

Glorious Gospel Publication



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

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God is Able

“Facing Another Year”



Oh what comforting assurance, what marvelous awareness to realize that for those who trust our Lord and our Father, are the objects of His intimate care. How blessed to be aware that God has sent Jesus to bring about his ultimate purposes for our highest, most glorious eternal benefits!

“But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an *unchangeable* priesthood. Wherefore *he is able* also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, made higher than the heavens.” Heb. 7:24-26.

Oh praise God, beloved do we ever have a Friend in high places! How wise we are to be totally submissive unto Him and His gracious preparation work. This work is to be full-ended, entire, complete in all ways. Let us not hesitate to wholeheartedly trust Him who is totally **“able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”** Eph. 3:20. Shall we not pursue Him earnestly, and the working of His power, for the total accomplishment of His good pleasure?

Our Father speaks throughout His word repeatedly of reassuring examples of His capabilities.

Thank God for the Testimony of the Hebrew Three Dan. 3:13-28

These were ordered as prisoners in Babylon to fall down upon hearing the idol - worship sound, and worship the golden

image, and then were asked when they refused, “who is that God that shall deliver you?” They knew the God that they trusted and served. They knew that He was and *is able to deliver*. Though they were cast down, and fell down bound into the midst of that burning fiery furnace; although Nebuchadnezzar added more heat to the trial of their faith, they were aware of God’s ability. They knew how to depend upon Him. It showed in their attitude and actions as they manifested their confidence in their God. They “that come to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Heb. 11:6.

After they heard the charges against them, they could clearly say, we know in Whom we believe, and are fully persuaded that *He is able* to keep that which we have committed unto Him against that day (2 Tim. 1:12). This fact God recorded openly and especially rewarded their faith. Hallelujah! Their enemy could not keep them bound, nor hold them down, nor burn them up (consider Isa. 43:1-2). Better yet, a **fourth furnace walker** was there with them. I believe they especially enjoyed the presence of the Lord at such a time as this.

Consider the following verses and see what the Holy Spirit will write on your hearts in relation to fiery trials, and the gold of their outcome, as partakers of the gold of the divine life.

Peter’s Testimony

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, you are in heaviness though

manifold temptations: **That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:**"1 Pet. 1:3-7... **These testified of the grace, that should come... and the glory that should follow.** Vs. 11. See also 1 Cor. 3:12-14 & Rev. 3:18.

God was Able to Deliver Daniel

Dan. 6:4,16-27

Thank God, we of like faith, trusting in the same living God as Daniel, know by experience that we are daily brought through some amazing proof of God's power and presence to totally deliver us. SO LET US, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care on him; for *he careth for you*. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring Lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Jesus Christ, after that you have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." 1 Pet. 5:6-11.

See Paul's testimony, "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." 2 Tim. 4:16-18. OH! WHAT BLESSED ENCOURAGEMENT EXTENDED UNTO US FROM THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE. See Eph. 6:10-20.

Oh what glorious victorious conquest now being wrought, through the battles being fought. What shall we say as we march on our way? Shall we not rejoicingly shout “If God be for us, who can be against us?” Rom. 8:31.

“And I heard a...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.” Rev. 12:10-11. OUR ADVERSARY WILL HAVE TO SHUT UP, IT’S ALMOST OUR TIME TO SHOUT AND SING. FOREVER!

A Touching Record **Mt. 9:27-31**

This touching record of two blind men that believed, whose eyes were opened, points out some precious facts. They were following Jesus, how was it possible without sight? It was possible, they followed the sound of the crowd. This must require a certain amount of faith. Where was He going, where to turn, and how to enter? They were aware of their need for mercy. They were not approaching Him on their own merit. They came to Him in need of sight. He does at times require us to be specific. He does require that faith be exercised for our sight, insight, and spiritual out look. He asks an important question of us also: **“Believe ye that I am able to do this?”**

There are several ways and times that He speaks to us of the reality of our faith, and gives assurance. The focus is especially on *His ability*. They said unto him, yea Lord. Then he touched their eyes with **a mighty touch**, following in answer to their faith, saying, **“According to your faith be it unto you,”** and their eyes were opened.” He has openings for our eyes, ears,

and hearts, line upon line, precept upon precept. He can also loosen our tongues to speak His praise. Oh let us praise Him MORE AND MORE!! AND WE WILL HAVE MORE TO PRAISE HIM FOR. *He is able*. “But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country.”

