

Glorious Gospel Publication



Editor: Jack Davis
796 N. St Paul * Wichita, Kansas 67203
316-943-4190 or 942-5468
www.gloriousgospel.org
Email: ggospel5@juno.com

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JOY



“Now the God of hope fill you with all **joy** and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. Now I beseech you brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me; That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints; That I may come to you with **joy** by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.” Rom. 15:13 & 30-32. Our God and Father delights to *fill us with joy*. Paul’s prayer was and is being answered yet today. **Joyful saints** are refreshing to each other today.

Jesus spoke some wonderful and encouraging words in relation to joy, in trying times. “Blessed are you when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. *Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven.*” Mt. 5: 11,12. “These things have I spoken unto you, that my *joy might remain* in you, and your *joy might be full.*” John 15:11. Thank God for such loving care.

When Jesus spoke to His followers about Him being taken from them and his return in a little while, He said you will weep, but the world will rejoice, you will be sorrowful but your sorrow shall be *turned to joy*...and He said now ye therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again and your heart shall rejoice and your *joy* no man taketh from you. These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome

the world.” John 16:19-22. Does it give us a *real joy* that He has overcome the world and He is for us and in us?

The Psalms remind us repeatedly to *shout and sing for joy*, having been made victors, we also are given the right and privilege to happily express our exceeding *great joy*.

In God’s Word, volumes are spoken of **joy** in relation to the most trying, grievous of circumstances, is it not part of the peaceable fruit of righteousness? *Fullness of joy and peace* are realized in believing. To let down or give up on trusting wholeheartedly in our Lord, we can become lacking in the joy of our salvation.

I thank God for the privilege we have to read and consider the testimonies recorded concerning overcomers in times past. I appreciate knowing how God cared about them, and how He thought of them, and provided for them so richly. I love these people that I believe God inspired our apostle Paul to write to and about. It appears that He **joyed** in their **joy**.

“But call to remembrance the former days, in which after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;” Heb. 10:32-39.

These being divinely illuminated were blessed to be brought into this great fight of afflictions which they endured. They were overcomers coming on. When the light began to shine in their hearts the battle was on. God commanded the light to shine into their hearts, knowing that the spirits of darkness would be stirred, and the battle was on.

It is evident that they soon would begin to learn that the joy of the Lord was their strength. They needed to be strengthened with all might by His spirit in the inner man. Col. 1:11. This

enabling must be according to His glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering **with joyfulness**. Praise God for the part that God-given joyfulness has in our victories. As this great fight continued in part by their being made gazingstock by reproaches and afflictions; and partly by becoming companions of them that were so used. Their suffering, it seems doubled for them by keeping company with others so abused. In their compassion for Paul in his bonds caused them to share more fully in his suffering, as real companions of compassion. Thank God, there are still some around today. It seems the battle-lines are thinning out.

But here are the lines that thrill my heart; “that they took joyfully the spoiling (plundering, ruining, wasting) of their goods.” Material things are needed, and serve a temporary purpose during our earthly sojourn, but we don’t like to see them wasted, even if we know that our God can easily replace them, or even give us better. But oh how glorious to know what these knew! We know that God has been working in us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory!

These overcomers knew what value God had placed in them, and the wealth that was laid up for them in heaven, was not able to be compared. Oh yes they knew of and held a better and enduring substance. How wonderfully their joy reached beyond their temporary existence. For they had trusted the keeping of their souls unto a faithful Creator and Redeemer.

Although they suffered some of the deepest of sorrows, they also experienced some of the highest of joys on their way to the joy set before them. These that endured joyfully the spoiling of their goods had real confidence that urged them on into the fulfillment of God’s will, which would cause them to realize great recompense of reward. Yet, with all the companionship, compassion, and confidence they had, even in

taking joyfully the sufferings they endured, they still needed patience to continue on in the sweet will of God, to receive His promise in the fullest measure. The just shall live by faith. Amen.

When some of their brethren that had gone before them, had been beaten and threatened and commanded not to speak any more in the name of Jesus, and had let them go. They departed from the presence of that council, **rejoicing** that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his Name. Acts 5:40 & 41.

When Paul had been warned of bonds and afflictions awaited Him on his way; He said that none of these things moved Him that He might finish his course with **joy**. And He certainly did.



