

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
Published Monthly, No Subscription Price



Contents:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Encouragement (Part 2) | |
| Jack Davis | 1 |
| The Last Days | |
| Anita Clark | 5 |
| Announcements | 9 |
| Examples From The Past | |
| Orville Freestone Jr. | 10 |
| Beloved, Let Us Love... (Part 4) | |
| Doug Delhay | 13 |
| Psalm 45 | |
| Corina Medina | 17 |
| The Book Of Daniel - Chapter 6 | |
| E. J. Davis | 21 |

ENCOURAGEMENT

Part 2



“BE OF GOOD CHEER”

John 16:33

“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.”

Jesus coming to the cross, asked His disciples could you not watch with me one hour? Then later we read they all forsook Him and fled, and then shortly thereafter we read that He cried out, Why hast thou forsaken me? Although He bore our sins alone, thank God that He was there for us that we might be with Him forever.

ENCOURAGING TESTIMONIES

2 Tim. 4:16-18

Our apostle Paul must have at times experienced a sense of abandonment, it seems that our adversary often works that way. Thank the Lord for His promised presence that soothes our hearts. Awareness of His person and power is such a comfort. Paul said, “At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding, **the Lord stood with me and strengthened me**; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall *deliver* me from every evil work, and will *preserve* me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Thank God that wonderful *deliverance*, and *preserving* power is still being active for us in these last days. Thank God that there are still those today being *delivered* from the lion's mouth and *preserved* unto the Lord's heavenly kingdom. Our adversary tries any way he can to keep us from taking our God-given seat with Jesus.

STRENGTHEN TO STAND

Acts 23:9-12

“And there arose a great cry: and the scribes that were of the Pharisees’ part arose, and strove, saying, we find no evil in this man: but if a spirit or angel hath spoken to him, let us not fight against God. And when there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring him into the castle. And the night following the **Lord stood by him**, and said, “**Be of good cheer**, Paul for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome. And when it was day, certain Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.” Oh what grave great endangerment. and yet what glorious encouragement. **WHEN THE LORD STANDS BY, WHO CAN TOUCH THE APPLE OF HIS EYE?** I wonder how hungry and thirsty those forty plus men got before they gave up their oath? What a scary day! But thank God, what an encouraging night!!

PERILS OF PAUL

2 Cor. 11:25-28

“Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea,

in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.”

COMFORTING GRACE FOR THE WAY

Shall the storms on the seas of our life be handled by depending upon God’s sailing, prevailing grace? It is the only way to go. 2 Cor. 12:8-10, “For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee:** for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”

THE SPIRITUAL MARINER

Acts 27

When it was determined that Paul, his company and other prisoners were to sail unto Italy, they set sail, and not long thereafter it was realized that at that time sailing was dangerous. The winds were contrary. The prince and power of the air had his purposes. (Eph. 2:2 & 6:12) Later on the way there arose against them a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon. Then they were exceedingly tossed with a tempest, and eventually all hope that they should be saved was taken away. Then Paul after a long silence spoke up and gave this marvelous encouragement; “I exhort you to **be of good cheer:**” He then testified how the Lord wonderfully encouraged him. “For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and lo, God hath given thee **all them that sail with thee.**” Paul has won over many to faith, that are saved by *grace*. How did he cover his course? How are we going to

cover our's? *By grace* I soon shall conquer and reach my home on high. 1 Cor. 15:9-10. See Acts 20:24 & 32. To go by grace - **Set your sail to catch God's gale.** "Wherefore, sirs, **be of good cheer:** for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me." Did not Paul exercise the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit? Did not Paul's words of hope and cheer cause them to expect another, better day? They do for us.

"While the day was coming on, Paul urged them to take some meat." How about us? What a day is coming on, there is plenty meat available to settle and sustain us. "When he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat. **Then were they all of good cheer,** and they also took some bread." V. 36. "And so it came to pass that they escaped all safe to land." V. 44.

SHALL WE BY GRACE SOON REACH OUR DESIRED HAVEN?

