

Glorious Gospel Publication



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BEHOLD HE IS COMING!



I am impressed at the way Peter was used, inspired, stirred by the spirit to remind us of things spoken before in view of things yet to come. Old Testament events that have bearing on the future.

“This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the **last days** scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the **promise of his coming?** for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: “ 2 Pet. 3:1-6

Oh how dangerously wrong they were, and sadly so are the scoffers of these “Last days.” They both deny the God given facts. V. 7 - “But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

NEW TESTAMENT STATEMENTS

Jesus, Peter and Paul spoke clearly of what happened in Noah’s day in relation to the promise of the Lord’s Day events. We read in Mt. 24: “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man

in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Vs, 29-30). “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man,...But as the days of Noah were, so shall the coming of the Son be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark. And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of man be” (Vs. 35-39). “Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come” (V. 42) “Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh” (V. 44).

Noah preached for one hundred twenty years, that a world destroying flood was coming, and it came to pass just like they were told. God has always kept His promises, and He will.

Peter in like manner proclaimed that a universal consuming fire is coming. See 2 Peter 3:10-12. What shall the world expect? Unless there are changes in their attitude and actions of faith toward Jesus. God who was longsuffering in the days of Noah, has been that way in this Age of Grace, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 2 Pet. 3:9.

When Paul spoke of this, he said, “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith” (Heb. 11:7). He certainly found Grace in the eyes of the Lord.

“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him peace, without spot, and

blameless. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles,...Ye therefore beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But **grow in grace**, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever, Amen” (2 Pet 3:13-18).

Praise God today for our hope looks up in faith’s glorious expectation, being focused upon our coming Lord. While we behold Him as the author and finisher of our faith, He enjoys filling our dove-lit eyes with the heart revelation of His glory. He is changing us from glory to glory in preparation for that wedding on high! ARE WE NOT GLAD THAT WE LEARNED NOT TO DEPEND UPON OUR OWN STEADFASTNESS? But have enjoyed the opportunity to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Even to **grow up in Him in all things**, which is part of our preparation to be fully ready for His coming.

Growing in grace is the development of the overcoming Christ life in us. As we feed on His word, drink in of the Spirit, and walk in all the light we have, he is giving us more. What a difference knowing these things should make in our lives and living. **It’s high time! That we be ready! The signs of the times are every where! We do well to think on, consider ...** Rom. 13:8-14 & Titus 2:11-14. Even to submit whole heartedly while **Learning**, as his grace is teaching, to be **living, looking** for, and **loving** His appearing. Think on Col. 3:1-25 for the right attitude and action for those **preparing** to appear with Him in glory! Amen.

J. D.

A GOOD REPORT

by Roy & Anita Clark

For the last 27 years I and my wife, Anita, have been pastors at Grace Chapel Church in Carbondale, Kansas. From the beginning of our marriage 51 years ago, I have suffered many illnesses in my body. God has always been faithful to provide for me. In 1988 I had severe liver disease brought on by chronic colitis. The Lord provided me a transplant liver, which has worked perfectly all these years.

In 2001 my kidneys failed and I had to go on dialysis. We believe that God is a God of miracles. We have seen Him heal sick bodies immediately. We have prayed for many who were healed by God's supernatural power. Despite this, God, Who is the sovereign God has chosen to take me down another path to show His divine wisdom and power. I have been on dialysis for 7 years, but have maintained the victory in my life with my wife standing by me. We have desired the will of God, whether it meant that I would continue to be on dialysis, or whether a kidney transplant would become available to me.

Once again God has performed a miracle for us. We received the call for a transplant kidney last Monday night a week ago, September 8th, twenty years after my transplant liver. We drove up to Omaha, Nebraska and they began testing some more, which went on until 12:30 A.M. Wednesday, September 10th. The kidney met all criteria and matched perfectly. A miracle in itself. The surgery only took 2 ½ hours. Since it has been 7 years since my bladder has had anything to fill it, the doctors told us that it might

not work correctly. Also, that there could be a wait of several days on the kidney itself to start working. But, again, the Lord performed a miracle. The kidney started working immediately and there was no problem with the bladder at all. I had a catheter in, but after 2 days there was a problem with it not draining unless I stood up, so they took it out and function is absolutely normal.

