

# Glorious Gospel Publication



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# OH WHAT A GIFT!

*“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.”*

II Cor. 9:15

How well do we know the greatest of all gifts from the greatest of all givers? What can we say? What could we tell? How inexpressible, unsearchable, manifold, multiplied and marvelous! When we are given a gift package, it is common courtesy to open and look into it to see the contents. This gift, so costly, was sent from God’s heart of love (John 3:16). No greater love gift has ever been given. God loved so much that He gave His very best. The only way we could really love as God would have us love is for Him to put the *gift of love* in our hearts. We love Him, because He first loved us.

God’s gift of love is also the *gift of life*, abundant, abounding, abiding life. This gift of life is given to “whosoever believeth in him.” Jesus told the woman at the well, “If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith unto thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water” (Jn. 4:10). Jesus makes it very clear here that the gift of God is a real Person worth knowing. God’s gift invited all to know Him, believe on Him and ask of Him. What an exchange He offers, when He asks for a drink and gives a well of endless life.

God’s *gift* is also of *light absolute*, dispelling all shadows, for receptive hearts. “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights,

with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17). “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (II Cor. 4:6). “Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins” (Col. 1:12-14).

God’s great *gift is immeasurable in worth*, for in Christ He ever keeps on giving. He was provided to make us exceedingly eternally rich. The value increases with increasing appreciation and use. We must realize that we cannot use up this wealth by sharing Him with others. Believing, knowing and loving Jesus Christ produces unspeakable joy (I Pet. 1:8). When our Apostle Paul got carried away, hearing and seeing unspeakable glories, he said, “Of such an one will I glory” (II Cor. 12:5). If he would speak of abundant revelation, he would come to visions and revelations of the Lord (II Cor. 12:1).

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things” (Rom. 8:31-32). Having undeniable proof that “God is for us,” what are we saying to God for His unspeakable gift? Although we cannot fully describe, define, measure or completely search out God’s unspeakable gift, let us do with a whole heart what we are privileged to do, **GIVE HIM THANKS!** I Cor. 15:57; II Cor. 2:14 & Psa. 92:1

J. D.

# THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark

**“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us 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 rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.”**

**Romans 13:11-13**

Apostle Paul was not talking about the time of day, but the time of judgment coming upon this world, and the “day” which “is at hand,” the time when Christ will take His throne and rule this old world. Paul lived in the beginning of the Church or Grace Age. Remember, He lived when Nero, the ruthless Caesar of Rome was seeking Christians to throw in prison and use in the gladiator spectator games. Yet, Paul implored the believers to look for the coming of Christ at any time. But, it is true that each generation, who waits and longs for Christ’s coming are made ready through the trials and tests of their time to be caught away in that first company to go up to be Christ’s glorious Bride. Even if we go by death, there is no defeat in that, if we are walking with the Lord and have Him in first place in our lives.

The Scripture above tells to, “cast off the works of darkness,” which he goes ahead to define such as rioting, drunkenness, chambering (immorality) and wantonness (debauchery - sensuality and licentiousness), strife (quarreling) and envying (jealousy).” The world today is

accepting as right all kinds of immorality. As believers, we should not be contaminated with these lustful conditions. If allowed to reign in our lives, these will hinder us from being ready when Jesus comes. Paul says, “Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh” (Gal. 5:16).

Paul gives us the order of each up taking in the various ranks of the Church in I Thess. 4:16-18. “The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel and the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” So, each rank of the church will come forth at His call in this manner; the dead in Christ, and then the living Christians who “remain.”

To “remain” has more meaning than those who are alive at His coming or those who are left over, but it means those who persistently yield and stay in the will of God. Especially, this is true of the first rank, the Bride of Christ - Those who are faithful to the Lord, those who follow the Scripture, those who let Jesus reign in their lives right now, as they finish their earthly course. As Romans 13:12 says, “...the day is at hand” - the Day when our Beloved Lord Jesus will reign is the day we long for.