Psalm 107:23-31

"They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep. For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end. Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so **he bringeth them unto their desired haven.** Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" In the storms of life, Jesus says, ***Be of good cheer; It is I; be not afraid - Mt. 14:27.***

J. D.

THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark



“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country...unto a land that I will show you.” Gen. 12:1 “And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee, And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey His voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee. And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and He will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers.” Deut. 30:1-3,5.

JERUSALEM FOR PEACE. Israel’s Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is willing to give up part of Jerusalem to the Palestinians for peace. In the Six Day War of 1967, Israel recaptured eastern Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount, which is Judaism’s holiest site. The Palestinians claim eastern Jerusalem as a future capital. This area has mostly Arab neighborhoods, but significant Jewish population and sites holy to Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Rabbi Shalom Walpe of Tel Aviv says, “Ehud Olmert is a traitor, who should be hanged on the gallows.” Walpe opposes transferring parts of the West Bank as well as Jerusalem to the Palestinians. He knows that God gave them the land, even

giving them power to stand against all the Arabs arrayed against them in battle. He believes that God would not have them to give up land for peace.

Daniel 11:36-45 speaks of the one world ruler that will come, (Vs36) “And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished; for that that is determined shall be done.” Vs. 39 states, “Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.” This man empowered by the devil has no love for the land God gave the Jewish people.

Even as we write the United States and other countries are putting pressure on Israel to give up land for peace. This is the spirit of AntiChrist already in the world. The United States has proposed a plan to divide Jerusalem, and eventually forfeit parts of the temple mount. An article from the World Net Daily, states, “To demonstrate the level of U.S. involvement, the source pointed to recent U.S. supervision of Israeli commitments to dismantle about 50 outposts, or West Bank Jewish communities constructed without government permit.” We (the leaders of the US) are walking on thin ice, as far as Israel is concerned. The promise made to Abram in Genesis 12:3 promises, “And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee; and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” Those nations who stood for Israel and supported her have been blessed. It is true; we have witnessed it. Beware the nations who fail to stand up for Israel’s rights. There is growing anti-Semitism in the US and other nations. Satan is at work. He knows that he has only a short time.

According to Daniel 9:27 the AntiChrist will make a covenant with Israel for one week, prophetically speaking meaning 7 years. No doubt there will be a promise made to Israel for their protection, if they will sign the treaty. This will

be the start of the 7 years of tribulation. All will go well at first. It will be a time of peace, but a little before the middle of the seven years the AntiChrist will break the covenant and begin to persecute the Jews. It is sad to think that Israel will have to go through a time that the Bible refers to as, "the time of Jacob's trouble." And a time "worse than anything they have suffered before." We are standing at this very point in time, where the AntiChrist could (secretly even) make a treaty with Israel. In the beginning no one will recognize who he is. He will have wonderful ideas to promote peace and his speech will persuade crowds of people. About 3 2/3 years into the tribulation he will manifest his true colors, and will break the covenant and begin to persecute Israel. Let us realize the trumpet could sound anytime to call us away before that time of tribulation.

Recent discussion concerning the division of Jerusalem into an Arab sector and a Jewish sector, and giving part of the temple mount to the Palestinians is a hard pill to swallow for the God fearing Orthodox Jews, who believe that God in a sovereign act caused them to gain back their ancient city of Jerusalem in the Six Day War in 1967. Lev. 25:18-23 tells us, "Wherefore ye shall do my statutes and keep My judgments, and do them; and you shall dwell in the land in safety. And the land shall yield her fruit, and ye shall eat your fill...The land shall not be sold for ever; for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me." The Palestinians can say the land belongs to them, but God says differently. It has been nothing less than a miracle of God, drawing the Jews back, after their dispersal to all nations of the earth. He owns the land. He will one day set up His Son to reign from Jerusalem. Satan fights to destroy or delay the plan of God, but it is not possible to do that. God's perfect plan is advancing, just on time. Zech. 2:11 says, "And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people...and thou shalt know that the LORD of Hosts hath sent me unto thee. And the LORD shall inherit Judah His portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again."

IRANIAN SITUATION - Binyamin Netanyahu, the former- and quite possibly the future - prime minister of Israel said recently, “A nuclear-armed Iran must not be allowed and should be stopped by the world’s civilized nations.” He believes that if Iran gains weapons of mass destruction, they could put the oil reserves of the Gulf under their sway, which would affect the whole world.

