

Glorious Gospel Publication



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COME - BECOME - OVERCOME



“COME” - GRACIOUS INVITATIONS

“BECOME” - GLORIOUS TRANSFORMATION

“OVERCOME” - TRIUMPHANT REALIZATION

In these three let us see ranks of spiritual progression.

“COME” - Gracious Invitations - Mt. 11:28-30 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

I am so glad for the way Jesus came, meek and lowly, graciously inviting with the offer of spiritual rest, urging to *come, take, learn, and find*. He was there to relieve from heavy laden labor, by getting in harness with him. The way of transgressors is hard. “The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace to the wicked.” Isa. 57:20,21. God’s word has been considered in many different ways, it is especially marvelous as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit’s **invitation to the world**. We ought to give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard. He has always been urging us on to the better and best things available from our God and loving Father.

With spiritual guidance being heeded, he calls the weary to rest. Read Isa 28:9-13. Humanity ignoring his kind invitations, suffer the consequences of fatal unrest. “Ho, every one that thirsteth, **come ye to the waters**, and he that hath no money; (make faith’s purchases) *come* ye buy and eat; yea, *come*....Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto me, and eat that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and *come unto me*: hear, and your soul shall live....” Isa 55:1-3.

“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him *come unto me* and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly (innermost being) shall flow rivers of living water. But this he spake of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive; for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because; that Jesus was not yet glorified.” John 7:37 & 38.

Thank God, the Comforter has come. “And the Spirit and the bride say *come*. And let him that heareth say *come*. And let him that is athirst *come*. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely. Rev. 22:17. Glory to God! We hear the Spirit, and the bride and the bridegroom singing together in sweet harmony with the fulfilled purposes of the Father. Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus !!!!

“**BECOME**” - **Glorious Transformation** - Thank God that there is power to **become**, and even a **becoming power**. “He came to his own and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he *power to become*

sons (born ones) of God, even to them that believed on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:11-14.

The word “*power*” spoken of here in John 1; was spoken of as the right, authority, privilege of **becoming**. We know from scripture that the Holy Spirit is the agent and power of the new birth. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our need of being born again, and he plants the seed of the life of Christ in our being as we put our trust in God. It then is His desire that we **grow up** (Spiritual maturity) into Christ in all things. Eph. 4:15. The Bridegroom plans to marry a full grown wife. He keeps *calling* “Rise up my love, my fair one and *come* away.” S.O.S. 2:10!

We are glad to know that our God is saying repeatedly throughout the scripture; “**COME, UNTO ME,**” in many different words and ways. There is to be a development of the **comeliness** of the life of Christ in us. This takes place by the effectual working of God’s Word in yielded vessels, by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is our privilege to grow in grace, as we present ourselves a living sacrifice. Let us no longer be conformed to this world, but *transformed* by the renewing of our mind. See Rom. 12:1-3. Those that keep *coming* unto him, beholding His glory, are being *changed* inwardly from glory to glory by the Spirit of the Lord. See 2 Cor. 3:18.

Jesus Christ’s glorious attractiveness seems magnified as we view all he has accomplished for us in going to the

cross, arising, ascending, interceding and coming again, but especially in bringing many full grown Sons unto glory. “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it *became* him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” “For such an high priest *became* us, who is holy harmless undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens.” Heb. 2:9&10, 7:25,26. What a miracle, How comely in his sight shall we become? If we think we have arrived he has much work to do in us! **Yet.**

Oh what a gracious privilege to drink in of the Spirit, and feed on God’s Word, and experience the Holy Spirit assimilate into our being, the beauties of the life of Christ. Of course then at the same time, our light affliction which is but for a moment, *worketh* for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2 Cor. 4:16-18.