Psalm 5:11

**But let all those that
put their trust in thee
rejoice: let them ever
shout for joy, because
thou defendest them: let
them also that love thy
name be joyful in thee.**

THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark



“For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But, and if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled.” I Peter 3:12-14.

We live in a world overwhelmed with terror. The World daily news is full of atrocities. Recent events in Madrid, Spain, where bombs exploded in railway cars killing many, turned public opinion in Spain against the war in Iraq. Car bombs blew up buildings in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia showing the extent these fanatics will go in bombing their own fellow Muslims. Saudi security forces have defused five truck bombs that had been found in and around Riyadh in the past weeks.

Jordan has killed three insurgents said to have been connected to an Al Qaida plot to launch a chemical weapons attack against government installations there. Constant vigilance has thwarted more than one plan by these terrorists in that country.

In Israel Security forces aborted a total of 10 attempted suicide bomb attacks on Israeli targets during the Passover holiday. Two women tried to carry out attacks with bombs intended for a large Israeli city, and another was with a device containing AIDS-infected blood. During the 40 months of Palestinian

violence and terror, more than 900 Israelis have been killed in terrorist attacks, about one-third in suicide bus bombings.

The news from Iraq and the war startles us with reports of atrocities committed by radical extremist who are unhappy with the U.S.A. presence there. The month of April has been a bloody time in which 70 members of the coalition forces have given their lives, and 800 Iraqis have died also. Back in March during the Ashura festival in Baghdad and Karbala 250 Shiite worshipers were killed by bombs set by terrorists.

Will acts of terror be perpetrated again against us here in the U.S.A.? There is no doubt that they will. This is a great concern of all the people in our country. All the agencies of defense in this country may not stop terrorists from attacking us again. These incidences are signs to us that Jesus is coming very soon for His bride and then the judgment of seven years will begin.

As our scripture text says, "...the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and His ears are open to their prayers." He is the only one who can give us peace and joy despite all the bad news facing us in today's world. He tells us "...be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled." (Vs.14).

PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN IRAQ - Right after the fall of Saddam's regime in Iraq, the numbers of Christians in that country grew because of the new freedom of worship and evangelism. Recently, it has been reported that the number of Christians in Iraq has gone down from two million to about 800,000. Many are fleeing the country as the fear over the future and greater persecution from the Shiite Muslims, who are growing in number, grips their hearts. The magazine, Israel

My Glory, reports that one Christian leader begged, “Please protect us from the Shiite Muslims. They are very dangerous, they will kill us Christians.” Shiites constitute about 60 percent of the Iraqi population. They could well dominate the new interim government, which is being formed and will take over in June, ‘04.

We should pray for the persecuted church in foreign lands. We are one body in the Lord. The bride of Christ will be taken out of every nation, kindred and tongue. Our hearts should go out to them, but at the same time we know that our God is mighty and is in control. He is proving men’s hearts today, and will bring wrath upon all those who persecute His people. I’m sure He takes it very personally. I’m reminded of the Scripture, “In as much as you have done it to one of the least of these My brethren, you have done it unto me.” (Matt. 25:40)

Dear Saints of God, we are living in an evil day. It is important for us as Christians to trust in the Lord with all our hearts, and to know that God is performing His ultimate purpose in the earth. Nothing is happening in this world that surprises God. Let us dedicate ourselves to the Lord to be ready, watching for the soon coming of Christ. He will make everything new and right. While we wait for Him to return, let us pray for the needs of this world. Paul says to pray, “For kings, and all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.” (I Tim. 2:2).

My desire is to be like Jesus. How about you? He will have a bride that is like Him, having let the Word of God work in her life all the attributes of our precious Lord Jesus. He is the Lamb, and she will be Lamb-like. Praise the Lord!

Have Faith In God

Have faith in God

For by your side, unseen, walks One divine;
Whose hand hath fashioned mountains high
And set the bounds of sea and sky;
Whose power is thine.

Have faith in God

Whose ear, attentive, notes the faintest prayer,
And in the quiet of the night
When all is still and stars are bright,
He still is there.

Have faith in God

Whose ceaseless vigil o'er our world still keeps;
In desert sands and trackless maze,
No deed escapes His piercing gaze
He never sleeps.

Have faith in God

For He your peace and confidence shall be;
For those who walk in shadows chill
He too shall walk beside them still;
“Fear not,” says He.

