

Glorious Gospel Publication



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Published Monthly, No Subscription Price



Contents:

“Such A Time As This”	
Jack Davis	1
Poem - Give Your Strength	4
The Last Days	
Anita Clark	5
A Pattern Proclamation - I Thess. 3:11	
Debra Isenbletter	10
A Good Report	
Sharon Townsend	13
His Legacy - What Jesus Left Us	
Verta Giddings	15
Mail Box - David & Jo Ann Cloud	18
The Book of Revelation - Ch. 8:1-11	
E. J. Davis	21

“SUCH A TIME AS THIS”



“...who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Esther 4:14

“Mordecai the Jew, warned Esther the queen of the danger of not speaking up for her people at an opportune time.”

Shall we today be aware of why we are here at *this time*? God’s Word is the only perfectly accurate time piece. He has provided that His people have an understanding of *the times*. See 1 Chronicles 12:32, which speaks of men that had **understanding of the times**, to know what the people ought to do. And like these, we too should know.

Thank God for His rightly divided Word of truth that gives an accurate understanding of *the time in which we live*. We are blessed to be given in Scripture to know how things work together for good to them that love Him, to them that are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28.

“To everything there is a season, and *a time to every purpose* under heaven,” Ecclesiastes 3:1. “Who knows?” Who will take the time or give the attention to find out? Seek, search the scripture to realize by faith, how to occupy till He comes.

Let us look upon the Word from God’s point of view. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” Thank God for giving us His whole armor.

This has been provided for our total protection in righteous: “That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” 2 Timothy 3:16, 17. He is daily teaching us to occupy in view of His coming.

Romans. 13:10-12: “Love worketh no ill to his neighbour therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. 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 armor of light.”

“let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:9-10.

Is it not amazing how up-to-date God’s wonderfully accurate Word is in foretelling the **signs of the times**? Paul says “consider what I say and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.” 2 Timothy 2:7.

2 Timothy 3:1: in these *perilous last days* we should become more and more aware how well the rightly divided Word of truth works against the onslaughts of our adversary. 2 Timothy 4: We are charged before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ to preach the word; be instant in season, out season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For ***the time will come*** when they will not endure sound doctrine. Oh has it ever!

Matthew 24:4-8: Jesus said: “Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ;

and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.”

In these confusing and fearful times of the sea and winds roaring, we may have an understanding of the times, knowing - “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad...The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah” (Psalm 46:1-7). Brethren, we may sing His praises *with understanding*. Psalm 47:7

Esther was an overcomer of her time, when she said, “if I perish, I perish,” by faith she was putting her life on the line for her people.

We also may have the attitude of Christ prophetically spoken of Him in Psalm 31, “**My times are in your hand**” (for Thou) hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy.”

Revelation 22:10 “...Seal not the sayings of this book: for **the time is at hand.**”

J. D.

GIVE YOUR STRENGTH

Give Your strength unto Thy servant,
show me a “token for good”.
An evidence I’m not alone,
that others too have stood.

Give Your strength unto Thy servant,
for weakness is all I see.
The flesh will fail me every time,
and Satan laughs with glee.

Give Your strength unto Thy servant,
for when I face a test,
I need Your strength day by day,
to leave me feeling blessed.

Give Your strength unto Thy servant,
for valleys loom ahead.
If grace will be my only guide,
there is no cause to dread.

Give Your strength unto Thy servant,
as promised in Your Word.
“Strength to strength” I’ll go each day,
I’ll rest and be assured.

Debbie Isenbletter
(Psalm 84&86)
10/23/87

THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark



“I say then, Hath God cast away His people? God forbid, For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away His people which He foreknew.” Romans 11:1,2.

Apostle Paul writing in the book of Romans wanted to set the record straight on the question mentioned above, “Hath God cast away His people?” Paul answered, “God forbid” or as the Amplified Version says, “of course not.” Many ministers and preachers today are teaching exactly that, “God has completely set aside His people, Israel, and all the blessings promised to Israel are now given to Gentile believers.” This doctrine is absolutely false teaching.

As these Scriptures declare, God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham, the grandfather of Jacob, whom God renamed “Israel” - meaning “a prince with God.” In Genesis 12:1-3 we read how God chose Abram, formerly an idolater (Joshua 24:2) totally and sovereignly by His grace. God transferred the blessings to his heirs, Isaac and Jacob and their heirs. He gave Abraham an everlasting covenant not dependent on his good works, but upon His grace alone.

