

Glorious Gospel Publication



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A GOOD REPORT

Part 3



Who hath believed? To whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? Isa. 53:1. By **believing**, challenging differences are produced in hearts and lives. There are steps, or stages of **becoming** more like Him, while walking in intimate fellowship with Him, knowing him better along the way. So with **believing** comes revelation, and with **becoming**, that is divine transformation, and **being**, is his consummation that is His finished work. So there is to be focus for progress, development, that is growth upward into Christ, in all things.

In Philippians 4:4,6-7 “Rejoice in the Lord alway; and again I say, Rejoice...Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

These overcoming believers were urged to rejoice in the Lord always, and be careful for nothing, not because their circumstances were favorable; but because the **Lord is at hand**, His return is eminent, and anything that was sufficient to cause anxiety could best be handled with prayer and thanksgiving, which God enjoys. That we, be comforted with tranquility of spirit, that only God can give. He guards with His peace keeping force to stand watch over our inner life, hearts, will, mind and affections. See Col. 3:15,16. True believers are admonished to let the peace rule in our hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body and be ye thankful. Let the word of

Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom: “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Him.” Isa. 26:3.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

PHILPPIANS. 4:8- 9

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things.”

We find herein elements related to a good report. May we not also find herein an ocean of our Father’s good pleasure and treasures of His goodness? As we closely consider these **“whatsoevers,”** Let us whole-heartedly trust our Lord to make them a living reality in our life and living. While we are believing His good report, we may behold His mighty arm in heart revelation. Searching the Scriptures we do well to allow them to search us. God’s Word would give us an elevated focus to change our behavior, elevate our walk, revealing our trail, making wise unto deliverance. See 2 Tim. 3:12-17. Although this is more than a catalogue for good thinking, it seems to be an inclusive catalogue of interrelated categories.

The characteristics of the Christ life being formed in us, is to become more dominate, and more evident as the Christ life develops by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is working the Word effectually, as we are daily walking with Jesus in His transforming light. God’s marvelous hand is changing us by His grace unto His glory. Our part is to trust, yield, and obey by faith **His true report**, counting on His almighty arm. We are mainly to stay out of His way not trying to develop any of his work in us.

LET US PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER - AS WE TOUCH ON THESE LIGHTLY

“Whatsoever things are **true**” - is that which belongs to the nature of divine reality, not religious fantasy, nor fanatical assumptions.

“Whatsoever things are **Honest**” - Worthy of reverence.

“Whatsoever things are **just**” - That which in accord with God’s conception of right.

“Whatsoever things are **pure**” - That which is not mixed with elements that would debase.

“Whatsoever things are **lovely**” - That which inspires Love from above is most loveable. He, our Lord is altogether lovely.

“Whatsoever things are of **good report**” - That which is exempt from the opinion of unbelief, not obtaining any possible ground of appeal; true, gracious, winsome.

“If there be any **virtue**” - value, excellence, worthy of reward.

“If there be any **praise**” - acclaim, honor, exclamation of worthiness.

BEING A GOOD REPORT

Some times missteps are taken that may seem little, fleshly acts that may not seem to matter much, but our enemy, the accuser of the brethren is always spying out opportunity to accuse. Paul teaches us to not give occasion to our adversary to reproachfully speak of God and His servants, or cause our brother to stumble. Oh, Lord, keep us dependantly mindful that the Lord preserves us from such. Make us so tender-hearted toward our Lord and His people, so that we don’t hinder others spiritually no mater what the occasion. We each do well to fall upon the Lord for such things. God has provided that we **believe God’s report, give a good report**, and especially that we **be a good report**. Praise God!

GOD'S COMMENDATIONS

Oh what a joy, the prospects of receiving our Father's "Well Done." His arm having extended unto us immeasurable transformation, changing us from glory to glory. To think that once our carnal nature dominated our lives, our conduct, and now letting the life of Christ take over the throne and reign in us. No longer I, **but Christ**. He who was not only expended between heaven and earth and extended to us, but to live in us, and through us, reaching out to others, and back to God's glory.

HEB. 11 & 2

Oh, what of the arm of the Lord is being revealed? "By faith the elders obtained a good report...And these all, **having obtained a good report** through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." Heb. 11:39-40.

"But now they desire a better country, That is, an heavenly: wherefore **God is not ashamed to be called their God**: for He hath prepared for them a city." Heb. 11:16. See Heb. 2:11, Jesus is "...not ashamed to call them brethren."

"And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou **considered my servant Job**," Job 1:8. The Lord's arm is not just revealed to us, but about all He is doing in us and with us. It is truly wonderful what the Lord hath done. Glory to His name!