Is God Able?

What are we to Expect?

Let us be encouraged by the outstanding example of the forefather of our faith, Abraham. “Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end that the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things that be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah’s womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully *persuaded* that, what he had promised, he was able also to *perform*.” Rom. 4:16-21.

How blessed to know what God has **promised**, search it out, better yet, let us not stagger at His exceeding great and precious promises. Let the scriptures search our hearts, strengthen our faith, and give glory to God, allowing them to fully **persuade** us that what God has promised, he is entirely **able** to **perform**. Can we not see in this portion a powerful out line for our attitude toward God’s capability, dependability, and for faith’s certain expectation!!!



THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”(Gen, 1:1) “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them” (Gen. 1:26-27).

In the beginning of His creative work of the earth and man, God followed His plan formulated before time began, when the Trinity had a conference which decided the plan of redemption through God the Son’s birth and sacrificial death. We Just celebrated Christmas honoring the Lord Jesus Christ’s birth.

Jesus Christ is the one who fulfilled the phrase, “In the image of God.” We can’t imagine what it means, that He was abased and born as a human child, grew up to be a slave to His Father’s will, and died as the holy and without spot sacrifice for our sin. He was made in the form of man, yet he was truly in “the image of God.” He was made a little lower than the angels. He who knew no sin was made sin for us. The same word “made” is used in referring to the creation of the world. What a miracle it was!

When we believe on the Lord Jesus, we are made a new creation in Christ Jesus. As II Cor. 5:17 states, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” As we enter this New Year, let us determine to walk in the “newness of life” that we have in Christ, after the “new man,” not after the old. This is not achieved by our gritting our teeth and by our

own self effort, constraining our flesh from doing evil things, but by our being yielded to and totally reliant upon the Holy Spirit working in us. Our part is to yield. This is not a passive word - "yield" i.e. just laying down and becoming a rag doll, but by our presenting ourselves to the Lord. Romans 12:1 tells us to "present our bodies as a living sacrifice." The word, "present" in the Greek is not a passive action but means "to stand at the ready, to offer at the disposal of." We should give all our life to the Lord and stand ready to do His command and will through us. Praise the Lord!

The New Year is a time that many make resolutions to change habits or such like, but merely human effort will not succeed in changing a life. Soon one will find that he is back in the same old rut, doing the same old things as he previously did. The only way true change takes place is through the power and strength of the Lord. We are changed by yielding our lives to the Lord, as II Cor. 3:18. says, " But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord , are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even by the Spirit of the Lord." How precious the work done in our lives by our precious Lord! "For it is God which worketh in you to will and to do of His good pleasure" Phil. 2:13 I John 3:2-3 tells us, " Beloved now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when He shall appear we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that has this hope in him purifieth himself even as He is pure." Being human we do not understand fully what it will be to be glorified or to " be like Him." After his resurrection, He appeared to the disciples and others in His glorified state. When we are resurrected or translated at the coming of Christ, we will also enter into that eternal glorified state, just as He is. The hope of seeing Christ when the trumpet sounds burns in our hearts, and because it does our lives are transformed, as we let God work in us.

SIGNS ARE RIPE FOR THE SOON RETURN OF CHRIST. Israel is a sign nation for when God is finally through with the work of the Church Age in calling out of the Gentiles a people for His name (Acts 15:14-16), He will turn back to Israel and fulfill His promises to them. A recent report from Israel tells of how that the Jews are measuring individuals of the Cohanim (the priestly tribe designated by God to run the Temple services), so that priestly garments can be made for them, so they will be ready, when the temple is built. This was reported in the Israel My Glory magazine. In 1997 a study of Jewish persons who were classed as Cohanim were found to be direct descendants to one man - Aaron, the brother of Moses. This may seem incredible, but the scientific world of DNA testing is complex and hard to be understood by most people, yet it is really wonderful, and shows God's handiwork in creation of man. These individuals are members of the Tribe of Levi called Kohathites in the Bible, who were set apart by God to do service in the tabernacle in the wilderness and the temple. If you would like to read further about this, type in The Cohanim - DNA Connection on the Internet. Isn't it interesting how God has given the wisdom to discern who these individuals are so that they can be of service in the upcoming temple of this end Time.

