

Glorious Gospel Publication



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Searching the otherwise Unsearchable



“To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth. Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God? Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? **there is no searching of his understanding.** He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” Isa. 40:25-31

“There is no searching his understanding.” Humanity seems never to give up on trying to figure out God from their point of view.

“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or whom hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all

things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.” Rom. 11:33-36. What an abundance of issues that escape human understanding.

One of Job’s comforters said; “I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause: Which doeth great things and **unsearchable**; marvelous things without number:” Job 5:8-9. “Canst thou by **searching find out God**? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know?” Job 11:7-8. “Is it good that he should search you out? “ Job 13:9.

Would it not be wise for us to not submit to his **searching**? “**Search me, O God**, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Ps. 139:23-24. Our loving Father, gives clear evidence of His delight in prayers of an overcoming attitude. “I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the poor. Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence.” Ps. 140:12,13.

It is certainly a blessing to know that although we cannot hide from God, that we are hid in him. Ps. 143:9-11. King David had been wise in acknowledging his shortcomings, failures, and turned to God for forgiveness, deliverance, and victory when he came out in the open with God, who knew him well.

Jesus encourages to **search the scriptures** for they testified of Himself. John 5:39. The saints at Berea in the early church were commended for **searching the scriptures daily**, Acts 17:10-11. It is most beneficial for

us to expect the scripture to search us as we search the scripture. We thus are to be submissive to the Holy Spirit as He writes upon the tables of our hearts.

1 Cor. 2:9-16, "...Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But **God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit:** for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; **that we might know** the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." Also Col. 2:2-3

God's Word and the unction of the Holy Spirit work together in convicting our hearts and discerning our needs and of His ample and sufficient supply available unto sincere faith. **"By faith we understand."** We have no ability to figure God out to our way of thinking, but we enjoy the blessed privilege of taking Him at His Word, and walking in the light thereof. See Rom. 8:26-27; Heb. 4:12. Pro. 8:21.

J. D.



THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark

“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.” II Thess. 2:1-3.

The Apostle Paul begs the believers of Thessalonica to not be “shaken” from the faith and the teaching that Christ will come and gather His saints home. He warns that Satan will try to defeat us in our minds. The trials of these last days of the Church Age, which began at Pentecost, when the body of Christ, the Church was joined together, are severe. More and more often, we hear about the trials of the people of God. They are growing in intensity, as the Lord, Who controls all things, is testing and trying the mettle of the gold in the saints lives. Many are going on to be with the Lord, by way of the grave, but that is no defeat. They are finally with Jesus, their Savior and Bridegroom. They will be resurrected first, before the saints who will be alive and remaining until the coming of The Lord Jesus (I Thess 4:13-18).

Paul warns not to be moved “neither by spirit,” in II Thess. 2:2. Satan, who is that evil spirit, tries to get our eyes off the real, bigger picture, that is, Jesus Christ is coming again at any time, and on the earthly problems, such as division in the body. The signs are poignant, and indeed real. Jesus Himself warned, “Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come” (Matt. 24:42.).

“Keep your eyes on the prize and your home in the skies,” as the old song goes. We would add, “Keep your eyes and minds on the Bridegroom.” He is watching, and eagerly waiting for us to come to be with Him.

Apostle Paul warns us, “Let no man deceive you by any means.” Satan is full of guile and uses “any means” to defeat us. But, Paul says in Phil. 3:11, “If by any means I might attain unto the (out) resurrection of the dead.” These “means” are mean. The object of these is to cause us to lose the victory in Christ Jesus. We can determine like Paul not to let the “any means” derail us.

We are warned here in our text that there will “come a falling away first.” Remember that Paul wrote these words way back at the beginning of this age of Grace (Church Age). In the history of the church, we see it started out well, but fell from that lofty, exalted place and began to teach error. Finally, at the end of this age, where we live now, there is a falling away also. Apostasy (meaning going against revealed light) has gripped the church in a big way, but God has a remnant of people who are sticking by the truth and watching for Christ to come.