Phil. 4:9 "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." Paul has given personal examples prompting an active attitude for appreciating the presence of God.

J. D.

THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark



“ Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common (mutual) salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints” Jude 3.

There has been a body of truth (the faith) delivered to us from the beginning of the Church Age, when God revealed His truth and message to the apostles. They were faithful to give out this uncontaminated truth to all persons with whom they came in contact as the Holy Spirit led. Sadly, error began to creep in way back in the early church. Paul mentions this in several of his writings: Galatians; 2 Thess. 2:3; 3:14-15; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; I Tim 1:20; 6:3-5; 2 Tim 2:17-18; 4:10; Titus 1:9-13; and other places.

Now in these closing hours of the Church Age, there is much apostasy. “Apostasy” means to go away from revealed light. An example is the lack of teaching and belief of the believers being filled with the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking in tongues as in Acts 2. Another great truth that has been laid aside is eternal salvation by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. The majority of Christendom (all church groups) do not believe that the Bible teaches that we are saved by grace through faith without works of some kind. Some one asked why there are so many denominations, and different churches. The answer is that although it was not so in the beginning of the church, men began to interpret the Bible in various ways, adding to it a little here and there. This brought division and many various groups,

usually following a very charismatic person, who could with their words make people believe anything. If you study a little about how various sects were started, you will see, a little or big going away from certain doctrines or Scriptural practices. “God is not the author of confusion” I Cor. 14:33. Satan is “the father of lies.” He moves on men’s minds to go away from the truth. Usually there is the elevation of a particular person who has such a magnetic personality that he can move people to follow along blindly wherever he leads them.

In these last days we see error rampant. Jude warned in (Jude 11), “Woe to them! For they have gone after the way of Cain.” The “way of Cain” was a bloodless religion. He was taught by God and his parents what would be an acceptable sacrifice to bring to God, but he chose to offer his vegetables, which he was proud of, and for which he had labored to produce. This error is claimed by the majority of religious groups today. There are various forms of this error, but basically, promoting self works, doing good to your fellow man, and not getting fanatical about religion. They class believers who believe that we are saved by the blood and sacrifice of Jesus as being members of a “slaughter house religion.” God was not pleased with Cain’s bloodless offering. He gave Cain a chance to offer the proper kind, (Gen. 4:7 Orig. “a sin offering lies at your door.”) Cain refused and ended up getting so angry at Abel, that he killed him.

Jude 11 further warns about these who, “... ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward.” Numbers 22-25 tells us about Balaam, who was hired by the King Balak of Moab to curse Israel. Even though Balaam tried with all his might, he was not able to curse God’s people. The error of Balaam that is mentioned in Jude 11, is that because Israel was a sinful people, he thought that surely God would want to curse them. There are many false teachers today who run greedily after this teaching. They condemn God’s people from the pulpit, judging

the shortcomings of others, accusing and trying to send God's people to hell. Doctrines along this line are seen Everywhere.

Two other phases of Balaam's sin against God and Israel are: "The Way of Balaam," which is preaching for hire, and the "doctrine of Balaam." Some ministers will negotiate a higher salary or invent ways to get more money for themselves and their organizations. If we think about this and remember recent headlines in the news, we will see that this disgrace is very prevalent in the world today.

The doctrine of prosperity, which is being taught by many is against what the word says about not being covetous and of the danger of being rich. I Timothy 6:5, Paul writes, "Perverse disputing of men of corrupt minds, destitute of the truth supposing that gain is godliness." One of these fellows, who is being investigated because of his great riches, said on national television that Jesus Christ was a rich man while here on earth. His reasoning was, "Why, He supported his entourage of twelve men, feeding and clothing them." He also said, "God allowed Abraham and others of his family to be rich. Why would He bring His Son into the world and make Him be poor?" What error and absurdity.

The "doctrine of Balaam, was that when he saw that he could not curse God's chosen people, he "taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the Children of Israel." (Rev. 2:14). Many Christians have failed in going after the world, the flesh and the devil.

Jude says that the apostles told the saints, "There should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual (fleshly), having not the Spirit." Ungodliness and sensuality is everywhere! The media has spread all manner of "ungodly

lusts” to the viewers right in the home. According to Readers Digest March ‘08 issue, “Today almost eight in ten prime-time shows contain, sexual content, with an average of nearly six sex-related scenes per hour.” Many adolescents yield to peer pressure to be sexuality active, after all, their favorite TV star or favorite singer is immoral. Children’s consciences are “seared” by nudity and sex seen on the TV, as well as violence. Christian parents need to be aware of what is going on in this world today. Times are different than when we were teens. But, one thing we know, - our God is the same, and He can protect and deliver our children. The victory is only through much prayer.