Have faith in God

When troubles come, and you are sore distressed;
Seek Him who said, “Come unto Me
All ye who heavy laden be,
And take My rest.

Have faith in God

When youth is gone and friends have passed away;
The slowing step, the faint, the feeble,
Renew their strength, mount as the eagle
In that Glad Day.

ROMANS

W. J. Franklin



Chapter 6:11-17

RECKONING DEAD

“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord”—V.11. This verse gives us the part of faith. “Likewise reckon.” The word “Reckon” is the same word used in Rom. 4 where we read that righteousness in “Imputed” to us. We count the death of another to be our death. Just as God reckoned righteousness to us who had none, so, though we did not actually die, we reckon that we died in the death of another. If we had actually died, if this were experience, we would not have to reckon. God counts our death real in our Substitute, and calls on us to reckon with Him. Faith says, “Yes, Lord. I died, and I am also alive in Christ Jesus.”

We are never called on to die. We are never told to die out to self or to sin. The death that God recognizes is the one in which we died with Christ. We need never seek or pray for that which has already taken place. Here, we read not of blood shed for guilt, but of a death in which we died. There is a vast difference in the truth of Christ’s death for me, for my guilt, and my death with Him. His death was my death, but also, His life is my life, and I am to reckon myself alive unto God in Him.

Jesus died for my guilt, and believing this, I am freed from the guilt and penalty of sin. But for victory, it is just as important to see, that not only my sins went to the cross, but I also went to the cross. All that I was by nature, all the terrible depths of a sinful heart that can be seen or regretted are not to be taken into our account. They are to be reckoned dead, and

there will be no self-condemnation or deploring of the depth of guilt. It was there in our heart, and the old man is still there, but Jesus took and removed the guilt and cancelled the power of sin. It is no longer I that live but Christ liveth in me. Hallelujah!

LET NOT SIN REIGN

“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof”—V. 12. The word translated “Reign” means to possess regal authority, to be a king, to rule or govern. This shows the place sin had in our lives before we were saved, and what it can do to us now if we permit it to reign in our lives. Note the same word in I Cor. 4:8, where it is translated, “Reigned as kings” without us. Sin, iniquity and lawlessness or wickedness are regarded as our past masters—Vs. 12, 19. God and righteousness are regarded as our present masters—Vs. 13,19. We learn from the Gr. Pronoun translated “It” that it is the body we are not to obey. The word “Sin” is a feminine noun, and would have such pronoun, but the word for “Body” is a neuter noun, and the pronoun agrees with it in gender, and not with the word, “Sin.” The sin finds its expression through the body, that is, the sin in us, expresses itself by using the members of our bodies. Therefore, we are told not to obey the body in its impure or irregular desires.

Inasmuch as Paul had stated earlier that “Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin,” and again, “Where there is no law, there is no transgression,” and still again, “Sin is not imputed where there is no law.” By the above statement that we are not under law, he places us in the place of none imputation. This would cause some to believe that they could take advantage of God’s grace, or sin with impunity.

Our old nature could not be subject to the law of God. However, God has given us a new nature, and teaches us in this chapter as to how to deal with the old nature. Our new nature

is completely free from law and does not need boundary lines or a binding code of ethics to hold it in check. Our new nature is absolutely free from the guilt and practice and power of sin. And as we learn to know, reckon and yield, the death sentence is reckoned effectually against the old man.

“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”—V. 13. The word “Yield” means, to place at the disposal of, to have in readiness, to present. The members are simply the individual parts of our bodies, as the hands, feet or tongue. See Matt. 5:29,30 where the same word is used. “Instruments” means, arms, armor or weapons either for offensive or defensive warfare. One can lend his members to sin, either hands, feet, eyes or the tongue for gossip, lying or murmuring. These should at all times be God’s instruments, never sin’s weapons.

“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace”—V. 14. The poet sang, “Death has lost its terrors, sin has lost its power. Through the Lamb once offered, all the curse is over.” To be “Under law” is to be in the place of a creature with a duty God-ward. It means an obedience springing from fear. It also means that a man owes a complete obedience to the law, something that no man can or ever could render. It means also, that a man is under a curse because he can’t observe the law. In deed, law gave sin its strength—I Cor. 15:56. It helped the sin, not the sinner. Under law, sin had strength, was imputed, was transgression. We under grace are in the place where we are “Blessed,” because the Lord will not impute sin to us.