I was dismissed from the hospital Saturday the 13th, and stayed with my wife in the hotel room provided next to the hospital-Saturday until Monday morning. After labs Monday, we came home. I am doing okay. Just minor things i.e. a little bleeding around the incision site. By the way they used glue to shut the incision instead of staples or sutures. I am recuperating and resting physically and Spiritually. I have not had very much pain. I have to submit to blood tests Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and will go back to Omaha in two weeks for a checkup. It is a 3 hour drive up there. Please continue to pray for us for strength.

An interesting sidelight is that another man got the other kidney three hours before me. It was a perfect match for him also. We met the wife and daughter of the 78 year old man. They are Christians and had been praying for their transplant for 4 years. Anita got all their information to write her an e-mail. What a blessing it is that the family of the person who died gave their organs to be a blessing to others. I had given up on getting a kidney, not hopelessly, but knowing that God has sustained me all these years and surely would until my course is run, so this is a pleasant surprise. Anita was not worrying about my condition bringing death. She was just resting in the Lord about my condition, knowing that God does all things well.

It is amazing how my special kidney diet for all these years is now canceled, and I can have all these things I could not have all those years. It makes such a difference in planning meals, and cooking. I am really enjoying ice cream and other milk products, which I have

not had for a long time. We appreciate all of you and your prayers for us through-out this time of testing. God answers prayer. My getting this kidney and God sustaining me in victory all these years is a great testimony to this community of Carbondale also. Praise the Lord!

Please keep praying for us. I have to be isolated for a while as I heal. I am eager to get on with whatever God has for my life. Keep trusting the Lord with us. We love all of you dear saints. Roy and Anita Clark



WHAT EAGLES SEE

**What does an eagle see on a cloudy day
Soaring above the clouds
How does he know where to go; where to stay
What does an eagle see on a cloudy day?**

**Lord help me to see like an eagle on a cloudy day
Hold my hand lest I try to stray and
I miss a chance to pray
Lord help me see what an eagle sees on a cloudy day**

**Lord help me to see like an eagle on a cloudy day
When my way is dark and my body is pained.
Hold my hand and please guide my way
Lord help me see what an eagle sees on a cloudy day
Lord help me see what an eagle sees on a cloudy day**

— LaBeth Burch

PRAYERS

Sharon Townsend
Chesterfield, Michigan

Recently in our services we have been looking at various aspects of praying/prayer. We read some on Paul's prayers and saw the power of group praying. We have also seen the blessings of a "1 on 1 prayer" with our Father. Lately, however, my attention has been drawn to "Unanswered prayers" or rather "prayers that have not been answered in the manner we had hoped for." Hence the following:

"...the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself (Himself) maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 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." Rom. 8:26-28

So often our prayers and requests are based upon our emotions and the situation or trial that we are in. But, praise God, the Holy Spirit looks beyond our feelings and intercedes in our behalf according to the will of God; and it is the will of our Father to do what is **best** for us. That is why we can say that all things are working together for our good.

Following Are Three Examples Of Such Prayers.

In 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 we see the apostle Paul had been given an abundance of revelations. He had also been given a thorn in the flesh; and **three** times (not once or twice, but three times) he prayed to have it removed. Eventually our Lord told Him "My

grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.” In other words, his prayer would not be answered in the manner he had hoped. But, you know, there came a time when Paul could/would rejoice in the way it was answered. He would be glad he had this thorn. Why? Because in every persecution, necessity, distress, etc. he could lay hold of our Lord and the abundance of grace awaiting him. Truly, this “unanswered prayer” was answered in a manner that was best for Paul. But did you know that the way it was answered was what was best for us also. If Paul’s request had been answered in the way he asked, we would not have verse nine and how often I have grabbed hold of and clung to it in situations facing me. 2 Cor. 12:9 “...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.”