This life is likened to a race course for the person who has given their heart to the Lord and are seeking to walk with God in His perfect will. (I Cor. 9:24-27). Verse 27 tells us that Apostle Paul kept his “body under subjection” to Christ, lest he himself “should be a castaway.” King James translated this as “a castaway.” But, “castaway” in the original Greek is the word, “adokimos,” which means “disapproved.” Apostle Paul was not speaking of salvation in this place, but rather of the possibility of losing out on the

victor's crown. As he said in verse 25 and 26, there is a right way to go when one is training for a natural race, i.e. being temperate, not running in an uncertain manner, but staying on the prescribed race course, not as one who only shadow boxes, but places his blows effectively in the fight against the old devil, and keeping his body in subjection to Christ, who is to rule the Christian's life. Those individuals, who follow these prescribed rules of the race will win, and will become the Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Revelation 3:10-11; Rev. 19:7 & 8.)

How do we know that the Lord Jesus Christ is coming very soon? The Bible teaches that there are signs that show His imminent return. Read Matthew 24 & II Timothy 3, as well as the book of Revelation. There you will find warnings of what will take place in the end time.

**CIVILIAN SECURITY ARMY** – On March 25, 2009 the U.S. Congress passed the Serve America Act (S.3480). This bill creates a National Service Corps, which will allegedly be used to serve their communities in times of natural disasters and other emergencies.

Recently, the news reported that the passage of this bill also supplies 6 billion dollars for the government to train youth between ages 18-25 years of age, to be ready to help handle any crisis. They will go through three months of basic training. The government aims to have 250,000 volunteers in this program. They call them “volunteers,” but at the same time declare that it will be mandatory. They will be at the beck and call of the government.

They will be transported to camps, living in barracks, and will be trained in survival techniques and with arms, just in case they would need to use them. All this in case there are riots in the future, as the economy get worse. The “other

emergencies” seem to be the crux of the matter. These uniformed youths “would be used for pressing national and local challenges.” Where would the money come from to support this program? Plans are to cut military spending by 25% or \$150 billion a year, and then use the money for the new “security force.” It is stated in the World Net Daily Exclusive (internet news) that the expectations of this “civilian national security force” will be as strong and well-funded as the Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force.”

Gerald Celente, a man called “The World Trend Forecaster” says, “America is in for a great depression and riots by 2012.” This, according to him, will be because of an American revolution, which he believes to be on the horizon. The economy is in very bad shape, but isn’t it assuring to know that we are cared for by our Great Shepherd.

Remember that in the time of the Antichrist, which is coming very soon, there will be enforcers to make people comply with whatever the government wants them to do. Those who won’t comply will be taken into custody, and eventually be beheaded. (Rev. 13&17). This old world is facing serious conditions. Our only hope is the Lord and the Word of God.

**SURVIVAL SEED BANK** – The dire expectation of what might happen next in the world is also seen in this new program. This seed “will produce thousands of pounds of nutrient- dense foods for pennies per pound, enough to feed friends and family. You can grow all the survival food you will ever need anywhere in the country with a kit that contains a special seed bank of hard to find, open pollinated, super seeds... This could be planted if some great catastrophe happens and the food supply is destroyed.” The

seeds will plant an acre field. The puzzle is how would the average person be able physically to plant an acre field? According to the Scripture there is going to be great famines during the coming tribulation of seven years. It is amazing that people will look to everything they can do for themselves, refusing to trust in the Lord, and let Him meet their needs.

Beloved believers, Jesus Christ has given a special promise to some believers. In Rev. 3:7-13 the Philadelphia church is addressed by the Lord Jesus Christ. They represent people of God during this Age of Grace, who overcome all adversity and guard the Word. There is not one correction needed for them for sin or problems in their lives. The Lord says, "Him that overcometh will I make." God wants us to overcome all the trials and temptations of this present life. He promises "Because thou hast kept the Word of my Patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation (tribulation), which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth" (Vs. 10) Do you understand what has been said in this verse? They are promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to be taken up to be with the Lord before the tribulation of seven years. We can claim this promise if we run this race with patience and yield to the Lord Jesus wholeheartedly. Won't it be wonderful when we see Jesus face to face. I Cor. 13:13 says, "For now we see through a glass darkly; (like an old mirror that has the silver worn off), but then face to face: now we know in part; but then shall I know even as I am know." He is coming soon. Be ready, and watching.



# JESUS IS BETTER

## A TOPICAL STUDY IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS (Conclusion)

By Carolyn Brown

“But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; partly, whilst ye were made a gazing-stock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a **better and an enduring substance.**” Heb. 10:32-34

Here are two marks of a full overcomer: Compassion for those in bonds (whatever that imprisonment may be) and a joyful suffering the loss of all things in order to win Christ and the secret behind that overcoming.