Today, Israel has bombed Hamas in the Gaza Strip, after Hamas recently broke the cease fire by unleashing numerous missiles into crowded Israel settlements. The United States is standing with Israel and blaming Hamas for breaking the cease fire. Where all this will end up is uncertain, but one thing we know as time goes by, there will be more pressure put on Israel to sign a peace treaty that will be very restrictive, and will usher in the seven years of tribulation. Israel will make a covenant with the AntiChrist, who will not be openly showing himself to be an evil person at the beginning of the tribulation. Israel will be fooled. Somehow, a temple will be built during

that seven years in which the AntiChrist will set up an idol of himself. (II Thess. 2).

EU PUSHES FOR CUTS IN GLOBAL NUCLEAR ARSENAL – The European Union is calling for the international community to sign a “comprehensive test ban treaty” and to promptly “dismantle all nuclear test installations.” Mr Sarkozy of France said recently, “We are convinced of the necessity to work for general disarmament...Europe has already done a lot for disarmament and is ready to do more.” The biggest concern is the Iranian nuclear program that the west believes is aimed at developing a new military capability. Disarmament will take place and will make it possible for the AntiChrist to rule over all the world. We are nearing that time, but first will come that rapture of the watching, waiting ones from the earth.

The Lord Jesus Christ will soon appear. Beloved, listen to the voice of the Lord, He is saying to your heart, “BE READY.” He is preparing a bridal company to rule and to reign with Him. This bridal group will be made up of redeemed people, who have let God work in their lives, transforming them inwardly to be like Christ. Many saints have been fully yielded to God over this period of the Grace Age. We are not the judge, but feel that in our lifetime we have known some of those overcomers whose lives reflected a yielded, overcoming attitude. Today God is singling out believers to learn deeper truth, and to be made ready for the upward call. Very soon, the trumpet will sound and we will hear the blessed Lord Jesus call, “Come up here.” Oh, our hearts long for His return. The signs of the times are everywhere. Let us be up and obeying the call, and heeding the Word to yield all to Christ NOW. There is no time to waste. I hope the trumpet will sound before this magazine goes to press. Praise the Lord!

A GOOD REPORT

Orissa, India

Dear friends,

In many places of our world candles are lit in this Christmas Season. This reminds us that Jesus was sent on this earth as a light of the world and he said to his disciples: you are the light of this world. This being sent like Him caused us to meet and love each other. We are so thankful for you and your intention to bring the Good News to the children of your country. We love you and cherish you, but more than that we often remember you before the Lord. Today we wish you a special blessing in this Christmas seasons and the Lord's guidance in the year to come.

THE LORD IS ON THE THRONE: For last one and half month, there was a hue and cry by RSS and BJP (Hindu groups) to call a bandh (Strike / Shut down) on 25th December. No Christians can go to the church to celebrate the Christmas day. Christians in Orissa (are enduring great persecution) were very much panic. People across India and around the world were on their knees for the situation. Day before Yesterday the situation has changed. There is split/division in their party. They will not call any bandh. **WE PRAISE GOD FOR HIS WONDERFUL WAYS.**

Once again we want to thank you all that were praying for us, but my thanks mail will bring you joy of the situation of Orissa. In spite of the great persecution, the Lord done wonderful work among us here. More then 300 new believers confess openly Lord Jesus Christ is their personal saviour and took water baptism.

Please give our Christmas love and greetings to all the Church members and the family. Thanks for helping the children with extra prayer, support to us.

One more reason to Praise the Lord: on 23rd there was inspection to our School from the Central Board Secondary Education for our Children. We had to work very hard as well prepared all the documents and needed information, the Lord has shown His mercy and the inspection committee recommended our school for the Provisional affiliation.