To be “Under grace” means to be in the place of fullest favor. It means that we have received righteousness as a gift, and it has been imputed to us. It means that the curse is gone, and that sin’s power is broken. It also means that a man is accepted in the Beloved, and need not be continually

disappointed in himself, as he should expect nothing from himself. It means that in God's provision, teaching and desire, the believer need not yield to sin, but power is provided through truth and the Spirit to free him completely from its dominion.

Grace, and grace alone can break the power of sin that it should not still hold the life in complete subjection. Law helps sin. Grace helps the sinner. Law strengthened sin. Grace enables the sinner. Law would blot the sinner out. Grace blots the sin out. Thank God we are not under law, but under grace.

“What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid”—V. 15. Law commanded us to walk thus and so, but gave us no legs to walk on. Grace gives us the ability to walk. While God will be merciful to our unrighteousnesses, it is always keenly displeasing to Him for us to permit sin to rule us. Let us say you become displeased with someone. You take the liberty to speak evil of him, gossip about him, put him in a bad light just because you know God will forgive you. This is taking advantage of God's grace, and Paul's thought is “God forbid” that it be. Banish the thought of practicing such things.

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey: whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”—V. 16. Death can ensue when the child of God yields to sin. See Rom. 8:13. This, of course, for us, would be physical death as a chastening judgment from God. Not spiritual death nor the second death.

“But God be thanked that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered”—V. 17. R. V. The King James Version makes Paul thank God that they were servants of sin. The R.V. corrects this. They were servants to sin, but not so any more. They were delivered to a form of doctrine or teaching. This was to mold and form their lives to a full

Christian form in their conduct before God. They obeyed it from the heart, and there is no other kind of obedience that can be owned of God.



The Mind Of Christ In Me

May the mind of Christ our Savior,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and power controlling
All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His power.

May the love of Jesus fill me,
As the waters fill the sea,
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.

May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.

May His beauty rest upon me
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only Him.

K.B.W.

Testimony

by **Mary L. Phinney**

Last spring I went for a complete physical, and discussed with my doctor the fact that I hadn't seen an eye doctor in nearly 10 years! She recommended that I do that very soon, so I made the appointment, which happened last December 4. I mentioned to him that occasionally when I'm hiking I have experienced a brief time of blurred vision, but other wise everything was fine. He promptly sent me for an ultrasound test of the carotid arteries!

The result: 85-90% blockage of the interior branch of the right carotid! They wanted to immediately put me on a strong blood thinner, but I refused. NOTE: A doctor in my church tells me that they don't have any medicine at this time that will dissolve the plaque, once it forms. Anyway, having been brought up in the Kansas City Tabernacle, I was taught to not trust doctors or their medicine, but to pray. After a brief period in shock. I recalled this teaching, and requested prayer from many different sources.

Meanwhile, they sent me to a specialist in Grand Junction, who requested an MRI. This test was done about 3 weeks after the first one, and before I'd taken any medication. It showed only a 40% blockage!! A further ultrasound in Grand Junction in mid-March confirmed this reading. Yes, I'm now taking blood thinners and a medicine to lower cholestrol, but after the second test the doctor says I can quit the blood thinners.

Skeptics could say that the folks at the local hospital who did the first test were hopelessly inept, but I don't believe they were THAT far off! I believe that my Heavenly Father answers prayer, and that He intervened on my behalf! All glory goes to

Him. I am continually in awe of His faithfulness to His children, and I'm writing this to encourage all those who may be tempted to doubt. **PRAISE THE LORD!!!**



A Quiet Heart

*O Lord, give me a quiet heart—
So oft my heart is filled with fear;
I need the peace Thou canst impart;
I need to feel that Thou art near.*

*Help me to walk by faith each day.
Though shadows hide the path from view;
Give me a quiet heart, I pray
To trust Thee as Thou bid'st me do.*

*I cannot see the journey's end,
I know not what lies just ahead;
But, oh I have a Heav'nly Friend
Who knows the path my feet must tread.*

*So now, my heart, be still and trust,
Although thou canst not see the way:
For He who formed thee from the dust
Wilt lead thee on from day to day.*

*A quiet heart – a quiet heart,
From which are banished doubts and fears;
Oh Lord, give me a quiet heart
That trusts Thee for the coming years.*

–W. M. N.

