

Glorious Gospel Publication



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A SPIRITUAL WALK



“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage...For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself...This I say then, *Walk in the spirit*, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law...If we live in the Spirit, let us also *walk in the Spirit*” - Gal. 5:1,13,14,16-18, 25.

We are admonished twice here to, **“Walk in the Spirit.”** The flesh and the Spirit are seen in sharp conflict. The flesh can only produce *work*, but the Spirit produces *fruit*. In Hebrews 9:14, the Apostle Paul describes the works of the flesh under the law as “*dead works*.” In Ephesians 5:11, he speaks of “the unfruitful works of darkness.” Jesus said, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” John 3:6.

Adam and Eve “heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.” Even though they had made themselves fig leaf aprons, they still tried to hide themselves among the trees of the garden. Their works were insufficient. Self-effort does not afford even a satisfactory partial covering before God. Now, before the fall, Adam

walked and talked with God; but being of the earth, earthy, he could never do so on the plane that we may today.

To **“walk”** speaks of *conduct, or behavior*, and points to *progress or growth*. It includes the proper person, the right realm, propelling power, and permeating purpose. **Consider that -**

First, we must *let* God do the walking in us. God is Spirit, so our only capacity to go with God is completely outside the realm of the flesh. “And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and *walk in them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people” - II Corinthians 6:16. This teaches us of submission on our course of life, a *yielded walk*. We are to let Him determine our altitude and attitude in each step. We will then walk in His fellowship, in His light, with no darkness and no stumbling. Now as a child has trouble keeping pace with his Father, it seems it is also easy for a youngster in Christ to get out of step with God.

This is the way God has provided that we overcome the lust of the flesh. It is Scripturally evident that a walk with God can become so supernaturally natural, that all other conduct is very unnatural. For us to live after the flesh is to act like a fish out of water.

“If we live in the Spirit...” All believers were baptized at Pentecost into one Body, in the Spirit. To illustrate this, think of a large container of water. Let it represent the realm of the Spirit. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we are placed in the realm of the Spirit. This does not say that we are filled with the Spirit. Rather, it is like bottles being thrown in the

container of water — the bottles are in the water, but the water is not in the bottles. Sink one bottle and it is filled, while the other is floating. In God's purpose we all need to be filled, flooded to overflowing, and submerged into the very depths of God's Holy Spirit. We think it would be foolish for a fish to jump out, move about, or try to operate on dry land. This is not his natural habitat in which to conduct business.

We, in the realm of the Spirit, must settle down and become at home there. We should never try to conduct any part of our lives outside the realm of the Spirit, it is very unnatural and spiritually harmful. Many believers try to bring the flesh into the realm of the Spirit, and they utterly fail when they do. When the Spirit is flooding our being, we have the power within that conducts a behavior in harmony with our Spiritual Father, as we yield.

A spiritual Walk is **walking by faith**. When we walk by faith we take steps like Abraham. Romans 4:12. Abraham started his trip with God not seeing the end of his journey nor even the steps in between. The flesh attempts to go by sight, "but faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." A Spiritual Walk of faith is *pleasing* to God for it is based on God's Word. It is in harmony with God's will, and eagerly looks forward to the fulfillment of God's promises.

Galatians 5:18 speaks of placing ourselves under the law, where we would try to operate in the realm of the flesh. This binds us from enjoying our God-given liberty, and carrying out our God-given delight of doing what God would, instead of what our flesh would. **Does the law curb sin by showing**

it up? “The strength of sin is the law” - I Corinthians 15:56. The Law stirs and strengthens our flesh to sin.

“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace” - Romans 6:14. This indicates that sin does exercise its dominion in lives under legal bondage. But, Thank God; **“The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death”** - Romans 8:2. We are not debtors to the flesh, the old self life. We owe the old man nothing, no allegiance. He has no legal right to demand any loyalty. He is dead! We may understand from Romans 7:4-6 that Jesus died in the place of the old man, the old Adamic head, which was under the penalty of our sin. Jesus also arose as the rightful Head of a New Creation; hence, He has the right to full dominion of our lives. As we yield to Him that dominion, we *walk by the Spirit*, and are *led by the Spirit*.