“OVERCOME” - Triumphant Realization - God has provided that we prevail, mount over, rise above the multiplied hindrances, obstacles placed in the way to keep us from being all that He has purposed, provided that we be for his praise, honor and glory for ever. Since the fall of humanity in the garden, (body soul and spirit), we face the world, flesh and devil to overcome. Thank God, Jesus has wonderfully provided for our complete deliverance and victory over all that oppose God’s purpose for us to be more than conquerors through him that loved us. Our most

becoming course is to always be coming unto him who is most approachable, and able to save unto the uttermost those that come unto God by him. Heb. 7:25.

Jesus said; “Behold, the hour cometh, yea and now is come that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone, and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulations: but be of good cheer; *I have overcome the world.*” John 16:32,33. Jesus cheering thought is not that you will never have a problem, difficulty, severe need, for then how would you ever learn to overcome?

“By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulations *worketh* patience, and patience, experience, and experience hope, And hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.” Rom. 5:2-5. If I never had a problem, how would I know how God could solve them? Are we not here in the school of life progressing toward graduation?

When Christ exercises control of this earth “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. The Lamb shall *overcome* them that make war with Him (Rev. 17:14) and they that are with him are *called*, and *chosen*, and *faithful*.

THE LAST DAYS



Anita Clark

“But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains. And it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say. Come. And let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of Jacob; and He shall teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths; for the law shall go forth out of Zion, and the word of the LORD for Jerusalem”
Micah 4: 1-2

Mountains in Scripture often refers to kingdoms. This phrase “the mountain of the house of the Lord,” refers to Jesus Christ’s kingdom. In Daniel 2:34-35, Daniel tells the interpretation of the dream that was troubling Nebuchadnezzar, and ends by saying that the stone (representing Christ) would smite the great image, which represented the Four Gentiles Kingdoms which would rule the world. This happens when Jesus takes His throne just before the tribulation begins. He will put down all authorities and powers, who will be in usurpation against His throne, culminating in His return in power and great glory, which is seen in Revelation 19:11-16. He will return at that time with all the believers of the Church Age, His great army, riding on white horses with Him to put the AntiChrist and False Prophet in the Lake of Fire and destroy His enemies who have made war against Him.

During the reign of Christ of one thousand years, the nations which remain and go into that time will come up to Jerusalem to worship

the King. This is recorded again in Zechariah 14:16, "...and everyone that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of Hosts..." Psalm 87 is a prophecy of that glorious time when Christ is ruling as it mentions in verse one, "His foundation is in the holy mountains. The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God."

As wonderful and glorious that time will be here on the earth with Jesus ruling, our place given to us in heaven by His provision is much more glorious. We will be in the New Jerusalem, the heavenly city of God. We will rule and reign with Him. His appearing to catch away His waiting bride is very near. Many signs in earth and air show us that the day of His appearing is very near.

JERUSALEM DAY MARCH – On May 21, 2009, the Temple Mount and Land of Israel Faithful Movement transported the "holy cornerstone" for the third temple to Jaffa Gate, along the western walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. They are eager to rebuild the Temple of Israel. They believe that this is essential for their Messiah to return. A recent survey in Israel shows that 64% of Israelis want the temple to be rebuilt. Another part of the survey asked, "What happened on the Tisha B'Av (Ninth of Av)?" 97% knew the correct answer, "The Temple was destroyed."

The Temple Institute were to begin the construction of the "sacrificial altar." August 7, 2009. The Institute Director Yehudah Glick said recently, "Unfortunately, we cannot currently build the altar in its proper place, on the Temple Mount. We are building an altar of the minimum possible size so we will be able to transport it to the Temple when it is rebuilt." The rocks were gathered from the Dead Sea and wrapped individually to assure they remain never

touching against metal, as the Bible requires. The altars in Biblical times were to be made of natural stone, never carved by man. It is interesting that they are not making this out of brass as God's instructions designate in Exodus. The Temple Institute, which has already built many of the vessels for the holy Temple, such as the menorah and the Altar of Incense, has now embarked on a project to build the altar.

