

Glorious Gospel Publication



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Published Monthly, No Subscription Price



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Joy and Rejoicing

Isa. 12:1-6 - “And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. **Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.** And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.”

Oh, what a wonderful prophetic statement, this chapter is. Yet I am greatly blessed and refreshed to glean encouragement, sweet comfort for today. Shall we not draw water from the wells of salvation now? Our faithful Father has wonderfully provided for us wells of deep, rich, gloriously refreshing supply that will never run dry. Oh beloved let us reach in with buckets of joy, with the rope of faith and be drawing refreshing billows of His never ending supply. What wonder to be realizing HIM as our **salvation, strength, and song.**

We each greatly need His spiritual refreshment! Let us be glad that today, to be able to say, “Praise the Lord,” and call upon His name, and declare His doings among the people, making mention that His name is exalted. Does this realization today, make us shudder, or smile, sing praises

unto the Lord, and shout for joy? The Lord in the midst of us, as heavenly citizens is mighty.

The Apostle Paul told of sorrows, sadness and deep sufferings he passed through while being approved as a true servant of God. He also encouraged true believers on, reminding the saints that He experienced being sorrowful, **yet always rejoicing**. 2 Cor. 6:4-10. His life was a winning example of an overcoming attitude.

James urged to **count it all joy** when we fall into divers temptations. Knowing that the trying of our faith worketh patience. Jas. 1:2-3.

Peter wrote of **greatly rejoicing**; though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing ye **rejoice with joy unspeakable** and full of glory.” 1 Peter 1:6-8.

Shall we sing with the psalm, “O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil.” Psalm 90:14,15.

It seems that Jeremiah was given to write so much about judgment, divine correction. He has been called the “weeping prophet.” It is most enjoyable to find or glean some wonderful golden nuggets along the way. “O Lord,

thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy longsuffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke. Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and **thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart:** for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of host.” Jer. 15:15,16.

What wonderful discovery and comfort. To take advantage of the precious privilege to assimilate into ones being the Word of the Lord. Oh how blessed to let his Word cheer our innermost being. Our joy will be most fully expressed when rejoicing in His glorified presence.

Let us finish our course with Joy!

It was going to cost Paul greatly to share the divine enrichment he would have for them on his journey. Therefore he said, “And now, behold, I go bound in spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, **so that I might finish my course with joy,** and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:22-24.

Well, do you think he did? Shall we? 2 Tim. 4:7-8 - “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

J.

D.

Perhaps Today!

**Perhaps today shall sound the mystic summons,
The shout, the voice, the trump, not by all heard;
And, from their scattered silent resting places,
The dead in Christ will rise to meet the Lord;
While we, the ransomed, living in a moment
Shall be caught up - according to His Word.**

**Perhaps today, from every clime and nation,
Shall souls redeemed ascend to meet the Lord;
To suffering ones - great, glad emancipation;
To those who toil for Him, a sure reward;
We look not down a track of unknown years;
It may be that today our Lord appears.**

**Perhaps today, with problems fresh out-breaking,
With growing evils rampant o'er the earth,
When sore distress, nigh every land is shaking, -
Perhaps today the Savior may come forth.
Earth's leaders fail; the forces are too great;
But - lift your heads, the Lord is at the gate!**

— author unknown

THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark

“Even the mystery which was hid from the ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you the hope of glory; whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching everyman in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” Colossians 1:26-28.

The time is at hand when Christ will come. Paul’s desire was to present every man “perfect in Christ.” Our desire is to yield to the Lord and be made ready for that glorious event. There are many signs around us today showing the soon return of our Beloved Lord. We will write about a few of Them.

GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARDS – Pass cards with imbedded chips called RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) containing information about a specific individual, are being assigned in about 100 countries of the world. Governments will soon have the capability for the first time in history to identity and track people anywhere they are on the planet. Nations opposing the widespread use of these devices are U.S.A., Canada, Australia and the Nordic nations of Europe. Compulsory cards for national identity purposes are used in Germany, France, Belgium, Greece, Luxembourg. Portugal and Spain. German police can detain people who are not carrying their ID cards for up to 24 hours.