Prayer points: All the relief camps will be run till end of December. But after that where the people will go. The houses are not constructed. Rss people are forcefully harvesting in fields where the persecuted people had labored to reap the crops. The number of death in relief camps are increasing due to lack of proper medical care and warm cloths.

With deepest love and Joy and many greetings. Yours in Him.

Rajat+ Annegret with Asha Shalome

Rajat Kumar Pani

Uppahar Children's Home, Orissa, India



Prayer

*More things are wrought by Prayer
Than this world dreams of.
Wherefore, let thy voice
Rise like a fountain
for me night and day.*

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

Enhanced Vision 2008

Part 4

Bonnie Richards

In my early experience with the Lord, I understood that Israel was under *the Law*. Therefore, in my thinking, it was a very difficult thing for them to be saved. Truly, if the individual was trusting in his own ability to please God, he *could* never be saved. Jesus said when the crowd looked on His face following Him: (John 6:28,29) “They asked him, What must we do to do the works God requires?” Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the One he has sent.” “Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever” was the Savior, Redeemer, Messiah they had looked forward to. Faith produces the works of salvation, not works for salvation.

In the ages past there were many who anticipated the One to come who was to be the redeeming sacrifice that would take away sin. They *believed and understood* the sacrificial animal was pointing to the coming Redeemer. Much was known about Him: His humanity - Gen. 3:15 (Eve’s Son); His Deity - Isa. 9:6 (Mighty God, everlasting Father); His nationality - Gen. 22:18 (Abraham’s seed); His tribe - Gen. 49:10 (Judah); His family - Isa. 11:10 (a root of Jesse); His name - Isa. 7:14 (Immanuel - together with many other names), His time of appearance - Dan. 9:25 (from the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince); His rejection and death - Isa. 53 (despised, rejected, oppressed, afflicted, cut off for our transgressions); His resurrection - Psalms 16:10 (You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption).

During this Church Age, GRACE has been the blessed theme. Paul says in Eph. 2:20 we have “been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.” John 3:16 did not suddenly become effective the night Jesus spoke to Nicodemus. Grace was extended during the ages of Conscience, Human Government, Promise and Law. In that time the schoolmaster had a lesson for mankind: **Law does not, cannot, save!** The heart of every man born is sinful and comes short of producing a righteousness acceptable to God. Only the Redeemer can give the gift of a life that can please Him. THEN AND ONLY THEN, the righteousness of the Law can be fulfilled in us “who *walk* not after the flesh, but *after the Spirit*.” The New Man feeds on Christ to enable such a walk — all is provided to us as we hear and heed the Word of God.

The account of the **faith** of Simeon and Anna as they stood in the Temple (in the fullness of time) shows they knew by the witness of the Holy Ghost that they were looking at the Promised One— God’s salvation for all people. In Luke 2:25-38 recounts the story of Simeon, “just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would *not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ*. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your Word; for my eyes have seen your Salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring **revelation to the Gentiles**, and the glory of Your people Israel.” ...”Anna,...a widow of about 84 years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day, coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who

looked for redemption in Jerusalem.” Their praises came from hearts which had before been made new.

In Pet. 1:8-12, Peter encouraged the persecuted and dispersed Jews saying “Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, (Jesus had gone back to the Father) yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls:.” (No matter at what point, from Adam to me and until the end of time, faith in Him has produced salvation and a New Birth. Especially note v. 10: “Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you; searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when *it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow*” —proof that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.” These all had been born again in the same fashion as Jesus told Nicodemus, the Pharisee, under the law, (but not yet redeemed): “Are you a teacher of Israel and know not these things?” It was taught in the Old Testament! Because of His great love, God’s purpose has ever been “not...to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.” John 3:17. Further, Jesus said to the disciples in Matthew 13:17: “For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.”

