

Glorious Gospel Publication



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ENCOURAGEMENT



“Be of good cheer”

“These things I have 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” Jn. 16:33. The word of our beloved Lord wonderfully speaks peace to the believing heart. “Let the peace of God **rule** in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body and be ye thankful; Let the word Christ **dwell** in you richly in all wisdom:” Col. 3:15,16. Thy rod and thy staff they **comfort** me. Ps. 23:4. God’s word will correct and caress us, and when taken to heart will yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who are exercised thereby. Heb. 12:11. What marvelous encouragement. “Be of good cheer” - take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted! for I have overcome the world. We are so wonderfully blessed to allow Him to be the overcomer in us.

WHY cast down, Why disquieted?

This up-to-date world seems overly crowded with affliction, thronged with trouble. There seems so much disappointment, discouragement, difficulties, and disaster abounds. With such overwhelming conditions the psalmist seems to be talking to himself. “Why art thou cast down, oh my soul?...why art thou disquieted (this term is often used in relation to the roaring, tumult, tossing of the sea-literally, tumultuated), in me? **hope thou in God**: for I shall yet praise him for the help of His countenance” Ps. 42:5. It reminds me of the prophesied end times of the sea and waves roaring. In the last days perilous times shall come. 2 Tim. 3:1. This sounds like being under the circumstances, even overwhelmed by the conditions. Are we just walking around like the cartoon character “Sad Sack”? with a dark

storm cloud always hanging over our heads while the sun is shining everywhere else? Oh no, it's just going to be a sad dreary, gloomy day, so bad and sad, that I just cannot see how anyone can be so glad. Are we agreeing with our enemy, following our old nature and discouraging ourselves and others? How About...

“Mounting Up ?”

Isa. 40:31

Are we equipped to overcome, rise and reign? Who looks unto the Lord, awaits, looks for, or expects enabling from Him? Who today exchanges their weakness for His strength? 2 Cor. 12:9. What a renewal! Shall we not rejoice with Paul, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me?” Phil. 4: 13. Shall we thank the Lord for giving us Eagle Wings, and also the occasion to claim, exercise them, and experience their development? It is our Lord's delight to equip His people to **“mount up,”** rise above dangerous conditions of this age. He would lift us to walk without fainting, run and not be overcome with weariness, as we press toward the mark for the prize. The soaring eagle doesn't have to fret over crossing a roaring river when he is able to soar above the stormy clouds.

A Happy People

If anyone is to have a positive attitude it is the child of God, especially those going after God's best, becoming bridal saints, full overcomers. Shall we be aggressive toward our faithful Father's promises? As we take encouragement from the Lord, we are to be encouraging to one another. We are not here to just exist, survive or hanging in there, not just trying to hold on to life or holding out to the end. Our course is to be up and up, over and in. “Happy art thou,...O people saved by the Lord, the shield of thy help..” Deut. 33:29. With silver sandals glorious, “Forward still is our Lord's will. We shall nevermore retreat neither rest our weary feet, until the victory is complete. Praise the

Lord, Praise the Lord! Are we not happy as servants in faithfulness, as ministers of God's grace? Let our cheerfulness be based upon and established in the victories He has won for us and is winning in us. Shall His victories stir some happy 'be's' in us? "As sorrowful yet always rejoicing: as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things." 2 Cor. 6:10.

Because of adversity from the world, the flesh and the Devil, God's people have always had to deal with discouragement and disappointment. Such seems to be part of what it takes in order to make us full overcomers. Thank God, we are **more than conquerors through Him** that loved us. Rom. 8:37. We are not just to get by the skin of our teeth, but to become victors, winners, with a glorious margin of victory! God gives us a triumphant *outlook*, when we take the scriptural *up-look*.

I appreciate the encouraging attitude expressed in the testimony of those overcomers of Satan in Rev. 12:10 & 11. "I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. and they **overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.**" These did not seem to cling to having their way or selfish control for the enjoyment of their life. They enjoyed pouring it out to the glory of God and the blessing of others. They will have been a living testimony of the grace of God. This gives some encouragement as to how we may reign with "*good cheer*" when the spirit influences our actions, instead of our old nature. Oh thank you LORD!