Second example: I Kings 19:4 - “...he (Elijah) requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life...” Elijah really felt bad at this moment. Have you ever felt like this? I have. But praise God, Elijah’s request was not answered and there came a time when he, like the apostle Paul, rejoiced. Why? Because just a few pages over in my Bible we see him being translated (2 Kings 2:11). Elijah did not die as requested. God did not answer his prayer as requested. Again, the way Elijah’s prayer was answered was what was best for Him; and again, the way it was answered was best for us as well. How? Elijah is one of two men who went to heaven without dying. Two is the number of witness. Elijah and Enoch are our witnesses, our proof, of hope of translation.

Example three is found in Mark 14:34-36. Jesus was God, but He was also man and He knew what lay ahead; and the weight of this was bearing on Him, pressing Him down. I don’t think we can truly understand what he must have been going thru at this time.

Verse 34 says He was “sorrowful unto death.” Verse 35 says He “Fell on the ground” and began to pray. Verse 36 says He cried out “Abba Father.” Every time my children were hurting and cried out “Mommy or mother” depending on their age, my heart broke. How God must have felt hearing His beloved Son say “Abba, Father” And now we have His prayer: Mark 14:36 - “...Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what **I will**, but what thou wilt.” Do you know that in this split second of time, it was not His will to have to face what lay ahead. It was not His will to drink of this cup. But praise God it was the Father’s will and Jesus was always obedient to the Father’s will.

Now it goes without saying that the cross was what was best for us. But did you realize that the cross was what was best for Jesus as well. Hebrews 12:2 - “...for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” His joy was not to sit at the right hand of the throne of God. After all, He at one time had thought it not robbery to be equal with God. He was the Word that created all things. His **joy** is His people, and in Particular, His Bride, His pearl of great price. Without the cross there would have been no **joy** for Jesus; no pearl of great price. (I wonder when the angel came and strengthened Jesus if he reminded Jesus of **His joy**?) Do you think Jesus regrets the way His prayer was answered. Absolutely not! He is so pleased with His “JOY” that when the time comes and He can have the place He only had, He will choose to stay with her, His “JOY.”

May all of our prayer requests be answered according to God’s will.

(Message given at Sand Lake, Mich. Labor Day Fellowship)

What Is In Your Hand?

Let us glean a few thoughts from the account of Tabitha in Acts 9:36-43. Her Hebrew name was Tabitha and in the Greek Dorcas - V. 36. Her name means “a gazelle,” an emblem of beauty. We don’t know if she was physically beautiful, but we read how beautiful her life was. For the life of Christ shined out of her, manifested for all to see. We know she was a Christian, for it says she was a **certain disciple**. This Christian woman “was full of **good works** and **almsdeeds which she did.**” She not only received Christ, but she served Him with giving of her money and with her ability to sew.

Vs. 37-39 tells us she became sick and died, “whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.” The disciples (saints in the assembly at Joppa) heard that Peter was near by at Lydda and sent for him. Peter did not delay, “When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.”

Dorcas had caught the vision of how she could serve Christ. She knew what it was to have a **regenerated heart** and this was **the source** of her unselfish life and charitable acts. For the giving of alms and the making of garments in themselves gain no merit with God. God claims our hearts, then in love for Him we yield to Him what we have. We desire to be used in what ever capacity we may serve our beloved Lord. Dorcas caring for widows and the needy sprung from “pure religion” that comes forth from the new creation life of Christ. James 1:27 - “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself *unspotted* from the world.”

Dorcas' good works flowed from a heart grateful to God for His saving grace. This is faith in action. For faith without works is dead, James 2:17-18. Works without faith gains no merit with God for they are the works of the flesh. But Dorcas' hands that made garments and dispensed alms were inwardly inspired by Him whose hands were nailed to a cross. Titus 2:14

Did not God say to Moses, "What is that in thine hand?" Moses said "a rod" - Ex. 4:2. That rod became the symbol of divine power. It is as though the Lord asked Dorcas, What is that in thine hand? And she said a needle and He took what she had and she stitched for Christ's sake. Again I say, it was faith in action. Did not Jesus say, "I was naked and ye clothed me" of those who helped His poor people - Mt. 25:36.