Glick said, "We have the ability in our era to begin the construction of the Temple." The Scripture shows that there will be a temple during the time of the seven years of tribulation. (II Thess. 2:3,4, Rev. 13:14,15,) It is not the one described in Ezekiel. The AntiChrist will erect his image in this temple, and require the world to worship it and him. He will put to death all who oppose him, except for ones God protects. When Israel were allowed to return to the land after being held in captivity in Babylon for 70 years, they rebuilt the temple under Ezra the priest (Ezra and Nehemiah). They began to offer sacrifices before they finished the Temple. (Note: Ezra 3:1-6) It is a fact that the Priests in Israel today have already offered some offerings. Now, with the Altar for Burnt sacrifices, they will no doubt began to offer Daily burnt sacrifices to the Lord.

Daniel 8:11 tells, "Yea, he (AntiChrist) magnified himself as the prince of the host and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of the sanctuary was cast down." Daniel 9:27 says that the AntiChrist will "...for the over spreading of abominations he shall make it desolate." Jesus spoke of this in Matthew 24:15, "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)." These are very momentous times. Do you realize that at any time this treaty could be signed? This will cause the seven years of tribulation to start. The rapture for the overcomers of the Church Age will take place before the tribulation begins. It could literally happen at any time.

EU ABOUT TO HAVE FIRST PERMANENT PRESIDENT

– EU Foreign Policy Chief Javier Solana has endorsed former Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez for the first permanent president of the European Council. A treaty called the Lisbon Treaty was negotiated by the EU member states over a six year period. It was signed on December 13, 2007. One of the features of this treaty is allowing a permanent post as President to replace the six month switch of a rotating presidency. It provides for the appointment of a President of the European Council who will hold office for a maximum period of 5 years and will chair four meetings of EU leaders each year.

Out of the revived Roman Empire will come up a little horn (Daniel 7:8). He will have “a mouth speaking great things” (Vs. 8). We later see him in Revelation 13. The time is drawing near, when this man will come to prominency. Let’s keep our eyes open and our ears tuned. Very soon Christ will give that call, “Come up hither.”

THE WORLD PEACE ORGANIZATION – The official website of the World Peace Organization for the One World Government states, “The plan is being introduced through U.S. Senators, foreign governments and individuals who are knowledgeable in various fields.

They say further, “The plan creates an international government based on fair and equitable practices, an additional layer of government. The International government will supersede the existing international structure. It will not attempt to change what already exists within a nation. Every nation, culture, religion and individual has the right to be respected.” It also says, “The economic aspect is based on win-win agreements, with every nation finding its niche based on its natural resources. The international government will ensure that a nation’s natural resources benefit the

people.” Sounds reasonable to the natural man. The world will be easily duped and will fall in line to create just such a world governed by the AntiChrist.

How amazing that the people of the world have blinded eyes and can't see the truth. Paul says in II Corinthians 4:3-4, “But if our gospel (good news) be hid, it is hid from them that are lost: In whom the god of this world (Satan) hath blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” That is why they cannot understand the way to go. They are blind and need someone to give the light of the “glorious gospel.” Dear Ones, Jesus is coming. To say “soon” is not soon enough. “The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in chambering (cohabitation), and wantonness (immorality), not in strife, and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill (gratify) the lusts (desires) thereof” (Romans 13:12-14).

ANNOUNCEMENT

Women's Retreat - Becoming Women of Prayer
October 9-11, 2009 - Send RSVP by Sept. 7, 2009 to:
Church of the Full Gospel, P O Box 111, Sand Lake, MI
49343

616 799-5029 or 616 866-8668
e-mail: marmorgan55@yahoo.com

JESUS IS BETTER

A TOPICAL STUDY IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS BETTER THAN THE ANGELS -Part 2

By Carolyn Brown

Editor's note: A mistake was made last issue stating incorrectly that it was in conclusion, also part three was printed before part 2.