Example of Old Testament Encouragement

Moses said, "And I besought the Lord at that time, saying, O Lord God, thou hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy

mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or earth, that can do according thy works, and according to thy might? Let me go over, and see the good land which is beyond Jordan, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon.” The Lord then told Moses to get up to the top of mount Pisgah and look over into the land, and to **charge** Joshua, **encourage** him and **strengthen** him, for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause this people to inherit the land which thou shall see” Deut.3:28.

I am so glad to realize that Moses did just what God told him to do for and with Joshua, after God told him that Joshua would lead them into the promise land. He did charge, encourage, and strengthen Him. A real overcomer! At one time I felt sad for Moses, but thank God we are glad to hear of Moses being in the land with our dear Lord on the Mount of transfiguration. God has often used encouragers to encourage His people. He has also taught His people to encourage their encouragers. We are blessed to hold up one another’s hands.

Taking Encouragement in the Lord, leads to marvelous victories. When David and his men returned from the land of the Philistines, they found that their city of Ziklag had been invaded by their enemies. It was smitten and burned with fire, and their wives and children had been carried away captive. Quite a shock! When they beheld what had happened, they lifted up their voice and wept until they had no more voice to weep. Does it ever make us lift up our voice and weep when our friends and loved ones are taken captive by our enemy? David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved....But David **encouraged himself in the Lord**. When David enquired of the Lord, He was told that He would recover all, and praise the Lord He did.

THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark



“Verily, I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem; thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, but ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord” Matthew 23:36-39.

A few days after the above Scripture, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and the crowds shouted this very phrase, “Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.” But this prophecy has a greater, far reaching fulfillment. Because of Israel’s rejection of the Son of God, they will not see Him again until He comes in power and great glory at the end of the tribulation of seven years. “Behold He cometh with clouds and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds shall wail because of Him” (Rev. 1:6). See also Zech. 12:10. After the Babylonia captivity of the Jews, when the Medes and Persians became rulers during the second world empire, the Jews were given an opportunity to return to rebuild their temple and the wall of Jerusalem through Ezra and Nehemiah, but the majority of them were satisfied where they were, no doubt having established themselves in that society, enjoying a rich lifestyle.

Several hundred years later after they crucified Jesus, showing their national rejection of Him as their Messiah, God allowed their

dispersion throughout the world. In 70 A.D. they were besieged by Rome, and the temple was destroyed and the city of Jerusalem plundered and torn down. The Jews, who were not slaughtered fled into places all over the world. Many are still residing there where they fled, satisfied with what they have. God began calling them back to their land in the late 1800's. Then finally, in 1948 they established the nation of Israel despite a tremendous fight with the Arabs in the region, that goes on even today. Jesus says in Matthew 24: 30-31, "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." This is referring to His coming at the tribulation's end. At that point, He will have already gathered His bride and all the church to heaven, which makes us know that this is referring to Israel being gathered to Him. At His first coming He desired to gather them "as a hen doth her chickens under her wing," but they would not; but at His second coming and His revelation to them, He will gather all of those who are left together. He will establish His kingdom, and the Israelites, who will believe and be born again will be the rulers with Him on the earth, while we will reign within the New Jerusalem hovering over the earth. What a time that will be!

Israel is a "sign nation" of the end times. As we look in the prophecies of the Old Testament, we can see many signs of this nation, and the happenings of the end. This is why a study of the Scripture is so important. Right at this time Israel is in trouble, trying to please the nations who will almost force a peace at any cost upon them. In a recent meeting between Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Foreign Minister Livni of Israel, Condoleezza Rice used the term "the solution of Annapolis." "The Tripartite Committee on the

Roadmap Obligations” was cited as the ones who have to be obeyed in order that peace can be achieved between Israel and the Palestinians. The United States is taking an active role in promoting and almost forcing Israel to concede, and give up land for peace.

Almost daily Hamas sends rockets into the Israeli town of Sderot killing or maiming many. Israel retaliates with missiles into the Gaza strip. It is a vicious cycle. Pressure is being put on Israel to stop retaliation, but how can they survive if they can’t defend themselves? Since January 2008 one thousand rockets have hit a Jerusalem neighborhood called Mercaz Harav. This decade 8,000 rockets have hit Jerusalem. Isn’t it odd that we don’t hear much about this side of the story? You can see that God is allowing these things to happen to instill in them a desire for peace, until they willingly accept the treaty made with the AntiChrist, who will seem to have all the answers (Dan. 9:27.)