Iran very boldly states their objective in working to get nuclear weapons. Netanyahu says, “Iran’s explicit announced goal is to wipe Israel off the face of the map, and of reestablishing the caliphate (successors of Muhammad,) under militant Iranian rule.” This situation happening right at this moment of time was prophesied hundreds of years ago. Again we must refer to Ezekiel 37,38 &39. Reading from Ezekiel 37, we see the resurrection of the nation of Israel (Vs.11). They looked very dead and dry. There appeared to be no hope that they ever would be nation again. God began to call them back to their ancient land. The dilemma of what to do with the Jews brought forth a proposal by the nations to send the Jews to the frozen area of Alaska. But, many began to return to the homeland of Israel. Ezekiel 38 & 39 could not happen if chapter 37 had not happened first. Israel had to be a state again in their own land. This rejoices our hearts to see God’s great plan coming to pass. In chapter 38:8, “After many days thou shalt be visited; in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste, but it is brought forth out of the nations...”

Chapter 38, tell of the time in the “latter days” when evil nations will come against Israel to wipe them off the face of the map. We see the nations listed by name, Gog and Magog (Ancient names for Russia (Vs.2-3), Persia (Iran), Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer (ancient Germany), and Togarmah (Turkey). Today we see Russia supporting Iran, selling them weapons and enriched uranium. Most of these nations have two things in common, that is the Islamic religion and their hatred of Israel.

This evil desire to get rid of Israel is another ploy of Satan to try to alter God's divine plan. If Israel were destroyed right now, then, God's holy scripture could not be fulfilled that says, Israel will be the "head nation and not the tail." The Lord Jesus would not have a earthly kingdom, if there were no Israelites left. No one will ever be allowed to destroy and annihilate the Jews completely. God has great plans for the Jews who will believe and endure through the soon coming tribulation, and will rule and reign on the earth. Have no fear, God will prevail and bring His judgment upon the unbelieving nations. His plans will never be defeated!

Isaiah 55:11 says, "So shall My word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void (without producing fruit or effect), but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Beloved, let us believe the Word of God, stand upon it, and ask God to finish the work He has begun in our lives. His promises are true and steadfast. "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calleth you, Who also will do it" I Thess. 5:23,24.

.....

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorial Day Fellowship Meeting - May 26, Grace Christian Assembly, Kansas City, MO. Pastor Arthur Eggers

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)

EXAMPLES FROM THE PAST

Orville Freestone Jr.

DAVID - A HEART FOR GOD

“A man after God’s own heart” - I Sam. 13:14

David was a very complex person; a shepherd, a musician, a warrior and a king, but his distinguishing characteristic was he had a heart for God. Unlike Saul, who justified himself when denounced by the prophet, David was repentant when accused of sin. David was a warrior who credited God for his success. (Psalm 18:20) He was a very sensitive person showing deep emotion in his psalms. As Israel’s king, he became the standard by which all his successors were judged.

David was the youngest son of Jesse (I Sam. 16:11-13) so it was he who cared for the sheep. At that time the wealth of a family was in sheep and cattle. Shepherding was menial work, but it was also a responsibility and David proved faithful in this position. He led the flocks to “green pastures” and beside “still waters” and defended them from wild beasts. (I Sam. 17:34) As a youth he showed not only bravery, but confidence in the Lord when he faced Goliath. He was “mighty and valiant,” (I Sam. 16:18) but humble and discreet and “the Lord was with him” (I Sam. 18:14) This was true throughout his life. He was genuinely humble. He was respectful toward Saul even when Saul sought to kill him. He honored the king as “the Lord’s anointed.”” He was humble before the Lord when he put off his royal robes to dance and worship before the Ark of God. When his wife Michal rebuked him for not behaving like a king, he brushed off her criticism.

As a warrior, he led his troops and shared their dangers. He gathered a motley group of misfits (I Sam. 22:2) and welded them into a formidable force that became the core of his army. They were fiercely loyal to him. His personal bravery and loyalty won them to his cause. When all the tribes hailed him a king, he was able to build them into a nation. By treaty and by war he created a “greater Israel” that reached from Egypt to the Euphrates river.