How much longer can the world go on as it is? There is increasing evil and violence, unusual weather and earthquakes in various places, disease and sickness, wars and insurrections in many places, genocide of races of people, and God’s saints suffering persecution and death. Look up Child Of God! Lift up your eyes! Christ’s appearing will come right on time. We will soon hear the shout and the trump of our Lord to come up there. (I Thess 4:13-18.)

EXAMPLES FROM THE PAST

Orville Freestone Jr.

MOSES- HE CHOSE TO SUFFER

**“Moses chose to suffer with the people of God - Heb.
11:25.**

When Moses was born, the Israelites were an oppressed and enslaved people. Pharaoh ordered that all the male babies of the Hebrews be killed, thus beginning the many attempts at the destruction of this people, the first such “genocide.” (Exodus chapter 2) The importance of Moses cannot be overestimated. After three thousand five hundred years his influence is strong in Judaism, Christianity and Western civilization. Of what other person can this be said?

Moses was a fully bi-cultural man. From his Hebrew mother he learned his “mother tongue” and faith. As “the son of Pharaoh’s daughter” he “was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and deeds.” (Acts 7:22) What were his accomplishments as an Egyptian prince is not told. We can safely venture that it included both military and government careers. These were abilities that he later used in leading Israel. As to his character, we see that he had compassion for the oppressed. (Exodus 2) In Numbers 12:3 we read a parenthetical statement, probably inserted later by another, that “the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.” This is not what we would expect of a prince or high government official. The word meek does not mean weak! Its opposite is proud and haughty. This is the account of the first third of Moses’ life.

At the age of forty he had a “mid-life crisis.” How could he, a Hebrew, separate himself from his own people and their suffering. But though he would identify with his people, they would not accept him. Thus, “by faith” he spent the next forty years as an exile. The first forty years of his life were determined for him by Providence. The rest of his life was determined by his decisions! We read (Heb. 11:24-28) of **his decisions of faith**. “He **refused** to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.” He **chose** “rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.” He “**esteemed** the reproach of Christ of greater riches than the treasures in Egypt.” He “**had respect** unto the recompense of the reward.” He “**forsook** Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king.” These five decisions not only determined Moses’ future, but also equipped him for the future. Not a lot is told about his life on the “backside of the desert..” (Exodus 3:1) Away from the pomp and glitter of Egypt, God could talk to him. Like Paul, he knew how to be abased as well as how to abound - Phil. 4:12. As a result, he “saw Him who is invisible.”

The final third of Moses’ life was spent leading his people from Egypt to Canaan, from bondage to freedom. It took thirty days to take Israel out of Egypt, but forty years to take Egypt out of Israel! He is forever known as the great Lawgiver. The Torah was the legacy he left to Israel. The word Torah means much more than law. It is true that the New Testament phrase “the Law” usually means what the word law means to us and refers to the 613 commandments of the Torah. In Hebrew the word Torah means instruction. It also means the Word of God. (Psalm 119:21). The Torah was a great revelation of God to Israel, leading them to the revelation of God in Christ. (Gal. 3:24) Moses is an example to us of the power of our decisions. Every person’s life is the sum total of all one’s decisions.

Beloved, let us love. . .

by Doug Delhay

Part 2

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.” 1 John 4:7

As was emphasized at the close of the previous chapter, **our only hope is the love of God as manifest in Christ Jesus.** We must embrace to an ever-increasing degree that the separation that existed between us as hopeless sinners and the Almighty God was an utterly impossible gulf for us to span. We must grow in our understanding how utterly dependent we were, and are, upon the faithful love of God in order to possess and maintain life. As our practical (or experiential) dependence upon this reality grows, our spiritual lives will be deeply enriched, new vistas of the spiritual blessings opened to us through Christ Jesus the Lord will come into view, and our comprehension of the immense accomplishment of being transformed from “sinners” to “beloved” will redefine our previously held perceptions of the word “awe”.

“Beloved.” How can we measure the weight of this title? No other portion of all the vast physical or spiritual creation of God has ever borne this title. No other creature, no matter how graceful, beautiful, or intelligent has ever been addressed in such a manner by the Creator of all. None has earned such a name. None has claimed such a place of unspeakable nearness to the One from whom all blessings flow. It could be compared to the standing of a firstborn child of a new generation of a wealthy, influential family with roots buried deep in the historical structure of a great nation or kingdom. The child could not possibly begin to understand how great were the yearnings of the parents, grandparents, or even great-grandparents in the years leading up to the day of his

birth. All of the wealth, power, and fruitful laborings of previous generations await this child's readiness to aspire to the same visions and goals held for decades, if not centuries. Yet, the child is totally oblivious to the value found in his last name, or what potential awaits him.