There is great conflict between the religious orthodox Jews and the political Jews, especially the Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who is more willing everyday to give up land for peace. He really seems to have no attachment to the various regions important to most of Israel. Peace, Peace is the cry - at any cost! Right now they cry for peace (I Thess. 5:1-3), knowing not that sudden destruction, the horrors of the tribulation will rapidly come upon them and the world. We are living on the threshold of the seven years of tribulation.

ECONOMICAL CONCERNS - The value of the euro (Europe’s money) has over taken the dollar for the first time. The predominance of Europe as the major power is coming to pass, and fulfills Scripture. In the end time scenario, the revived Roman Empire will be the leader of the world. Out of them AntiChrist will arise.

The dollar is so weak, and inflation is growing greater every day. It will be harder and harder to buy all the things that we deem

necessary for our comfort. Prices are going upward. Especially the price of gasoline. Economists are advising to save all the money that you can and to store up groceries and other items that you use, so that you will be able to survive this time of financial stress. We really do not know what lies ahead before the Lord comes. Many of our parents went through the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl days, World War I and World War II. The greatest problem is that we have become a nation of luxury. We can't imagine living without many of the conveniences of our present lifestyle. Saints, we do not know what God will allow before the rapture, but we know He will continue to be our PROVIDER - Jehovah Jireh.

In Revelation 6 we see the Four Horses of the Apocalypse, beginning with the White Horse of False Peace, going on into the Red Horse of War and then, into the Black Horse of Famine in verses 5 and 6. These four horses represent what will take place starting at the beginning of the tribulation and proceeding on for a period of time. A voice says, "A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." A "penny" or denarius, was a day's wage in Bible times. The Amplified Version says, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, but do no harm to the oil and wine." There will be great starvation and disaster at that time. As we look at our hardships in comparison to that time yet future, there is really no comparison. God will take us through whatever He allows to come.

Let us look up! Our redemption draws nigh. We are longing for the day that we see our blessed Lord. It will be more than worth it all when we see Christ. Keep the Faith and Hold the line. "Cast not away your confidence, which has great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience that after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and He that shall come, will come and will not tarry (delay)" Heb. 10:35-37.

EXAMPLES FROM THE PAST

Orville Freestone Jr.

SAMUEL - A FAITHFUL LEADER

“God let none of his words fall to the ground” - I Sam. 3:19

Samuel was born in a most difficult time for Israel. The old confederacy of the tribes was badly fraying and the period of the Judges was coming to an end. It was a time of anarchy and chaos. Worse, most of the country was occupied by the Philistines. Samuel was the last of the Judges and also a prophet who would be the transitional leader to the age of the monarchy.

Samuel was remarkable even as a child. In fulfillment of her vow, his mother took him to live at the Tabernacle with an aged priest, Eli, as soon as he was weaned. In those days a child was weaned at about the age of three years. Imagine leaving such a small child away from mother and father and far from home! But there is no record of his crying for his mother. He always accepted life from the hand of the Lord. Most remarkably, as a child he heard the voice of God. How difficult it must have been for him to tell Eli that God said judgment would come to Eli and his sons.

Israel early accepted that Samuel was a prophet (I Sam. 3:20) and leader and his was a long career. Being a Levite, Samuel served Eli in the tasks allotted to the Levites, but he was not a priest and did not fill the office of priest. He offered the sacrifices that the Patriarchs and prophets such as Elijah offered, that is, the whole burnt offering.

There were seers, “men of God,” and even prophets before Samuel, but he founded by his example the prophetic movement in Israel. (I Sam. 9:9)

Israel also accepted Samuel as a Judge and resorted to him for guidance and advice. Samuel also had a “circuit” as judge where he traveled yearly to judge Israel. (I Sam. 7:15-17) As prophet and judge, he invested first Saul, then David as king thus completing the transition from Commonwealth to Kingdom. Israel universally honored him. God attested to his life and ministry, for He “let none of his words fall to the ground.” All that he said was true and all he foretold come to pass. (I Sam. 3:19) This is said of no other person in the Bible!