The first has to do with a yielding of self to God for the service of others: lifting up those who are cast down by reason of difficult circumstances whether that be illness, financial straits, weakness of faith, failure due to sin, weariness in body from laboring in the Lord, or as in Paul’s case, actual imprisonment for the cause of the gospel. These are all bonds or constraints of one sort or other and can cause our souls to droop at times. To remind saints of God’s faithfulness and presence in the midst of the trial through the Word, to pray with and for them, or to meet the temporal physical needs is showing compassion. Or to suffer the reproach of association with someone who is undergoing hardship or misunderstood because of their stand for Christ.

The second concerns an inner conviction, a confidence that our citizenship is in heaven from whence also we look for the Saviour,

the Lord Jesus Christ. It matters little what of material things are taken from us; in fact, we also can count them dung and invest rather in the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. (Phil. 3:8) This is the better and enduring substance. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." It is those hoped-for things that our faith apprehends in Christ Jesus. They are the enduring and endearing things of our lives. We have a treasure in this earthen vessel that is of inestimable value. It is a life that has continuance in heaven when the earthen vessel will have been abandoned. It is the life and character of the Lord Jesus Himself who is the Eternal One. We are of Him, of a divine nature. How small and unworthy of our preoccupation are our earthly possessions. How willing ought we to be to be spoiled of them if they hinder our view of Him! How willing ought we to become gazing stock by reproaches and afflictions because we have chosen to suffer with the people of God! Most of us have not experienced anything like this, but some have and do. There is real persecution for Christ's sake going on in our world. Knowing that the loss of all things for Christ's sake will lay up for us treasures in heaven, can we not also take the spoiling of our goods joyfully? Can we trust the Lord to supply our need when our pensions and retirement savings are cut or discontinued or lost through unwise investing by others? Oh, that we might trust our All-Sufficient Lord to care for us! Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's. I Cor. 3:21-23

"For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a **better country**, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city." Heb. 11:14-16

It matters much what we are “mindful of.” Do we seek to find ourselves a place in this world of shifting sands or do we long for, yearn after a **better homeland** that is eternal in the heavens? Some who have been brought out of the world by saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ have lost their first love and returned to the ways of the world from whence He delivered them. “(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)” Phil. 3:18-19 The faithful ones Paul speaks of in this chapter of Hebrews saw something afar off that became very real to them. They were persuaded or convinced by God’s promises that this world was not their true home. They were willing to be strangers and pilgrims on this earth and confessed themselves such by yielding their lives living sacrifices unto God. The world says of them, “what a shame!” but God is not ashamed to be called their God. “Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God; and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God; and I will write upon him my new name.” Rev. 3:12

“Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a **better resurrection.**” Heb. 11:35 Another testimony to those who saw beyond this earthly realm is found in this verse. They suffered torture rather than deny the God who loved them and whom they served with a whole heart. These are they whose bodies were raised from the grave at Jesus’ resurrection. And if so be that we should be separated from these bodies by death before Jesus comes, and have attained unto that best place of bridal companionship with the Lamb, we too will be a part of that better resurrection. Saints, God has provided some **better thing** for us than what the Old Testament worthies of faith could only see from

afar. (Heb. 11:40) In Christ we have the Promise, the substance, no longer the shadow. They without us could not be made perfect or brought to completion because they are only a part of those who were to benefit from God's promise to Abraham. The believing Hebrews of Paul's day were a part of the church which is largely made up of Gentiles, the families of the earth who through Abraham's Seed come into the blessings of righteousness and eternal life. When God completes His holy city we together with them shall be "pure gold like unto clear glass." We are offered the exalted place of the bride of the Lamb. They will be the adornment of that holy city. Rev. 21:2&18

"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the **blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things** than that of Abel." Heb. 12:22-24 The Amplified Bible translates this verse "And to Jesus, the Mediator (Go-between, Agent) of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood which speaks (of mercy), a better and nobler and more gracious message than the blood of Abel (which cried out for vengeance)." Gen. 4:10 God's wrath against the sinner was poured out upon His Son. By His shed blood Jesus established a new covenant, a new testament by which He mediates for men with God. Hence the warning to those who clung to the shadows, denying the Substance. "See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh (the better things wrought by His blood). For if they escaped not who refused him (Moses) that spake on earth (through the law), much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from Him (Jesus Christ) that speaketh from heaven" (of grace and mercy). Heb. 12:25

In conclusion then we have in the Lord Jesus Christ One who is: **Better than the angels**— Son, Saviour, Almighty God, King,

Creator, Sovereign...