Ephesians 1:3 – *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”*

“Beloved.” How do we define the meaning of this title? The word simply means to be the object of the love that emanates from the one who loves. It does not necessarily mean that the beloved one has responded to that love in any way. It does not imply that the beloved one shares the same commitment to compassion or care. It is a title that expresses the intent or desires of the speaker only. The word is like the invitational opening of a beautiful gate to a private, well-established, walled garden prepared with intriguing pathways from which to explore yet unimagined scenes designed specifically for the object of his affections. Long and arduous has been the labor of the gardener. Extensive planning and anticipation of the day when the beloved one would enter that gate has clearly filled the heart and mind of the architect of the plush landscape. The air filled with the sounds of rustling leaves and gurgling water pools, and the aromas of the carefully selected flowers mixing expertly to enrapture the heart of the beloved. The mixture of colors of every variation dance before the eyes of the dear one that still stands outside the gate, pondering what it all could possibly mean. Everything is so new and exciting, yet so ancient in age. And it awaits, yet unexplored. Isaiah 64:4 – *“For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.”* But the apostle Paul reveals that now these things *“yea, the deep things of God”* are opened to us by the Spirit if we will receive them (I Corinthians 2:12).

“Beloved.” How do we comprehend such a title extended prehistorically to such an undeserving creature? Only the

One who knows the end from the beginning, and is the Author and Fulfiller of the covenant of faith could possibly penetrate the impossible barriers that would come between two oppositional realms. The title "Beloved" is scattered like seed upon the hearts of all mankind and the soil into which it is received varies with each individual being. The very Spirit of God plies each conscience and wisdom cries in the gate of each earthly tabernacle. Proverbs 8:4 – *"Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man."* Remembering that we are but dust and that we are blinded by sin, our Savior from afar yields Himself to a holy, divine strategy that is greater in depth of love than what we can possibly know. Never before and never again, but once for all time would the Christ fulfill such a role, and gloriously display such boundless mercy and grace that sufficiently spans time and eternity to regain the lost to their intended place. His act cries out to the world, "Beloved! Beloved!" Signs have been given, great works have provided evidence, miracles have filled the earth, prophecies have been fulfilled, evangelists have borne the message to the most remote regions, and the Gospel has been preached without fail for 2000 years. The intent of God could not be better known if it were written by His very hand across a clear, blue sky. The calling, "Beloved", lies upon the soil of the hearts of all mankind and tenderly awaits a final reception or rejection.

"Beloved." How can we innumerate the value of such a title? The redemptive work of the beloved Son has extended the very wealth of His Name like a blanket to cover and protect His lambs. They are now His forever and nothing is able to separate them again from His love. II Corinthians 8:9 – *"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."* And our inherited favor, though provisionally ours at this time, can only be truly partaken of as we dwell with Him in the realm of the spirit. *"That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."* (Ephesians 2:7) Measured time and physical space, no matter how vast, will

not suffice the revelation of the grace of the One who spoke them into existence. Neither can a single painting nor an entire gallery filled with the life work of an artist fully reveal his heart and mind. So immense in implication is this title “Beloved”, that its borders will never be reached, its wealth never be exhausted, and its pleasures never be fully realized though they be fully given. The wealth is not measured in units of dollars, or acres, or antiquity, or power, or ownership, but in proximity of relationship, worship, interaction, and love. This wealth is purely spiritual, a realm that we cannot now measure, though our souls tingle with a sense of knowing.

“Beloved.” How endless are the mysterious applications of this title to our each and every day. It sheds light upon our darkened way; it pours unlimited strength into our weakness; it instills courage in the most fearful heart; it brings an eternal youthfulness to the aged; it bestows genuine hope and peace upon situations that defy reason; it transforms tragic circumstances into the calmness of still waters with which we can refresh our souls. Being the “Beloved”, we have ready access to the armor of God by which we are enabled to withstand in any evil day (Ephesians 6:11-17). Because we are His beloved, we are more than conquerors over any other force, being, or dimension in all of time and eternity (Romans 8:35-39). There is not anything with any greater power than the love of God in “Christ Jesus our Lord.” Though there is evidence of black holes in the universe that are able to gobble up entire planets or solar systems, these must close their unquenchable mouths in the presence of the beloved of God and do them no harm.