The signs of the end are before our eyes. Can you see them? I will mention a few, which I hope will cause you to lay hold on this truth of Christ’s soon return for His waiting people, the Bride, made up of overcomers of this Church Age.

ISRAEL THE SIGN NATION – Various events in Israel point us to the end-time and are signs of Christ’s appearing. They are in trouble, not knowing if the USA will back them fully, and what if they have to bomb Iran. Ahmadinejad is still ranting and raving about wiping Israel off the face of the map. If he did shoot off a missile carrying a nuclear device it would destroy not only Israel, but the Palestinians, Syrians and Saudi Arabia too.

God is Israel’s Protector. He will not allow them to be defeated just yet. He has everything arranged according to His plan.

We know that Ezekiel 37-39 tells us that Persia (Iran) will be in unity with other nations, to go against Israel, but what is their end? God will “shake the land of Israel and “will call for a sword” against these united enemies, and they shall be destroyed. We are almost to that time. But first the Antichrist will come and make peace, seemingly, for the whole earth. Many will be fooled by this man. We can see forerunners in political leaders today. How easily they rise to fame and are revered by the whole world.

ANTICHRIST WILL COME FORTH – He no doubt is in the world today. He will begin as a good man, one who is able to persuade the world that he has the answers to bring in peace. Many have come over the years, whom we might have thought would be the Antichrist, but they proved to not be the One.

Our text verse in II Thess. 2, tells us that he “is a man of sin...a son of perdition.” “Perdition” means “damnation, ruin, loss, destruction or waste.” Jesus said that Judas was a “son of perdition.” He was not a true believer in Christ. This man in the end time will actually hate God and believers, and will persecute them.

Some of the things the Scripture says about him are:

1. He will be empowered by Satan. Rev. 13:4
2. All the world will worship him - Rev. 13:8
3. In pride he will exalt himself as God. II Thess. 2:4; Dan. 8:25.
4. He will persuade people to follow him by his eloquent ability to speak. - Rev. 13:5-6; Dan. 7:8, 11, & 25. He will create a one world government with himself as potentate. People will be hungry for peace and will be duped. You can see how this will come to pass, for in the world today people are swayed by someone who is charismatic and can speak eloquently, promoting his ideas.
5. He will bring in peace. He will make a seven year treaty with Israel (Daniel 9:27), and by “peace shall destroy many

(Dan. 8:25) He is represented by the “White Horse rider” in Rev. 6, coming forth to conquer without weapons. This again connected to his powerful oratory skills. Power will be given to him to control all the weaponry of the world and to stop wars.

6. He will promote economic ideas that will help the world which is fallen into economic hard times. There will be much starvation over the face of the earth. All the world will wonder after the beast; he will have all the answers.. He will require all to take the mark upon their right hand or forehead in order to buy or sell anything. Rev. 13:17. 7. After three and a half years, observing the peace plan he will gain with Israel, he will break the covenant and begin to persecute Israel, and kill the Christians. Dan. 8:25, and verse 24 says, “he shall destroy the mighty and holy people.” Also, he will kill all who don’t swear allegiance to him. Rev. 13:7,15.
7. He will fight against the Lord Jesus Christ - Rev. 19:19; Dan. 8:25. He will not be successful. But will be cast into the Lake of Fire along with the False Prophet.

We can see with Spiritual discernment that these prophecies could be fulfilled in the near future. The components to create a one world government are rapidly coming to the front. The recent G-20 Summit brought about international agreements to govern finances in each nation to comply to the rules of the G-20. The United States was in whole hearted agreement with these new regulations.

The key word is “Globalization.” It is what the nations are seeking. They will run onward to this goal until they will be absorbed into one colossal super structure ruled over by the “man of sin,” the Antichrist. He will at first persecute Christians, but then will declare himself to be Christ.