The blessing and covenant to Abraham as recorded in Genesis 12:1-3 reads, “And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing;

I will bless them that bless thee; and curse him that curses thee; and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.” God’s promise to Abraham’s seed, Israel, is an eternal promise. Although Israel became an idolatrous nation in Old Testament times, and suffered at the hand of judgment before the Lord, being dispersed out of their land, God in mercy brought them back into their land although under Gentile rulership.

However, another test came their way, directed by the Omnipotent, Omniscient God, who is the “beginning and the end.” God fulfilled the prophecies to bring the King of Israel to His earthly people. The prophecies, one upon another were fulfilled to clearly show that Jesus was the promised Messiah, but Israel’s eyes were blinded, and they rejected the One who would have brought them into glory and honor. Gal. 3:16 states, “Now to Abraham and His seed were the promises made. He saith not to seeds, as of many; but as of one, and to thy seed which is Christ.” So, ultimately the blessing of Abraham’s seed was focused on Jesus Christ, who came as the seed of Abraham (Matt. 1). If Israel would have accepted Jesus as King, His kingdom would have come to fulfillment right then, but God’s greater special plan was fulfilled in the death of the Son of God - redemption for the whole world. John 1:11-12 says, “He came unto His own and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.”

Even after the redemption of the world was accomplished through the sacrificial death of Christ, whose death fulfilled the prophecies (Isa. 53, Zech. 9:9; 12:10-14; 13:6-7) Israel rejected Him as their sin bearer, their sin offering, and persecuted the twelve Apostles of Jesus and stoned Stephen (Acts 7). They didn’t realize that God was giving them one more chance to believe and have their kingdom

immediately restored. Note: Acts 7:55, Stephen, who had preached to the Jews, a long sermon, recounting their history and sin against God, was stoned to death, but before his death he proclaimed, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God." At that moment, had they accepted Stephen's plea for their repentance, Jesus Christ would have returned to them, and they would have been born again, and exalted as rulers of the world under Jesus Christ their King.

Their rejection of the Son of God and His death for their salvation has resulted in the Jews dispersal into all regions of the earth. Wherever you may go there are Jews. Jesus foretold this in prophecy (Matt. 24:1,2). It came to pass in 70 A.D. The temple was destroyed and the city of Jerusalem burned and many killed, and many dispersed. This is called the "Diaspora." For over 2,000 years they have been down trodden, persecuted, seemingly without help. However, the Lord began to move on Israelites throughout the world, and now, Israel is restored to their land and are a strong democratic nation. There are only a small minority that believe in God, and recently, a report came that said there are now 15,000 Jews who live in Israel who believe in Jesus Christ.

God is never surprised by the happenings of the human race. He sees the end from the beginning, and operates through His plan made before the foundation of the earth. When Israel as a whole rejected God's salvation, He turned to the Gentiles. He inspired Apostle Paul to write about this great plan in Romans 11:25, "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." "The fulness of the Gentiles" is referring to the fact that God is offering salvation to the Gentiles during this age, until all the Gentiles who will believe have come to salvation. However, salvation during this age is to

“whosoever will,” as Jesus boldly declared. Jews can be saved today, coming to Jesus by faith just as the Gentiles must do. Acts 15:14 says, “Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build the ruins thereof, and will set it up.” Should anyone disbelieve it when God’s Word declares?

The Word of God states that Apostle Paul is the official Apostle to the Church Age (Romans 15:16,18; and Gal. 2:7-9; Eph. 3:1-11). If you are confused reread these emphatic Scriptures again, asking the Holy Spirit to enlighten your mind, and He will. Also, read Romans 9,10 and 11 over and over until you see God’s plan come into clear focus.

The prophets of the Old Testament are very clear that God will restore Israel. This will come to pass after God brings them through the fire once again. Soon, they will sign a treaty with the nations for seven years. Daniel 9:27 tells us of that time. No doubt this covenant will guarantee their protection. At this time Israel is in trouble, seemingly without anyone to really stand with her. But, she will have hope in the covenant, that she will have safety and peace. However, the Scripture says that after about 3 ½ years, the one whom they have trusted, will betray them and come against them to destroy them. Of course this man is the Antichrist, the “beast out of the sea” of Rev. 13. Israel will suffer a time of desolation called “Jacob’s trouble” (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21,22).