Today we are the beloved of God. All day. Every day. We can only proceed in a deepening relationship with our Lord Jesus when we can sit and rest upon the promise vested in this fact. It is upon this immeasurable foundation that all else rests, for it realizes and relies upon the Rock of our salvation who, Himself, spanned that impossible gap between sin and righteousness.

EXERCISE THYSELF UNTO GODLINESS

By Verta Giddings

Webster's Dictionary says exercise means, "activity for the purpose of training or developing the body or mind, systematic practice, especially bodily exertion for the sake of health." This can include regular series of specific movements designed to strengthen or develop some parts of the body of some faculty. I Timothy 4:7-9 contrasts bodily exercise with godliness. Note the "little" and "all things." Also see "the life that now is" and "that which is to come." We clearly see which should receive the most attention. Godliness denotes a piety which is characterized by a Godward attitude which pleases God. I Tim. 2:2-4,10; 3:16; 6:3-5,11; II Tim. 3:5; Titus 1:1. "Exercise" is used by the Apostle Paul in Acts 24:16. Our senses are to be exercised - Heb. 5:11-14. Chastening exercises the believer for good - Heb. 12:11. Under-shepherds are to exercise oversight of the flock - I Pet. 5:2.

SOME FORMS OF SPIRITUAL EXERCISE:

WAITING:

Isa. 40:28-31. Other promises to those who wait can be found in Psa. 25:3; 27:14; 37:7; 40:1; 62:5; Isa. 30:18;49:23.

The remnant of Israel will be glad they waited for their Messiah - Isa. 25:9; 26:8. Habakkuk prophesied they were to wait for the vision - Hab. 2:3.

The disciples were told to wait for the promise of the Holy Ghost - Acts 1:4.

We are to wait for the redemption of the body - Rom. 8:25.

In the meantime we are to wait on our ministry - Rom. 12:7.

We wait (patiently we trust) for Jesus' coming - I Cor. 1:7.

SITTING:

Abraham was sitting in the right place - Gen. 18:1. By contrast, Lot, his nephew, sat in the gate of Sodom - Gen. 19:1. Sitting (Strong's concordance) means "To settle, to dwell, to remain."

Never should we sit in the seat of the scornful - Ps. 1:1.

Mephibosheth, though lame, sat and ate always at King David's table (a privileged place) - II Sam. 9:10.

The Shulamite sat under HIS shadow with great delight - Song of Sol. 2:3.

Ruth the Moabitess was told by her mother-in-law, Naomi, to sit still to know how the matter will fall - Ruth 3:18.

Mary, sat at Jesus' feet and heard His Word - Luke 10:38-42.

Two disciples aspired to sit close to Jesus in His kingdom - Mt. 20:20-23. Who will have that place?

120 believers were sitting, waiting for the promise of the Father - Acts 2:2.

A company of people will sit on thrones in heaven - Rev. 4:4.

STANDING:

This can mean being in an upright position, also can carry the meaning of enduring, standing firm, being steadfast. Abraham stood before the Lord - Gen. 18:22. This is also said of Elisha - II Kings 3:14. What a privilege! Not all can **stand before** Him - Ps. 1:5; 5:5; Mal. 3:2.

Some of God's people were told to "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord - Ex. 14:13; II Chron. 20:17.

There is a "standing in awe" of God - Ps. 4:4; 33:8.

Some are able to "stand in the gap" - Ezek. 22:30.

New Testament standing:

Stand in grace - Rom. 5:2; I Pet. 5:12.

Stand in the gospel - I Cor. 15:1.

Stand fast in the faith - I Cor. 16:13; II Cor. 1:24.

Stand fast in liberty - Gal. 5:1.

Stand against the wiles of the devil - Eph. 6:11.

Stand clothed in the whole armour of God - Eph. 6:13.

Stand fast in one spirit and one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel - Phil. 1:27.

Stand fast in the Lord. Phil. 4:1; I Thess. 3:8.

Stand perfect and complete in all the will of God - Col. 4:12.

Stand fast and hold the traditions (of Paul) - II Thess. 2:15.

KNEELING:

This is the act of one imploring aid.

A call to worship - Ps. 95:6.

King Solomon assumed this position when dedicating the temple - I Kings 8:54.

Daniel was found on his knees three times a day - Dan. 6:10.

Peter prayed on his knees in a critical time - Acts 9:40.

Saints prayed on their knees when bidding Paul "good bye" - Acts 20:36; 21:5.