The provider of a new realm of life offering **Better things, things that accompany salvation...**

A **Better High Priest** Who ever liveth to make intercession for us,  
Who offered Himself a ...

**Better Sacrifice** and Who provides a...

**Better hope** because He is the... surety of a **Better Covenant**  
which is established upon...

**Better Promises** that are of a...

**Better and Enduring Substance**, in whom we find a...

**Better Country** that we can call home as we look to that heavenly  
city He has prepared for us and to a

**Better Resurrection**, if so be that we suffer with Him, a **Better Thing** being offered us than those who knew only in types and shadows what we enjoy in His person and anticipate of eternal bridal union...

And Who as Mediator of the new covenant in His shed blood speaks to us of **Better Things** than that of Abel: that is, of God's mercy and grace.

And for these reasons I love Him BETTER far today than in the days of yore. He is altogether lovely!

**Hallelujah**  
**to the only One**  
**who is worthy**  
**of all that we have...**  
**of all that we are!**

# Spiritual Health

Part 1 of 3  
Verta Giddings

*“The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, **even as thy soul prospereth.** For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” III John verses 1-4*

Let us ask ourselves this question. How is our soul prospering? Prospering in this instance means, “To be led in a good way.” How can our soul prosper? Several things need to be recognized. In the natural for the body to be in good shape it needs to be nourished by food, water, exercise, interaction with others, rest. So also in the realm of the Spirit. The Lord has given us natural life. He has also given us spiritual life, for He said, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” Jn. 10:10

Our body is the temple of the Lord. Jesus called His body a temple. We are only given one natural body. Now days body parts are being replaced, even the heart. A lot of pain and anguish accompanies this. The Lord will give us help and strength to keep this ‘old house’ in as good shape as possible until we no longer have need of it. Provision was made at the cross for bodily healing. I desire to stay here on planet earth as long as the Lord allows. Not only to prosper,

thus to be able to assist others, but to be in health to live out the time given me.

What about soul prospering? Consider eating right. Let us not be *anorexic*. The spiritual table of the Lord is regularly spread. Some turn away from the precious Word of God. Think what Job said in Job 23:12. More than necessary food were the words of His (God's) mouth. People wouldn't live long without eating. It is necessary, which means, "An appointment of time, space quantity, labor, usage, an appointed portion." Anorexia can become deadly. Beautiful nourishing food can be set before this person and be refused. It can be because of fear of weight gain. The Bible says this of the Word of God - delight thyself in fatness.

Nor let us never become *bulimarexic* - commonly called Bulimia. This person gorges on food, but doesn't retain it. Some seem to take in the Word of God, but before it is digested, they get rid of it, push it aside, refuse to let it make a difference in their lives.

We must be sure we are eating right. Paul told Timothy, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Tim. 2:15. This means, "Divide right, cut a straight course." According to *Vine's* it means, "Teaching Scripture accurately." The cross is the dividing line. Don't give heed to those who would put one back under Law. Jesus fulfilled the Law. Many false teachings are set before the child of God. You aren't required to swallow everything you hear or read about. There was some rank error sent to our P O box last week. Ask the Lord and He will give you discernment, so you will not get a 'spiritual stomachache.' Does it smell

right? Taste right? Digest well? We all need to begin with the sincere milk of the Word. When we get our spiritual teeth, we'll be ready for a good steak. If there is failure to understand what is given out, just keep it in mind, and often the subject will be taught or preached.

Paul wrote to Timothy, the young preacher, giving him the advice of I Tim. 4:12-16. Reading what? We know it is the Word of God. This needs to be accompanied by meditation. Then ask the Lord for illumination, for revelation.

A balanced diet is needed. Jesus said to pray for daily bread. He spoke of every word of God. The Apostle Paul gave this diet to those in - Acts 20:27. All spiritual food is not given at every meal. I remember when Bro. Ward Hall thought he was not receiving something from a sermon, but even later that same week, the words came back to him just when needed. We do need to lay up food for a future time.