This is not the end of the story. Praise God! At the end of the tribulation of those days, Jesus Christ will return in power and great glory (Zech. 12:10; Matt. 24:27-30; Rev. 19:11-16). The remnant

of Jewish believers in Christ, who have endured through the seven years of tribulation, will welcome Christ as He comes and rule with Him on earth. The rest of the nation of Israel who have managed to live through the terrible time of tribulation will look up and realize that Jesus Christ is their Messiah. Zech. 13:8-9 says, “And it shall come to pass in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried; they shall call on my name, and I will hear them; I will say, It is my people; and they will say, The LORD is my God.”

Zechariah tells of that awesome appearance of the Lord Jesus as He returns to the earth to usher in His kingdom. At that time, the Word of God by Apostle Paul in Phil. 2:9-11 concerning Jesus Christ’s exaltation will be fulfilled, “Wherefore God also has highly exalted Him (Jesus), and given Him a name which is above every name; that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.” Be assured that God’s Word is true and will be fulfilled - every “jot and tittle” of it.

Our Lord Jesus will be coming for His bride at any time. This will take place just before the seven years of tribulation coming soon upon the earth. All the signs of catastrophes coming upon the earth today are forerunners of the coming of the tribulation. We have the privilege to be ready and watching for the Lord Jesus Christ to come as I Thess 4:13-18 declares. Is that your desire? Trust the Lord Jesus to make you ready. Be confident in Him that He will finish the work that He has begun in your life. The time is short. Take advantage of the time given you.

A Pattern Proclamation

I Thessalonians - Chapter 3:11

Debra Isenbletter

Vs 11: “Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.”

In this verse and request we see who it is that Paul looked to for help. His request is a prayer and he prayed to “*God himself*” and to “*our Father*” and to “*our Lord Jesus Christ*”. He came to “*God himself*” – he came to the **Mighty One**. He came knowing His authority. If God had sent him then God would lead him. He prayed to “*our Father*” – he came to the **Loving One**. He came knowing his relationship. It is a relationship that we all have for the Lord has said: “*And I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters*” (2 Cor 6:18).

We have a dual relationship that we should never forget, it is seen in how Paul addresses God first and then the Father second. In this is seen our subjection to God and His authority and our place and privilege as His children. Paul also looked to “*our Lord Jesus Christ*”. He used the full title of his Savior. Paul called Him “*Lord*”, for He was Paul’s “*Lord*” and “*Master*”. Paul called Him “*Jesus*”, for He was Paul’s *Savior*”. Paul called Him “*Christ*”, for He was Paul’s “*Messiah*”.

Notice the repetition and emphasis on the word “our”. Paul’s prayer can and should be our prayer for guidance. His relationship is also our relationship. Notice what assurance and what boldness and what revelation Paul had! Notice the unity of the Father and the Son

and the Spirit who guides Paul in his prayer. It was to both the *Father* and *Son* and to *God* and *Christ* that Paul prayed. It will be both of them that will enable and lead him in the right direction.

Paul's request was specific, it wasn't vague. He prayed that God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ would "*direct our way unto you*". Another rendering is "*guide our steps to you*" (Amplified) or "*clear the way for us to come to you*" (NIV). One commentator writes that: '*The idea is that of conducting one straight to a place, and not by a round-about course. The petition is that God would remove all obstacles so that he could come directly to them.*'

How many times have we not found that when we don't seek the Lord first that though we may end up where we planned, we took the long and difficult and round-about way. If in the natural we seek directions and are willing to follow a map, how much more so in the spiritual? Paul wanted to be "*directed*" or "*guided*" – he asked for directions! These were spiritual directions. When we don't know **when** to go or **where** to go or **if** to go, this is what we do.

Paul knew what he wanted to do but before doing it he wanted the Lord to direct and lead him. If we want the Lord to truly direct our steps, then we must let Him lead the way. To let Him lead means that we trust in Him and not in ourselves. "*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*" (Prov 3:5).

I often refer to myself as 'directionally challenged' because I get lost and turned around so easily. That has made me dependent on helps available to keep me from getting lost and willing to ask others for help. It is when we are independent in spiritual things and are not

willing to ask the One who knows and is willing to lead us that we find ourselves taking a wrong turn along the way or confronted by obstacles that we could have avoided.