These chips have all kinds of pertinent information about the individual carrying them. On June 1, 2009, it became mandatory for Americans coming from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean to present these RFID chip bearing documents.

India just issued these biometric ID cards to 1.2 billion citizens, the biggest Big Brother project ever conceived. They recently created the Unique Identification Authority, which will take on the task of assigning every living Indian an exclusive number. This government agency will electronically store the personal data, giving citizens of India a unique Number.

Many are concerned that this will give governments ability to spy on its citizenry. There are also concerns about the risk of identity thief, stalkers and other criminals, who may make their way into bank accounts, or commit other crimes without ever making personal contact and without an individual knowing that anything has happened. Can you see the reasonableness of this plan to the natural man? These chips can also track all manner of shipping of goods, and keep inventory accurately in business. It will be a useful, practical tool for mankind. They do not realize that it is a step toward the mark of the beast (Rev. 13).

During the tribulation of seven years, those who receive the mark will be able to buy and sell, all those who don't receive the mark if caught will be beheaded. When the Antichrist is ruling, the card will be obsolete; some sort of mark on the hand or forehead will work better. Revelation 13:16, tells, "...he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their forehead; And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his (the beast's) name." It will be reasoned that it will make it easier for everyone, everywhere, as you can't lose or counterfeit the mark.

The world is getting ready for globalization. It is the word of the day. We can see the fulfillment of prophesy right before our eyes. The Antichrist will not come until all the church is taken to heaven in the various ranks before and during the first 3 ½ years of the tribulation.

THE BIG CHILL – The Jerusalem Report (June 22, 2009) states the differences between the United States and Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu may lead to “a major showdown between the two.” The U.S. administration demands a “total freeze on building in West Bank Settlements.”

Secretary of State Clinton stated recently, “The United States does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlements, which violates previous agreements and undermines efforts to achieve peace.” She states further, “It is time for these settlements to stop,” implying that Israel is in violation of the 2003 Road Map for Peace, which was agreed to by Israel.

Settlers in Israel fear that the present U.S. administration will “dry up the settler enterprise in their efforts to extend Israeli sovereignty well into the West Bank.” This means that in order to have peace with the Palestinians, they would have to leave all the land where the settlements are and move to another place behind marked out Israeli/Palestinian Lines.

As time goes on it can be expected that the U.S. administration will continue to enhance its position in the Arab world by being at odds with Netanyahu and Israel, while continuing its demands that Israel stop the settlements, which may cause the demise of Prime Minister Netanyahu’s leadership. Israel has a parliamentary government, where the Prime Minister can get a “vote of no confidence” and then he would have to step down, and try to promote someone else in his party as head of state. As the time approaches for the seven years of tribulation, Israel will lean more and more on the European Union. It is a non-voting member of the EU at the present and a member of “The EU Fifth Frame Program. “According to British Chamber of Commerce, “Israel and the EU have signed a scientific and technical co-operation agreement that associates Israel with all the non-nuclear activities of that particular program, and in return, gives European researchers access to Israeli research programs in

similar fields. Israel has become an Associates State therefore project participants can receive funding from the EU and operate under the same conditions as partners from within the EU.”

The High Representative for the European Union, Javier Solano is highly involved in trying to get a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians. He has been active in working to get Iran to agree to stop seeking to produce nuclear weapons. He is traveling here and there trying to obtain peace. As we have said before we don’t know who the Antichrist is, but he is probably on the scene right at this time. Very soon the covenant of Daniel 9:27 will be signed by Israel In Daniel 8:25 it states concerning the Antichrist, “And through his policy also, he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many...”The Antichrist will come up out of the EU, which is the revived Roman Empire.

“Peace, Peace,” is the cry! I Thess. 5:3 says, “For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them as travail upon a woman with child and they shall not escape.” When they think they have finally achieved peace, then “sudden destruction,” referring to the coming judgment of the tribulation. In Rev. 6, the “white horse” of peace comes out first, but before long, out comes the “red horse,” which speaks of war breaking the peace. The coming tribulation is going to be a terrible time, as the Scripture says, “Then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect’s (Chosen of Israel) sake those days shall be shortened” (Matt. 24:21-22).