A Spiritual Walk is being **led by the Spirit**. Romans 8:3-4, “God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:” that the righteousness which the law demands be supernaturally fulfilled in us as we walk in the controlling influence of the Holy Spirit. We are energized by the Holy Spirit, as we yield to His guidance and control. We do well to be most receptive to His impressions and responsive to His impulses. I am sure that He graciously checks us when we are about to take a step outside the will of God for us. I am also sure that the signal gradually weakens, as it is ignored. That still small Voice also urges us on in taking the right steps.

John 14:26 and 16:13 tells us, the **Spirit of Truth** was sent to *guide us* into all truth. Now this expresses far more than

theory, theology, or the letter of Truth. This is to be enjoyed as heart reality. Truth is to be relevant to our present day living.

“The flesh lusteth against the Spirit.” Yielding to the flesh, we carry out a conduct that is very binding and hindering to spiritual behavior and progress. Oh, praise God, we have been liberated from legal bondage, and brought into the realm where *love* is the motivating force.

A spiritual walk is **walking in love** - Galatians 5:13,14. “Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And *walk in love*, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour” - Ephesians 5:1-2. **“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”** - Ephesians 4:1-3.

The law of love supersedes and superabounds the law of “carnal commandment.” This law raises us above the harsh condemnation, and brings us unto close communion. In the law of love, there is the force of magnetism. While under the law of commandment, there is the force of depression. The Holy Spirit reproduces Divine love, shedding abroad the love of God in our hearts. While He makes us deeply aware of how dearly we are loved, He moves us to a conduct of love. He deepens the desire to have our lives run in channels of love. True love realized in experience constrains us from conduct in the flesh that would hurt, hinder, or harm our neighbor, family, or precious Lord.

J. D.



THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark

“For behold darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.” Isaiah 60:2-3. And He will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations.” Isaiah 25:7.

Isaiah tells us by the Spirit of the Lord that gross darkness will cover the earth. This darkness will be literal (Joel 2:30,31) and spiritual to a worse degree at the end of the tribulation of seven years that is coming soon upon the earth. However, at the present time the world is filled with spiritual darkness. Paul says in II Cor. 4:4, “The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ Who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” Satan is at work to keep people in ignorance of the truth of God’s Word. He never sleeps and is good at his job. This darkness is only dispelled by the light of Christ. God uses His people to shine the light through the testimony of their godly lives and also, through their verbal testimony of the Gospel. When the light enters, the darkness is expelled.

In Isaiah 25:7 its recorded that “the vail” is spread over all nations. Spiritual blindness is widespread in the world today. Nations are uniting, trying to achieve a global community, but are blinded, not seeing that this fulfills prophecy of the end time. Yes, the nations will unite and suppose to have figured out exactly how to create a utopia for all. They will work to settle all conflicts between nations, all

hunger to cease, and all injustices to be solved, but will not realize that they are fulfilling prophecy written hundreds of years ago.

Satan, the arch enemy of God, has been given power for a time by God. He is a created being by God, who rebelled and tried to ascend above God. He was cast down by his Creator, and goes about in this earth constantly trying to foil the plans of God. Sometimes, it seems like he has gotten the upper hand, but the Almighty God is allowing him to work his dastardly work to prove the hearts of mankind, that “the heart is desperately wicked.” Satan hates mankind because they are God’s creation. He could not stop Jesus Christ by his evil temptation; he could not stop the plan of God by prompting evil men to crucify Jesus Christ, which backfired on him, but he works to try to thwart the plans of God in this earth by empowering evil men and women, assuming he can disrupt the plans of God. He will be fooled again because no one or nothing can stop God’s predetermined plan.