It's interesting to note that Paul's prayer wasn't answered immediately; it would be years before he finally visited Macedonia, but when he went it was in God's time. Until then Satan had hindered and Paul waited for the Lord to open the way.

We need to seek the Lord's direction in every area of our lives and acknowledge Him as the One who will direct our steps and our prayer for guidance should always be with the attitude of submission to His will. Just as we ask in faith believing we also wait in faith and when the Lord says to go and where to go then we go!

.....

***It may not be on the mountain's height,
Or over the stormy sea;
It may not be at the battle's front
My Lord will have need of me;
But if by a still, small voice He calls
To paths I do not know,
I'll answer, dear Lord, with my hand in thine,
I'll go where you want me to go.***

***There's surely somewhere a lowly place
In earth's harvest-fields so wide,
Where I may labor through life's short day
For Jesus, the Crucified.
So, trusting my all unto Thy care,
I know Thou lovest me!
I'll do Thy will with a heart sincere,
I'll be what you want me to be.***

A GOOD REPORT

Sharon Townsend
Chesterfield Twp, Michigan

I have just been rejoicing lately in the love of God for us. I gave a lesson recently on consequences of our actions and to consider those consequences. And it is true there indeed are consequences to every action/decision we take/make. For example: Daniel in the lions den; The three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace, and the list goes on. At the end of the sermon I quoted John 3:16 and made mention that God chose to give His beloved Son and there were consequences to that choice. Later, the Lord reminded me of an incident that had occurred when my daughters were quite young and I want to share that incident with you.

Our corner church, at one time, was in a very bad area of the city. One day my husband and I got to church early. He took our oldest daughter inside and I remained in the car, in the drivers seat, with our youngest daughter (about 4 years old) who was playing in the passenger side of the front seat.

Across the street, next to the church parking lot, was a row of houses. A car come roaring up on that side street and started firing guns at a house directly across from us. They had not seen me at that time. I immediately put one hand on my daughters head and pushed her down and told her to be still. I had the other hand on the door handle of the car ready to leave the car and draw any gunfire away from my daughter, if it became necessary. Sure enough after firing at the house they sped to the corner and at that point they saw

me but not my child. They backed the car up and we stared at each other. I was ready to flee the car when they took off.

After reminding me of this incident, the Lord just spoke to my heart and asked me some pointed questions. Had I considered choices or consequences at that particular moment? What prompted me to be willing, without thought, to risk my life, to “take a bullet” for that child? The truth is, I never once considered choices or consequences that would await me when I left that car. All I wanted to do was to save the life of that little girl next to me. What prompted my actions was love for her; and then He just spoke to my heart - “So it was with me.” He did not have to stop and consider all the consequences. He did not even consider His action a “choice.” He moved out of HIS love for us. As the Lord reminded me, it was through his mercy that I was spared a “bullet” that day. He on the other hand “took the bullet” that was meant for all of us on the cross out of His love for us. (And all the time we were playing around oblivious to the danger to us)

It is true there are consequences to choices but where I had been emphasizing His CHOICE in John 3:16, God would emphasize His LOVE.

“The Love of God”

***“Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
tho stretched from sky to sky.”***

HIS LEGACY - WHAT JESUS LEFT US

Verta Giddings
Sand Lake, Michigan

A Legacy according to Webster is money or property left to someone by a will; bequest. What is handed down.

Just before Jesus returned to heaven, by way of the cross, resurrection and ascension, He had an heart-to-heart talk with His disciples - John 14-16. You remember how he told them in John 14:1, "Let not your heart be troubled." He was thus preparing them for the days ahead when He would be crucified, rise again, and ascend into heaven.

Often when people know they would soon die, they consider what they want to leave to those left behind. We can't begin to tell all the blessings He would be leaving for His own, but some are given in these chapters. One thing for sure He said He would send the Holy Ghost after He left - John 16:7.

What impressed me is that He gave them His NAME - John 14:13-14. does this mean, just ending a prayer - "In Jesus' Name?" It means by the authority of His Name. As though He has given you a book of checks with His Name signed. Of course there are stipulations - John 15:7 - abiding in Him and His word abiding in you. Then you will not be praying amiss, but knowing the will of God. Peter and John used His Name when the lame man at the Beautiful Gate was healed - Acts 4:10-12. Notice through faith in His Name.