We remember Rizpah for her loving care of the dead. The widow of Zarephath for giving bread to the hungry. Anna the prophetess for her fasting and prayers day and night. Mary for her box of fragrant ointment. Joanna for ministering unto Jesus, etc. What is in your hand? Is the thought the Lord gave me to share with you, but we must finish the story of Dorcas. It was a sad day for the church at Joppa when this beloved and devoted woman died. The widows she had clothed laid her out with great grief. They weeping showed the garments Dorcas had made them.

Vs. 40-41 - Peter following Christ's example put them all forth and kneeled down and prayed. Then turning to the body said, "Tabitha arise" and she did. What a moving scene that must have been. Dorcas was alive again. The mourners were comforted and she could return to her life of good works and almsdeeds. Her resurrection was the cause of revival as we read in Verse 42, "many believed in the Lord" in the town. So it is not a miracle for the sake of a miracle. Dorcas raised from physical death became the cause of the resurrection of many who had been dead in trespass and sins. For they had a spiritual resurrection coming into the realm of life.

That meant the church at Joppa grew and no doubt the reason that Peter tarried there many days, to help in the establishment of the new converts - V. 43.

Rev. 19:7-8 - "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath **made herself ready**. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints (**the righteous acts of the saints or good works of the saints**).

Dorcas did not aspire to be a leader, but was content to do all she could in all the ways she could. Mt. 5:16. May we do whatever our hands find to do, as unto the Lord. Ecc. 9:10 says, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." It may be a hidden prayer life of holding people up before the throne of grace or it may be cooking meals for those unable to do for themselves. Some may say that the making of garments as Dorcas did is not a spiritual work, but she did what she could. The Lord rewards faithfulness. I was blessed when I learned about the good works of Kathryn Devers and her sister who cooked meals for those in their small town who were incapacitated. Jesus' life was poured out to others for we read He went about doing good - Acts 10:38. He is still doing good through saints yielding to His life within them. Eph. 2:10.

E. J. D.



HANDS

*Hands given to God, surrendered hands, made for service
and for selfless toil; I yield them gladly to the Lord I love.
Should I tire of work and ministry, and stretch not forth
my hands in helpful deed, then Jesus, in Thy mercy let me
see Thy hands that toiled and served in Galilee, Lord
show me then the hands that bled for me.*

“Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever.”

Enhanced Vision 2008

Bonnie Richards

After this year's trip to Israel, and walking on the excavated sites of the people mentioned in the Old and New Testaments, I wanted the Lord to help me understand more about His plan of redemption from the beginning of time from Adam and Eve to the final episode in Revelation 22. Big request, but blessings in the ongoing quest!

There is a personal feeling of interacting with long-gone people while seeing the remains of their homes and cities, the same places they saw, as well as viewing the sites of events looming on the horizon. The very modern nation of Israel (only 60 years old) is, in itself, a wonder for a country so small, and so hated by its immediate neighbors. It enhances comprehension of the prophecy of Scripture.

There is a wonderfully amazing continuity in God's plan concerning **“the Lamb slain from (before) the foundation of the world”**-Rev. 13:8, -the Eternal past in which God's purpose of redemption was, for Him, an accomplished work. The Word says there would be a specific point in time “When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law...” -Gal. 4:4. In Gal. 1:12 Paul said the gospel he preached *“came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*—the promised seed,

Messiah (the very one Paul and the religious hierarchy opposed!). God provided Him and God reveals Him.

Consider now, what a special privilege **Adam and Eve** had to *walk in communion with God* in the Garden. That right was forfeited by their disobedience (sin), and the door to that Garden with the Tree of Life was shut to them. The door that opened whereby they could commune with God was through the blood of the sacrifice which God provided for a covering for them. Mankind has looked forward to the coming Redeemer from the time Adam and Eve heard the **promise of a son** who would crush Satan's head, but Himself be struck in the heel. Thousands of years later, in His parting words to the disciples, Jesus said in John 16:11 "The prince (ruler) of this world is judged." God has not, and dies not, change His plan.