Samuel was a faithful and godly leader in the most adverse of circumstances. His character is in stark contrast to Eli’s sons, who were “corrupt and did not know the Lord.” Eli, himself, was rebuked by “a man of God” for not restraining his sons. (I Sam. 2:27-36) With so many leaders of high promise failing so miserably in office, Samuel shows what faithful leader, today as then, is like and what he can accomplish. May we be faithful in whatever position we find ourselves and leave the outcome of the issues of our lives to God.



*Wait thou, my soul, upon the Lord,
And with the wings of faith,
Rise up to mountain tops of truth
Where each reviving breath
Shall fill thy soul with songs of Joy.*

Beloved, let us love. . .

Part 3

1 John 4:7

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

We have now briefly discussed the immeasurable immensity of the physical universe in which we find ourselves, the impossibility of measuring our spiritual origins seeing we do not have the least understanding of how to quantify it, and the multi-dimensional, unknowable distance that we have traveled from the standing of sinner to saint through the gracious love of God in Christ as depicted in this yet-to-be-understood title, “Beloved”, which we now bear. In each of these three points we are forced to accept the fact that, though everything that defines our experience in existence is impossible for us to fully understand, we are able to partake of all of the benefits of being “beings” on a routine basis in a multitude of ways that are uneventfully “common” every day. Taking a drink of water or a breath of fresh air are equally common and priceless, and we drink and breathe with faith in what we cannot comprehend.

Though all mankind survives by faith in natural laws (e.g. gravity and the reliable movement of the planets) without fully understanding them, he openly resists placing faith in God because he cannot see or know Him by his knowledge. So the real issue is not understanding, but the rebellion of prideful sin.

Naturally speaking, most of us find it to be irritating when we are not able to know the specific details regarding the how’s, why’s, when’s and where’s of our circumstances in times of trial. Job and his friends spent much time and effort trying to figure out why things in his life had

suddenly taken the direction they had. It seemed an explanation was absolutely necessary to them and they were totally fixated upon searching it out. It was not until God challenged Job's ability and authority to know these things that Job came into the settled state of mind and spirit (This could serve us as a definition of faith.) where he was able to enter in to the blessings intended for him to receive (Job 42:2-3). He had sought to trespass on holy ground upon which only the Eternal Almighty could tread. Such is the attitude of sin. Mankind thinks he has the right to know and do whatever he demands, much like a 3-year-old child would insist on driving an automobile or practicing dentistry.

For the children of God, born again "*of the Spirit*" (John 3:8)), there is given the rich, blessed opportunity of being immersed in the realm of "*godliness with contentment*" (1 Tim. 6:6) with a "*full assurance of hope*" (Heb. 6:11), a "*full assurance of faith*" (Heb. 10:22), and "*all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;*" (Col. 2:2). And this blessedness is freely and fully available to us through faith. In spiritual matters, faith precedes understanding. Becoming convinced of a spiritual need, the existence of a spiritual supply to satisfy that need, and looking to God to apply the appropriate supply to meet the need results in an experience in which the reality of the power of God is manifest in our life in a manner glorifying to the name of Jesus (which is according to the purpose of God in man) and the increase of our understanding of God (also according to His desire).

It is in this manner that we are compelled to own the title of "Beloved". Since we have established that our only hope is the **love of God as manifest in Christ Jesus** and, as we read in Hebrews 11:3, that it is "*Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*", we find ourselves armed with the potent truth that defines the physical and spiritual universe that surrounds us. Through the unifying relationship that has been forged by the power of His love, we find

ourselves made one with the triune God for the purpose of being witnesses of His fathomless love to the world. A prayerful reading of the gospel of John, chapter 17, unveils the wonder of the beloved believer as an instrument in the hands of the loving, gracious, eternal God. We are redeemed with a purpose that originates from beyond this physical world system and finds its fulfillment in the world to come. We are called to walk in the light of eternity.