A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS

By Arthur Eggers

2 Corinthians 6 & 7

These two chapters go together. Chapter 6 shows the outward separation of the priest, while chapter 7 is their inward separation. Chapter 6 begins with the priest's identification with the High Priest as co-workers or partners with one purpose. This is the reason we have received the grace of God and we don't want our resource to become empty.

In verse 2 Paul quotes from Isaiah 49:8 "Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritage." Without doubt this is talking about the Messiah as one who has shown the grace of God in behalf of sinners, and will continue until His kingdom is over. As saints of this age we are a part of His heavenly kingdom and should act as kings and priests unto Christ.

In the Old Testament one could tell the priest by their clothing, so today you can tell a priest by his outward habits. In verses 4-10 we read of his willingness to suffer without murmuring, he simply takes it as being a part of his duties as a minister of God. In verses 11-13 it is a challenge to all saints to be this way. We are all called to minister as priests, not with the same duties but the same responsibilities.

Then the rest of this chapter teaches total outward separation. That is No fellowship, concord, part or agreement can we have with anything that opposes our Christ our High Priest. The word for "concord" means to sound together and the English word "symphony" comes from this, so many of God's people are in tune with the world. Ephesians 5:11 "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but

rather reprove them.” How much fellowship? Not even a little. 1 Corinthians 1:9 “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.” Our fellowship is wholly given to God’s Son and with other saints with the same attitude. 1 John 1:6 “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth”.

In verse 16, the reason of our separation is we are the temple of the living God, He dwells in us. He is our light and love, so this is what should come forth from us. Lastly He wants to be our God and us His people. (He is a jealous God). The only thing He ask from the priest is separation from anything unclean thing.

Leviticus 5:2 “Or if a soul (person) touch any unclean thing, whether it be a carcase of an unclean beast, or a carcase of unclean cattle, or the carcase of unclean creeping things, and if it be hidden from him; he also shall be unclean, and guilty.” There are lists of unclean things that they could not do, eat or touch, but for us the blood of Christ has made us clean and because of the law of love we do not want to defile ourselves of the world.

What is unclean to us? Any thing that is not of faith is sin. Romans 14:14 “I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.” Leviticus 10:10 “And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean.” From these scriptures we can see that God wants total separation for His priests.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Now we will look at the inward separation of the priest. With all the wonderful promises we have there is only one thing to do, and that is to cleanse ourselves from anything that would defile us outwardly or inwardly, bringing Christ’s holiness to a completion. Paul was compelled to take action

when a man took his father's wife into adultery. 1 Corinthians 5:5 "To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." Notice it is that the spirit may be saved or His inward behavior. This separation brought sorrow that brought repentance that worked deliverance ending in fellowship with everyone rejoicing. When our inward desires are clean we feel clean all over. Verse 15 "And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him." Praise God that the attitude of their obedience changed this man's life.



The Weaver

*My life is but a weaving
Between my Lord and me,
I cannot choose the colors
He worketh steadily.*

*Ofttimes He weaveth sorrow,
And I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper
And I, the underside.*

*Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Shall God unroll the canvas
And explain the reason why.*

*The dark threads are as needful
In the Weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.*

Author Unknown

Jeremiah 29

Part 22 (vs 18)

Debra Isenbletter



In **verse 18** *Judgment Continues*, and we see *His Tools of Persecution, Their Dispersal and Man's four-fold View of Them*.

His Tools of Persecution: “*And I will persecute them with the sword, with the famine and with the pestilence.*” “*Persecute*” comes from the root “*to run after,*” i.e. “*to chase, to put to flight, to hunt, to pursue, to scatter.*” When Abraham heard that Lot was taken captive, “*he armed his trained servants and pursued (persecuted) them.*” (Gen 14:14) The Lord said, “*I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after (persecute) them.*” (Ex 14:4). The Lord is showing that these three tools (*sword, famine, pestilence*) **will follow** God's people into whatever country or land they flee to. The definitions of “*persecute*” reflect different stages or degrees of judgment, showing **there is no rest**.

They will be “*put to flight*” by circumstances and other nations: this is persecution. They will be “*driven away*” from a place of safety and refuge: this is persecution. They will be “*scattered*” into every nation and country: this is persecution, and they will be “*pursued*” to the next place of safety and “*put to fight*” and again it begins, an endless cycle of persecution. The lesson they will learn during these years of persecution is that there is no place to hide, there is no refuge that man can provide, it is not until they learn that the Lord is their refuge (Ps 9:9) that they will have any rest and peace. These three tools reflect the attitude of the nations towards God's people down through the centuries. They are driven from place to place, and only find a temporary security until the next wave of persecution.