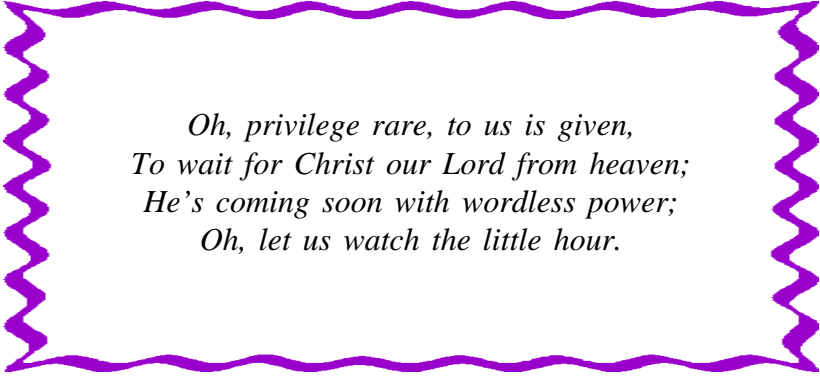
The beloved disciple said “*That which was from the beginning*, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled.” (I John 1:1) This is the One who is the hope of the ages past, present, future.

We *look back* to the fact of Jesus’ victory on the Cross as first promised to Adam and Eve. They *looked forward* and taught their offspring to communicate with God through the sacrifice

that God accepted as their substitute. Today we *remember* Him (our sacrifice) in the communion of the broken bread and the cup of wine - until He comes again. In the next age, with Jesus Christ reigning for a thousand years, they will once again offer sacrifices, but in *remembrance* of His redeeming work.

However, after the perfect King has ruled in righteousness for 1,000 years, some will *choose to be deceived and rebel* against their loving Maker, Jesus Christ. They will have shown a feigned faith. But as ever, the unregenerate heart cannot produce righteousness. When the Deceiver is released from his thousand year imprisonment, some willingly rebel. There is NO remedy for the Old Creation except a New Birth. God will finalize Satan and those aligned with Him in a swift sweep into eternal damnation in the lake of fire — Revelation 20:10-15. Justice from a Righteous Judge who has offered His best for the pardon of all mankind!

In God's Timeline, we are standing at the transition period seeing God powerfully moving toward the next age, with it's fearful seven years of judgment imminent. Thank God for the open door awaiting us; we will be kept from the hour of trial coming on the whole world. The day we are living in is often spoken of in Scripture so we can recognize the clearly defined and converging signs of His return. Our response is "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"



*Oh, privilege rare, to us is given,
To wait for Christ our Lord from heaven;
He's coming soon with wordless power;
Oh, let us watch the little hour.*

Beloved, let us love . . .

Part 11
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

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful. The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.” (Proverbs 27:6-7)

When Paul wrote to the Romans regarding his being persuaded that they were *“able also to admonish one another”* (Romans 15:14), he implied that he was convinced of their maturity and readiness of spirit to receive admonition from one another when needed. The strength of their relationship with the Lord, their understanding of His will, their knowledge of His Word, and their spiritual maturity led him to the conclusion that they were of the ability to be receptive of the bold manner in which he spoke. Strong words, strong doctrine, directness with confidence are as much the benefits of godly love as are sweet words, pleasant doctrine, and retiring behavior. Love expressed as the Spirit leads and enables, in a tenor appropriate for the occasion, is love expressed. Love received as the Spirit leads and enables, tempered by confidence in the good intentions of the one who gives it, is love received.

The labors of true love borne of a true heart do not always alight upon us tenderly with gossamer wings. They may thrust themselves into our spirit with a blunt trauma via the actions or words of one near and dear to our soul. They may come sweeping out of left field and catch us off guard knocking us off balance, or even bring us breathlessly to our knees. But true, Christ-like love should be ever welcome in our lives by whatever

means it comes for it is faithful, even to the point of testing our desire to receive it or believe it. The phrase “*wounds of a friend*” stands out in stark contrast against its opposite, but equally oxymoronic counterpart, “*the kisses of an enemy*.” Our natural understanding tells us that friends only kiss us and enemies only wound us, and rejects the idea of a friend intentionally causing us to be wounded even as it despises the thought of welcoming being kissed by an enemy. But sin being what it is and deceit being the way of our enemy, it should be of no surprise that these previously irreconcilable terms should bring us great blessing in understanding their wisdom. Wisdom, like love, is discovered in many formats.