Plainly, the title “Beloved” means something. It is comforting to be addressed in endearing terms by the Almighty, but we must not lose sight of the full significance of this title to a mere emotional context. The title “Beloved” means far more and we must not lose the luster of its brilliance. It at once identifies us with the Creator of this world who is locked in battle against forces of darkness that presently rule over this world. All of creation lies in the “*bondage of corruption*” (Romans 8:21) awaiting the completed work of God among mankind. Our identification with Him immediately places us at odds with the “*rulers of darkness of this present world, against spiritual wickedness in high places*” (Ephesians 6:12) for we are transformed from enemies of God to enemies of the principalities of Satan. From the beginning days of the church, many of the earliest disciples of Christ paid with their lives for the honor and glory of being recipients and witnesses of God’s love.

We are hated. We are hated by the very world into which we were physically born because we have been born again, from above, of the Spirit, and have our citizenship in heaven. To be the “Beloved” of God means that we also gain the title of the “Hated” of this world and we learn very early on in our challenging, new creation lives that “*all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*” (2 Timothy 3:12). It is in this world and in the lives of human beings that the rebellion of sin will be played out until its bitter end. The “Beloved” will return from realms of glory with Christ to exercise judgment and the pouring out of His wrath upon this world that will have nearly devoured itself in full rebellion.

To be known as the “Beloved” informs us, in part, that we are at once known by Him before the foundation of the earth, the objects of His desire, born of His Spirit, indwelt by Christ, called to be heirs with Christ, the ongoing workmanship of His hands “*created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*” (Ephesians 2:10), and called to be “*vessels unto honour, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work.*” (2 Timothy 2:21). His unconditional love, which has ushered us into this glorious calling, opens to us a door through which the apostle Paul declares we can “*look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*” (2 Corinthians 4:18).

So, we, the “Beloved”, are a rare creature indeed. Dwelling in corruptible bodies in a corrupted environment, we are indwelt with the nature of the God that cannot be known by any instrument or knowledge possessed by man. Yet, we (because we are born of His Spirit) communicate with Him regarding eternal matters as routinely as a person drinks water or breathes air. We are enabled to absorb the vast reality of our calling in Him, and build upon the foundation of Christ within us those treasures that will endure the scrutiny of His judgment and remain throughout eternity. By His ever-present Spirit, we draw the armaments of Truth from His arsenal and are enabled for any encounter with the prince of darkness (including the power of death), and we venture forward, more than conquerors, into the unending bounty of the children of the God-to-whom-nothing-can-ever-be-greater.

Like Job, may we surrender to the faith of the Almighty God that we might overcome the obstacles of our temporary existence, and own in its fullness the title “Beloved” that we might partake of the immensities that await us. Let us be ascertained that there is nothing beyond our reach through the gift of God’s grace in Christ.

THE LORD HAS A PATTERN

Debra Isenbletter

LaBeth Burch, Cathy Crook's mother is making a quilt for me and I went online and printed out several patterns for free for her and one of the patterns we chose is called "The Crown of Thorns". LaBeth came in one Sunday morning and showed me all the individual pieces and then one block or square she had completed. Just that one block contained 52 individual pieces! It was then that I realized all the labor involved in putting each piece in place to form a block and then each block in place to form a quilt pattern.

When we had our Sunday morning lesson one of the scripture references was Eph. 4:16 - "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." After seeing all 52 pieces and then one block with each piece in place forming a pattern the Lord really made that scripture real to me.

I saw that in the Church we are all like those individual pieces that until they are put together you don't see a pattern. The Lord knows what the pattern is, and where each piece must go and He puts each piece in the right place. To form that one quilt block of 52 pieces LaBeth had to put each piece in the *right* place, in the *wrong* place it would not fit or form the right pattern. We are all "*fitly joined together*" by the Master's hand. We are all "*compacted*" (knit together or held together) according to His "*effectual working*", or the "*working of His mighty power*" (Eph. 1:19). When the pattern is complete He will be glorified and as we allow Him to put us in place, we and others will be edified. How glorious!

A GOOD REPORT

by Cathy Crook

“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.” Jeremiah 1:5

We, like the prophet Jeremiah, can take comfort in the fact that before we were born the Lord knew us. He knew our lives before we even began to live. He knew what things He would have to allow to happen in order for us to come to a place of knowing, loving, and serving Him.

I grew up hearing about the Lord from my Grandfather and Grandmother. He was a minister and she lived everyday as a testimony. Their influence led me to accept the Lord as my personal Savior at a very young age. I know that they prayed for my family all the time. I truly believe the Lord honored their prayers. Maybe not in the way I would have preferred but He knew what it would take. Unfortunately they passed away while I was in my preteen years.