What sorrow those first parents must have experienced when rebellious Cain refused God's offer of a future with hope and peace. He was the very first of the 'Old Creation Order' who choose to obey the spiritual father, Satan. Continuing to deceive, Satan teaches to steal, kill, destroy, lie, murder to this very day. Cain's father, Adam, had taught both sons what was acceptable to God (and why). Abel brought the more excellent sacrifice of the lamb. Although Abel died at a young age without offspring, *he still speaks* of the righteousness God provided through the Lamb who was his substitute. When righteous Abel died, Adam surely intensified his testimony to all his offspring about God's provision of the lamb, the substitute for a sinner. Adam died at 930 years of age. Think of the numbers of his children who had multiplied on the earth during his lifetime. Adam was present to testify to them of God's redeeming plan for men. How many embraced God's offer of a redeemer by their obedience and offering a perfect and sinless lamb? We'll know only when we hear their names read from that precious Book of Life.

Enoch found to *walk with God* here gave him entrance to heaven without going by way of the grave. In all of our Scripture only 8 verses tell the amazing story of this man that God took by translation. In Genesis 5:21-24 we are told he begot Methuselah at age 65. After he begot Methuselah he walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. Was there something special God revealed with the birth of his first son? (Godly parents want to know their children follow closely in God's way.) Ungodliness was rampant in the earth. Hebrews 11:5 & 6 says that by faith Enoch was taken without seeing death. He had walked with God as a *prophet* and a *voice crying out*. Jude 14 & 15: He prophesied of **coming judgment**: "Behold the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, and convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." Enoch was mightily moved by the conditions of mankind in his day (so like our day) and spoke of the Lord's coming at the end of time with *multitudes* of His Saints. What times of communion Enoch had with God in his most privileged walk! The prophet Amos made the point in question form "How can two walk together except they be agreed?" Enoch must have seen the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ as he diligently sought and walked with God. **And God was pleased!**

Noah was a just man, blameless and *he walked with God*. He "found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Gen. 6:8. His name means 'comfort' or 'rest'. His father Lamech said Noah would "comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed." Gen. 5:29. By Noah's obedience he and his family (together with the creatures to repopulate the earth) were lifted out of the judgment of water that covered the earth. Lamech probably didn't know how God would use Noah, but he recognized the curse on the ground. God warned Noah and Noah listened. He *believe* what God told him was

coming and was *moved* by fear. He saw the condition of the earth, that every intent of the thoughts of man was only evil continually (so like our day). Hebrews 11:7 says it all: He *moved with fear, prepared the ark, condemned the world, became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.* His name did not fully apply until after the time in which he was working, warning, enduring the mocking of the corrupt souls God purposed to destroy. He rested in God's plan to deliver them from the coming destruction. Surly he did not rest much while being borne above the flood waters caring for all the animals; but after God had carried out His promised judgment and the waters, had receded, Noah heard God's instruction to go out of the ark with his family and all the creatures that had been preserved. Gen. 8:20 "Then Noah *built an altar to the Lord,* and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a "soothing aroma." Those offerings were again reminders of **The Offering** that does lift a man out of the judgment ahead. Noah rested in the work of that one Offering - Jesus Christ.

to be continued

**Christ hanging there upon the cross,
For lost men He pleaded:
"It is finished!" was His cry,
Nothing more was needed.
Salvation's work completed.
Can I add to such a work
by my weak endeavor?
No! I rest secure in His
Sacrifice forever.**

Beloved, let us love. . .

Part 8 Doug Delhay

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.”

The immense newness-in-essence of the love of God is nearly incomprehensible to us as human beings. There is nothing about it that is familiar to us or even appealing at times. We must learn about it; we must experience it; we must observe it. We can be immersed in it and ignorant of it at the same moment in time. We must practice it and make it a practice in order to know it. We can practice it and immediate blessing may follow, or we can practice it and be accused of hatred and evil as we do. We can do those things which have the outward appearance of the manifestation of the great love of God, yet not exercise it at all. The love of God is not easily understood, given or received by us, but this one thing is certain, it is essential.