In those days the first order of business for a new king was to secure his throne by eliminating all who might contest his claim. This David did not do. Most of those who would oppose his right to the throne were dead. Contrary to custom, David sought to find any of the house of Saul who were still living to “show kindness to” them. (II Sam. 9) He found crippled Mephibosheth son of Jonathan. His love for Jonathan was tender and true and he secured his rights and property to his only remaining heir. His one great desire was to build a temple for The Lord to house the ark of God and Law. This The Lord forbid him to do, but said that his son should build it. So David gathered all the materials on site before he died.

David was an acclaimed musician. Their music was very different from our western style and we do not know for sure how it sounded or what the musical terms for the psalms mean, but a measure of their greatness and of the others in the Book of Psalms is that they deeply affect us today. What is more familiar to Christians today than The Twenty Third Psalm? David’s music could lift Saul out of his depression and his poetry does the same for us.

David was not always wise concerning those to whom he entrusted responsibility, such as Abner who was not always loyal, or Joab and Abishai, David’s kin, who killed Abner. (II Sam. 3:30) Nor was he wise in dealing with his sons. However,

at the end of his life, only one thing was held against him, his great sin “in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.” David greatly wronged his friend and faithful warrior by committing adultery with his wife, then compounded the crime by having Uriah killed in battle. (II Kings 15:5) The measure of his greatness was that when Nathan the prophet confronted him with this great sin, David said those seldom spoken words “I have sinned.” (II Sam. 12:13) What other ancient oriental king would have accepted such reproof? God forgave David but he did not escape the consequences, which he humbly accepted. It was this repentance and his attitude toward God that made him “a man after God’s own heart!

HE WALKS WITH ME

**He walks with me
Alone life’s narrow way.
He guides my steps
Lest I should go astray.
I trust Him when
I cannot see the way.
He’s with me every moment
Of each day.**

**He walks with me
In valleys dark and deep.
He walks with me
Upon the mountain steep.
He holds me as
I climb each rugged hill
And gives me strength to do
His blessed will.**

— Beula Clark

Beloved, let us love. . .

Part 4

Doug Delhay

“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

In our current age of previously unimagined and rapidly growing technological accomplishments, it is easy for us to forget about a historical, unique wonder that was given us to behold 40 years ago. In December, 1968, the crew of the Apollo 8 (the first manned space craft to travel to the moon) gave the world a gift that had never before been available. It was a “simple” photograph of things well known to us all, but what was awe-inspiring about it was the **perspective**. The picture is of the earth rising over the horizon of the moon (<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap020127.html>). The view of the moon rising over the earth’s eastern horizon is often a breathtaking sight, but this was a new, impossible view that no human being had ever seen prior to this time. And, suddenly, there it was, a remarkable reality for all mankind to ponder. In a sense, it was a view and an understanding of us that only God had ever seen before, but now the way was opened that we might see it also.

So, too, is this title “Beloved.” It is a true view of who we are in the sight of God. It is an eternally accurate description of what we have become through receiving the immeasurable love and grace bestowed upon us through the gift of God in Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Saviour. It is intended to transform our lives here on earth by injecting our beings with a new, factual **perspective** of who we are to Him. We are believers, disciples, children, sons, students, laborers, worshippers, and more, but that we are His “Beloved” opens never before seen vistas to us that compel us to lose ourselves in Him that we might know Him and love Him

according to the desire of His heart. Even as a man is compelled to “*leave his father and his mother*” and cleave unto his wife (Genesis 2:24), and as Paul relates that “*the love of Christ constraineth us*” (II Corinthians 5:14) to forsake living unto ourselves according to our “*old works*” (II Timothy 1:9), we are called to embrace our Saviour’s holy invitation to willingly respond to His desire toward us to live apart from our beginnings and be fully identified with His agenda for our earthly and heavenly future.