At the age of fourteen an unfortunate (or fortunate, whichever way you want to look at it) set of circumstances happened that led to my going into foster care. The first home I went into was a Bible believing family where the father was a local minister. Talk about a complete change of life. We were going to church everytime the door was open. After a year and a half I was moved to another foster home where going to church was also a part of their lives. There was never any question, whenever the doors were open we went. It was at this time in my life (age of 17) that I was filled with the Holy Spirit. I had heard about it and seen the evidence of it growing up around my grandparents but had never had a personal experience until this time.

It was in my late twenties and early thirties (I am a slow learner) before I began to realize and understand how the Lord used those early circumstances to work in my whole family. My mother, brother, and sister all came to experience for themselves the Saving Grace of our Lord and Savior as well as the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:28 tells us “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

There is a big difference sometimes between understanding something and accepting something. There were many things I understood with my mind but could not accept them in my heart. That is what the Lord had to show me before I could fully forgive and overcome the bitterness. Once I was able to accept what the Word was saying to me, that ALL things work together for my good, the anger and bitterness went away. I finally understood AND accepted the fact that if I had not been moved into the foster care system, my family might not have been saved or filled.

It was also because of my going into the foster care system and moving twice that I ended up in a Grace Meeting. It was at one of the Thanksgiving Fellowship Meetings in Kansas City that I met my husband. Now we are in the Wichita Meeting and we are raising our two sons in the Meeting. Both of our sons have come to know the Lord as their personal Savior. They both have also been filled with the Holy Spirit.

I do not know where I would be today if the Lord had not done what He knew needed to be done to bring me to a place of knowing, loving, and serving Him. I just trust Him and believe that He did (and still does) what is best for me.

The next time you find yourself going through a difficult trial and you wonder what is going to happen just turn it over to the Lord, trust Him, and He will direct your paths. Remember He is not just working in you but also in others around you.

THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

**What it means to me that the Lord Jesus Christ
is Head of the Church:**

by Carolyn Brown

Isaiah 9:6 tells me that He bears the governing of all things as pertains to mankind upon His shoulders. Being both God and man He is well able to do so. I see His governing in the church today knowing Him to be Wonderful - I am filled with awe and marvel at His ways. He is separated and above all others, distinguished, extraordinary. His birth as man was miraculous, His ministry was miraculous; He moves in miraculous ways all the time in my life.

As Counselor He is deliberate, has a plan, asks counsel of His Father and gives advice to me. In this day He acts through the Holy Spirit Who “shall receive of Mine and show it unto you.” John 16:15.

He is mighty God- El Shaddai, the breasted One, who nourishes and provides for my growth, tenderly caring for all of us, mightily protecting us. He is the Bountiful One.

As Everlasting Father, He is the Begetter of everlasting life, The Father of eternity. In Him is life that has always been and always will be. Having been placed “in Him” I share in that eternal state. He is progenitor of the new creation.

As Prince of Peace he is Head Person, first in rank, Captain, Governor, Lord, Steward of Peace - a state of well being and safe, happy, prosperous, rested, faring well, of good health, friendly and favorable. Shalom is the word. So Jesus is my Prince, my preeminent

One, Ruler of my heart who leads me in battle as Captain, governs my life ruling and overruling, stewarding all things about my life so that I am continually in a realm of well being, safety, prosperity, good health and happiness, favor. His is my Friend. I find rest in Him and satisfaction as I partake of His bountiful goodness. There shall be no end to the increase of His government and peace. Justice and judgment will be the outstanding marks of His rulership.

Ephesians 1:22 tells me He is given the place of Head over all things pertaining to the church which is His Body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all. That being the case, I must take my direction from Him alone through His Word and the Holy Spirit's promptings. He has given to each member of His body a place and purpose that is uniquely theirs. I need to be faithful to carry out my part of the Body function while respecting each other member's place in it. Not wanting to take another's place (covetousness) but being content with my own and finding my fulfillment therein. Faithfulness in the few things He has given me will make me ruler over many things hereafter.