He left us His WORD - John 15:3 - His word is a lamp unto our feet and a light to our path. Psa. 119:9 - the way a young

man cleanseth his way. Just to read it is not enough. We need to take heed to it. This word will cleanse us if we allow it to do so. Taking heed means to pay attention to it.

We are so dependent upon Him. He is the Vine, we are the branches. We cannot bear fruit without abiding - taking up our abode - in Him. John 15:5 tells us that without Him we can do nothing. Of course the other side of the coin is Phil. 4:13. So consider our legacy. His Name; His Word; and answered prayer - 15:7.

We will bear fruit as we abide in the vine. Gal. 5:22-23 lists the fruit of the Spirit. The first three are love, joy, peace, then the 7th is faith. Jesus gave us all of these - not just ours, but His. He said, "My love, My joy, My peace," and we live by the Faith of the Son of God. We can avail ourselves of these as we walk in the Spirit - Gal. 5:16.

He left us His LOVE. John 15:10. He first loved us. He taught us to love one another. The love we have one for another is actually our identification mark - John 13:35. Can our own love grow thin? Does it seem to come to an end? Then take His Love for your own. Let Him love through you. This love is more than just a feeling. It produces action. God loved and He gave. Jesus loved and He gave. This love causes us to give, causes us to deny self so others can be blessed. This love is unconditional.

He left us His JOY. John 15:11. Peter says it is 'joy unspeakable and full of glory.' The word says that weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning. Someone has said that JOY is "peace bubbling up." Neh. 8:10 tells us that "The Joy of the Lord is our strength." Joy is delight, pleasure, gladness. The Apostle said we can count

it all joy when we fall into divers temptations. That is because we know good will result in the end. But never forget it is not our joy, but His. Jesus said so. Our joy can be full. Joy is the second named fruit of the Spirit.

Consider that He has left us His PEACE. Notice that Jesus said in John 14:27. This verse is right after Verse 26 when He spoke of the Comforter. He is the God of Peace. The reason He could give His peace is because He made peace by the blood of His cross. In fact He is our Peace. Righteousness has been put to our account in I Cor. 1:30. Isa. 32:17 - "The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quiet-ness and assurance for ever." Also Isa. 26:3. Peace is the third named fruit of the Spirit.

Then there is FAITH - the 7th named fruit of the Spirit. Means "A fully relying confidence." Paul said in Gal. 2:20 that he lived by the faith of the Son of God. So it is His faith, not ours, but He gives us His faith. This can also carry the meaning of fidelity or faithfulness. In either case, it is His faith which causes us to trust Him, and His faith which makes us faithful or unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

Consider again the legacy He left us. The Holy Spirit; His Name; His Word; His Love; His Joy; His Peace; His Faith. This should make us rejoice.

***No word of man can ever tell
How sweet the name I love so well;
Oh, let its praises ever swell,
Oh, praise the name of Jesus.***



MAIL BOX

David and Jo Ann Cloud

P O Box 181, Pharr, TX 78577-0181

2/21/11

Dear Saints:

Due to the recent death of Sis. Nancy Davis and the preoccupation of some about our safety, we have decided to send this note. We understood the funeral would be “private” so we did not attend. We met Sam Davis and his parents in the mid ’70s, and had the privilege of attending some special meetings in their church near the city of Alamo. After moving our print shop from Pharr to Mission (1991) we lost contact with the family and other missionaries.

Although situations may change rapidly, in the area where our churches are located (outside of Reynosa city limits) we have NOT had any threats. As there is a military presence almost daily in the area, the people carry on ‘business as usual.’ There is no “cartel presence” taking control in our communities YET, as in locations where the fighting has occurred. The fighting has mostly been cartel vs cartel, or military vs cartel. Without a doubt, the president’s visit and his increased personnel and equipment will produce either more calmness or violence as more traffickers are encountered. We shall watch that closely.

Missionaries and a few tourists continue to enter and return from the interior of Mexico without problems. Others have had delays, searches, and threats. We travel less than 4 miles to our church, and a few more to pick up and return some of the saints. The saints will

keep us posted if it becomes too dangerous for us to come, as long as they have cellular phone service.