A lot of teaching/preaching is going out these days. Still I wonder if Amos 8:11-12 cannot be said of us here in the USA. This was addressed to Israel before they were taken into captivity. Natural famine came because of lack of rain. He spoke of a famine for the Word of God. Prick up your ears. How much WORD is really preached? Peter was told, "Feed my sheep; feed my lambs." Then he said, "Feed the flock of God which is among you -" I Pet. 5:2. I repeat, not 'entertain the flock' rather, 'feed the flock.' Peter's advice was to take the oversight, even willingly, but never as being lords over God's heritage.

God's little sheep, His adolescent sheep,

His adult sheep, all need to be fed.

to be continued



# God's Presence

by Bob Briner

In Jeremiah 23:23-24 God ask the false prophets three questions. (1) "Am I a God at hand and not a God afar off? (2) Can any hide that I can't see him? (3) Do I not fill heaven and earth?

The word 'omnipresent' is not a biblical word, yet it is one of the many attributes of God. The prefix "omni" means "all." The dictionary defines it like this: 'an ability to be present at any or all times.' This is the message that God is giving to the false prophets of this time. He wants them to know that He is there and that He is aware of all that they do. In verse 13 of Jer. 23, He accuses them, "they caused my people to err." V. 14, "I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing." He knows this because he is right there in their presence. He can see where they are and all they do.

His question: "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" Solomon asked a question similar to this when he was commissioned to build the temple. David was not permitted to build the temples and the task went to Solomon. He voices an appropriate prayer at the dedication of the temple. I Kings 8:27. Solomon expresses his belief in the omnipresence of God when he asks, "But will God indeed dwell on the earth?" "Behold the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain Him, how much less this house that I have builded?" The wisest of men had it right! He often in this prayer says of God, "in heaven." He uses the phrase eight times. He also believed that He was everywhere else. He would agree that his God was the omnipresent one.

Not only is God everywhere, since He's eternal, He's there all the time. We sing a song that makes that same statement. He is everywhere always! We are comforted by the knowledge that our God is ever present everywhere. We never get His answering machine, He doesn't put us on hold, never takes a vacation and never slumbers. Psal. 121:3. (unless He takes upon Himself the form of man.)

Psalms 19 tells us how we see the Father's presence in nature. "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth His handiwork." A small lad expresses his sentiments about the omnipresence of God in a poem called "Ain't." Author unknown.

He was just a little boy, on a week's first day.

Wandering home from Sunday School, and dawdling on the way.

He scuffed his shoes into the grass,

He even found a caterpillar. He found a fluffy milkweed pod  
And blew out all the filler.

A bird nest in a tree overhead, so wisely placed up so high.  
Was just another wonder, that caught his eager eye.

A neighbor watched his zig zag course, and hailed him from the lawn;

Asked him where he'd been that day, and what was going on.  
"I've been to Sunday School," he said and turned a piece of sod.

He picked up a wiggly worm replying, "I've learned a lot about God."

"M'm very fine way," the neighbor said "for a boy to spend his time."

"If you'll tell me where God is, I'll give you a brand new dime."

Quick as a flash the answer came, nor were his accents faint.

“I’ll give you a dollar, mister, if you can tell me where God ain’t.”

Perhaps it’s OK now to use “ain’t” since it’s in the newest dictionaries. Anyway, the lad makes a good point.

We read Psalm 121:3, “He that keepeth thee will not slumber.” (unless He takes upon Himself the form of man.) Jesus did sleep in the boat during a storm. There was only one person in that boat that knew God was in the boat and He was God. He taught His disciples what God does in the storms. He naps! He trusts in the Father! God is in the storms just as He is in all things. Note that it was not the storm that awakened Jesus but His disciples. Psalm 46:1, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” We emphasize “a very present help.” I’ll give you a dollar, mister, if you can tell me where God ain’t.”

In Exodus 33:14, God promises Moses that His presence will go with him. Moses answers in verse 15, “If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.” Moses wants to see God. God tells him that he can’t see His face and live. God allows Moses to see His back parts (his hinder glory).