Given its essentiality (and as our subject text instructs us), we who are the recipients of God’s love in Christ are to be in the pursuit of laboring in God’s love toward one another. As parents labor long over the lives of their children, and as shepherds endure hardness through the seasons for the sake of their flocks, even so Paul labored to his own detriment over the fledgling churches throughout his apostolic career. And it is important to note that not all of his suffering found its origins in the Jewish opposition to the gospel or the pagan resistance to the revelation of the truth in Christ, but often from within the church or those who were supposedly of the church. As he labored according to the leading of the Holy Spirit throughout the regions bordering the Mediterranean Sea from Palestine to Italy, he undoubtedly ministered to thousands of people each of whom

were loved by God and for whom Christ died. And, even as it is today, each received or rejected the gospel with varying levels of sincerity or earnestness. In some locations for mere hours and in other locations for years, Paul labored by the power of the Spirit in love to all those to whom he was sent.

None would challenge the apostle Paul's understanding of the love of God in Christ. None would question that Paul loved others as God in Christ had loved him. None would question that he labored in godly love toward those to whom he was sent. None would question the integrity, sincerity, or intensity of his love for the people for whom Christ died. Yet, surprisingly, there are but a handful of verses in his epistles in which he writes in a personal manner of his love for the saints. Let's take a moment to look at the majority of these references:

- Philippians 4:1, *"Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved."*
- 1 Corinthians 16:24, *"My love be with you all in Christ Jesus."*
- 2 Corinthians 2:4, *"For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you."*
- 2 Corinthians 6:4-6 (selected), *"But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, . . . by love unfeigned,"*.
- 2 Corinthians 11:11, *"Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth."*
- Philemon 8-9, *"Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient, Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ."*

This does not diminish the fact that he truly, personally loved them, but it does help us to see Paul's ministry in a fresh light. His ministry

and message is not about his personal love for the saints or his personal love for sinners. It is about God's mysterious love in Christ. This love would take us into a new, unfathomable, powerful love manifest in all manner of unfamiliar ways including unwelcome dedication, an allowance of suffering, periodic deprivation of basic physical needs, loneliness, heartbreak and sorrow, and even the risk of or loss of one's physical life. As mentioned in the introduction to this study, walking in the love of God can be hard, dirty work.

Perhaps the unique newness and mysteriousness of this love is most clearly illustrated in Paul's relationship with and ministry to the Corinthians. The Corinthians were a tangle of spirituality and carnality. They were in many ways worldly, but, generally speaking, they were a body of believers that were filled with the Holy Spirit and they openly exercised the gifts of the Spirit. Not only did they live in the midst of idolatry, fornication, wealth, poverty, spiritual ignorance, and sectarianism, but it lived in the midst of them. Paul wrote at least three epistles to them (the first being prior to the writing of 1st Corinthians, see 1 Corinthians 5:9), which was more than he wrote to any other body of believers known to us. He spent one and a half years with them on his first visit as is recorded in Acts 18:11, returned to see them a second time, and announced that he was returning yet again when he wrote to them in 2nd Corinthians.

As he prepared for this third journey to see them he wrote, *"Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved."* (II Corinthians 12:14-15). Paul was clearly set in his heart to labor and sacrifice for their sakes. This wasn't a relationship of tender,

reciprocal love, but largely a one-sided effort on his part with little expectation of due appreciation or kindness in return.

Paul refused to have his daily, physical needs met by them as compensation for his ministerial work because he loved them as God had loved him. He loved them not for what they could do for him or because they were good to him, but because they needed to be shown the love of God. He had to be free from dependence on them so that he could minister to their needs. To do this, he had to minister according to the Spirit's leading by addressing in an authoritative manner their strengths and their weaknesses, their shortcomings and their abundance, their rebellion and their obedience, their errors and their proficiencies, and to clarify their misconceptions regarding the grace of God.

They did not readily respect his doctrines or his person though he was their "father" in Christ (*"for I have begotten you through the gospel."* 1 Corinthians 4:15). His instructions were not accepted easily or widely at first. He was perceived as weak, and not necessarily worthy of the title of apostle. He didn't have the appeal they sought because they looked on the natural things rather than the spiritual. He was caused to be an example of Christ in meekness and lowliness that their eyes might be opened to a self-sacrificing ministration of love that was beyond their imaginations and expectations. He did not come to them in great wisdom and in a manner that appealed to the natural man, for this could not communicate the true nature of God or the newness of Christ-like love. He, like Christ, came as a servant laboring in their behalf.