The topic of this segment is “The Big chill,” speaking of the cooling off of relations between Israel and the United States. At the same time we see a cozy relationship growing between the European Union and Israel. We have tried to show that this goes along with

the prophecy. Israel will start to lean on the EU (Revived Roman Empire) more and more. Soon a treaty will be offered to Israel and may include the building of a spectacular temple to compensate the loss of parts of Jerusalem which Israel holds sacred.

Sad to say, Israel will be duped, their eyes blinded. Daniel 8:23-25 tells us, “And in the latter time of their kingdom (the latter time of the Revived Roman Empire), when the transgressors are come to the full (sin and iniquity will abound as it does today), a king of fierce countenance and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up, And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power (he will be empowered of Satan): And he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the holy people (Rev. 13:7, “And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them.”).

Our prospect is glorious! Christ will catch his bride away before the seven years of tribulation begins. Praise the Lord! The church has been espoused (engaged) to the Lord Jesus Christ (II Cor. 11:1-3) by the Apostle of the Church Age, Apostle Paul. The cleansing and preparing of this bride for Jesus has been going on all during this Age of Grace, also called the Church Age. Ephesians 5:26 tells us, “That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the water by the Word.. That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” Provision is made for the whole church (every believer in Christ) to be in this glorious bridal company, but if we open our eyes and view what’s going on around us, we realize that not all believers are allowing the work of purification to go on in their lives; not all are watching and waiting.

In Revelation 19:1-8 we see a picture of the Church of Jesus Christ in heaven. There is a great multitude worshiping and praising God. Verse 4 speaks of the Twenty-four Elders and the Four living Creatures. They are seen in Rev. 4 & 5. In Ch. 5:8-9 we read,

“Thou has redeemed us from every nation, kindred and tongue.” In Rev. 19:6, we see a “great multitude” the same as we find in Rev. 7:9-17; they are a separate group from the Living Creatures and Elders. We see this great multitude speaking out in verses 7-8, telling about the beautiful faithful bride. This chapter shows the different ranks or cohorts in heaven (I Cor. 15:23).

If all the church is going to be the bride, then we would think it would take a long time to finally cleanse and perfect all the believers in Christ, among whom are many resistant who do not yield to God. Also, why did Jesus ask us to “watch and pray” if it doesn’t make any difference to do that. God has made provision for every believer to be in this group which will be taken out before the tribulation, but not all desire this place and walk with God, preparing to be spotless before Him. We are persuaded that Jesus Christ will soon take His bride out of this awful world. We long to see Jesus and be there with Him to worship Him forever and ever. You can be ready too.

Do you know why I’m longing for the coming of the Lord,

And watching His glory to see?

*’Tis because He’s my Bridegroom, beloved, and adored,
And I know He is coming for me.*

Do you know why no longer I can call the world my home,

My heart from its fetters is free?

*’Tis because I am waiting my Bridegroom to come,
And I know He is coming for me.*

JESUS IS BETTER

A TOPICAL STUDY IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

Conclusion by Carolyn Brown
Hebrews 6:9-10

“But, beloved, (loved ones of God) we are persuaded better things of you; and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.” The better things of the believing Hebrews are contrasted with those things that result from unbelief. Thorns and briars are of the old Adam realm and of the flesh. Resting upon types and shadows instead of going on into the reality, which is Christ, produces thorns and briars.

But here were true possessors of the Divine Life. They were divinely loved ones. Old things had passed away for them and all things had become new. They were yet babes; they were yet clinging to some of the old ways but, praise God! Paul was persuaded that they had grasped better things, things that accompany salvation. Their work and labour of love which they showed toward His name by ministering to the saints evidenced it. (V. 10) Here were hearts that had drunk in the rain of God’s Word and were manifesting the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

“**Better things...things that accompany salvation**” is the whole realm of the new creature in Christ Jesus. So what are these **better things**? To the Colossians Paul says “...seek those **things which are above** where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.” (Col. 3:1) What things are those? Well think about the vantage point He has and how all things pertaining to us are under His control. How He is mediating for us, answering our prayers, interceding on our behalf,

sending the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him, overseeing the world scene, longing for His Bride, making sure that all that is needed for her preparation is available to her, reserving for His people an inheritance. Let us seek those things and not the things of the earth that are so transient and disappointing.