Satan transforms himself into an “angel of light.” (II Cor. 11:14). Jesus warned of him, “He is a murderer from the beginning, who abode not in the truth, because the truth is not in him...he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44). Peter tells us that, “your adversary, the devil as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour.” (I Peter 5:8-10). He further states that we are to resist Satan. We cannot do this in our own strength; we will fail against this supernatural foe, but with the strength of the Lord, we will triumph. Paul says, “Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph. 6:10,11). Paul calls him the “tempter” in I Thess. 3:5. “Tempt” means “to get the upper hand.” How many times does Satan defeat a child of God by working in their thought life. He is also called the “prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2), who constantly works in the “children of disobedience,” not God’s children. No wonder that the world is

getting darker, filled with sin and disobedience. We often hear of some crime that is so despicable that we cannot stand to even think of it. Times are dark and getting darker. Evil is abounding to the point that God is no doubt looking down from heaven as He did in Noah's day, and saying "My Spirit will not always strive with man...[I see] that the wickedness of man [is] great and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart [are] evil continually" (Gen. 6:3-5). In verse 6 & 7, it says, "and it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth." Jesus said that a sign of the end time would be that people would be in such an immoral condition, that it would be like the days before the flood. (Matt. 24:37). Some may say we are painting a grim picture and scaring people, but the truth is, we must be awake to the conditions that show the coming of the Lord is at hand.

ISLAM TO OVER TAKE THE WORLD POPULATION –

Some time back a prominent Muslim said on TV that they did not have to do anything to win the war against the west, but wait because they would overcome by increasing the Muslim population. Statistics have been presented that show that Islam is gaining in population in all western countries.

A study in demographics shows that if a population does not keep its fertility rate up at the lowest of 2.11 children per family, that in 5-7 years that culture will be lost. All across Europe this is happening, as well as Canada and the United States. France shows a population decline of 1.8 children per family, while England is at 1.6, Greece is at 1.3, Germany at 1.3, Italy at 1.2, Spain 1.1, while the average of all of Europe is at 1.38. Europe and its culture will cease to exist as we know it because of Islamic emigration which is at 90% and which is reproducing at 8.1.

In France there are more mosques than churches. At this rate it is estimated that in 39 years France will be a Islamic

Republic. In England there are now 1,000 mosques, some which were formerly churches, and 2.5 million Muslims. In Holland 50% of babies born are Muslim. In 15 years the population there will be 50% Islam. Russia has 23 million Muslims. Forty Percent of the army will be Muslim in a few years. One out of five Russians are Muslims. Germany has the same problem, projecting that by 2050 it will be a Muslim nation. Population is not declining in these nations because of the high rate of Muslims emigration, which shows that 90% are Muslims. Kadafi of Libya states that Islam does not need jihad or terrorist suicide bombers because by 2025 all of Europe will be turned to Islam.

Canada's rate of growth is at 1.6. Islam is the fastest growing population as more and more emigrate to Canada. In 1970 there were 100,000 Muslims in the US. Today there are 9 million. USA is at the rate of 1.6 population growth. Latinos raises the number to 2.11 %. But in 30 years the number of Muslims in the US will be at 50 million, surpassing Catholics.

What should be our attitude toward all this? In the natural we may not like it, but God loves these souls? We need to pray that we will be able to witness more effectively to draw them to the truth. We need to pray and trust the Lord about what this means in view of end time prophecy. We don't feel like we have the time left for it to overtake America completely, but we are asking God, what this means. There will be one world religion in the world as seen in Rev. 13:4. The first thing mentioned is their worship of Satan (Vs.4), then in (Vs.8) it says, "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." In verse 15, it says that they will worship the image of the beast. The Word of God is infallible.

We know that a conflict will arise between many nations (Ezekiel 38 & 39) against Israel in the endtime. God will sovereignly intervene and destroy the enemies of Israel.

Many of those countries mentioned in chapter 38 are Muslim countries. God will perform His Word. We can rest on it and know that all that really matters to us is to be ready for the catching away of the overcoming saints as seen in I Thess. 4:13-18.