All we can say is, “Be ready.” Before this evil man comes the church will all be in heaven, gathered up in their various ranks

to fulfill their various roles in and around and in front of the throne of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul admonishes in II Corinthians 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether good or bad.” In II Timothy 4:8 Paul says, “...The Lord the Righteous Judge will give me in that day and not to me only, but unto all those who love His Appearing.”

Do you love His appearing or are you taken up with this life? Those who are taken up with Jesus will one day be taken up by Him into heaven. That is my goal and hope. Is it yours?



The Word like the Ocean

Along the shoreline are trinkets found
Where footprints mark the sand;
Shells, sand dollars, starfish abound—
Things easily held in one's hand.

Wading waist-high in water the treasures are thrills:
The tug of the undertow,
The force of the waves that come rolling like hills,
The way that the swift tides go.

But for lasting impressions that bolster the soul
One must launch out into the deep:
Abandon the body to the Spirit's control
And the heart to the Savior to keep.

—*Vicki Dorshorn*

JESUS IS BETTER

A TOPICAL STUDY IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS A Better Testament Containing Better Promises Part 5

By Carolyn Brown

We have in Jesus an unchangeable priesthood. His ministry cannot be taken up by another as was Aaron's. No one can step into His place. His office cannot be transferred to anyone else. He alone took the place of identification with our human condition, bore the burden of it, became the corrective for it. He alone will forever be our representative before the Father and the One in whom our acceptance will always be found. It is because He "ever liveth" that His intercession for us does not cease. Those who come to God by Him are saved completely, for all time. Their deliverance from sin's hold, body, soul and spirit is secured in His one sacrificial work on Calvary.

Heb. 8:1 **"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum; We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens?"** How could anyone ever think they could be taken from or remove themselves from such a Savior as this? The devil will rage and accuse; we will at times fail, but His is greater and His love unfailing.

Vs. 6-8 **"But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second."**

Having considered the inadequacy of the Aaronic priesthood and the arising of a more excellent priesthood in the Lord Jesus, we now turn to a comparison of the covenant or testaments that each represent. The first was faulty, could rightly be accused of not providing the atonement for sin. So did God make a mistake in establishing that first covenant with Israel? No, of course not. The first covenant was perfectly suited to His purposes of pointing to the Messiah who would completely fulfill the law's just requirements. But since it could not remove the sin condition there was always a searching for, a longing for a new covenant that would. God brought hope through the prophet Jeremiah. He addressed this issue of the inadequacy of the old covenant because of man's inability to continue in it: **"For finding fault with them, he saith, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord."**

Under the first covenant Israel was dealt with as a child in training. God lead them by the hand out of their bondage. They were put under instructions through the law and rewarded for obedience or punished for disobedience. The law was **"unto Christ,"** It pointed out the depths of man's need for Him. It was only a schoolmaster restraining and disciplining childish impulses. **"But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."** Galatians 3:24-26. The old covenant was through the works of the law. The new covenant is by faith in Christ Jesus. Under the better covenant we are sons crying **"Abba,"**

Father” and led by the Spirit of God, growing up in the spirit of our sonship. Romans 8:14-15. This is training of a different kind than the old covenant offered. The old gendered bondage as slaves, the new brings forth the liberty of sons. Galatians 4:24-25.

Now hear the **better promises** upon which the **better covenant** was established. **“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord: I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:”** Heb. 8:10.

After the days of Israel’s wanderings through this world in unbelief, after God has brought them to a place of repentance and acceptance of the Lord Jesus, there will be no need for every man to teach his neighbor all the regulations, commands, restrictions, directives, warnings of the former covenant. The new one is written on the heart and mind. It displays God’s mercy because His wrath for sin has already been poured out on His Son. No longer an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, but the proving of God’s love and mercy at work in a changed heart. Blessing them that persecute; recompensing to none evil for evil; feeding our enemy when he hungers; giving him drink when he thirsts; Manifesting the power of the new covenant to overcome evil by grace. Romans 12:14, 17, 20-21. Under God’s gracious dealing with the new creation the Holy Spirit is given as a free gift to indwell us and empower us for the working of God in us **“both to will and do of His good pleasure.”** Phil. 2:13.