4/4/11

The letter of 2/21/11 was never finished or mailed due to the ongoing medical tests for my wife. She was finally told she had a brain tumor and she elected for surgery - hoping to end the constant headache since the first of Oct. Surgery was finally set for March 23. Dr. Hussain said it would be a 4 hour surgery with 48 hours in ICU and 5 more days in the hospital. The actual surgery was just over an hour (2 more hours before getting into ICU) then she was dismissed on the 27th instead of the 30th. The therapist anticipated that if she could walk the first time up, 100-150 feet would be the maximum length: she walked 450 feet. There has been NO indication of any damage to the brain.

The last of Feb. the grandson of the Sanchez family, our church members, was killed and placed on the railroad tracks to be run over by the train - which never came as anticipated. At last notice, no apprehension yet of the murderer.

We were told that there was a "shoot out" about four blocks west of the church on the 22nd, with several killed. It appears that NONE of the local people were injured or killed: only soldiers and occupants of the pursued vehicle. On the 30th there was another "shoot out" in downtown Reynosa.

A short visit with Angelica (originally from Arguelles, Mexico and now living NW of Mission) said that her mother is sick, and her father, 91, could not walk now, and that his brother-in-law, Jose, 105, passed away. She wants to go back to Mexico and spend this week with them. We were called To Arguelles in 1969 to start the church there. Jose's daughter, Marilu, and her husband have been pastors of the church for many years.

After writing the above we took our daughter, who came to stay with her mother during the operation, back to her home in Huntsville. For Jo, after surgery checkups with the doctor and surgeon were very encouraging - the tumor was NOT cancerous, and healing is normal.

We plan to start attending the services in Mexico regularly again this week to encourage the saints - until they say "don't come." Only in emergency will we take the graveled roads and streets until the "bouncing" no longer bothers Jo.

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement.

JO ADDS: I want to thank everyone for your prayers and thoughts for me during this time of testing. It is so wonderful to have the Lord. In all the months of pain and then surgery I had complete peace. I still feel weak, but the doctor says that is normal, so I am looking forward to a complete recovery. Again, thank you, and God bless you all.

Jo Ann

***O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood!***

***I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end.***

Revelation

Chapter 8

With chapter 8 we begin to read of judgment in detail. Chapter 6 was more of an index of the judgments and chapter 7 contained two parenthetical events. Chapter 8 has the opening of the seventh seal which tells the terrible happenings of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th seals in detail.

V. 1: This is probably not a literal half hour of 30 minutes, but a brief time. In chapter 14 verse 7 we read of an hour of judgment referring to the time of great tribulation, but this is a short time of **“silence in heaven.”** In contrast to this silence, we read in chapters 4 and 5 of the 24 elders and 4 living ones worshiping the Lord and the angels join in the praises, then every creature, it just builds and swells. But when this 7th seal is opened there is silence, the calm before the storm of judgments about to be poured out. The vengeance of an offended God and a rejected Redeemer are about to be executed and all heaven is in awe.

V. 2: The original Greek text says messengers instead of angels. We know that these are special messengers and not angelic beings because they stand at the altar. angels are never connected with the altar, because they do not need redemption. Also we never read that angels will judge the world, but saints will - I Cor. 6:1-3. The ministry of angels is to minister to the saints of God - Heb. 1:7,14. They are ministering spirits.

We read of these special messengers again in chapter 17:1; 19:9-10; 21:9; and 22:8-9. They are so special and glorious that John fell down to worship one of them, but the messenger corrected John and let him know he was a fellow brethren and that only One is worthy of worship (Rev. 22:8-9). To these special messengers are given “seven trumpets. These are not the same as those in I Thessalonians 4, where at the trumpet sound the Lord will call the saints home, they are not connected with judgment. These 7 trumpet sounds are to signal judgments coming upon the world. The trumpets tell it or sound it out. As these messengers sound their trumpet, each sound has another story.

V. 3: “Another messenger” has a “golden censer” (gold speaks of divinity) and “much incense” was given to Him to offer with the prayers of all saints. Who is this one who is called “another messenger?” In the Old Testament it was the high priest who had the right to burn incense. This is the **High Priest of heaven, Christ, Himself**. Isn’t this good? Our prayers are like sweet incense to God, a fragrant smell - Ps. 141:2.

V. 4: God keeps our prayers as a memorial, He remembers them and He is answering all the prayers of the saints. These are not just ordinary prayers, but particular prayers - **“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven”** - Mt. 6:10. They ascend up to the highest heaven, to God. God’s kingdom has to come upon this earth. Christ will have to come and rule. How will His rule begin? He will have to judge this world. He is forced to judge.