KING ABDULLAH IN MIDEAST WARNING –

Commenting to the UK newspaper, The Times, that he is proposing a solution to solve the issues of Middle East, and that he is suggesting and finalizing an ambitious “57 state solution” no doubt including all the Islamic nations. He presented these comments at the UN Security Council foreign ministry level. He says that the peace initiative that will be offered to Israel will “assure full diplomatic ties if it withdraws from occupied Arab land since 1967 and agrees upon a solution for Palestinian refugees.” Giving back all the land taken in 1967 would involve the Temple Mount. It doesn’t seem probable that Israel will agree to this.

These so-called refugees have been the crux of the matter for sometime, along with the Jerusalem problem. They left of their own volition when the War of Independence was carried out back in 1948, and have lived in other Arab countries, where they were never allowed to assimilate into the nations they fled to. They have lived in camps and have multiplied in number, until they would be a greater problem for Israel to absorb than ever. And again, there is the problem of increasing Muslim population until Israel as a democracy would be overwhelmed. Psalms 83 tells of the nations who have been against Israel for centuries. Descendants of Lot, Ishmael, Esau, and the Midianites plus Iran (Persia) are still against Israel today, surrounding them with hatred. Vs. 4 says, “Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.” In making undoable requests which would be detrimental to the Israeli welfare, the Arabs can then say that Israel is uncooperative and

doesn't really want a peaceful solution. This may make it more likely for an outsider, known as the beast out of the sea (Rev. 13) to come forward with a solution. This is predicted in Scripture (Dan. 9:27) and will be fulfilled, when the man called the Antichrist will make a treaty with Israel. Approximately 30 days before the tribulation the treaty will be signed, no doubt giving Israel the security it needs. We are very near that time. Praise the Lord!

JESUS WILL TAKE HIS THRONE VERY SOON – I Thess.4:16-17 tells us, “For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout (a triumphant shout), with the voice of the archangel (the highest messenger, for there is no other higher than Jesus Christ) and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first (those who have overcome all things and gone by the way of the grave, but died victoriously, as Paul, the Apostle, see II Tim. 4:6-8); Then we which are alive and remain (unto the coming of the Lord, those living, watching, waiting ones), shall be caught up (seized with sudden force, in the twinkling of an eye I Cor.15:52) together with them in the clouds (Acts 1:9-11) to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord..” John says in I John 3:3, “Every man who has this hope in him, purifieth himself even as He is pure.” This work of separation is called sanctification in many places in the Bible. We read in Phil. 2:13, “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.” Paul beseeches us to “present our bodies a living sacrifice,” and to not be “conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom. 12:1,2). Each of us have the privilege to attain to this glorious place offered us, to reign with the Lamb (our Lord Jesus Christ), and become the Lamb’s wife. “Will you go with this man?” If you say, “yes.” He will begin a work in you to prepare you for this special place. May all the glory go to our Lord Jesus Christ, and it will. Praise God!



A GOOD REPORT

It is a very big task to put down this testimony. God has been so gracious and kind, bringing me closer to the Glorious Gospel Publications. Over the years this material has been a blessing to my life and family. I have distributed Glorious Gospel magazine among the Christians, ministers, and Bible school students. In my Bible school, International Christian College and Seminary, Ihitte/Uboma, Imo State; students are given copies monthly. Many testified that it has helped them to increase in their reading culture, others found many columns interesting, educative and informative. Some were adopted as Basic II Course in our curriculum. I found ‘THE LAST DAYS’ very helpful in a time like these. Reminding us the events of the last days. People testify to me of having made up their mind about the kind of life to live after reading that column from various issues. The end time events brings a vivid consciousness to a God-seeking heart. It brings alertness and assurance to a longing soul that there is hope in God for those who consistently trust in Him, not minding the situation report. We have found God to be real in all spheres. He is a promise-fulfilling God who is worthy to be relied upon. He has not changed and will never change.