“Being made so much **better than the angels** as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” Heb. 1:4

The first of these “betters” speaks of a superior relationship Jesus has with the Father than the angels have. The zealous Jews placed a great deal of importance in angels because they were mediators between a holy God and sinful mankind. But Paul would have them and us know just what their place in God's plan is.

We can understand what “being made” means by looking at Ch. 2:7. “Thou **madest** him a little lower (for a little time lower) than the angels;” and in Ch. 2:9 “But we see Jesus, who was **made** a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.” This is how Jesus was **made** better. He took that lowly place of a man for just a little time, but now He has returned to that glory which He had with the Father before the world was. John 17:5

“Being made so much **better than the angels** as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” Angels do not inherit. They are not sons to whom a father leaves his estate. That more excellent name is, first of all, **Son**. Verse 5, “for unto which of the angels said He at any time, Thou art my **Son**, this day have I begotten thee? The day spoken of here was resurrection morning. He is the first born from the dead. Col. 1:18.

And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a **Son**. Hear the words of Proverbs 8;22,23 & 30 “The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was...I was by him, as one brought up with him, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;” The Father and Son have an eternally unique relationship that angels will never know. They did not make known to man the Fatherhood of God. That was revealed to us by His Son.

“And again when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world...” The “again” in this verse refers to the return of the Lord Jesus... “again He saith, and let all the angels of God worship him.” V. 6. Angels are not to be worshiped. They are made to worship God and in this verse they are rejoicing in the return of the Lord Jesus in power and great glory.

“And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits...” V. 7a. Angels are spirits, changeable like the wind as they move about to do the will of God. It was not appointed to them to take a part with flesh and blood, as did the Lord Jesus. That taking part in all that we are yet without sin and dying in our place destroyed him, a fallen angel that

had power over us through death. In this He is named **Savior**. Angels cannot know Him as Savior for He did not take hold to lift up angels, but those who are the seed of Abraham, the believing ones of every age, whether they were of the righteous line that preceded Abraham or lived thereafter. Ch. 2:14 & 16.

“And His ministers a flame of fire...Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” Vs. 7b & 14. The angels are made (created by Him) to minister to us. Psalm 91:11-12 “For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.”

“But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God is for ever and ever: A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom.” V. 8. Notice the Son is addressed as “**God.**” He is God the Son, given a throne and authority for ever and ever. He will bear the name **Almighty God** (Isa. 9:6) He is **King**.

“And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:” V. 10. Here He is known as the **Creator** of the heavens and earth, and all that dwells therein. That includes the angels. It cannot be said of angels that they laid the foundations of the earth or that the heavens are their handiwork. It cannot be said of them that they will at some point fold up this temporal universe as a garment and yet themselves remain ever the same.

“But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.” V. 13. The Lord Jesus is given authority that the angels will never have. He is **Sovereign**. “For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come...” Ch. 2:5. This speaks of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ the Lord when all things will be put under His feet.

Yes, Jesus is **better than the angels**. Which of the angels has at any time been given the more excellent name of **Son, Savior, Almighty God, King, Creator, and Sovereign?**
to be continued



PERFECT SIGHT

*Here I see but dimly;
I shall then see face to face
He who died to save me
By the wonder of His grace.*

*Now I sometimes wonder
When I do not understand,
But He draws me closely to Him
By His gentle, loving hand.*

*Here I only know in part;
Then as I am known,
And when the veil is lifted
I shall see Him on His throne.*

—Beula Clark

WORSHIP

Part 2

Gary Giddings

WORSHIP is about having your heart right with God and freely expressing your faith, hope and love in Jesus Christ your Savior. There will be good days and bad days as far as situations and feelings are concerned. But I say that when you learn the secret of WORSHIP, you will find yourself complete in Christ and lacking NO THING.

What IS worship all about? it is about praising and thanking God for Who He is with all that I am. I worship Him by what I say and by what I do. As I yield myself more and more to Him, my life becomes more focused and the goal of this life becomes clearer and clearer. More of this life makes sense and comes together in a meaningful way ... when my life is given to God.