Even as our heavenly Father could not simply whisper from the clouds a gentle "I love you" and expect us to comprehend the true meaning of that love wherewith we are loved, Paul could not write to them in their confusion simple words of compassion and caring. He had to exhibit God's love. He had to manifest Christ. He was compelled to define the indefinable by manifesting the Truth.

The Book of Daniel

Chapter 8:1-11



V. 1 - Daniel had another vision, it came unto him in the 3rd year of Belshazzar, which is 2 years after the vision of Ch. 7. It would seem that God gave Daniel time to meditate on that vision of chapter 7. Both of these visions came to Daniel when he was still in the Babylonian Empire. It is interesting to me that all Daniel's visions came to him in his later years. Can we be fruitful in old age? Oh, yes. All of Daniel's visions speak of Gentile dominion and their rule over the Jews, so we see why Daniel was so troubled by them - 7:15,28.

Notice the personal pronoun down through this chapter. Daniel is the author, he saw the vision and told it - V. 15. Daniel is a type of the remnant of Israel that will see the truth of God in the last days. The Jews have neglected Daniel, but when those suffering days come they will remember their prophet Daniel who wrote of this and they will search this book to see what he had to say. We will see 2 empires here, but it is really talking about a later time condition at the same time. Notice the phrases, **“the time of the end,” “in the last end,” “latter time” and “it shall be for many days”** - Vs. 17,19,23,26.

V. 2 - In spirit Daniel was transported to another place. He didn't go there bodily, for in body he was still at Babylon, but in vision **his spirit was taken to Shushan** which was 250 miles east and 150 miles north of Babylon. The river Ulai mean “Mighty.” It was powerful and comes down and goes into the gulf just a little north of where the Euphrates goes into the gulf. This is not a vision of Babylon, but a vision of the Persian gulf. This is right on the border of Iraq and Iran today, well actually

it is in Iran. The people of the providence of Elam were very mean. God will judge them - Jer. 49:34-39, but it will not be forever. This is an important area. In Acts 2, there were Jews from every nation in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost. One was Elam (v. 5-9) and 3,000 of these people were filled with the Holy Spirit (v. 37-41). God is going to keep some of those nations we know by Mt. 25 (the sheep nations). They may have a different name then. God is going to do a work in that land, because originally that is where He started everything. Also Israel has been promised all the land clear up to the Euphrates. There were Jews living in that area. Remember when Sennacherib came down and took the northern 10 tribes captive and scattered them all over this area. He also brought people down from that area to Samaria. This is the reason the Samaritans were disliked by the people of Judah, they were a mixed bred.

Vs. 3-5 -God uses these visions to **teach** his purposes and to make known His will. This vision of chapter 8 overlaps in time the vision of ch. 7. It is a different view from another angle of things that were happening at the same time. These are symbolic animals. In ch. 7 we read of ferocious beasts, the **political scene**. In this 8th chapter they are domestic animals which speak of the **religious scene**. There is no doubt who the **ram & goat** represent - V. 20-21. This was not new to Daniel. But we are seeing them in just a little different light. The ram had **2 horns**, but one became higher than the other. It is simply saying the 2 horns are 2 powers within the one power. The Persians became greater than the Medes in power and later took over the empire.

V. 5 - The **he goat** is the same as the leopard of ch. 7. He came from the west on the face of the whole earth and touched not the ground, speaking of the speed of which he moved (like the swift

leopard of chapter 7). He “came from the west” and had a **notable horn**, which is the first king, Alexander the great.

Vs. 6-7 - He defeated the Media-Persia empire. **V. 8** - “the great horn was broken” speaking of the death of Alexander the great and “for it came up **4 notable ones**” - the kingdom was divided into 4 nations. But there is a difference - **V. 9** - “Out of one of them” (these 4 nations which were Greece, Syria, Rome and Egypt) came forth a **little horn**, but this time it is not Rome (the dreadful and terrible beast) as we had before in ch. 7. Here this one came out of the Syrian nation. This little horn is not the same as the little horn of ch. 7. It is all together different. The little horn of ch. 7 represented the Antichrist. The little horn of ch. 8 represents **the false prophet**, a religious leader. We read the same thing in Rev. 13. Where 2 beasts come up, one out of the sea, the Antichrist (V.1) and the other out of the earth, the false prophet (V.11).