The love of God in Christ teaches us that friends fulfilling the responsibility of friendship do not always kiss us. Neither does our soul’s enemy always strike us with a hardy blow. The witness of the Spirit will bear witness with our spirit as to the truth and presence of the eternal love of God. Whatever form the expression of God’s love towards us may take, it is our responsibility to humbly receive it and be made better by it. “*For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*” (Hebrews 12:6) How else might we bring forth the “*peaceable fruit of righteousness*” unless we are “*exercised*” by our Father’s loving chastening (Hebrews 12:11)? The guiding discipline and corrective measures of our heavenly Father that may be quite painful for us to bear are no less a representation of His divine, holy love than are His acts of undeserved mercy and grace in tenderness. And if He accomplishes these acts of love toward us through a brother or sister in the Lord, does that make them any less His actions? His love is eternal, His methods are countless, His word is faithful, and the mystery of the church as the body of Christ causes His ways to be equally mysterious as He enacts His will among mankind. He may speak to us from scripture, He may speak to us by the Spirit, or He may speak to us through another member of His body, but the effect of this truth and love spoken to our

hearts will bear the same fruit if we will receive it. For *“wisdom is justified of all her children.”* (Luke 7:35).

Let's again consider Paul's statement in the text in Romans 15:14, and his being persuaded of the saints acquired ability or maturity to be *“able also to admonish one another.”* How precious (often because of its rarity) it is for saints to be able and willing to give and receive admonition in love. What marvelous evidence it provides that the sin-riddled, self-serving pride of the flesh has been overcome and that the blessings of the love and grace of God hold the highest priority in a saint's life. Looking again at our opening verse (Proverbs 27:6-7), a soul that is filled with self-satisfaction or is self-complacent has no appetite for even the sweetest blessings of love that the Lord may have yet in store for them (it is much like the darkness of ignorance embraced by the church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:17). But to the one who is hungry to know God and His pure love, even circumstances of bitter trial are warmly welcomed because through them the love of Jesus is manifest to their hearts. To be hungry of heart for the love of God no matter how it is served up reveals much about our spiritual state and maturity in Christ. Love revealed is love revealed.

Let's look at two scripture texts that refer to friendship and fellowship. First of all, Proverbs 27:17 reads *“Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”* Friendship, godly friendship, is rooted in love. The interactions of friends will regularly leave the involved parties mutually bettered as a result of the interaction they share. Each will go their own way with a blessing received from the other. Both will be encouraged in the Lord and grateful for the opportunity to have both given and received. The second scripture reference is Psalm 133:1-2, *“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;”*.

When Christians are united in heart and purpose according to the will and word of God, it is truly precious and powerful. It is like the anointing of a priest, a rightly ordained intermediary between man and God enabling close, holy communion between man and God. The presence and ministry of God is anticipated and experienced in a rich, spiritually refreshing way. And where the presence and ministry of God is welcomed, there abides also the eternally precious, unworldly presence and ministry of the unique love of God. The Eternal, the Almighty, is present and meets with man with great satisfaction.

In order to gain such immense privilege from the presence of God, we must give Him permission to have His way in our spirits and our lives. As His **“beloved”**, we must believe in His faithfulness; we must yield to His trustworthiness; we must make ourselves vulnerable before Him knowing that *“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”* (Hebrews 4:13 NIV). In order to gain the most from our fellowship with other believers and love them in a mutually beneficial manner, we must love one another that we can be loved of one another. It is of necessity a reciprocal love if it is to be a mutually beneficial love. The love of God in Christ has waited throughout the ages to be manifest to us in these last days, but it is not a love that develops into a relationship with Him until we both receive and entrust ourselves to it. Such is the lesson we draw from the Song of Solomon. It is a love which is extended, offered with open hand, waiting for the acceptance of an open heart.