The college president and the board approved the distribution and use of the magazine. Those who read a year or two year course enjoy the magazine before passing out. Every set enjoys it. We find the study of Romans, Titus, etc. very helpful and interesting. The survey and notes on verse by verse approach sheds light on the context and gives a

meaningful interpretation and application on the subject matter.

We are indebted to you all who make things happen. We do not know how to express our joy for being part of this 'Blessing.' Be encouraged that you are not labouring in vain. Your work affects lives all over the world especially in my country and state in particular. Hundreds of people are interested in your work. So go ahead and continue your good work. We are praying for you.

I want to further include that your bulk mails arrive to me without damage or interference. God has answered our prayers over the postal services in our nation. Things are working fine now. Parcels are delivered promptly. It is an answered prayer. To God be the glory!

Let me conclude with this, "The Lord will protect you from all danger; He will keep you safe. He will protect you as you come and go now and forever." Psalm 121:7-8

Izuka Ellkanah Okeke
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*I have a friend whose help is always near;
He walks beside me on the journey here,
Giving me strength and drying every tear -
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus.*

CHRIST THE STONE

E. J. Davis

One of the things that impressed Jack and I in Israel were the stones, stones, stones everywhere. At several of the sites we visited, someone in our group would ask Zvi our Jewish believer guide if they could pick up stones to keep. He would always say yes, but only fifty pounds per person. At one stop on our tour some of the teenagers in our group picked up rocks and were starting to throw them out into the sea. Zvi saw them and quickly and sternly responded, “Don’t throw rocks.” No doubt that has a bad connotation in Israel. I know when we see news reports on the Arab youth rioting they are throwing rocks.

Remember at Mt Sinai that the children of Israel were not to touch the border of the mount and if they did they were to be stoned to death - Ex. 19. In Lev. 20, if they gave their children to the false god, Molech, the people of the land were to stone them to death. In Lev. 24 the people were to stone anyone they heard curse his God. In Deut 13 they were to stone anyone that served other gods. Deut 22, those guilty of adultery were to be stoned to death, etc.

In the New Testament Stephen was stoned to death - Acts 7. In Acts 14 they stoned Paul and left him dead they supposed, but God raised him up. There are other accounts concerning stoning. But we also read about the precious **living stones** in the New Jerusalem - Rev. 21. There we see the beautiful results of the *characteristics of Christ* that has been worked

in the life of trusting, yielded saints. That beauty will be on display forever to the glory of God.

Now let us consider **THE STONE**, *Christ the Stone*. Nothing in all of God's creation appears more lifeless than a stone, but the Bible repeatedly refers to the Lord Jesus Christ as a *Stone*.

To God Christ is the smitten Stone. Just a few days' journey after witnessing the miracle of the Red Sea being parted by God for them. The people of Israel murmured and thought it better to be back slaves in Egypt than to die of thirst in the wilderness desert. God told Moses to strike a rock with his rod. He did and water gushed out and met the need. In I Cor. 10:1-4 the Apostle Paul identified *that Rock as Christ*. Hundreds of years earlier, the Prophet Isaiah wrote "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him *stricken, smitten of God*, and afflicted" - Isa. 53:4. He was *smitten* by His Father that you and I, through trusting in Him, need never experience the smiting of a holy God.

To Israel Christ is the stumbling Stone - I Cor. 1:23. The religious Jews were and still are expecting Christ, the Anointed One, a Messiah. But they did not understand that He must first come and suffer and die before He could reign. They wanted a Deliverer to overthrow the Roman government that was oppressing them. A *crucified Messiah* was unexplainable to them. To the Jewish mind, Jesus was a *stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense* - I Pet. 2:8.

To the Church Christ is the foundation stone. In Eph. 2:1-10 we read of the Gentiles being made alive *in Christ* by

God's mercy and love who were dead in trespasses and sins and made to sit together in heavenly places. Verses 11-18 inform us that believing gentiles and believing Jews are made one *in Christ*. Verse 19 & 20 sums it up - "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being *the chief corner stone*". It had been prophesied of Him hundreds of years before He was born - Ps. 118:22. The stone (Christ) which the builders (Israel) refused is become the head stone of the corner (*the foundation of the Church*). Verse 23 - "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes."