“For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no

more. In that He saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.” 8:12-13. God had only to speak and the new order of things was brought in. In these last days He has spoken to us by His Son. He is the Head of the new order, the confirmation of the new covenant by His own blood. He was given as a **“...covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house. Is. 42:6-7.** He is the Word of God that has forever changed the hearts of men who believe. There is no remembrance of their sins and iniquities.

“Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.” 9:1. All things pertaining to worship, all the offerings and sacrifices, all the labors of the priests, the meats and drinks, the divers washings and carnal ordinances were only a figure for that time. They were objects lessons to teach children. They **“could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;”** they were only **“until the time of reformation”** when the new covenant, a better one would be instituted to replace the old. (9:9-10)

“But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of groats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without

spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause He is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they, which are called, might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.” 9:11-15. Israel’s promised blessings were of a temporal, earthly nature. The better promises are heavenly and eternal.

The new covenant is better because the Lord Jesus Himself, in taking on a human body, tabernacled among us. He is now our meeting place with God. Every piece of furniture in the typical tabernacle teaches us something about our Great High Priest. He is the burnt offering upon which our acceptance with God rests. It is through Him we have access into God’s presence. When defiled by contact with this sinful world’s ways we come to Him for our daily cleansing and His Word washes the defilement away. He is the Bread of Life and the continual nourishment for His people. He is our Lampstand in a dark world. It is through Him our prayers ascend as incense unto God.

The old covenant was confirmed by the blood of sacrificial animals. After Moses had spoken **“every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.” 9:19-20.** With the blood the people, the tabernacle, the vessels for worship were sprinkled because “without the shedding of blood is no remission.” Vs. 22. Sin was a hindrance to fellowshiping God in worship. The blood covered their sin, sanctified them for

God's purposes. **"It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these."** 9:23. Now the tabernacle and all that pertained to it and the people were only a pattern of the heavenly order of things, and so the blood of the sacrificial animals was sufficient to cleanse and sanctify them for worship of God. But it takes **better sacrifices** than these to accomplish the true. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself was the testator that joined God and man together in a binding covenant that could be kept. By Him, it is His blood that covers all our sins and transgressions. He is the new covenant sacrifice that purges our conscience from dead works to serve the living God by faith alone. His death was the foundation for the **better promises** under the **better covenant** because He was the **better sacrifices**. The better promises require a better purchase price. His sacrifice was as many sacrifices because it encompassed all that the various offerings, burnt, sin, trespass, meal, peace, stood for. But it was only one. **"...we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once."** 10:10.

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." 9:24.

to be continued



*When we work we work,
when we pray, God works.*

“So Also Is The Resurrection”

*“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man **in his own order**: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?...Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. **So also is the resurrection of the dead...**”* I Cor. 15:22,23,35-42.

Different ranks in the resurrection is plainly taught here. They differ from one another even as men differ from animals and animals differ from one another. In Ezekiel 34:17 God likens His people to cattle and sheep and He says, *“I judge between cattle and cattle.”* In verse 20 He says, *“I will judge between the fat cattle and between the lean cattle.”*

Consider this: If believers today do not have equal victory over the world and their own flesh, how can they experience the same kind of resurrection. Some lay hold of I Thessalonians 5:23 of being *“preserved blameless”* and some do not. Just as there are different kinds of flesh, so

are there differing degrees of Christian experience which necessitate different ranks or orders in the resurrection. *“So also is the resurrection of the dead”* (V. 42) - there is no other meaning to Paul’s illustration of different kinds of seeds and of flesh.

“Every man in his own order” (V. 23) - believers are finding their rank today. We might say, they are deliberately choosing their rank. They are refusing the first rank by denying a difference and choosing a lower rank by their walk. It costs something to accept Christ as Savior and to renounce the world. Some saints will go so far, but no farther. It costs more to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit as they did at Pentecost with its sign of tongues. Some saints will go no farther. Many do not even walk in the power of the Spirit whom they have received. Some are carried away with their gifts and become lifted up with pride; so they never grow in Christian experience.

