged my neck. Lo and behold the pain went away. Praise the LORD!!!

Once in Topeka, while we were getting off of the turnpike onto another highway, we heard a strange vibrating noise. Everyone at the same time realized it was NOT the highway. I pulled over and my rear tire was off the rim. Before the girls and I could get my van unloaded in order to get to my spare, there was a man who worked for the turnpike authority ready to take off my tire. He had it off and the spare almost on before the guys could get back to us. As he finished tightening the tire he looked up at me and asked, "Do you know how I ended up being here? They called me and told me that my new motorcycle helmet is in and I decided to go pick it up." I told him, "The LORD KNEW we were going to need you here." He did not say anything to that. After we loaded everything back into the van we prayed a prayer of thanks.

I was going to lead our way out of Topeka. The way I went ended in a dead end due to construction. We just stopped and started laughing so hard I was crying. We were praising the LORD at the same time for HIS watching over us. I told the girls (who by this time were probably thinking I was going nuts) that you had to either laugh when things go wrong or you just cry. We FINALLY made our way to the turnpike. All the way home Karen and I had a wonderful time of fellowship. A week later I received a note from Susan (one of the teens) thanking me for driving and she made mention of how she observed my handling of the situations (I only mentioned two out of several) that came our way all day.

It was only later that I was able to correlate that days events to my wonderful experience with the LORD. HE is faithful to finish the work that HE has begun.

Cathy Crook

HIS BRIDE, HIS QUEEN

By Corina Medina

The king loved Esther above all women

Esther 2:15-17. “Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required *nothing* but what Hegai the king’s chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all them that looked upon her. So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. *And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head*, and made her queen instead of Vashti.” We are going to look especially at V. 17. “The king loved “Esther above all the women.”

Song of Solomon 2:2,3 - “As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters. (Here we see Christ’s love for the bride.) As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat known under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.” The love is mutual; the bride *responds* to Christ’s love.

Song of Solomon 4:1 - “Behold, Thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves’ eyes within thy locks: thy hair is as a flock of goats, that appear from mount Gilead.” Verse 7: “Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee.” Verse 10: “How fair is thy love, my sister, my spouse! How much better is thy love than wine! And the smell of thine ointments than all spices!” So you see there was a *mutual love*

and he sees the bride as fair, beautiful, a chaste virgin. He loved her above all women.

I Chronicles 12:33,38 - “Of Zebulun, such as *went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war, fifty thousand, which could **keep rank: they were not of double heart.***” V. 38 - “*”All these men of war, that could **keep rank, came with a perfect heart** to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel: and all the rest also of Israel were of one heart to make David king.*” These men were not “double hearted;” they were “perfect hearted” and unified in their love. The bride has a united heart. We also see her in Song of Solomon 6:10, “Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible (awesome) as an army with banners.” She, like these men in I Chronicles, is *whole hearted*. **She is also a warrior.** She has had many battles. We will have so many battles in our lives; there will always be the need of grace to keep our hearts “whole-hearted” toward the Lord.

In Song of Solomon 1:15, “Behold thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves’ eyes.” She will also have a need of *spiritual wisdom*. 7:1 - “How beautiful are thy feet with shoes, O prince’s daughter! The joints of thy thigh’s are like jewels, the **work of the hands of a cunning workmen.**” So *walk, her way of life is with wisdom*. Psalm 119:105, “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” She recognizes her need of the light of the Word of God. She sees with dove’s eyes. **She is a warrior and is wise in the Lord.** She has taken God’s Word to be her source of wisdom and strength. She reigns in life, His life in Her.

And obtained grace and favor in his sight

Song of Solomon 2:4,5 - “He brought me into the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love. Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples: for I am faint with love.

So the Bride of Christ will have a **great interest** in **God's Word**. Acts 20:32, "And now brethren, I commend you to God, and to the Word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." Paul commended them to the Word of His grace. That is the banqueting house. Ephesians 5:25-27, "Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the water by the Word, that He might present it to Himself a *glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*" So she obtains grace and favor in His sight: her walk, her way of life is washed with the water of Life, the water of the Word. She has a **heavenly walk**: Phil. 3:20,21, "For our conversation, (our citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to **subdue** all things unto Himself." She submitted to Him and allowed Him to work in her. We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus. He *began* this work and will *complete* it. We can trust Him for this. **He** brings forth the heavenly walk.

In Proverbs 31:4-9 we see the king; and in verses 10-31 you can see his queen. Look at these verses to see God's work in her.

Song of Solomon 8:5: (Remember what was said in Philippians "According to the working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself.") "Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, *leaning on her beloved?*" She is leaning, subdued unto Him. The essence of the Bride is **submission to the Word and to the Holy Spirit**, not self. She is dependent on His grace, on her Bridegroom. This is not some self-produced thing; submission is not the natural bent, but

something He has worked in her and taught her. Knowing and loving Him we will want to submit to the Great King and His love and wisdom.

He sets a royal crown upon her head

She will be crowned the greatest queen! I think of great queens: there was the Empress Catherine of Russia. She was a great empress and a builder. There was Elizabeth, Henry's daughter, another great queen who governed a nation. Isabella of Spain was a wise queen. But this queen will be crowned the *greatest queen*. Revelation 4:1-4, especially verse 4: "And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads *crowns* of gold." Verse 10, "The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth forever and ever, and cast their *crowns* before the throne." These are pictures of the Bride of Christ, that wonderful company that we desire to be in. We also see her in Revelation 2:8-11. "And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; these things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive, I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a *crown* of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." So there you see her in those who go by way of the grave, these overcoming Saints that will have died. Then in Revelation 3:7-11, "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth, and shutteth and no man openeth; I know thy works,

behold I have set before thee and open door, and no man can shut it; (the catching away of the overcomers, the true Bride of Christ) for thou hast a *little strength*, and hast *kept my word*, and *hast not denied my name*. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that *I have loved thee*. Because thou hast *kept the word of my patience*, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly, hold that fast which thou hast that no man take thy *crown*." Here we have a warning not to lose the crown. "He that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God." So we see that this Bride is regal. She is committed to and loves her husband. She has responded well to Him and He has brought forth His life in her. She will be crowned! We'll always know that all this is **His work. That is why the crowns are cast down before Him who is on the throne. The great King of Kings and Lord of Lords.**



Rooted In Love

*Our strength and soul's integrity
Are deeper gifts of God's own grace:
As wind-bent branches of a tree
Return, in calm, to their own place,
We may be tossed by passing gales
Of Sorrow, but our roots below
Hold to the love that never fails,
And in His peace we stand...and grow!*
—J. H. D.

The Will of God

*Laid on Thine altar, O my Lord Divine,
Accept my gift this day, for Jesus' sake;
I have no jewels to adorn Thy shrine,
Nor any world-famed sacrifice to make:
But here I bring within my trembling hands
This will of mine, a thing that seemeth small,
Yet thou alone, O Lord, canst understand
How, when I yield Thee this, I yield Thee all.*

*Hidden therein, Thy searching gaze can see
Struggles of passion, visions of delight,
All that I have, or fain would be,
Deep loves, fond hopes, and longings infinite:
It hath been wet with tears, and dimmed with sighs,
Clenched in my grasp, till beauty hath it none:
Now from Thy footstool, where it vanquished lies,
The prayer ascendeth, "May Thy will be done."*

*Take it, O Father, ere my courage fail,
And merge it so with Thine own, that e'en
If in some desperate hour my cries prevail,
And Thou give back my gift, it may have been
So changed, so purified, so fair have grown,
So one with Thee, so filled with love Divine,
I may not know or feel it as my own,
But gaining back my will, may find it Thine.*