Often in prophecy there is a local or earlier fulfillment which speaks of a later fulfillment to come. There was a man, Antiochus Epiphanes the III, a Syrian who married a daughter of the king of Egypt, which caused those 2 nations to join an alliance. All you have to do is look at a map to see what is between Syria & Egypt. It is Jerusalem or the land Israel. Antiochus Epiphanes became **very angry** against the Jewish people and tried to annihilate them. We read about this in the book of the Maccabees (14). They are found in the **apocryphas (e-pok're-fe)** which means just the opposite of the word apocalypse (**e-pok'e-lips**), where the word Revelation comes from and means to unveil. But the word apocrypha means to cover-over, to veil it, so none can see it. It was Jewish literature that served a purpose between Malachi and Matthew. They were taken out of the Bible about the 16th century, parts of them were just fictional stories. The purpose of these stories were to

encourage the Jewish people during the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes. The book of the Maccabees are historical and record what actually happened during that bloody time. This woman had 7 sons, each was killed in front of her one at a time. One was skinned alive and the others horribly killed. But her youngest son was brought forth and was offered great riches if he would just deny the God of Israel and go out and tell the Jews that their God was just a myth. They asked the mother to talk to him and tell him of the riches they would give him. She said, Yes, I'll talk to him, she talked him into dying for God's sake. It is a picture of the condition during tribulation and the terrible, terrible suffering - only it will be worse.

Antiochus took Egypt and Jerusalem by craft. I Maccabee 1:30 - the king sent his chief collector of tribute and came unto Jerusalem with a great multitude and spoke peaceable words unto them, but all was deceit. For when they had given him credence, he fell suddenly upon the city and smote it very sore and destroyed much people of Israel. II Maccabee 5:24. He just hated the Jews beyond measure. There is more we could say, but that is enough to tell just what kind of man he was.

Vs. 9 -10 - So this little horn had a fulfillment in history in Antiochus Epiphanes. He was before the birth of Christ. He had such a hatred for the Jews and for their religion. He tried to get them to worship false Greek gods and even forced them to offer a sow on the altar. Of course that is an abomination. They fought back and was a mighty force. That was the time of the Maccabee's, descendants of a priest. They led a revolt against Antiochus. These brothers got a army together, like a guerrilla army. They put so much on Antiochus that Rome saw an opportunity to gain land. So Antiochus was attacked from the northwest. God intervened for the Jews, this man was not able to fully over throw them. But prophetically in the latter days, the

false prophet will entice the Antichrist and his army to annihilate the Jews. “The host of heaven” refers to Israel and the stars to their leaders. The false prophet will have such power and will deceive the people. They will think he is from God.

Do you see the importance of the Jews? God’s promises are based upon His Jewish people, all His promises to Abraham, which included us. So it is Satan’s aim to get rid of them. This little horn of V. 9 waxed exceedingly great toward “the pleasant land” which is Israel.

V. 11 - “He magnified himself,” whose attitude is that? Satan. How different from the attitude of Christ, who “Made Himself of no reputation.” Satan will empower this man and he will be able to counterfeit God’s things to a certain extent. Just as Satan did in Moses’ day in Egypt. Several of those judgments Satan duplicated, but He could not give life. The false prophet will magnify himself even to the prince of the host. The Prince of the host is another one he would magnify. II Thess 2:4, the Antichrist will exalt himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped. The false prophet will lift up the Antichrist as the great one and will say this is the one, for he was raised from the dead - Rev. 13:11-14.

Jn. 10:10-14 - When the sheep don’t follow the good shepherd, they are left to the mercy of the hireling (the false prophet) and the wolf (the Antichrist). The hireling doesn’t care for the sheep (the people of Israel). He will convince them that they should make a covenant with the nations, an alliance with the Antichrist. He will know all along what he is doing, for he is an evil man. The hireling shepherd flees when danger approaches in contrast with the good Shepherd who died for the sheep. It is possible that these two men are alive today and are ready to come to the forefront.

E. J. D.