So to is the love of one saint toward another. It is extended, it is offered, it is given freely and openly awaiting an open heart or an open ear, or hoping to catch the eye of another who has been touched by the love of God. Such is the testimony of the apostle Paul, who sought to establish the saints in love by loving. So is the bequest of the apostle John, *“Beloved, let us love one another . . .”*

The Book of Daniel



Chapter 9:19-26

We left off at verse 19 last time, reading Daniel's wonderful prayer. It touched the throne of God. It made an impression on God. Daniel showed **humbleness** by identifying himself with the sins of his people. He also **worshipped** God in his prayer by speaking of God's righteousness and of His grace and faithfulness. Then he gave his **petition**. What a great pattern for us in our prayers - humbleness, worship and then our petitions.

Vs. 19-21 - Notice, it was while Daniel was **yet speaking**, immediately God answered. God did not wait, He sent Gabriel. I find it interesting the speed in which God moved. Gabriel came, being caused to **fly swiftly** and touched me about the time of the evening sacrifice. Daniel was honoring God by worship and thanksgiving, because they were not allowed to offer sacrifices in Babylon. Their temple was torn down in Jerusalem and that was the only place they were allowed to offer sacrifices.

V. 22 - Think how important this was that Daniel have the understanding of the things God was going to do and the skill of knowing these things. The Lord reveals Himself to those that seek Him. He shows them what He is about to do and gives them understanding. There are some of God's people today that not only know the Lord is coming back again, but they understand that it is eminent and they desire to be found ready.

V. 23 - This is tenderly beautiful, what God has to say about Daniel, “Thou art greatly beloved.” Why was Daniel greatly beloved of the Lord? He was faithful to the Lord, loyal, gave himself unto the Lord and God loves that. Anyone who will yield their lives to God in this same way - God has special favor upon these people. God does love everybody, even the sinner but not his sin. God does have special favor upon those who walk and talk with Him, who communion regularly with Him. So if you want to be greatly loved by the Lord, give yourself wholly to Him. Daniel didn’t just think of himself, but he thought of the people of his nation. He was deeply concerned for them. God knows all about this, For He so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, to come and be identified with us so that He might die for our sins. Oh, praise God!

So God sent Gabriel for Daniel to “understand the matter and consider the vision.” Daniel had a measure of understanding of the visions of chapter 7 and 8. He understood “Gentile Times,” that there would be 4 Gentile world powers that would rule over the people of Israel. But he did not understand the length of time in which these would take place. He did not know it would be over several hundred years. God made a special effort to reveal this to Daniel, which we will read in Vs. 24-26. It is a revelation of the visions that Daniel had earlier.

Vs. 24-26a (to the colon:) - We stop here because this is the end of the 70 weeks. This is a period of time in which God would bless the Jews in their land during “Gentile Times” or Gentile dominion. It will help you to read about year day counting. You can read about it in the tract “Times of the Gentiles.” Simply put, it is a year for a day. 70 weeks and there is 7 days in a week. So you multiply 70 weeks times 7 days and

you get 490 days or 490 years. In Num. 14:34 the Lord used a day for a year. That was when the children of Israel refused to go into the land when they could have, so the Lord made them wander in the wilderness 40 years. Num. 13:25, 31-32; 14:2-5, 9-10, 34. Also God told the prophet Ezekiel to act out a certain number of days and God appointed a day for a year - Ezek. 4:4-6. This helps us to understand the 70 weeks are 490 years. We know these are weeks of years, Why? Because this is history to us, 490 days would not be the fulfillment of this. Daniel didn't know these were weeks of years.

God said 70 weeks are determined upon thy people and the Holy City Jerusalem to do 7 things:

1. to finish the transgression
2. to make an end of sins
3. to make reconciliation for iniquity
4. to bring in everlasting righteousness
5. to seal up the vision
6. and prophecy (or to fulfill prophecy)
7. to anoint the most Holy

These were all fulfilled within the scope of the 70 weeks. It was what God would do for Israel during the Times of the Gentiles. Remember Gentile Times began in 606 BC and will end when Christ takes His throne in heaven. When He takes His throne it will be our Lord's time to reign. We know by

scripture that the nations will continue to rule on earth even after Christ is enthroned. They will be usurping authority (Ps. 2:1-3) and that will bring on the 7 years of tribulation when Christ puts down all rule and authority - I Cor. 15:24-28.