Ephesians 4:16 To do so will result in growing up into Him. Together with others coming to the unity of faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man - one fully equipped, unto the measure (rule or standard) of the stature (maturity) of the fullness of Christ, remembering the fullness of Christ is His whole Body complete with its Head. This means to me my growth is to be carried out in the midst of the church, not isolatedly. Verse 11 tells of the Lord's gift offices to the church. All are necessary to church unity and growth. They are given for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ. Growing up into my Head in a corporate, ongoing experience. One thing lacking in me concerning the Body is my attitude toward those who have placed themselves

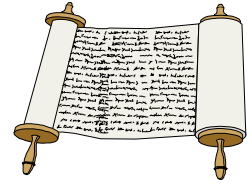
under a denominational name. I need to look past those artificial boundaries to seeing each as part of the whole Body, a member of importance to our Head.

Col. 1:18 tells me that He must be given preeminence because He is the first born from the dead. His resurrection assured our own. Col. 2:19 This is something we have to seize and retain, to guard and protect, hold fast to, remain. The Lord Jesus Christ alone is Head, first, chief. I must love Him preeminently and not leave my first Love as did some of the Ephesians who started out so well. I do love Him and know that He will finish the good work He has begun in me. Praise His name.

*I have learned the wondrous secret
Of abiding in the Lord;
I have found the strength and sweetness
Of confiding in his word;
I have tasted life's pure fountain,
I am drinking of His Blood;
I have lost myself in Jesus,
I am sinking into God.*

*For my words I take his wisdom,
For my works his Spirit's power,
For my ways his gracious presence
Guards and guides me every hour,
Of my heart he is the Portion
Of my joy, the boundless Spring;
Savior, Sanctifier, Healer,
Glorious Lord and coming King.*

The Book of Daniel



Chapter 5

With chapter 5, some 30 odd years had passed since the happenings of chapter 4 and probably 65 years after chapter 1. Nebuchadnezzar is dead and his grandson Belshazzar was reigning along with his father Nabonidus. His mother was one of Nebuchadnezzar's daughters.

Vs. 1-2 - Nabonidus left to go to another city to beautify it and Belshazzar threw this party to celebrate that. He was a royal spoiled brat that turned into an alcoholic and was a very weak ruler. He drank consistently, no doubt thinking here is something to celebrate, so let us all get drunk. All the who's who of Babylon were there for this celebration.

Vs, 3-4 - They were drinking from the consecrated vessels that belonged to the God of heaven, they didn't belong to Belshazzar. Even his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar brought them from Jerusalem as a treasure, not to use, not to drink out of. They were made of silver and gold and they were to be used only by God's priests. For the Babylon court to use them, was a mockery, an act of contemptuous profanity. The more they drank, the drunker they got. Holding up the gold and silver cups and saying these be our gods. This was as far as man dare go and more than God could quietly endure - Isa. 42:8. If ever a man needed God it was Belshazzar, but he was defying the only God who could help him. Notice, there are 6 gods mentioned in V. 4. Six is the number of man. So here is the god of man, and don't we see this today? Men worship materialism as their god. Rev. 9:20 & 18:9-14

V. 5 - Fingers of a man's hand appears and writes on the wall, suggesting the presence of some personality. We are reminded of the first time the 10 commandments were written, God wrote with His finger. In both cases it is identified with judgment, because breaking of the law was definitely judgment. Here in Daniel, we see God wrote this in the light of the candlestick which probably came out of the sanctuary in Jerusalem. If so, then this was written in the light of God's light. The lampstand of God desecrated by Belshazzar, now illuminates the handwriting on the wall so all could see it.

V. 6-9 - Belshazzar sobered up real quick. He was so afraid he shook. The handwriting struck terror to his heart. He cried aloud, but to the false ones who don't know the answers. Even with his promise of wealth, they could not interpret the writing. Unregenerated man is powerless to tell the meaning of God's message. The utter weakness of human wisdom is exposed. He was troubled greatly, so much that his countenance changed. His lords were dismayed.

V. 10-12 - The queen here must have been his mother, a daughter of Nebuchadnezzar. She certainly would know about Daniel. Daniel was now an old man but still used mightily of God. She said, "there is a man" - thank God! He always has a man on the scene that knows Him. You wonder why they didn't call him first, he was the master of all these wise men. We read here that Belshazzar didn't even know Daniel existed. The queen gives a wonderful commendation of Daniel.