When I WORSHIP God, it ties together everything that I am as a person. William Temple said, “WORSHIP is the submission of all of our nature to God, the quickening of conscience by His holiness, nourishment of mind by His truth, purifying of imagination by His beauty, opening of the heart to His love, submission of the will to His purpose ... all this gathered up in adoration is the greatest expression of which we are capable.”

Why do we need things tied together? Because without God we are either missing something vital and/or we have been

damaged by situations in life. By ourselves, we are broken in pieces by sin. “All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way (Isa. 53:6) “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

But the good news, the glad tidings, is that Jesus Christ came to save us from our broken selves. In Christ we are a new creation, old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new (2 Cor. 5:17). We have the life of Christ within that loves to worship God with all that we are and with all that we have.

God quickens our conscience as we worship Him in the beauty of holiness. Our minds are renewed as we are transformed by humble submission to God’s Word. Our imagination is purified as we behold the beauty of the Lord in everything around us. Our heart becomes fervent with God’s love as we open ourselves more and more to Him. We also give our will to Him for His guidance and direction to fulfill His purpose.

God has a standard:

Matthew 4:10 “...for it is written, Thou shalt WORSHIP the Lord thy God, and **Him only shalt thou serve.**”

John 4:23-24 “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall **worship the Father in spirit and in truth:** for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must **worship him in spirit and in truth.**”

Philippians 3:3 “For we are the circumcision, which **worship God in the spirit**, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and **have no confidence in the flesh.**”

Do you want to know God’s love and joy in your heart? Look at what Jesus promised.

John 15:10-12 “If ye keep my commandments, **ye shall abide in my love...**These things have I spoken unto you, **that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another,** as I have loved you.

What are Jesus’ commands? The same as the Father’s: that we believe on the Name of Jesus Christ (I Jn. 3:23); that we love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, and that we love our neighbors as ourselves (Mk. 12:28-31). What about the Old Testament Law? Love actually fulfills the Law (Rom. 13:8-10). We love God and others with the love that God gives us (I Jn. 4:19). Our own love is very limited and incomplete, but God’s love is full and complete and never fails (I Cor. 13:8).

It may be that we have to pour out our complaint before the Lord before we can take in His joy. David knew trouble and sorrow...but that is not all he knew; he learned to trust the Lord and to enter into the JOY of the Lord by WORSHIP.

Psalms 42:5 “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet **praise him for the help of his countenance.**” The word countenance means “the FACE” and it also is translated as

“presence” or “favor.” We can praise God for the help of His presence and His favor (He has promised never to leave us nor forsake us - Heb. 13:5).

Psalm 42:11 “...I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.” We can praise God that His presence gives us a healthy face, a healthy attitude.

The world will tell you that they don’t worship anyone or anything; but don’t be fooled, they are devoted to someone or something. Webster’s Dictionary says this about WORSHIP: “extreme devotion or intense love or admiration of any kind.” Think about how the world goes after the “next big thing” whether it is a movie star, sports star, rock star, American Idol, etc. There are many people that live only for pleasure and then they “burn out” and become so cold and hard-hearted. But God has better for you. Turn yourself over to God because He made you for Himself. You will find your greatest satisfaction and the most meaning in life that you have ever known by giving yourself totally and completely to Jesus.

Come and praise Him, Come and give Him your thanks for what He has done for you. Tell Him you love Him and let Him minister to your heart. God loves you.

I WANT TO WORSHIP THE LORD (Song)

I want to worship the Lord with all of my heart,
Give Him my all, not just a part.
Lift up my voice to the King of Kings,
Praise Him in everything.