It is a true view of who we are and who is to reign over our years, days, hours, thoughts, decisions, and actions as we take up this calling. Once our hearts have become sufficiently enamored with this glorious truth, the Lover of our souls leads us by the Spirit into the life changing circumstances that will continually refine and define our newly held desire. He begins a sanctifying, or purifying, work in our lives with the intent of transforming not just our hearts, but our minds. Our hearts may harbor the deepest, sweetest desires, but it is with our minds that we yield to them and direct our bodies to manifest actions true to them. Paul speaks of this to the Ephesian saints in Ephesians 4:20-32 when he exhorts them to “*be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*” which will result in new, holy actions that bespeak of a redeemed life and serve to glorify Jesus.

A man who makes great overtures of love toward the woman that enraptures his heart will never realize the fullness of that relationship unless he leaves his father and his mother, and cleaves unto her as his wife. Our greatest spiritual foes can be the people that occupy those places very near and dear to our hearts because they can compete against our newly desired dedication to the Lord. Matthew 10:36-38 reads, “*And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.*” Even so, other great spiritual detriments can be found in the objects,

behaviours, environments, attitudes, and expectations that we held so dear prior to our embracing the intent to discover the depths of Jesus' calling as His "Beloved." Paul writes in II Corinthians 7:1, *"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."* just after he exhorts them to *"come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,"* in II Corinthians 6:17. It is a directive from our beloved Lord that we actually do something new even as we desire to become something new.

Does God approach us in any manner, at any time, under any circumstances, in any way other than love? Love is the motivation behind His every move. It is love, first and foremost, that sparks His intentions in His dealings with us. He chastens all whom He loves and He loves all whom He chastens. Heart and mind must go hand in hand. While we were at enmity with Him, He loved us and stayed by His plan to redeem us from the bondage and workings of sin. How much more will He now labor to draw His redeemed out from among those things in the same loving manner? *"What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."* Rom 6:21-22

The Lord in love and through love teaches us how to love. Even as He has carried us that impossible distance from sinner to saint, He now seeks to conquer our hearts and minds, and to lift our eyes to things once thought impossible (or even undesirable), but that are now found to be within our reach through the revelation of the Holy Spirit. Through His own life, lived out in *"the likeness of sinful flesh"* (Romans 8:3), *"made in the likeness of men"* (Philippians 2:7), Jesus demonstrated before the eyes of the world the works of love that the Father sent Him to do. And He declared, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these*

shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” (John 14:12). Due to the unlimited, immense power of the resurrection at work in us (Ephesians 1:19-20), we are enabled and entitled to have access to the same Father who has bestowed upon us Christ-like works “that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). His great love enables, teaches and inspires us to love with the same love He extended to us. John 13:34-35 reads, “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

It is at this juncture that we enter more deeply into the topic of our study. We have discussed the love of God toward us and the reciprocal love we can have toward Him, but we now step into the arena of an ever-challenging, personal struggle. It is here that the calling of love gets its hands dirty. It is here that love takes the more difficult path, and joins company with sorrow and suffering. It is here that the power of the Spirit and boldness of faith become essential. It is in this expansion of our spiritual walk that we take our stand at the side of Christ, and face the same obstacles and challenges that brought Him to the cross of Calvary. It is found embodied in the next three words of our reference verse and makes us clearly see the dependence that we must have in Him in order to accomplish His calling and purpose in our lives. *“Beloved, let us love . . .”* The precious opportunity now set before us is to not only see ourselves as God sees us, but to apply this same heavenly **perspective** to those that the Lord places around us and deal with them as the “Beloved” as well. We are called to love, forgive, and forbear even as Christ did with us. It is the ministry of the grace of God even as it has been administered to us.

The sight of the earth rising over the horizon of the moon pales in comparison to the work accomplished in the heart of a child of God when that child is able to gaze in wonder at another human being with a sense of godly awe, knowing that Jesus died for them, too.

PSALM 45

Corina Medina

Fairer Than The Children of Men

This is a Psalm of love. V. 1-2: “My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer. **Thou art fairer than the children of men:** grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever.” This is a Psalm about the Lord Jesus Christ (Who is fairer than the children of men) and His Bride. Fairer means to be beautiful.

Genealogy is counted through the father’s line (Christ is the Son of God). In Luke 1:31-35 the angel appeared to his mother, a young virgin. The angel said, “...behold, thou shall conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great and shall be called **the Son of the Highest:** and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” (the fairest, fairer than the sons of men.)