The Apostle Paul prayed in this way, for the Ephesians - Eph. 3:14.

Some day, every knee shall bow to our Lord - Rom. 14:11; Phil. 2:9-11.

WALKING:

The meaning is often that of having the right or the wrong behavior. A right walk with God comes as a result of waiting upon Him - Isa. 40:31.

Enoch walked with God and God took him - Gen. 5:22,24.

God told Abraham to walk before Him and be perfect - Gen. 17:1. These were steps of faith - Rom. 4:12; Ps. 37:23.

God will walk with us through our trials - Isa. 43:2; Dan. 3:25.

This walk is in newness of life - Rom. 6:4.

It is to be an honest walk - Rom. 13:13.

It is truly a walk of faith - II Cor. 5:7.

We are admonished to walk in the Spirit - Gal. 5:16.

There are seven walks in Ephesians, some are of the old way and some of the new - Eph. 2:2,10; 4:1,17; 5:2,8,15.

There are four in Colossians - Col. 1:10; 2:6; 3:7; 4:5.

We can walk and please God - I Thess. 4:1.

A walk in light and truth can be ours - I Jn. 1:7; II Jn. 4.

RUNNING:

Running indicates the need of swiftness, of haste, of effort. When we wait on the Lord, we can run and not be weary. This is because we have renewed strength - Isa. 40:31.

We are not saved, of course, because of strenuous activity, but rather, because of God's mercy - Rom. 9:16.

The Lord does the drawing, we do the running - S. of Sol. 1:4.

The race course is set before us in I Cor. 9:24-27. We run to obtain the PRIZE of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus -

Phil. 3:7-16. This Prize is Jesus Himself, our Bridegroom. We

run with patience the race set before us, because we are looking unto Jesus, the Author, and Finisher of our faith - Heb. 12:1-

2. Some start out running well, but get off the track, at times

because of false teaching - Gal. 5:7. The Apostle Paul had this

urgent desire to finish his course with joy, and to fulfill his

God-given ministry - Acts 20:24. We have his personal

testimony that he did so - II Tim. 4:6-8. Paul faithfully held

forth the Word of Life, that he might rejoice in the day of

Christ, that he had not run in vain, nor labored in vain - Phil.

2:16. We have a message to proclaim, the message of "The just

shall live by faith." We can run with this message - Hab. 2:2;

Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38. Let us be sure we have the

right message when we start running with it. We need to know

the facts - II Sam. 18:19-32.

MOUNTING UP:

This means to increase, to climb, to go up, to ascend. We, too,

can mount up with wings as Eagles - Isa. 40:31. this can mean

overcoming here and now. We can be eagle saints. More than

anything this can mean we will ascend to heaven at the sound

of the first trump. Rev. 4:1-2.

The Book of Daniel

Chapter 4



Vs. 1-3 - We find in this chapter that God gave Nebuchadnezzar another dream. Nebuchadnezzar is telling about it after it happened. He is giving **a testimony to the world** (all people that dwell on all the earth) about how God dealt with him and that **God is able to change people, nations, anything.** We notice right off that a real change has taken place, for his benediction is, “peace be multiplied unto you.” Peter and Jude give this same benediction and they were writers of a kingdom message and of the later times. So Nebuchadnezzar’s benediction goes along with this and brings it down to the time of the last days. Before, Nebuchadnezzar only acknowledged God as the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego - 3:29. Also up till chapter 4, his heart was not turned away from violence. He was still ready to kill and cut in pieces - 1:10; 2:13; 3:6. He also believed there were many gods - 2:47. When there is a real turn to God, all Idols fall away - I Cor. 8:4-6 and I Thess. 1:9.

The out standing feature of Nebuchadnezzar is “thou art this head of gold. God said this and as the head of gold he represents the whole image which speaks of Gentile Times. Oh, that the leaders of the nations would take heed to Nebuchadnezzar’s testimony. Nebuchadnezzar calls the things showed to him “signs and wonders.” A sign is **a token of divine authority and power of God** in Scripture. He causes people to acknowledge Him as the Almighty. All the plagues that God sent against Egypt were tokens of his power. Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged that God was king and a better king than he. That God has more authority, more power over

more people than he. This was a sign given unto Nebuchadnezzar.