To the Nations Christ will be the smiting stone. Ever since 606 BC, Israel has been under Gentile domination, called the "times of the Gentiles" - Lk. 21:24. The rule of Gentile nations will end when Christ returns to earth and sets up His kingdom to rule. In Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar's great dream image depicted the times of the Gentiles. Its head of gold represented Babylon; the chest and arms of silver, Medo-Persia; the belly and thighs of brass, Greece; the iron legs and feet of part iron and part clay, Rome. The Roman Empire has diminished in influence, but not destroyed. It will revive in the last days and over it the Antichrist will rule. Daniel prophesied of the time when God will say, That is enough to the Gentile nations and overthrow them. Dan. 2:34-35 - that *Stone is Christ*, cut out without hands. He *smites* the image on its toes and it broke in pieces (not large pieces, but like chaff) and the wind carried them away. They were not found. *The Stone* became a great mountain, filling the whole earth. Christ will rule and His kingdom will be worldwide. Rev. 19:15-16, "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that

with it he should *smite the nations*: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

What is Christ to you? I Cor. 1: 24, “But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, *Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*” Verse 30 - *But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption-*”.

On Christ, the Solid Rock

*On Christ, the solid rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.*

*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.*

*When darkness seems to veil His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.*

*His oath, His covenant, and blood,
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.*

—Edward Mote

Seven Significant Shepherds

Debra Isenbletter

I was looking at shepherds in the Bible and found seven shepherds that are significant. There are five shepherds found in the Old Testament (5 being the number of grace) and each one portrays a different characteristic trait. The sixth shepherd is a false shepherd and the seventh is the true Shepherd - Christ.

Able was the first shepherd. He shows **the death of the shepherd**, slain by his own brother. He was a keeper of the sheep. He offered an acceptable offering. *Jacob* is the second shepherd, and in him we see **the tender care of the shepherd**. He was concerned for the young and the tender of the flock. *Joseph* is the third shepherd. **He fed the flock**, and later he fed his family. His concern for the flock is seen in his report that his brothers were not caring for the flock. Again the shepherd paid a great price. *Moses* is the forth shepherd. **He led the flock** (God's people) for 40 years, he led them out of Egypt to the promised land. *David is the fifth shepherd*. **He defended the flock**. He defended them from the lion and the bear and defended God's people against their enemies.

But there is a sixth shepherd. He does not visit the sheep, does not seek those that are lost or wounded, does not feed them and in time of danger he leaves them defenseless. He is called by Zechariah a *foolish shepherd*, a *false shepherd*, an *idol shepherd*, and by John a *hireling*. All his failures are seen. Every characteristic is in direct contrast to the five good shepherds. Who do you think this shepherd pictures?

He pictures the Antichrist - who is a counterfeit of everything that Christ is.

But there is a seventh and final shepherd and it is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Good Shepherd (Jn. 10:11). He is the Perfect Shepherd, the One the Father has chosen. He cares for the sheep, knows the sheep, lays down his life for the sheep, and brings the sheep safely to one fold.

When all these traits are seen, and put together they present a full picture of Christ. What He is and what He is not! He has all the qualities of the previous five shepherds. *Able* died by his brother's hand - Jesus was slain by His brethren. *Jacob* cared for the sheep - Jesus cares for the young and tender. *Joseph* fed the sheep - Jesus feeds us with the Bread of Life. *Moses* led the sheep - Jesus led us from bondage to freedom, and leads us in the wilderness and sustains us along the way and leads us to glory. *David* defended the sheep - Jesus defeated Satan for us, defeated death for us and He causes us to always triumph.