There are **things** provisioned for us which eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered the heart of man that God hath prepared for those that love Him. These are **things** that can only be revealed to us by the Holy Spirit who searches out the **deep things** of God for us...The Holy Spirit compares **spiritual things** of God with the spirituals of Satan and reveals the difference to us. (I Cor. 2:9-10 & 13)

Consider Phil 4:8: What are the **whatsoever things** that are true and honest and just and pure and lovely and of good report and of virtue and of praise? Why, that is the character of the Lord Himself! Eight marks of the new creation life that testify of that ongoing work of God as we apprehend and implement that for which we have been apprehended of Christ. “And **those things** which ye have both learned and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.” (Phil 4:9) The things delivered to us through Paul’s gospel are life-changing. If we follow Paul as He followed Christ, the things of Christ’s character will be modeled in us.

Mary declares: “He that is mighty hath done **great things** to me and holy is His name!” (Lk 1:49) Can we say that? Of course we can! Has not the life of the Lord Jesus Christ been brought forth in us also as the Holy Spirit implanted the seed of God’s Word in our hearts? She also says in V. 53

“He hath filled the hungry with **good things...**” Those that hunger and thirst after righteousness, He shall fill. (Mt 5:6) The Spirit of the Lord cries out through the psalmist, “...open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.” (Ps 81:10) This should be a comfort to anyone who truly desires to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Keep hungering, keep thirsting. “If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink.” There is refreshment and nourishment and the satisfaction of every desire to be found in the Lord Jesus Christ. All the better things are wrapped up in Him.

“Then He said unto them, therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of His treasure **things new and old.**” (Mt 14:52) The Bible is a storehouse of things new and old. It doesn’t matter how many times we look into God’s Word, we will always find new things although many things were kept secret since before the world began. There are always new discoveries for us, new revelations of truth we had not previously seen. And there are the old things, like the old paths wherein is the good way. Let us walk those old paths and we shall find rest for our souls. (Jer 6:16) As the song goes, “Wonderful things in the Bible I see, and this is the dearest that Jesus loves me!”

We should not fail to consider that there are things that God chooses that do not look better. **foolish things, weak things, base things, things which look like nothing** from the world’s viewpoint. But these better things are things that bring glory to God and not to our flesh. (I Cor 1:27-28)

And let us not over look the **better things** that are little. (Prov 30:24-28) “There be four things which are little upon

the earth, but they are exceeding wise.” God’s people are little in the eyes of the world, but oh, such wisdom we have! Christ Himself is made unto us a display of the wisdom of God in our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. (I Cor 1:30)

“Ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;” The Philadelphians only have a little strength but they keep God’s Word and do not deny His name. (Rev 3:8) They are like a colony of ants all working together under one Head. They are occupying until the Lord comes, busy with His things, preparing while they have time, knowing that the time is short, but patiently waiting for their Lord to return.

“Conies are but a feeble folk yet they make their houses in the rocks;” In these earthen vessels we are also feeble folk. Sin in the flesh and bodies that are mortal continually work against our living spirits. But our Rock is for us and we know how to run to Him when our hearts are overwhelmed. (Ps 61:2) Our Rock follows us also through the wilderness of the world and so our thirsty souls are continually refreshed and every need met. (I Cor 10:4)

“Locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands.” This little creature when joined by many others is a powerful force. Such are God’s people when united in prayer. What strongholds of the enemy can be brought down when we are in one accord in prayer! We seem to have no visible leader, no king, but the Holy Spirit is our inner motivation and guide. He assists us as new creatures to instinctively carry out the will of God. Like Ezekiel’s cherubim we are always moving onward in the purposes of God in the earth.