It costs still more to accept Paul’s message of absolute grace; because as truth deepens, the circle narrows. The flesh doesn’t like the message of grace because it leaves nothing for the flesh to pay. All the expenses of salvation were paid by Christ’s death. The flesh wants credit for doing something. But the truth about grace is unsavory for many. Some accept the initial truth about grace, but go no further. They do not *“grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* - II Pet. 3:18. Such growth makes the flesh retire; for the new man, the inner man, grows in spirituality.

There should be growth, a progress, a going on to maturity. If believers die in babyhood they will be raised in babyhood. Some saints imagine that because they believe in absolute

grace, they will reign conjointly with Christ in His glory, no matter what their walk may be. Yes, it is all of grace; the provision, the offer, but we must lay hold of the offer. Just as the trees may bend with luscious fruit, it will do me no good unless I take it. Remember the bleeding woman who pressured her way through the crowd to touch the healer, Jesus. Then and only then was her hemorrhage stopped. Accordingly, there must be a pressing on to full development. This means denying self, suffering and sacrifice. *“Fight the good fight of faith...”* - I Tim. 6:12; or miss the mark - I Cor. 9:27.

By experience we learn the subtlety and trickery of our own flesh, that causes us trouble. We begin to count with God reckoning that we are dead unto sin, but alive unto God through Christ. Rom. 6:1-4,6-14. Reckoning Christ as our life, gains us the victory over our own flesh. Every step forward narrows our circle of friends, separates us more from this world, making us strangely peculiar - Titus 2:14. But this also rouses Satan against us, for we are going on and growing.

Yes, we read in Ephesians 2:6 that we have been made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, but we are still moving on. It is in the heavenlies that our fight with Satan begins. When we accept this offer of grace (our seat in the heavenlies) we have a conflict that other saints do not know. Ephesian believers ***“wrestle not against flesh and blood”*** (having already gained the victory over these) - Eph. 6:12. But against powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, spiritual wickedness in high places.

We know very little of the wiles of the devil and of actual victory over him until by faith we claim our God-given place

in the heavenlies. It is a real conflict that results in a wider separation between legal and grace people. Some will draw back not able to take the criticism. So the circle narrows and the journey becomes lonely, but the assurance gained is “*joy unspeakable and full of glory*” - I Pet. 1:8. For we see as God sees and feel as He feels. What is so sad, that some saw their privileges, but turned away, not because they saw differently, but because they were not willing to suffer the loss of all things that they might win Christ - Phil. 3:8. The loss is not salvation, but the best inheritance.

There is a goal, it is not our standing in Christ. We don't obtain a standing by running, but by believing (Christ's complete work, His death and resurrection). We have a standing before God in Christ. That standing guarantees a resurrection. But there is a better resurrection an out-resurrection and it depends not on our standing, but on our state - Phil. 3:11. Paul sought by all means to bring his state up to his standing that he might win Christ - 3:7-8.

Phil. 3:9-11 - to know these particular respects is bringing our state up to our standing in order to reach the “out-resurrection” from among the believing dead (Greek text). A rank raised earlier than the rest of the church. We need not to run to have part in the first resurrection for all believers share in it, but suffering with Him obtains “a better resurrection.”

So the out-resurrection is the goal where the prize is reached. Of course there will also be a out-translation, ahead of the rest of the church - I Thess. 4:15-18. We all shall be changed (I Cor. 15:51), but only those who run for the prize can hope to have bodies radiating the greater glory.

It is for those who have fellowshiped His sufferings and they shall know the fellowship of His glory.

Heb. 12:2 - May we *“Look unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.”* Trust Him to bring down all rule, power and authority in us - I Cor. 15:24. Doesn't the prospect of reigning con-jointly with Christ amaze you?