When Jesus was baptized (Mt. 3:16-17), “lo, the heavens were opened unto him...and lo, a voice from heaven saying, This is **My beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased.” The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

It is said in Psalm 84:11, “For the Lord God is a *sun* and a shield...” (the brightness of Jesus Christ). In Malachi he is the *Sun* of Righteousness (luminous). He is the *light* of the

world. That word light could also mean 'fire.' What does Heb. 12:29 say? "Our God is a consuming fire." The sun would consume wouldn't it? He is the *beautiful* Son of God, *fairer* than the sons of men.

James 1:17, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the *Father of lights*, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures." Being born again we are sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus. II Cor. 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." We are a brand *new creation*, a *new life*.

Psalms 45:13 speaks of the bride being all glorious within; her clothing is of wrought gold. She is fair, lovely and beautiful. Our **new life** is *fair, luminous, beautiful and perfect*. We sing, On Christ the solid rock I stand. What is our standing: Is it our goodness? It is Christ and **Christ alone** (the fairest One). We were once in darkness, but now ye are *light in the Lord*. Praise God! Paul said, "ye are the **children of light**, not of darkness. Walk as children of light." Phil. 2:14-16, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye *shine as lights* in the world; Holding forth the word of life..." We are to see ourselves as luminous *in Christ*, We count or reckon with God: the old Adamic nature is dead and we are risen together with Christ. Praise God! God sees *His Son in us*. We are children of the resurrection, raised together with Him. We enter into it by faith.

The Saducees didn't believe in the resurrection and were baiting the Lord in Luke 20. They asked about the woman who married a man who died and she married his brothers. Jesus answer in Verse 34-38, that the children of this world

marry and are given in marriage, but in the resurrection, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage. They are equal unto the angels and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection. Now that the dead are raised, even Moses showed at the bush when he called the Lord the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. For He is not a God of the dead but of the living, for all live unto Him. So we can count ourselves as living ones, fairer than the sons of man, **in Christ**.

Resurrection is spoken of in I Sam. 2:8, “He raiseth up the poor out of the **dust**, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory...” The man of the dust is the Adamic race, isn’t it? We were without strength in ourselves, sinners and enemies of God, Romans 5. Praise God, Christ died for the ungodly. We have been raised out of the dust, out of Adam and *into Christ Jesus* our head. Thank the Lord! Being justified by faith, we have peace with God, an eternal standing with the Lord. Rom. 6:14.

In I Cor. 15 we read there is one glory of the sun (Oh, the glory of the Lord!) and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars. One star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. We are a blest people, there will be differences in the splendor of people in the resurrection. It is sown in weakness and raised in power. We wait for that day. It is sown a natural body and it is raised a spiritual body. The first man Adam, a beautiful creation of God, became flawed. The last Adam (Christ) was made a *life-giving spirit*. Which we possess when we accept the second man, the Lord from heaven. **“As we have born the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”** Praise the Lord, fairer than the sons of man. How can we say that we are fairer than the sons of man? The Bridegroom speaks to his bride in Song of Solomon 4:1, he says, “Behold *thou art fair*, my love; behold, *thou art fair*.”

Twice he tells her, you are beautiful. “Thou hast doves’ eyes.” It is important to see as He sees. Verse 7, “*Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee.*” The grace of the living God is doing that work in us. Praise His Name!

Eph. 5:25-27 tells us that Christ so loved the church, and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that he might present it to Himself a glorious (*bright and luminous*) church, not having spot, or wrinkle, but holy and without blemish. Amen!

Song of Solomon 6:1, “Whither is thy beloved gone, O thou **fairest** among women?” There will be a bridal company and she is the fairest among the women. “Whither is thy beloved turned aside? that we may seek him with thee.” When we are asked, we can tell them, can’t we? V. 4, “Thou art beautiful, O my love...” I see that beautiful one, *fair* and *bright* as the morning. I see the Lord Jesus Christ living *in us*. Praise the Lord! Again in V. 10, “Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible (awesome) as an army with banners?” I see her as a beautiful warrior queen who has had many battles. Eph. 6:10, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” Someone would stand in our way. BUT we have Jesus. This bride, with her brightness and beauty (fair) and her strength which **comes from Him**. *Christ in us* - that is our hope of glory and beauty for all eternity. He who is fairer than the children of men - we enter His courts now with thanksgiving. One day we will surely enter His courts with thanksgiving and see Him face to face. Oh dear Jesus, Come! O Lord of lords, King of kings, Wonderful, Counselor, mighty God, you who are the Prince of Peace, come soon! *Bright and beautiful* Morning Star! We know **Him** who is Fairer than the sons of men. The Lord bless you in His Word and encourage you with His grace.