Vs. 4-5 - Nebuchadnezzar was at “rest” in his own palace, thinking he had full security, nothing could touch him. He had a beautiful palace, well armed and well guarded. He was prosperous, but all this was false security. When we trust in **things**, we have a false security, like trusting in our automobile, it may not start in the morning. God gave Nebuchadnezzar this dream that made him afraid. It so frightened him that he awoke and laying on his bed was troubled in unrest. We notice the personal pronouns here - “I,” “me,” “mine.” The old creation boasts, but who really gave Nebuchadnezzar these things? Jer. 25:9,16,26 tells us that it was all of God that Nebuchadnezzar had all these things. But Nebuchadnezzar gave the credit to Himself. The old creation doesn’t want to admit there is a God. They go to great lengths to prove their ability to do things. Nebuchadnezzar should have known there was a greater power than he. **Who overruled** his authority when he cast the 3 Hebrews into the fiery furnace (ch. 3). He just forgot all about God and made Him out to be nothing. This is how man does things. The old creation is never satisfied, but wants more and more. We read in Col. 3:5 that covetousness is idolatry. Nebuchadnezzar had everything and yet did not give God credit.

Vs. 6-7 - He calls his wise men of Babylon. Didn’t he learn from the experience of chapter 2? Makes you wonder about world leaders. They ask advise of ungodly people and these people don’t know. I Cor. 2:6,9,14 says the natural mind cannot understand the things of God. They would be wise to get spiritual advise, but they wont. His wise men were ignorant. That is what the wisdom of this world is, ignorant, not having **true** wisdom. Nebuchadnezzar even told them the dream this time and they still couldn’t give the interpretation.

Vs. 8-9 - It seems like Daniel wasn't invited, but he came anyway, waiting until the wise men of Babylon left. because he didn't want to be associated with their false magic. Nebuchadnezzar uses both names here. Daniel was his Hebrew name which means, "my judge is God." Belteshazzar was the name given him of the Chaldeans which means, "lord of the treasury," according to the name of their god. They had a god "Bel" - which means "lord." This is the name he called Daniel, the one the world sees or uses. Notice, Nebuchadnezzar says gods - plural. He uses flattery in speaking to Daniel.

Vs. 10-12 - In his dream Nebuchadnezzar saw a mighty tree that grew strong and tall reaching unto heaven and to the end of all the earth. Trees in prophetic, symbolic language usually speaks of people and usually reigning people. In Judges the ninth chapter a tree is used as a type of a ruler. In Song of Sol. 2:2,3 the Beloved is called a apple tree among other trees, because he is fruitful and others were just ordinary trees. This tree speaks of Nebuchadnezzar and also of all the world rulers. The tree has grown and grown all down through the years. The nations of the world have gotten stronger and stronger and the people depend to a great extent on government any more.

Vs. 13-17 - A voice of authority was heard. It sounds like two different ones here, but we read in V. 14, "**He cried**" (only one). This is no doubt the pre-incarnated Christ. For in Rev. 10:1-3,5, we read of Christ showing this same authority and power. So we see God's authority in the pre-incarnated Christ. He commands the tree be cut down, but to leave the stump and roots and let his heart be changed to that of a beast until 7 times pass over him. Times is years, so this is seven years for this period of testing. The holy ones speaking as one tell the intent of the dream or it purpose. The message is that God can do what He will and He sets up the "basest of men." Men think we should have the best, they say, Let's put in a Christian. No,

God sets up the worst. He has a purpose to fulfill. When God has a dirty job to do, He gets a dirty man to do it.

Vs. 18-19 - Nebuchadnezzar again says “gods,” plural, he has not learned yet. Daniel is silent for an hour, knowing the interpretation was to the hurt of the king. He respects Nebuchadnezzar’s authority and we should also respect those in authority. God even tells us to pray for those in authority - I Tim. 2:1,2. We may not respect the person, but we are to respect his authority, because God gave it to him. Nebuchadnezzar encourages Daniel to speak.

Vs. 20-23 - Daniel says, the mighty tree “is thou, O king.” This reminds us of “thou art this head of gold.” This illustration of the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar starts out as a kingdom and then it seems to represent him as representing the kingdom. In the interpretation the watcher, the holy one is singular. God will bring all these Empires to nothing. He brought Rome down to nothing and it was not conquered, it deteriorated from within. But a stump was left. So in the feet portion of this image, we see enough left to start a revival of the old Roman Empire. We are living in that time right now, the revival time when God is stirring up the iron and clay, to do a work there.