Next issue we will see in the book of Revelation the different ranks as they arrive in heaven?

to be continued

E. J. D.



I Shall Be Like Him

**When I shall reach the more excellent glory,
And all my trials are passed,
I shall behold Him, O wonderful story!
I shall be like Him at last.**

**We shall not wait till the glorious dawning
Breaks on the vision so fair,
Now we may welcome the heavenly morning,
Now we His image may bear.**

**More and more like Him, repeat the blest story,
Over and over again,
Changed by His Spirit from glory to glory,
I shall be satisfied then.**

—Selected

God's Marvelous Works On Display In His People

by Bob Briner

*“Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and his **wonderful works** to the children of men.”* The chorus of Psalm 107.

His wonderful works were on display as he worked wonderfully in the lives of the children of Israel against the Midianites. We read in Judges 6 that Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites. God's purpose for them was accomplished by their poverty as *“the children of Israel cried unto the Lord.”* Being poor has many advantages as far as God is concerned.

William Cowper was an English poet that lived in about the same time frame as John Newton of “Amazing Grace.” He often experienced fears and doubts that he was doomed to eternal damnation. Once on the verge of insanity, he tried suicide three time. Evidence of God's wonderful work in his life is witnessed in his writings.

There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel's veins,
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

Two of God's most wonderful works in His Word is difficult or impossible for men to accept. One is the story of Jonah. The other is the infallibility of the Scriptures. Some say it is impossible for a whale to swallow a man. In Jonah 1:17 we read, "*Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah.*" Sounds like a special fish that God designed, surely no problem for Him. When Jesus spoke about this in (Mt. 12:40) He was probably more interested in Jonah's three days and nights in the whales belly. The real wonderful work of the story was "*the Lord spake unto the fish and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.*" Jonah 2:10. Just as Jonah came out of the whale in three days, Jesus came out of the grave in three days.

Many say they cannot believe the Scriptures because they were written by men and men are fallible (liable to be deceived or mistaken). They believe that since men wrote the Bible, it is not infallible (absolutely trustworthy). The error in this kind of thinking is that man did not write the Bible. Peter tells us that the author of the Bible is the Holy Spirit. 2 Pet. 1:21, "*Holy men of God spake as they were **moved** by the Holy Ghost.*" Remember Mr. Cowper, the songwriter said, 'He moves in mysterious ways.' The Holy Spirit moved holy men and they did write. The word "*moved*" here is of special interest. It means to bear, carry, being moved. They were borne along, or impelled by the Holy Spirit's power.

Vine says, 'Not according to their own will, but expressing the mind of God in words provided and ministered by Him.' I vision this as tossing a leaf into a fast moving current of water. The leaf is "born along" or moved, not by it's own power but by the power of the creek or current. The leaf has no choice. But, we do! We can follow the Spirit's direction

or we can resist His moving and go our own way. These holy men who wrote the scriptures under the guidance of the Holy Spirit did not resist.

In spite of all his shortcomings, Peter was one of those “*Holy men*” who were “*moved by the Holy spirit.*” We glean often from his writing’s in the New Testament. They have their place in the infallible Word of God. Surely it’s only proper, that Peter should be the one to tell us of the origin and preservation of Scripture.

Philip was **moved by the Holy Spirit** to minister to just one person. Many of us fret when our group diminishes. What would we do if our group got as small as Philips? Philip hung his attendance card up that day and put a 1 on it! Only 1! You can only get 1 less than 1 and that would be 0. His previous ministry was very successful. Jesus tells us (Matt. 18:20), When 2 or 3 get together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Philip had to count Himself to make 2 that day. So Philip preached to one of the least congregations ever recorded. He had one. In Acts 8:29 we learn that it is the Holy Spirit that designed that meeting. “Then said the Spirit unto Philip. Go and join thyself to this chariot.”