“The Spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in king’s palaces.” Notice the word is “spider,” not spiders. Here is something we each have to do; others cannot do it for us. We have to take hold, apprehend the precious truths of God’s Word for ourselves. “A man’s gift maketh room for him and bringeth him before great men.” (Prov 18:16) There are great men in God’s eyes who have gone before us. They have laid hold of these **better things**. When we take hold we join their ranks. There is a better place to be had in glory, in the palace of the King, yes, even in His very throne room! Let us live vibrant, joyful lives in this realm of **better things**. God is not unrighteous to forget our work and labor of love either.

My dear, Precious Friend

*If you listen, I’ll tell you why He is my Friend,
And is ever so dear to me,
’Tis because that I know in the days long ago,
That He died in my place on the tree.
Yes, I love my dear Friend, and I fear not to say,
I will love Him e’en unto the end,
On the mountain of shame He was bearing my blame,
So I call Him my own dearest Friend.*

*There is no one so dear as my own precious Friend,
Let me tell it again to thee,
I would have you to know, how this Man loved me so,
That He poured all His life out for me.
Now I live for my Friend, and am waiting His call
To the banquet far up in the sky,
Where my Lord I’ll adore and enjoy more and more,
While the years of eternity fly.*

—Mary M. Bodie

WORSHIP

Gary Giddings

Camp Joy Haven Message - 2009

What is worship and how do we do it? God shows us in His Word what His will is. Do you know that God has a plan and a purpose for your life? He wants you to be blessed; to have His love, peace and joy and not the emptiness and frustration of a wasted life. Let us look at God's plan for WORSHIP.

Ephesians 5:17-20: Wherefore be ye not unwise, but **understanding what the will of the Lord is...**be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in **psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always** for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

We are to understand what God's will is for us. It is not something "way out there" and unreachable, but we can know what God wants with us. God leads us to do simple but profound things. We simply trust God for Salvation and we receive Jesus as our Savior. We simply trust God for the infilling of His Holy Spirit and we are given power to praise Him with a new language. What is the purpose of this? Not just to "feel good" about ourselves but that we can now enter into the reason that God created us. God created us to WORSHIP Him.

The definition of Worship (Webster's Dictionary) is "reverence or devotion for a deity." Since there is no other true deity but the God of Abraham, the Maker and Creator

of the universe. We learn to revere God and to give our utmost respect to Him. Devotion means that my life is only for Him; whatever I do, I do it for the sake of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The word WORSHIP come from the Old English word “WORTH-SHIP.” What that means is that whatever you consider to be the most worthy is what your life will revolve around. We have been created for God’s pleasure (Rev. 4:11) and we are to show forth His praises because He alone truly is WORTHY! We do this by “speaking to ourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...” To whom? TO THE LORD. We give thanks to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ because He is the giver of all good things! He is WORTHY of our time and attention. He is WORTHY to be our #1 priority because He is the source of all life.

Remember, this is a choice that you have been given by God. He doesn’t force us to worship Him now, but the day is coming when every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD! We have the opportunity *now* to make Him the center of our lives and to enjoy His blessing. The time of judgment is coming when “the earth...and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Pet 3:10), and everything that the world considers “worthy” will be gone. Then it will be too late for those who have rejected God to receive His blessing. But *now* is the time for us to choose!

Looking at the Psalms in the Old Testament, we learn that the Hebrew title of the psalms is “PRAISES” or “HYMNS,” this is appropriate because most of the psalms contain an element of PRAISE. What is PRAISE? The expression of

approval or admiration; respect and gratitude as an act of worship.

Let me ask you this: Does God need your approval or your admiration! No, because He is JEHOVAH, the eternal, self-existent One. But does He want your approval or admiration? Yes, “Without faith it is impossible to please God” - Heb. 11:6. God is delighted when you respond to Him with simple trust. Praise is a response of that trust and faith that we have in our hearts for Him.

Psalm 100 is a Psalm of praise, and we are admonished to make **a joyful noise** unto the LORD. Serve Him with **gladness**: come before Him with **singing**. Enter His gates with **thanksgiving**, and into his courts with **praise**; be thankful unto Him, and **bless his name**. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations.

Psalm 89:15 - “Blessed is the people that know the **joyful sound**: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance.” Neh. 8:10 - “...**the joy of the Lord** is your strength.”