Vs. 24-26 - This is the decree of the most High, they shall drive thee from men and you shall be like a beast of the field for 7 years. God is going to cause Nebuchadnezzar to learn that God rules and it was He who gave him his kingdom, power and authority. God could have given it to anyone but he chose to give it to you. This is God’s purpose in dealing with the kingdoms, ever since Nebuchadnezzar rose up, to show that God is the most high and He is the high ruler in the kingdom of men and he gives it to whosoever He will. **“After”** the seven years, reminds us of the seven years of tribulation. There will be seven terrible years and God said except they be shortened,

there would be no flesh left on the earth - Mt. 24:22. God didn't shorten it for Nebuchadnezzar, but He will for the reality of this or people would destroy everything. Some kings will rule again, but under a different attitude after Jesus takes His throne.

Vs. 27-28 - Daniel gives good advise, this is the only way sins could be broken off, by righteousness, and there is only one way righteousness can be brought and that is through the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. Of course Nebuchadnezzar was before Christ, but he represents all the kingdoms of today. If they would only read this and break off their sins by righteousness in receiving Christ as their personal Savior. Nebuchadnezzar could have changed right then. Break off sins by righteousness is an **inward change** that is manifested **outwardly** by showing mercy. When people begin giving and sharing, we begin to see they really love the Lord. The Apostle Paul says a lot about giving, showing mercy to the poor, sharing with them and encouraging them - II Cor. 8 and 9. But Nebuchadnezzar ignored this, he just got worse all the time. He didn't learn a thing. God gave him a whole year to repent and take Daniel's advise. Prov. 16:18 says pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. I Cor. 10:12 says, "wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." All this came upon the king.

Vs. 29-31 - God was faithful to His word. **God interrupted the king** (no man dared to interrupt the king), "to thee it is spoken." Notice the swiftness of God's judgment. When He starts, it is going to happen. He said, behold I come quickly. When He starts to come He is going to do things in a hurry. Judgment is going to be swift upon the world.

Vs. 32-33 - Nebuchadnezzar went mad, a ravaging maniac, all his reasoning left him and he was like an animal. They didn't

have institutions to put them in back then. So they chased him out in the field. He ate grass like the oxen (he didn't use his hands). He had no shelter, he just stayed out in the field until his hairs were grown as eagle's feathers and nails like bird's claws. See what can happen to the pomp of man when they become to lifted up. Nebuchadnezzar thought he was going to go on forever and ever. God showed him. God had tried other ways to show him, the fiery furnace miracle should have humbled him forever, but it didn't. The rulers of this world are just like beasts to the Lord. As far as their reasoning is concerned, and their attitude toward God. They are like beasts, they have no understanding where God is concerned. They don't believe God gave them their rulership. Men do everything in their power to get there. In Rev. 13:1,11 we read of two beasts, one comes up out of the sea (the anti-Christ, the political ruler) the other out of the earth (the false prophet, the religious leader). Nebuchadnezzar pictures both, for he was the political ruler and also a religious leader that demanded worship of his image. Many rulers are religious, but that doesn't mean they are necessarily saved people. The anti-Christ will be religious. When Jesus comes to set up His kingdom He will bring this system to absolute nothing - Rev. 19:11-21.

V. 34 - Just think seven years Nebuchadnezzar had to live that way. His reasoning returned to him while he looked like a beast and he realized where he had been living and it all came back to him what God told him through Daniel.

V. 35 - No one has the authority to question God, but people do. Some people even get real angry at God. Who do they think they are anyway. By doing so, they think they are better than God, as if to say, I can do things better.

Vs. 36-37 - Nebuchadnezzar certainly learned humility didn't he? God brought him back to the throne as he said he would.

The tree was cut down, but the root left. When God gets through with people, if they turn their hearts to him, they will gain by the trial. Nebuchadnezzar was changed, he had a new heart. He then represented the kings that will turn their lives over to God during the Kingdom Age, and let the God of Daniel be their God. They will be the sheep nations that we read of in Mt. 25. What a good lesson to learn for all of us, not to get lifted up. You may wonder why the Lord doesn't let you get ahead in this world? Why doesn't He give me more than what I have? Why do I have to work so hard for everything I get? This may be the reason, He doesn't want you to get lifted up. He wants to keep you humble and dependent on Him. He knows what we can handle. Earthly gain may hinder us spiritually.

E. J. D.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship Meeting - March 15th, Grace Assembly, Wichita, KS

Ministers' Meeting - May 6-7th, Beams of Light Church, Sapulpa, OK

Memorial Day Fellowship Meeting - May 26, Grace Christian Assembly, Kansas City, MO

Oklahoma Youth Camp - June 8-13 War Eagle Resort, NE of Tahlequah, OK (call 918-455-4024)

Camp Joy Haven - Aug. 4-8, Camp Pomme de Terre, near Pittsburg, MO (316-943-4190 or e-mail ggospel5@juno.com)