*Shepherd of love, You knew I had lost my way;
Shepherd of love, You cared that I'd gone astray.
You sought and found me, Placed around me
Strong arms that carried me home;
No foe can harm me, nor alarm me -
Never again will I roam!
Shepherd of love, Savior and Lord and Guide,
Shepherd of love, Forever I'll stay by Your side.*

The Book of Daniel



Chapter 11:36-45

V. 35 - What follows refers wholly to the end time, and is yet future. With verse 36 starts the third part of this last vision God gave to Daniel that is found in chapters 10, 11 & 12. The first two parts were necessary back ground for this main part. It speaks of the man of sin, the Antichrist that will be manifested.

V. 36 - God knows what is going to happen, He knows the hearts of men, He has prophesied and it will come to pass just as He said. The second part of the vision that we covered last week certainly showed how that which is history to us now, came to pass just as God Prophesied. “The king” mentioned in this verse is the final persecutor of Israel, the evil man of destiny. The vile person we read about last time, Antiochus, was simply a type of the more devilish blasphemer of the last days.

Notice, he shall do what he wills to do and he shall **exalt himself**, which is the essence of the devil. He shall put himself above everyone and everything. There will be none in the world greater than he and he will show himself as God Almighty. The Lord will **allow** him to go to the uttermost lengths in his self-willed exaltation and in his persecution of Israel. Prior to his coming, no man ever had the power to do **all** his will.

Our Lord Jesus Christ *did* His Father's will. Even Satan has not been given a free reign to accomplish all his will, but for a few years there will be a change. God will say to this devil-filled man, "Go ahead, accomplish all your desire, wreak your anger upon My people." The Jews in Israel will be his special target. He shall prosper "till the indignation be accomplished." Permission is given this man to do all that is in his will until God's wrath upon His people shall be satisfied. His doings will prosper until all God's purposes concerning Israel's punishment shall have been accomplished. God uses him as the instrument of Israel's chastening.

Vs. 37-38 - Some believe by V. 37 that he is an atheistic Jew, others think he is an apostate Christian rather than a Jew. But the real issue is this, he refuses allegiance to the God of the Bible, whether as revealed in the Old Testament or the New Testament. He regards not the triune God, for he regards not **the Father**, "the God of his fathers." Neither **Christ**, the Redeemer which was the desire of all Jewish women to give birth to the Messiah as prophesied in Isa. 7:14. Neither did he regard **the Holy Spirit**, "any God."

He regards the god of forces. He wants power and authority, so he bows to a god who will give this to him (Satan). Satan offered all this earthly power and authority to Christ and was rebuked by Him - Mt. 4:8-10. Satan has been waiting ever since for a man who on condition of worshiping him, that he would give all the glory and honor of supreme ruler upon the earth. He will literally usurp the office of Christ for 3 1/2 years. John describes him as the *beast* in Rev. 13:2 and the dragon (Satan) will give him his power, and his seat, and great authority. The Apostle Paul also refers to him in this guise - II Thess. 2:4,9.

V. 39 - The R.V. reads, "And he shall deal with the strongest fortresses by the help of a foreign god." "He will divide the land for gain." Those that quickly surrender to him and best serve his purposes will be rewarded with a place of rulership in his kingdom. They will share his authority in a measure - Rev. 17:12,13. Christ's people are to share in His kingdom and its honors at His coming. God honors them that honor Him.

Notice it is the holy land that will be divided and portioned out. Rulership will be given to disloyal and apostate Jews, but trouble and opposition will come to the usurping ruler.

V. 40 - Three kings are mentioned, we already read of the king, the Antichrist in Verse 36, and now we read of the king of the south, and the king of the north. Remember the four partitions of the former Grecian Empire and when Antiichus was on the scene, he was the king of the north. Yet his anti-type, the Antichrist will not be the king of the north as is very plain here for the king of the north could not push at himself. That is why we conclude that the Antichrist will come from the west. It is the only one of the partitions of the former Grecian empire that has not been accounted for in Daniel's prophecy.