But what we are reading here in Daniel is 490 years of blessings to Israel during Gentile times. These 7 things were fulfilled by Christ. When Christ lived on this earth, He was a Jew. He represented the Jewish nation. All of the sins of the nation Israel, was laid upon Jesus, He bore them. Of course we know that all the sins of the whole human race was laid upon Jesus, but we are seeing it as the Jew would see it. One thing we want to understand - the church is never mentioned and this is not talking about the Gentiles. This 70 weeks has nothing to do with the Gentiles or the church. It is strictly the people of Jerusalem, the Jewish people. The church is still a hidden mystery at the time in which we are reading.

God breaks down those 490 years into divisions and we see when those 490 years began. **V. 25 to the colon** - Here we read of 2 parts and there is one part left over that we are going to talk about later. The first division is 7 weeks which is 49 years. There was 49 years from the commandment to go forth and rebuild Jerusalem unto the last prophecy in the Old Testament which is the book of Malachi. Then there was 434 years from Malachi to the book of Matthew. There was no prophecy during these years.

I do want to mention that there is a discrepancy in the calendars. We do know that the commandment to go forth and rebuild Jerusalem was in the later part of 444 BC almost 445 BC. God uses His calendar and not the calendar of the nations. God's calendar is 30 days in a month and 360 days in a year.

Juilan a priest thought the calendar should begin at the beginning of the Roman Empire when they first began to take force. He made up the Juilan calendar. Then in 1582 Pope Gregory the 13th changed the calendars again. He discovered they were off by 4 years. Did you ever notice your Bible margin in Mathew 2 gives the date Jesus was born as 4 BC. So there is another 4 years. The 483 years were accurately fulfilled (49 plus 434 years).

So what part of Jesus life was fulfilled in this 69 weeks of years or 483 years? Notice V. 24 - It was **determined** upon the people and the holy city. So this could not be His birth and it could not be talking about His death. So the only part of His life that this could even refer to would be His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, offering Himself as their Messiah. The 483 years were fulfilled when Jesus made His entry into Jerusalem. Just 4 days later He was crucified. **V. 26** - "After" Yes, it was just 4 days after. Everything after the colon of Verse 26 has nothing to do with the 70 weeks of years. So the question is, when was the last week fulfilled. Most Bible scholars believe that the unfulfilled week is in V. 27. But this cannot be because everything from this colon on is tribulation. There is absolutely no tribulation listed in this 70 weeks. The list of things that had to be done are blessings for the nation of Israel. After the colon we don't see any blessings. So we know that everything from the colon on has nothing to do with the 70 weeks.

Another reason is that all these things (the list of 7 things were fulfilled during this time. So if Dan. 9:27 is not part of these 70 weeks of years, where is that other week? Well, it was 7 years from the resurrection of Christ to the stoning of Steven. This was another turning point for Israel at his stoning. God had given Israel every opportunity to receive their Messiah and they rejected Him. Messiah had come, He had finish the

transgression, He made an end of sin, He made reconciliation for iniquity, He brought in everlasting righteousness, He sealed up the vision, He fulfilled prophesy and the most Holy was anointed. All these things were fulfilled. If Israel had received their Messiah, He would have ushered in the Kingdom at that time (Acts 7:55 - Jesus was *standing* ready to return if they received Him, but they didn't). **God had extended His grace** for one more week until the stoning of Steven. When they stoned Steven, there was a young man holding the coats of those doing the stoning and he consented to Steven death. His name was Saul which later became the apostle Paul - which ushered in the Church Age. So the fulfillment of the 70 weeks is up to the stoning of Steven.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship Meeting: March 7, Grace Assembly, 796 N. St Paul St., Wichita, Kansas. Services begin at 10:00 AM with lunch served at noon and meeting in the afternoon.

Address and phone number for tracts and booklets:

Send your requests to Paul Fellers, 104 SE Lake Village Blvd,
Blue Springs, MO 64014

Phone: 816-224-9498

or e-mail: rphrfellers@sbcglobal.net