A beautiful, But Troubled Land Israel 2009

Part 2

by Bonnie Richards

Now for positive consideration:

- Tiny Israel is today recognized as a sovereign nation by the majority of nations - just as God planned and brought about.
- The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has not forgotten - **anything!** (With the exception of our sins that have been covered by the blood of *The ordained Sacrifice*.) See I Peter 1:18-19.
- Jesus, the Messiah, **does have a “little flock”** within that land. And “it is the Father’s good pleasure to give (them) the Kingdom.” Luke 12:32
- By the Word of God we can identify the certainty of the end of Satan’s reign. Rev. 20:2 & 10 - The Devil, who deceived them was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur... to be tormented day and night for ever and ever.
- Jesus will triumph gloriously. Luke 21:27 - They will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

- The emergent sheep nations will share blessings with Israel. Matthew 25:31-40 Read this whole passage and be blessed!
- We will be with Him in His triumph. Rev. 19:4 - The armies of heaven were following Him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. In Psalm 149:1-5, its author had joyful worship for the victorious Messiah - so reminiscent of David's rejoicing as he brought the Ark to the City of David (II Sam. 6:14- 15). Vs. 6-9 describes the privilege of **being a part** of the victorious future event. This is the glory (Honor) of all His Saints.
- With the revelation of the New Jerusalem will be the revelation of the Lamb's wife. Rev. 21:1-2 - I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Many more positive considerations we can recognize as the Word opens to us. God has blessed us by so many wonderful (Lk. 21:28) and fearful unfoldings (Lk. 21:8-26) in this, our day.

It is not possible to envision the future Jerusalem by the present picture that we see. But we believe the declaration of Psalm 87:1-3 "His foundation is in the holy mountains. The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. **Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God.**" And our redeemer, Beloved Bridegroom, is the future triumphant Ruler of ALL.

The Importance of Impoverishment

by Bob Briner

Judges 2:7 And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders that outlived him.

Vs. 10-11 And there rose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which He had done for Israel. and the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord.

Vs. 14-16 And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel. He delivers them into the hands of spoilers (those who plunder). Wherever they went the Lord was against them. The Lord raises up judges to deliver them but they would not hearken unto the Judges.

V. 19 When the judge died, Israel went back to their old ways.

Chapter 6:1 The Lord delivers the Israelites unto the Midianites. Read vs. 1-6.

The Midianites were descendants of Abraham, his son Midian. remember this is where Moses fled to after he killed the Egyptian. Ex. 2:15-21 He stayed there for 40 years. Midian is a wealthy Arab country that lives only by plundering. This was a common practice in those days. We read of David a man of war in one instance in 2 Sam. 11:1 - at the times “when kings go forth to battle.” They must have had seasons that were just for fighting.

So they come at Israel with all their might. Israel hides in caves and dens in the mountains. The Midians take their

crops, their sheep and other livestock. They were as grasshoppers in number. Judges 6:6, "Israel was greatly impoverished...and the children of Israel cried unto the Lord." It worked!

To impoverish means to be made feeble, oppressed, bring low, to dry up, to be emptied, or just plain to be poor. It's the total opposite of blessing or prosperity. The world today most often would prefer the message of prosperity. They get this message from the words of Jesus in Luke 6:38 when He said, "Give and it shall be given unto you." Most everyone thinks that being poor is bad. But, is it? Paul writes to Timothy in I Tim. 6, "Godliness with contentment is great gain." In verse 8, "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." Heb. 13:5, "Be content with such things as ye have."

My younger sister likes to remember our early years as being poor and having very few of the worlds possessions. We had no air conditioning, no hot water. In fact we had no water in the house nor electric lights. But there was good also in our poverty. We had no utility bills, no blown fuses or burned out bulbs. The power never went off. The hot water tank never needed to be replaced. We spent more time together as a family.

Still, many think that poverty is bad. television personality Art Linkletter had this to say about being poor: "I've been poor and I've been rich, being rich is more convenient." Seneca was a Roman philosopher in the time of Jesus. He had this to say. "It is not he who has little, but he who wishes more, is poor." John D. Rockefeller was asked near the end

of his life, “How much more wealth would it take to make you happy?” His answer, “Just a little bit more.”