The Book of Daniel

Chapter 6



This is a well known chapter in Daniel when he was put in the lions den. We all know the story how the lions do not bother him. This could picture the protection and **preservation of a remnant of the Jews** during tribulation. Also the decree that no petition could be made to any god, but to Darius could speak of the **commanded worship** of the antichrist.

This chapter is a continuation of chapter 5 which ended with the fall of the great city of Babylon. One dynasty ended but another is born, the conquering Medes and Persians as was prophesied and symbolized in the great image (the arms and shoulders of silver). It is inferior to the first kingdom. Nebuchadnezzar's rule was one of absolute authority. Whom he would, he put to death and whom he would, he kept alive. The second world empire was not so, but it was well organized.

Vs. 1-3 - Daniel must be close to 90 years old, yet he is very active and displays wonderful strength, drawing it from God Himself. First Darius appointed 120 princes to be over the whole kingdom, then over the princes, he put 3 presidents and Daniel was the first of them. They had to give account to Daniel. Darius preferred Daniel and conferred this **great honor** upon him. He knew he could trust Daniel and that he would not tolerate corruption. This made Daniel **second in authority** in the new kingdom. This filled the presidents and princes with envy and beside this he was a Jew and they had to answer to him. They could not get away with any plan for gain.

Vs. 4-5 - People do seem to look for faults. Even Daniel's enemies could find no fault in his character nor in his **faithfulness** to the kingdom. But they knew he had priorities in his life, we should also. The Scripture is clear what they should be. First, should be the things of God. We should be different and shine as lights in this world.

Three commendations given of Daniel:

(1) An excellent spirit was in him - V. 3. His spirit was yielded to the Spirit of God. We also should be yielded to God and let His Spirit lead us. We are even more accountable than Daniel. We have the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Christ. Daniel didn't have this, he had the Spirit of God upon him. Jesus said, to his disciples in Jn. 14:17, The Holy Spirit dwelleth with you, and shall be *in you*.

(2) Daniel was faithful - V. 4. God wants us to be faithful too. In everything we do to be *dependable, faithful, active* in your work or meeting. Some saints are hit and miss which is not being faithful. We must yield to the leading of the Spirit for this *faithfulness* to be *worked in us*. God wants faithful people - I Cor. 4:2.

(3) No fault was found in Daniel - V. 4. This would be true of our outward walk if we yield our bodies totally - Rom. 12:1.

Vs. 6-9 - Daniel was a worthy representative of the God of Judah and God was not ashamed of him. He was a shining light in a time of darkness. He remained unspotted in the midst of luxury, lust and licentiousness. Yes, his headquarters were in a palace which could also be described as a pigsty. For the government officials were sensual, sinful and self-seeking. Daniel stood out because of his excellent spirit and being surrounded by such impurity. Daniel's enemies had to concoct a scheme to get Daniel into trouble. First **they lied**, for they

said **all** the presidents (V. 7), but Daniel was not a part of this. Secondly they **flattered** Darius (beware of flatterers). They used flattery to get Darius focused on how great he was so they could slip in the **penalty**, which was their motive. These were crafty fellows **moved by Satan's** craftiness.