Notice that the three **tools in persecution** are the same as His **tools in judgment**. The continued use of these three show that judgment will be continual and unceasing. His judgment will follow them into whatever country they go and eventually the nations will turn against them. Their rebellion against the Lord stirs up the rebellion of the nations and the world is in a constant state of turmoil. Each generation will experience the “*sword*” or “*war*” in their lifetime. Wars will be fought because of them and against them. Each generation will experience “*famine*,” or some form of deprivation in the land they have fled to. Each generation will see “*pestilence*” or some sort of affliction upon the land or upon man. In each instance the world will blame God’s people for these judgments and they will continue their persecution.

Their Dispersion: “*and will deliver them to be removed to all the kingdoms of the earth.*” The **first part** of His judgment is seen in that He is the one who is behind what happens to them, the Lord says, “*and I will deliver (appoint, give, allow)*” this is what He does. The Lord will “give” them to the nations and “allow” all that they do. He “appoints” them to a time of judgment or chastisement.

The **second part** of His judgment is seen in what He allows the nations to do to His people, they are “*to be removed to all the kingdoms of the earth.*” To “remove” speaks of “agitation, oppression, and maltreatment.” The nations through their persecution will cause a “shaking” and “agitation” among God’s people. They will “remove” from God’s people any thoughts of peace and the Lord will “remove” from the nations His restraints so that they will “oppress” and “mistreat” them. The things that the Lord has “appointed” them to may seem negative but the results will be positive, and just so for our lives.

There are some things that the Lord has “appointed” for us such as afflictions (I Thess 3:3) and though this seems negative the results can be positive. In contrast to that

appointment is the fact that the Lord says He has not “appointed us to wrath” (I Thess 5:9). It’s interesting that in **the appointment to afflictions** the word “appoint” means “*to lie outstretched*” - a picture of the one who willingly submits. But the **appointment to wrath** means “*to place in this posture, to be utterly prostrate,*” there the Lord forces those into that position because they will not willingly submit to Him. What a difference between the results of willing submission and unwilling submission.

Man’s View of Them: Man’s view of them is **four-fold**, they are “to be a **curse** and an **astonishment**, and an **hissing** and a **reproach.**” Here are four stages or levels of contempt that the nations manifest as they view God’s people. **First** an “*astonishment*” by the nations, who are shocked by their fall. They ask, “*Why hath the Lord done thus unto ... this land?*” (2 Chron 7:19-22). **Second** a “*hissing*” or mockery where the nations take pleasure in their destruction. They go in their attitude from “*astonishment*” to “*mockery.*” **Third** a “*reproach*” and they are scorned and treated with contempt. The word “reproach” comes from “*to expose (as by stripping),*” “*to defame, to scorn.*” As the nations view their pitiful condition and as time goes on and judgments go on they will view them with contempt. They have been “stripped” of everything, exposed to the world with no defense and those that see this react and they become a “reproach.” Nehemiah saw this reproach continuing after 70 years and it grieved his heart (Neh 1:3) and he reminded God’s people that this very “reproach” should be incentive to change their walk (Neh 5:6-9). Finally, the **fourth** attitude is as time goes on they themselves become a “*curse,*” in other words their very name becomes linked with judgment. But there will come a time when the nations will no longer see them in this way, they will eventually become a blessing (Zech 8:13) and through them the nations will be blessed.

COUNSEL, THOUGHTS AND WILL

Bob Briner

In Isaiah 8:9-10 we read these words to the Assyrians concerning their plans to invade Judah. “Devise a plan, but it will be thwarted; state a proposal, but it will not stand, **for God is with us**” (NASB). “Thwart” means to oppose successfully. God’s purposes are irresistible.

2 Cor. 2:14, “Wherever I go, thank God, He makes my life a constant pageant of triumph in Christ” (Moffit). And Romans 8:31, “If God be for us, who can be against us?” The same in any translation. Also Isaiah 54:17, “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper...” No matter what our enemies plan for us, God has a greater plan.