We learned in chapter 7 that shortly after the Antichrist makes his first appearance upon the world stage, "he shall subdue 3 kings." In the beginning of that vision Daniel saw an unnameable beast with 10 horns, which represent 10 kings or 10 kingdoms which will constitute the beginning of the revived Roman Empire. Another little horn appears among the 10 horns. He puts down 3 of the first kings, thus leaving 7 kings or rulers over 7 nations which John saw in vision in Rev. 13:1. So John sees the end at a later stage than Daniel.

Even after the time of its first launching, trouble will arise. The peace and safety slogan will not be heard very long - I Thess. 5:3. War will again break out and greater will be the horror upon the earth than ever before, viewed in symbol in Rev. 8 & 9. The result of the destruction is in Rev. 17:10,11. Five of the 7 kings will be dethroned - one king is killed while the other must be the victorious one - "he is." But the one that had the deadly wound by the sword is raised from the dead. His deadly wound is healed and all the world wonders after him - Rev. 13:3-14. Being raised from the dead, is a counterfeit of Christ. He becomes the supreme ruler, empowered by Satan and quickly assumes leadership over all and puts down all rule.

V. 40 tells of this stage of his career and suggests an engagement of air, naval and land forces (whirlwind with chariots, horsemen and ships). He overcomes the world and shall overflow and pass over. The famed conquest of Alexander the great is nothing compared to his man. At the beginning of his reign, many of the nations are against his supremacy, yet at the end, he is victorious. There is a hint that three countries escape.

V. 41 - God preserves these 3 countries (Edom, Moab, and Ammon) for a special judgment because of their treatment of Israel - Isa. 11:11-14 & Ezek. 25:12-14; 38:14-23. The land of the Jews will not escape. This country was also the objective of Antiochus. He sought to bring the Jews a new religion, to force them to worship his choice of a god. Likewise the Antichrist will enter the land and overcome the people, forcing the Jews to worship his image under threat of death.

We read in Ch. 9:27 how he will cause all sacrifice and oblation to cease. He will stop all worship of the true and living God. This is different from that of taking away the daily sacrifice mentioned in Ch. 8:11. When the nations make a covenant with the Jews the daily burnt-offering ceases as a condition.

This surrender of the offerings is the signal for God's surrender of the Jews (for their turning to the Antichrist, accepting him rather than Christ). Then later when this monster has come into his place of exaltation. He forbids all sacrifices. The Jewish religion is set aside. Everyone is commanded to worship this man and his image which he set up in the temple - Ch. 12:11 & Mt. 24:15.

V. 43 - Not only is all national power at his command but all the wealth of the world as well. He will seize all banks, vaults, etc. All is given into his hands for 3 1/2 years. He conquers Egypt. He is materially enriched, in honor and wealth and worship. The Libyans and Ethiopians yield to him.

V. 44 - Trouble from the north and east arise and it rouses up the beast to ferocious fury. He vents his wrath upon the people and destroys many. It is not clear whether the Jews are meant, but the next verse might lead us to think so.

V. 45 - This describes the final enthronement of the Antichrist. His palace is planted between the seas in the Holy Land, Jerusalem no doubt. There he meets his doom. John gives us a view of that time of conflict - Rev. 16:16. Armageddon means "hill of slaughter." It lies on the southern edge of the valley of Jehoshaphat or valley of Jezreel. There were many historic battles fought there and many victories

won. The last great assault on Israel is the Gentile nations who purpose to destroy Israel and get possession of the land. The poor people will not be able to take the field against the combined forces, but will resist and stand against them in the Holy City. In that final assault, the Lord will fight for His people. The Antichrist will come to his end and none shall help him.

Next time we will have chapter 12 - The Miraculous Deliverance.



Someday when the toils of life are over

and Christ's bride is caught away,

We will gather round the throne of Jesus

For His coronation day.

I want to be there when we crown Him King of Kings,

I want to be there when the court of heaven rings

With the happy song the heavenly chorus sings -

I want to be there when we crown Him King of Kings.