When the children of Israel cried unto the Lord, this is just what the Lord wanted them to do. He tells them in Verse 10 “fear not.” Someone has said that there are 365 words in the Bible that have the thought of “fear not.” One for each day of the year.

In verse 11 we read, the Lord drafts Gideon. He lets Gideon know that he is on his side - V.12. Gideon expresses his doubts in verse 13, “If the Lord be with us, why has all this befallen us?” The Lord tells Gideon, “Go, have I not sent thee?” V. 14. Gideon sounds like Moses. “Wherewith shall I save Israel. My family is **poor** (impoverished) V. 15. Gideon didn’t know that being poor had it’s advantages. The Lord assures him that He will be with them - V. 16. Gideon wants to be sure so he asks for some proof. Then comes the incidence with the fleece. God proves Himself.

Chapter 7 - Ready for battle: The Lord makes a peculiar observation, we need to reduce your forces. You might boast that you did this in your own strength , V. 2. David was measuring his strength when he numbered Israel. 70,000 men died because of this. God says in Isaiah 48:11, “I will not give my glory unto another.” I Cor. 1:29, “no flesh shall glory in His presence.”

V.3 God says that those who are afraid may turn back and 22,000 turn back, 10,000 stayed. Israel was being impoverished in a hurry. In Verses 4-7 the Lord says there is still too many. Let’s make you a little poorer. God keeps 300 men and sends the rest home. The rest is history.

Why did the Lord make Israel poor? Chapter 7:2, “Lest Israel vaunt (brag) themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand has saved me.”

We read of the poverty of Jesus as He comes to dwell with men. It was always to show His dependence on His Father. Mt. 8:20, “The Son of man hath not where to lay His lead.” Zech. 9:9, “He is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass.” Lowly Jesus, naturally speaking, had nothing to leave His mother when He died. He commits her to the care of one of His disciples, John 19:27.

Think of the things that Jesus borrowed. He never owned them: A manger, a place to be born. A room for the Passover meal. A donkey for the ride into Jerusalem. A tomb to be buried in. The Lord’s family would have been called poor. Probably there were many carpenters in those days. His parents were determined to be poor by the sacrifice made at His birth (Lk. 2:24, a pair of turtledoves or pigeons) For we read in Leviticus 12:6-8, if she be not able (is poor) to bring a lamb, she shall bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons for the sacrifice.

2 Cor. 8:9 though Jesus was rich, He became poor for our sakes. Read Psalm 50:7-12 also Psalm 24:1 which Paul quotes in 1 Cor. 10:26. Deut. 10:14 - “the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lords.” Job 41:11 - “whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine.” Philippians 2:5-8 Jesus became poor, made in the likeness of men. He taught that riches could be a hindrance spiritually. In Luke 12, Jesus tells His disciples that a man’s life consists not in the abundance of the things which He possesses. He also spoke the parable of the rich fool in Luke 12:16-21.

Man's motto is, He who has the most toys when he dies, wins. But God's Word says, Don't trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, 1 Tim. 6:17. It's easier to trust in the Lord when you know He is all you have, riches won't get in your way. The Lord impoverishes us for a purpose. Someone has said, When you know that He's all you really have, you'll know that He is all you really need.

After Jesus, Job is probably the most impoverished man we have ever read of. He had 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 she asses, a very great household, 7 sons, 3 daughters, His health. All this was taken from him in just a short time. Job 1:22, in all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly. Job 42:12, So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning. Job's impoverishment didn't change his feelings about God. Now Job would probably give a better definition than the dictionary for the word Impoverished.

Psalm 40:17, "But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me; thou art my help and my deliverer. Make no tarrying, O my God."

*When I, a poor, lost sinner,
Before the Lord did fall,
And in the name of Jesus
For pardon loud did call;
He heard my supplication,
And soon the weak was strong,
For Jesus took my burden,
and left me with a song.*