Do you want to know and experience real joy in your heart? Some may think there is too much trouble in the world to really know that deep-down contentment in life. But God has a provision of **JOY** for you as you **WORSHIP** Him!

What we have found is that **WORSHIP** isn't just something that we do for a moment, an hour, or just on Sunday. **WORSHIP** is an attitude, a lifestyle that is in tune with God. We pray to Him, we sing unto the Lord and we read our

Bible...these are all acts of WORSHIP as we humble ourselves before God. But what about doing homework, taking out the trash, cleaning your bedroom, mowing the lawn, etc. Can any of these be considered an act of WORSHIP? Believe it or not, Yes! When we do it as unto the Lord, then even the most common, ordinary tasks become meaningful and even a joy. What? How can you enjoy work? Because I am not separating myself from God or distancing myself from Him when I am doing some work. But if I start moaning and complaining, I turn the attention away from God (where it should be) and turn the attention to me by saying things like, “Why me?” “Not fair” or “I hate this.”

I am glad to learn that whatever we do, we can do it as unto the Lord, thanking God that we have the ability to do anything for His sake. When I was going to Bible School in the 80's in Kansas City, I worked for a time at U.P.S. distribution center. I really gave it all I had to empty trailers of packages as fast as I could. There was one manager there that really started to bother me because when he came around he would say, “Let's get going, move it faster,” etc. I was getting angry that he wasn't noticing that I was really doing my best. I was tempted to slow down but most of all, I was tempted to have a bad attitude about that manager. But I chose to work the best I could for the Lord's sake, not for any man's sake. After all, God knew how hard I was working, whether anyone else took note of it or not. So I could praise God and worship God while I was working; I could go forward with a good attitude and with a good conscience.

to be continued

A Beautiful, But Troubled Land

Israel 2009

Bonnie Richards

“Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities” Ps 130:7-8. “Let Israel hope in the LORD from henceforth and for ever” Ps 131:3. In few words here expressed by the psalmist’s cry, is now and has ever been the need of Israel as well as the need of every nation and every individual.

Since God has chosen this land and this people for a very special place in His program, we have been given understanding of God’s dealings with mankind. It always will be the answer: **He Himself** (an Israelite) bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls - I Pet. 2:24-25.

Daniel heard the Lord call this land of Israel “the Glorious Land.” To tourists, it can appear a land of peace. But looking at it with an eye to the future is sobering! In the 60+ years the Jews have been returning, the land has been changed from wasteland to productive, reforested and fertile cropland. The beautiful valley of Megiddo, extending from many miles from the north of Israel toward the south has a history of *multiple* battles over *many* millenniums

involving much bloodshed. This area is destined to be the location of a future battle, greater and *more* horrific than any before.

We “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem,” knowing it will come with the “restoration of **all things**.” The restoration today of Israel as a nation is but a *small portion of the promised land*. It attests to the fact that God does not forget His covenant or **any** portion of His promises to Israel and the world-wide family of God. God has always known the curse will be lifted to reveal a glorious totally new creation. How great is our **peace**, knowing God has never resorted to a “Plan B” to accomplish His purpose for the magnificent outcome for eternity: *glorious* for the Saints, the redeemed ones from the time of Adam’s day, but *grievous* for the rebellious ones from all ages. There will be a **New Heaven** and a **New Earth** with a **New Jerusalem** coming down to a **New Israel**. What glorious restoration is ahead for His eternal, beautiful **New Creation**. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Rom. 8:19-22

The *events* that will lead up to the genuine, lasting peace was my focus of consideration on this last trip to Israel. I hoped to understand better the spiritual tenor of the people on the streets of Israel. These include, for example, the recent election. It was accomplished by a hopelessly fragmented number of political parties, each with their own

agenda. None of which considered God's plan for THE ruler to accomplish political "purity" (which only Jesus, their Messiah, can deliver). They only found some few points of agreement on which to base their collaboration, but that has been fluid and quick to collapse. This includes religious, political, military, social, ideological, even personal issues etc., **Hopeless**, as far as being able to produce a lasting unity for a nation. Righteousness is not the goal; power, with their own agenda being the goal. Among those factions of citizens being represented as political parties are Palestinians and Muslims - some with the goal to wipe Israel off the map. God sees the opposition of the stiffnecked, the apathetic and all who are blind and willfully ignorant of His ways.