In Psalm 16:11, “Thou wilt show me the path of life; in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for ever more.”” When we realize His presence is with us always, we realize it’s all we will ever need. Prov. 15:3, “The eyes of the Lord are in every place.” It’s too bad that Jonah didn’t know this. He didn’t want to go to Nineveh. He thought he could run away and hide. God saw him wherever he went. Since God is everywhere, He knew right where Jonah was. Jonah sees the error of his way. He says

in Chapter 2:2 “Out of the belly of hell, I cried and thou heardest.” Jonah should have been singing Ps. 38:21 which goes like this, “Forsake me not, O Lord O my God be not far from me.”

We know Proverbs 8 speaks of wisdom. We also see there the Son speaking to the Father. It indicates an eternal presence between the two of them. V. 22, “The Lord possessed me in the beginning of His way. V. 23, “I was set up from everlasting from the beginning, or ever the earth was.”

After Jacob sleeps on a rock for a pillow, he awakens and says, “surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not.” Gen. 28:16. This was before Psalm 145:18, “The Lord is nigh to all that call upon him.” I Kings 19:11, God finds Elijah in a cave. He has big problems at this time. He listens for God. “God was not in the wind, the earthquake, nor the fire.” But he hears Him in a still small voice. God was in the voice. David asks a very powerful question as he places before us the certainty that no one is able to escape the presence of God. Ps. 139:7. “Whither shall I go from thy spirit?, Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?”

No matter where we are, God’s Word assures us that He is with us. Our earthly bodies take up very little space here but he fills all space. Wherever we are, He is. Our Lord is everywhere. Acts 17:27-28. In Exodus 3:2, we read that God appeared out of the midst of a bush. This always implies His presence among the people. Oftentimes we read of deity in the midst of people. Jesus says in Mt. 18:20, “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” After Jesus parents lost Him we read that they found Him in the temple asking questions. Little did

they know that the one who was in their midst, in their presence was God Himself.

In 2 Tim. 4:17, after all have deserted Paul, he says, “Notwithstanding, the Lord stood with me and strengthened me.” When it looks like he will not see another day, we read, “The Lord stood by him and said “be of good cheer, Paul.” Acts 18:9-10 “Be not afraid but speak, hold not thy peace for I am with thee and no man shall hurt thee.” Read Deut. 31:6; Heb. 13:5; Josh. 1:5.

I’ll give you a dollar mister, if you’ll tell me where God ain’t.”

## **JESUS**

**The Word of God  
became flesh...**  
**The Son of God  
became man...**  
**The Lord of All  
became a servant...**  
**The Righteous One  
was made sin...**  
**The Eternal One  
tasted death...**  
**The Risen One  
now lives in men...**  
**The Seated One  
is coming again!**

# “So Also Is The Resurrection”

## Part 2

Last issue we read of the ranks in the resurrection that are plainly taught in the fifteen chapter of first Corinthians. Now we will turn to the book of Revelation to see when the different groups arrive in heaven. We are reminded that the apostle John saw all this in visions that the Lord gave him and so it reads as if it had already happened and yet they are future happenings. The **first company** of saints to arrive in heaven is recorded in Revelation chapters 4 and 5. They are symbolized as 24 elders and 4 living creatures and described as kings and priests worshiping their Creator in chapter 4 and worshiping Him as their Redeemer in chapter 5. They are saints of the high caliber who go through an open door to heaven and are privileged to witness Christ taking His throne as God Almighty.

**Rev. 4: 1-3:** A door into heaven was opened unto them and they see things that other saints will not get to behold as they unfold. What a privilege, to be taken up through that open door into the very throne room itself and witness Christ's enthronement and the glory of it all.

**V. 4-8:** “Clothed in white raiment” (believers) these elders have crowns of gold. What an exalted place they have to reign as kings with the **KING of kings**. The other half of this glorious company of believers (are the living creatures), the priests. They lead in the worship of their Lord. They have let the characteristics of Christ to be worked in their lives for they appear like a lion, a calf, as the face as a man and a flying eagle. This is how Christ is

presented to us in the four gospels. As the King in Matthew, the lion (these believers have learned to reign in life by Christ Jesus); He is the faithful Servant, the calf, in Mark; in Luke as the Son of man; and in John the heavenly One, the eagle).

**Vs. 9-11** - The elders lead in this unceasing praise glorifying and worshiping Him as the creator of all things. The elders in their worship of Him cast down the crowns they had received at His feet, for He is the worthy One. We certainly see just how special these saints are. We read of them again in **chapter 5 verses 8-10** - they are redeemed ones from every nation and they know it is all because of Him (their Redeemer) that they have such an honored place - **V. 14**. They will be kept out of the tribulation, they didn't have to experience any of those terrific days. Why? The answer is found in **Chapter 3 verses 10-11**.