V 5: God answers these prayers of the High Priest and the saints. Remember reading how God accepted the offerings given in the Old Testament? He accepted them by fire. Remember Elijah’s duel with the prophets of Baal? They called on their gods from morning to

evening and nothing happened. Elijah put his offering on the altar and poured water all over it and around it. Then he called on his God. God answered by fire and burned up the sacrifice, the altar, the water and everything, showing He accepted that offering.

Read Lev. 16:18-19a, it is all figurative of the ministry and life of the Lord. The altar speaks of Christ and Him crucified. He has earned the right to pour out judgment, because He has died for all mankind. The messenger took the censer of fire and “cast it into the earth.” The earth in Scripture often speaks of Israel and it will be the first place judgment will be poured out. “Voices, thunderings, lightnings and an earthquake” are the mutterings of God, which immediately precede judgment. Just as thunder and lightning go before a terrific storm. Romans 11:33 - How unfathomable, inscrutable, unsearchable are His judgments. How untraceable, mysterious, undiscoverable are His methods.

V. 6: The 7 special messengers prepared to call forth judgments.

THE FIRST TRUMPET

V. 7: “The first messenger sounded,” has the same thought as the living ones saying **“Come”** in chapter 6. They are directing the judgments in order upon the earth, they will come in this way. Notice, it comes from heaven, showing God is over all and in charge of it all. What does it mean “hail and fire mingled with blood” and the “third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass?” This refers to war breaking out upon the earth (Israel). Ezek. 38 and 39 tells us this same thing. The peace and safety will be shattered. Russia will come down against the nation of Israel and invade that land. The king of the south will come up too, then before long the king of the east will join in. It will lead up to the great battle. A third of the trees and green grass will be literally burnt up.

THE SECOND TRUMPET

Vs. 8-9: Not a literal mountain, but *as it were* a great mountain. In symbolic language of the Scripture, a mountain speaks of a nation. One great nation will go against other nations. The sea represents the Gentile nations. It is great warfare and blood shed - one thing leads to another. A third part of the sea (nations) become blood. A great portion of the world will be at war, which will culminate in Armageddon. Verse 9 speaks of a naval battle. This is also found in the book of Daniel. The Mediterranean is a strategic sea to have control of because of the middle east and we hear more about the gulf lately.

THE THIRD TRUMPET

Vs. 10-11: In chapter 9 verse 1 we will read of a star *fallen* from heaven, in other words already on earth. To him was *given* the key to the bottomless pit. That is Satan of course. Here in chapter 8 we read of when he is cast out of the heavenlies. Notice, it says, “burning *as it were* a lamp. II Cor. 11:14, Satan is a deceiver, a false light; in contrast to the Light of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Falling upon the rivers,” speaks of Satan diluting the people (religious people especially) thru false prophets. II Thessalonians 2:10-12, that lie will be the man of sin that people will receive, the Antichrist. “Wormwood” is just a nick name for Satan. He has several names - that old dragon, serpent, etc. Wormwood is a bitter plant, an herb and very poisonous. That is what he will do, poison the minds of men. They will be deceived into thinking the Antichrist is actually God. and they will worship him. We are not told everything in this chapter. We must get this book as a whole.

Later in the book we read how this man who is the Antichrist will be killed and raised from the dead by Satan. The world will wonder after him and say, this is Christ. Satan will deceive them. Well, he is deceiving people today, but he is not down here in person as he will be then. He is directing things from the lower heavens now and we see how powerful he is with his demons. But he and his forces will be right down here on earth at the time we are reading of. He will open the bottomless pit and bring out more demons that Jesus cast out and others cast out and sent them there already.

“The third part of the waters became wormwood.” The rivers will become more polluted by the wars. We have had an example in the oil released in the gulf.

Next issue: the 4th messenger sounding the 4th trumpet.

E. J. Davis

Dear Readers,

I am happy to report that Jack is doing the printing once again and also back driving the car. Also he gave out the Word for the first time last Wednesday evening service.

He did quit his therapy, as he felt that it took up so much time. He feels that reading and studying God’s Word is better therapy for him.

Again we want you to know that we are so comforted knowing you are praying for us. The Lord has and is so good to meet our needs. We keep going on as the Lord enables until He calls us up to be with Him.

May the Lord bless you.

In Him,

Earlene