Psalms 33:10, “The Lord blocks the plans of the nations. He frustrates the schemes of the people of the world” (God’s Word trans.) He thwarts the plans of the enemies of God. He opposes successfully. The tower of Babel is a good illustration. Gen. 11:4, “Let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach into heaven; and let us make us a name.” God had another plan. “Let Us go down and confound their language.” He did and they scattered all over the face of the earth. That’s why different areas have different languages. If they couldn’t understand one another, they couldn’t scheme.

In 2 Kings 11, God thwarts the plans of another enemy. A woman named Athaliah tries to destroy the royal seed. One named Joash is taken and hidden for over 6 yrs. When he is seven years old he begins a forty year reign. God’s plan was for the seed of David to always occupy the throne. 1 Kings 9:5.

Again, God thwarts (Matthew 26:1-5), “They consulted that they might kill Jesus.” Little did they know that they were carrying out the plan of the Father. Note Verse 5, “Not on the feast day.” Contrary to their plans, and in accordance with the Father’s plan, Jesus dies on the feast day, the passover! Man proposes but God disposes. Jesus had to die on the passover because He was the passover. 1 Cor. 5:7, “Christ, our passover, is sacrificed for us.” John 1:29, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world.”

This was in accordance with God’s plan from eternity past (all His plans are from eternity past). Revelation 13:8, “The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” The word foundation means ‘conception or beginning.’

Never will finite minds (like ours) ever be able to comprehend the infinite mind of God. “For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.” – 1 Cor. 13:12.

A Persian poet named Omar Knyyam, centuries ago, tried to write of the infinite. He wrote about eternity in a poem that was called “One day in eternity.” It goes something like this: A very little bird flies to the edge of the ocean and lands on a very large rock. He does this once every one hundred years. Each time he comes, the bird sharpens his beak on this very same rock. When this little bird has worn this large rock completely away, that will be one day in eternity. And that’s definitely an understatement. God formed His plans for us even farther back than this. He’s never changed them nor backed away from them.

Job 42:1-2, “I know that you can do everything and that your plans are unstoppable.” Jeremiah 32:17, “There is nothing too hard for thee.” Jesus once told His disciples that it was easier

for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. They ask Him then, “Who can be saved?” He tells them, “With God, all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26.

Psalms 40:5, “You have done many miraculous things, O Lord my God. You have made many wonderful plans for us. No one compares to you! I will tell others about your miracles, which are more than I can count.” I think of the song, ‘There are moments when words are not sufficient.’ “How precious also are thy thoughts (plans) unto me. How great is the sum of them” – Psalm 139:17. “From the beginning, I revealed the end. From long ago I told you things that had not happened, saying, “My plan will stand, and I’ll do everything I intended to do” – Isaiah 46:9-10.

In Romans 4:17 we read that “God calleth those things that be not as though they were.” There still remains much unfulfilled prophecies. But we know what to expect and look for. 1 Thess. 5:1, “But of the times and the seasons, ye have no need that I write unto you.” We know His plans by His prophetic Word. Acts. 15:18, “Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world.”

Gamaliel’s advice to the Sanhedrin was to keep away from the apostles, leave them alone. “If this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it...”

Paul in Acts 20:27 told the Ephesian elders, “I didn’t avoid telling you the whole plan of God.” He did see things he couldn’t talk about when he was caught up into the third heaven. Things that were unspeakable and unlawful for him to talk about. He was given strong persuasion not to tell. 2 Cor: 12:1-4.

Paul revealed the plans of God as God revealed them to him. Romans 1:15-16, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation.” The only way others will know God’s plan is if we tell them. Romans. 15:20, “Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel.” 1 Cor. 9:16, “Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel.” 1 Thess. 2:4, “But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak.”

Eph. 3:11, “This was God’s plan for all of history which He carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.” Read the plan, Verses 1-10. God has no plans outside of Jesus Christ. Romans 11:36, “Of him, through Him, and to Him are all things. John 1:3, “All things were made by Him.” Heb. 11:3, “The worlds were framed by the Word of God.” The margin says, ‘ages were planned.’

Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you!!!

Crossings

*I came to the swift, raging river,
And the roar held the echo of fear;
“Oh, Lord, give me wings to fly over,
If you are, as you promised, quite near.”*

*But He said, “Trust the grace I am giving,
All-pervasive, sufficient for you.
Take My hand—We will face this together;
But My plan is—not over, but through.”*

—Lee Webber