V. 13-14 - Belshazzar acts like he knows Daniel, saying, "I have even heard of thee." He didn't know Daniel, he had just heard of him from his mother. What he says seems like a put down. I don't know why I called you in here, you are just one of the children of the captivity, your a Jew not a Chaldean.

V. 15-16 - Belshazzar relates to Daniel that his wise men could not interpret the writing. Of course they couldn't do it, for they only had man's wisdom. He promises Daniel all the gifts he had promised the Chaldean so called wise men.

V. 17 - Daniel didn't live a self-centered existence, he didn't want their earthly rewards. God's real people are not after money. People need to know, just because some talk and sing about Jesus, doesn't mean they are really serving God and desire His glory. We may ask ourselves are they doing what they do for the glory of God or are they after money. Of course it takes money to do things, but that is only secondary to a truly spiritual work. If God is in it, the money will be supplied. Daniel also knew these gifts couldn't be used very long, because he already had the interpretation of the writing. Before Daniel gives the interpretation, he gives Belshazzar a sermon. People don't often ask for a sermon and they don't like it when they get one. But Daniel gave it to Belshazzar anyway.

Vs. 18-23 - Daniel said, you knew about your grandfather, and what happened to him. Nebuchadnezzar learned that the most high God ruleth in the kingdom of men and he appointeth whomsoever he will over it. You have not learned from this and you are lifted up with pride (scripture tells us that a fool never learns). Daniel didn't pull any punches. This is a real indictment against Belshazzar. **"Thou lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven."** That is a terrible thing to do. You drank wine from the vessels of **His house** and while drinking from the sacred vessels you praised gods that can neither see nor hear nor know. Belshazzar lifted himself up above God in doing this. Some day soon such desecration will increase until the man of sin stretches forth his hand to touch God's holy Temple and his image will be set up there. Notice, the breath of man is in God's hand. He can snuff it out just like that. You have not glorified the true and living God, He knows all about you and your ways.

Vs. 24-28 - Daniel interprets the writing, “God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it...Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting...Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.” This had to come to Daniel by revelation because he would not have known about the future divided kingdom of the Medes and Persians. The Medes were first but the Persians became stronger. To number the kingdom of Babylon means to fix or limit its duration. This is it, God isn’t going to stand for this foolishness any more. He had fixed the duration of Babylon as a ruling empire, her destruction had come. God’s judgment is fair and honest. His scales are accurate, He deals in justice. Belshazzar was weighed by His divine balances and was found deficient, even absent. Every nation and every man is held accountable to God. For He has given of His Son and provided salvation for every man. Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross - Col. 2:14. All who put their trust in Him are saved, but all who refuse God’s salvation are reserved unto the blackness of darkness for ever - Jude 13.

V. 29-31 - Oh the ignorance of the fleshly mind. Belshazzar didn’t seem to realize what Daniel said, that the kingdom would be taken from him. Perhaps he treated it as a joke, but it came to pass quickly. Darius the Median was a 62 year old captain when he took Babylon and was put up over this province. God’s timing is always perfect and He knows how to do it. I mentioned this before how Babylon was said to be unconquerable with its double wall and heavy gates, etc. But God did it. History tells us two drunken guards, guarding the main gate, opened the gate and staggered out and was captured by the Medes soldiers. They were taken and compelled to tell the lay out of the city. Then they simply changed the course of the river that flowed under the wall of the city and 2 or 3 soldiers went in and unlocked the gates for the army to come in. There was no battle, everyone was drunk. Talk about false security, they had it. God brought about the impossible, simply and fast,

but in His time. Jer. 51:37-40,57-58 seems to have application to this night feast and folly of Belshazzar. All this pictures all the kingdoms of this earth and their intoxication with materialistic things. Babylon in its final form is rising rapidly. God is going to change things. In His due time, **Christ is going to conquer** in all simplicity the amalgamated federation of religious groups figured by the mother of harlots (Rev. 17 & 18) and the evil alliance of the nations against the Lord God and His Christ (Rev. 19:11-21). The solution of this world's ills lies in one great event, the coming again of God's Son from heaven, the stone cut out without hands.

E. J. D.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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)