Our guide was a "Messianic Jew," well versed in Scripture, who could expose many things he saw concerning the need and the problems in the land of Israel today. Of great interest to me was his discourse concerning the leaders of Israel in the past 60 years. The leaders who were concerned with the same issues as God, had resulting rain for the land, prosperity in the crops and flocks, victory in warfare, etc. But when land was given away in an effort to obtain peace or when other concessions or decisions were made to the detriment of the people and land, the result has been drought and no real victory in battles. This was evidenced by the severe drought in Israel the past few years (which was broken by some rain in late Spring) - following the election of a man who now purposes to retain their land, not to be cowed by threats, or give in to promises known to be false. But this man's tenure is shaky. While some snow fell on the mountains which feed the Sea of Galilee, water is being rationed until the levels safe for Galilee are reached. Unbelief is the issue with God.

Today, July 3, 2009, a headline news article of Israel Today publication makes the following statement, Quote: The Center for American Progress (CAP) correctly determined that the issue of Jerusalem is the primary obstacle to peace between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. As such, in order to move forward with the land-for-peace process as a whole, CAP has suggested that a third party administer and police the city while both Israel and the Palestinians maintain their claims to sovereignty until an agreement can be reached. There are concerns in Israel that Obama will adopt the recommendation considering his close ties to CAP and his overriding determination to oversee an Israel-Palestinian peace agreement. Unquote.

Not only is there disagreement inside Israel, but the outside interference of a leader from a nation who had been an ally, compounds problems for Israel's leader.

We asked questions about the "religious ones," identified by their variation of garb, which denotes a particular sect among so many. (It brought to mind the multiple denominations of the "Church.") It was evident in this land of the Jews, even the majority of religious professors have little fear of God. Outward appearances, like the whitewashed sepulchers Jesus addressed, is the order of the day. If a man continues in a "religious school" the government dole provides for his needs. And so they have life-long schooling. As our guide put it, "they are parasites living off the government, and often living a life of open sin." Paul said in II Tim. 3:7 "ever learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth."

As far as the condition of the people on the streets of the cities - even in Jerusalem, - they have the same symptoms

of personal depravity that we see in the cities of our own country. “There in **nothing new** under the sun,” as Solomon said millenniums ago. This assures that God will bring His judgment upon all the nations.

Now we hear in the north of the land, the Druze who have had a name of being a peaceful, separatist Muslim-related group, have raised up with threats against the government. Within the land and all around is great unrest, with none to offer a workable solution for their troubles except THE ONE who holds the solution for the nations...but only after judging and cleansing the individuals. Today, He is rejected by the people as a whole.

While there are “ranks” in the unbelievers of Israel, God is not without a remnant of faith among the citizens of the land. The numbers who have accepted Jesus Christ as Messiah are small in proportion to the population, but God’s eye is on that blessed remnant who faithfully declare His way of righteousness through Yeshua. These are today’s remnant of Israel who **“hope in the Lord both now and forevermore.”**

After so much focus on the negative, we will give a positive consideration in the next issue.

to be continued

*The time I live in is a time of turmoil,
my hope is in God.*

—Frederick The Great, King of Prussia

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2009 LABOR DAY WEEKEND FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS

Location: Church of the Full Gospel

180 E. Lake St., Sand Lake, Michigan

September 5, 6 & 7

Saturday - 2:30 & 7 p.m.

Sunday - 10 a.m., 2:30 & 7 p.m.

Monday - 10 a.m., 2:30 & 7 p.m.

Rooms and Meals furnished.

Contact: Gary Giddings

PO Box 111, Sand Lake MI 49343

(616) 799-0331

e-mail: giddingsgary@hotmail.com



A devout Scotchman, being asked if he ever expected to go to Heaven, gave this reply: “Why, mon, I live there!” All the way to Heaven is Heaven begun to the Christian who walks near enough to God to hear the secrets He has to impart. There is such a thing as having an inner Heaven in the heart. “The Kingdom of God is within you.”