Vs. 10-11 - Daniel knew the law was signed. He was on a spot you might say. Where was his loyalty to be, with the king and his decree or to God? Notice what he did first, he went home and his windows being opened toward Jerusalem, prayed *as he always did*. He could not compromise and he made no change. He did not make a showy display, but neither did he hide his actions. He just did as usual, with his windows open toward Jerusalem (this was scriptural - II Chron. 6:38-39 & I Kings 8:48). You know, he could have excused himself if he wanted. After all it was only for 30 days, and he could start praying again after the 30 days. Men today could use Rom. 13:1 as an excuse and say Scripture tells us that the powers that be are ordained of God. And I Pet. 2:13 says, submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake whether it be to the king as supreme or unto governors, etc. Men can find scripture to do what ever they want to do. But read Acts 5:29. Where are our priorities? Are we looking for scripture to excuse what we want to do? Scripture tells us to obey the authorities God has put over us and this is what we are to do, except when it is contrary to the will of God. Daniel addressed God in prayer and thanks. It was here that Daniel prevailed with God and the victory was won. Daniel **fought the battle on his knees** and the lions mouths were closed. He knew these men were determined on his downfall and he knew only God **could** under take for him. Notice, these men had to see it to be able to report to the king.

V. 12-14 - Their inditement against Daniel was: first: he is not one of us. He doesn't deserve a trial, he is only a captive of

Judah. Second: he refused to regard the king and went against his wishes. Third: he was disobedient. Have you heard the saying 'If you were to be arrested for being a Christian, could the world find enough evidence against you to prosecute you?' Do you act like a Christian all the time? Do you pray everyday like Daniel? Daniel could only plead guilty and he was willing to die if necessary for what he stood for. Darius was distressed with himself for he realized he had fallen into a trap and he had no control over it. He could not change the writing, even though he labored over it until the sun went down. The law of the Medes and Persians could not be altered (changed). Darius liked Daniel and respected him.

Vs. 15-20 - These men applied pressure on the king. Darius didn't want to do it. What a witness Daniel had, even this heathen king had to admit that Daniel served his God continually. It would seem that he expected Daniel would be preserved. He reasoned that no God could fail such a devoted servant. He was right. God cannot fail His people in any age or trial. God is faithful. Have you ever felt so low that you felt you had to reach up to touch bottom? That you were all alone? Daniel wasn't alone and neither are we (Ps. 40:1-2, God brought David out). Notice, it was sealed with the king's signet, that meant no one dare touch that stone. V. 18 doesn't mean the king was fasting and praying, he simply didn't eat because he was upset at having to put Daniel in the lion's den. He didn't want any music to soothe him or entertain him or food to comfort him. He also couldn't sleep. Earlier Darius stated that Daniel's God would deliver him - V. 16. But when he comes to the den the next morning, he asks, did he do it? - V. 20.

Vs. 21-23 - The fact that Daniel spoke, proved God was able. If the lions had eaten him he could not have talked. The king had been **so miserable**, the contrast is great, he now is

exceeding glad for Daniel. God delivered Daniel out of the mouth of the lions - Heb. 11:33.

Daniel was innocent before God **first** and also innocent before the king **second** (V.22). Daniel didn't do a thing to hurt the king in any way. Proof of this fact was that God protected him. Proof of Jesus holiness was His resurrection from the dead - Rom. 1:4. This was God's seal of approval when He brought Him out of the tomb, that He was the Holy Son of God. And with Daniel - this was God's seal of approval, that Daniel had done no wrong or no hurt. Why was there no hurt on Daniel? Because he believed in his God (V. 23). God can do as much for us today if we believe Him. No matter what kind of pit, or how many lions are in the pit. God is going to take care of you. It may look horrible, but the just shall live by faith.

V. 24 - This is proof that those lions were hungry. When Daniel's enemies were thrown in the same pit, the lions devoured them. They had sought Daniel's downfall and dug a pit for him and they fell into it themselves. Gal. 6:7 - "God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." You may think it was Darius who dealt with them so quickly, but back of him was the living God. Gal. 5:15.

Vs. 25-28 - Darius salutation is "peace be multiplied unto you." Only God can make peace. He is our peace. Daniel's God is our God, He is living, steadfast forever, unmovable, unchangeable and He worketh signs and wonders. Darius testimony is a mighty one to all Gentile powers to leave hands off the Jews. They would do well to heed the testimonies of Nebuchadnezzar and Darius that are found in the book of Daniel (Ch. 4 & 6). When the kingdoms changed, Daniel went on, he prospered in the reign of Darius the Median and Cyrus the Persian, being chief president under the dual monarchy.

E. J. D.