The **next company** of saints arriving in heaven is a great company, a multitude, so great no man could number them - **Rev. 7:9-12**. They missed beholding Christ's enthronement and how do we know they will arrive in heaven at a later time. **Vs. 13-17** - They come out of tribulation days and consist of the greater portion of the church, the body of Christ. They are a blessed company that suffer the beginning part of the tribulation period that the Lord will call up to be with Him. He wipes away all their tears, their sorrow He has banished forever. They worship their great caring Shepherd. So there is quite a difference between the first and second rank of believers. This company have no crowns, but they do have palms to wave. They also are not in the inner circle, but *stand* before the throne and the 24 elders and living ones.

We read of **another company** of believers that are taken up to heaven later than the great multitude of chapter 7. **Rev. 14:1-5** - The 144,000 are all Jewish believers seen in heaven in this chapter. We read of them in chapter **7:3-4** being sealed on earth with the Holy Spirit and now in chapter 14 they are in heaven. So they have been taken up sometime between. They are wonderful saints and have a special place in heaven. They are believing Jews from the 12 tribes of the children of Israel, 12,000 from each tribe as we read in chapter **7:4-8**. Chapter **12:5** tells us when they were taken up unto God and His throne. We know by studying Revelation that this happens before the Antichrist takes his throne to rule, just before the middle of the week of 7 years (comp.12:9-12).

Next we read of the **two witnesses caught up** to heaven **Ch. 11:3-12**.

Then some time during the Antichrist reign, **another company** will get the victory over the beast and his image and mark and are seen standing on the sea of glass which is before the throne in heaven - **Ch. 15:1-4**. (comp. Ch. 4:6a)

So there are distinct companies arriving in heaven at different times. This is the *Word of God*, not imagination. The **first** company have crowns and reign. They are worshipers in and around the throne, and they are seen throughout the book of Revelation occupying places of trust and assisting the Lord.

The **second** crowd have victory palms and stand before the throne and are called servants.



The **third** rank are twice called “child.” They are not grown up into the stature of a full grown man in Christ, but they are a strong company.

The **two witnesses** and the **beast-overcomers** are the **forth and fifth ranks**.

All of these are part of the first resurrection that began with Christ’s resurrection - Rev. 20:5-6. “The rest of the dead” mentioned in verse 5 are the wicked dead, that will be judged before the great white throne when the thousand years are expired - verses 11-15.

**Phil. 3:13-15** - Let us not be turned aside by the trials along our journey or the half-heartedness of others. **Vs. 16-21** - God’s people are actually assembling in their rank now.

**I Cor. 2:12-16** - Yes, he that is spiritual discerneth all things and lays hold of these truths and so runs to obtain.

**Heb. 12:1-15** - We may hit a bump in the road, but don’t wallow in self-pity. Satan would like to get us to start enjoying our pity-parties, for the flesh likes the attention. But let us lay aside those things and look to Jesus, focus on Him and trust Him to finish the work He has begun in us. Some never lift up their hands in worship or bend their knees in prayer. Some don’t seem to care that they stumble others by their walk. It seems that some don’t want to be at peace and the flesh loves to feed on bitterness.

**I Cor. 9:26-27** - There is the possibility of missing the first rank and winning Christ as Bridegroom, so let us not take this lightly.

E. J. Davis

# **CHRISTMAS EVE**

**There were some shepherds one night  
Watching their white sheep  
Out in the field gazing up in the sky.  
They were not asleep,  
But face upward there they lie.  
When all around a radiance bright,  
Shone with a sudden startling light;  
Then a song by heavenly choir,  
As they touched the golden lyre,  
“Glory to God, good-will to men,  
The Christ is born in Bethlehem.”**

**Those favored shepherds that night  
Gladly hastened down  
And found a stable, and in a manger bare,  
In Bethlehem town,  
The Christ-child, with His mother fair,  
In holy majesty pure and white.  
They fell and worshiped at the sight,  
Then answered they the angel choir —  
“Glory to God”—with tongues on fire.  
That heavenly anthem we chant still—  
“Peace and good will, peace and good  
will.”**

**—Mary M. Bodie**