In verse 35 we read Philip “*preached unto him Jesus*” from the Old Testament. John 5:39, “*Search the scriptures, for in them ye think that ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of Me.*” Had Philip been lounging under a shade tree before the Holy Spirit gave him this ministry? Philip was available to the moving of the Holy Spirit. He had been preaching in Samaria. He performed miracles (by the power of the Holy Spirit). He drove out unclean spirits, healed those with palsies, those that were lame - Acts 8:5-

8. There was no reason for Philip to leave Samaria except by the moving of the Holy Spirit. Remember the song, ‘every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.’ This is the only time you will be heard. Philip was one of those first deacons that was chosen in Acts 6. One of the requirements of a deacon was to be full of the Holy Ghost, Philip was.

After the eunuch was baptized, we read that “*the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip and the eunuch saw him no more.*” That’s what happened to Enoch - “*he was not*” - Gen. 5:24. Enoch was finished, Philip was just beginning. In Zech 4:6 we read, “*not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit*” saith the Lord. This is how things get done. This is how He performs His “*wonderful works to the children of men.*” In Acts 8:39 we read, “*The spirit of the Lord caught away Philip.*” The word “*caught*” is the same as in I Thess 4:17. Harpazo-to catch or snatch away. Philip left in a hurry!

In Acts 20:22 Paul speaks of going to Jerusalem, “*not knowing what things will befall me there.*” In vs. 23 we read that the Holy Ghost promises “*bonds and afflictions abide me.*” He says in Vs. 24, “*none of these things move me.*” He would continue to move as by the Holy Ghost. Paul never resisted the leading of the Spirit. He would continue as “*moved by the Holy Ghost.*” He could have though. He could have exercised his free will. We all have that choice. Just like that leaf floating in the water, he did not resist.

In Acts 6 we read of Stephen. The disciples decided that they needed someone to take care of smaller matters so they could spend their time in prayer and the ministry of the Word. One of those chosen was Stephen. It is said, of him that he was full of faith and the Holy Ghost. Vs. 8 says he

is full of faith and power. He soon went far ahead of his companions and far above his particular office (serving tables). He went from waiting tables to “*great wonders and miracles among the people.*” In vs. 10 we read “*and they were not able to resist the wisdom and spirit by which he spoke.*” They attacked him in vs. 12. In Acts 7:1 we see Stephen before the Sanhedrin, the supreme council of the Jews, their supreme court. Vs. 54 says “*when they heard these things, they were cut to the heart and they gnashed on him with their teeth.*” Vs. 59 they stoned Stephen and in vs. 60 he prayed as Jesus did, “*lay not this sin to their charge.*”

Just as the Holy Spirit moves men to write the Scriptures, He moves men to His other biddings. Some respond, others do not. Romans 9:19 “*For who has resisteth His will?*” Back in Judges, we read of one who resisted. In 13:24-25 we are introduced to Samson. We read, “*The woman bears a son and called his name Samson. And the child grew and the Lord blessed him. And the Spirit of the Lord began to move him at times.*” He had a great beginning. The Spirit of the Lord moves on him in many points of scripture. Judges 13:25; 14:6,19 and 15:14. So many things happened in his life. Samson spent 20 years as a judge. As such he had no good words. He died in captivity. He lived life in the flesh. Unlike the leaf being impelled or moved by the current, he often time resisted. Despite his resistance, the Holy Spirit must have done a wonderful work in his life. When we look at those in Heb. 11 we see his name. He is listed in verse 32 along with David, Samuel and Gideon. Samson has a good part in God’s infallible Word.

In Job 2;3 we read that Satan tries some moving of his own. God said to Satan, “*Although thou movedst me against*

him.” Job says in 42:2, “ I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.”

The Holy Spirit has been moving since the very beginning. Gen. 1:1-2 *“In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”*

Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men. Psalm 107.



Happy In Jesus

**He sought me so long ere I knew Him,
When wandering afar from the fold;
Safe home in His arms He hath brought me,
To where there are pleasures untold.**

**His love and His mercy surround me,
His grace like a river doth flow;
His Spirit to guide and to comfort,
Is with me wherever I go.**

**He says I shall some day be like Him,
My cross and my armor lay down;
Till then, I shall through Him be faithful,
In gathering gems for His crown.**

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