

Glorious Gospel Publication



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HE IS ABLE

“Now unto **him that is able** to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.” Jude 1:24,25

There are many statements in Scripture of God’s ability, that come to us as personal promises. His ability is our only “no fault” assurance. The Greek word translated “able” speaks to us of power in action. I do so greatly appreciate the statement of verse twenty-four. It comforts my heart and gives me deep peace and joy. Other scripture, speaking of God’s ability, helps us understand how He can make such an exceeding great and precious promise. **HE IS ABLE** to present faultless, for **HE IS ABLE** to **SAVE**, **SECURE**, **SUCCOUR**, and **SUBDUE**.

SAVE UNTO THE UTTERMOST

“But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore **he is able also to save them to the uttermost** that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;” – Heb. 7:24-26.

Jesus is now interceding so that we get the full benefit of this great salvation, of which Satan is trying to rob us. The word “uttermost” here expresses that which is full – ended finally for all time and eternity. It speaks of that which is entire, complete, perfect. God has planned and provided for all that is needed for our complete enjoyment of such great salvation. He has set the whole thing before

us, and only in willful stupidity would we pass up any part or measure of it. His ability to save to the uttermost is being realized by those coming to God, by their laying aside all trust in their own efforts, talent, or power.

HE IS ABLE TO SECURE OR STABILIZE

“Who art thou that judgest another man’s servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for **God is able to make him stand**” – Rom. 14:4. “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, **stablish, strengthen, settle you**. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen” – I Peter 5:10. “The foundation of God **standeth sure**” – II Tim. 2:19. Pillars standing on a good foundation stand and uphold because they are well supported. Divine stability makes us steadfast. We are made pillars as our loins are “girt about with truth” Eph. 6:14. The weak-kneed, unstable, wishy-washy, up-and-down Christian HE IS ABLE to uphold, make to stand. Those whose faith is easily hindered by the failure or the frivolous attitude of other Christians, HE IS ABLE to secure and support as they turn to Him. In such times, they are learning on whom to lean.

HE IS ABLE TO SUCCOUR

“For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, **he is able to succour them that are tempted**” – Heb 2:16-18. Jesus, having made reconciliation for our sins, is a “faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God.” Yet, being made like us in all things, He is also for us a merciful High Priest. He knows how we feel. He understands. For He “was in all points tempted like as

we are, yet without sin” – Heb. 4:15. Therefore, HE IS ABLE to relieve, aid, and help us in any way we need help. Therefore, whatever the trial, no matter how fierce the temptation, he challenges us to “come boldly unto the throne of grace.” For He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities.”

HE IS ABLE TO SUBDUE

“Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing...For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby **he is able even to subdue all things unto himself**” – Phil. 3:15,16,20,21.

“Subdue” expresses the thought of “to conquer, to bring under control.” Synonyms are “subjection” and “submission.” Very soon this ability will be manifested universally. “Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father, when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet...And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all” – I Cor. 15:24-28. Also read Psalm 2, especially verses six to twelve. Also Rev. 19:11-16. He shall subdue!

If we can believe that He is going to subdue the whole universe unto Himself, can we not trust Him to do it in us? He gives us the choice now, He would have us allow Him, full right-of-way to bring us into complete subjection to His Word, for absolute submission to His

work, subduing us fully to His will. “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” - II Cor. 10:5.

God would have us “perfect minded,” that is, have the same attitude that our precious Lord has. Therefore, by revelation He makes it very clear, causing us to sense that not everything in us is completely subdued unto Him. He makes us realize that we are otherwise minded and encourages us to “follow on to know the Lord” – Hosea 6:3. Like the Apostle Paul we are to “follow after” – Phil. 3:12. It would be good for us to have the attitude of David. Even though he knew that God knew his “downsitting” and “uprising” and understood his “thought afar off,” yet he cried, “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.

When I have tried to rid myself of any unsubdued traits, they just seem to get stronger, showing me to be spotted, wrinkled, and blemished. Yet still, in my heart, I want to be beautiful to Him in His Sight; and He sees all. In public I could cover up my sores. Yet I am still naked before Him. His Word looks right down into my heart, showing up the very thoughts and intents. My best course of action then is to agree with Him, and ask Him to remove them. OUCH! Count on Him to subdue them. Thank Him for doing it, even before it is done. He shows us such traits as pride, greed, selfishness, inordinate affection, desires against His will, temper, discontentment; and makes us know that **He is able to subdue it all**. Then we may honestly say, “Thy will be done” and sing, “I surrender all.”

ACCORDING TO THE WORKING

“OH, TO BE LIKE Him.” Our glorified bodies will radiate His glory, according to such working, in harmony with such will, and measured by the effect that the Word is allowed to take in our lives. Are there different measures of work going on in individuals now? Are there different degrees of submission now? Do we all give Him the same amount of time, love, and glory now? Do we all worship Him with a whole heart now? Will we all give Him the same glory then? Will we radiate the same amount of glory then? Does one star differ from another in glory? The Scripture answers: **“According to the working”** – Phil. 3:21. “Now unto Him that is able to do *exceeding abundantly* above all that we ask or think, according to **the power that worketh in us**, unto Him be glory...throughout all ages” – Eph. 3:20,21.

J. D.



*God knows the way of the righteous,
Even though it be dark and drear;
He knows when we're tired and weary,
Our burdens too heavy to bear;
We ask, as the shadows lengthen,
“Lord, lift Thou this burden of care!”
And often His voice replieth:
“My child, I placed it for you there!
With grace that is all-sufficient,
That you might grow stronger in Me,
So trust, weary child, your Father,
He knoweth and careth for thee!”*

THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark

“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” Mt. 24:6-8.

Looking around at the world we live in, we can see the Scriptures fulfilled before our eyes. Jesus gave us the signs to watch for, and we are seeing many of these things happening right now. Many feel we are in “the beginning of sorrows.” It appears that is true. It seems that the seven years of tribulation are just about to begin.

WARS AND RUMOURS OF WARS – Israel is the most predominate sign to watch. Right now the nations surrounding Israel are just absolutely going crazy. Israel is in a precarious place with the new president in Egypt, who represents the Muslim Brotherhood, and the uncertainty as to whether he will honor the treaty made between Egypt’s former President Sadat guaranteeing peace between his country and Israel. Egypt has troops and rockets mounted along the border between the two countries, and recently shot a rocket over into Israel. It is a good thing that Israel isn’t trigger happy, as that incident seemed to be smoothed over between the two parties. No one is for sure that there will be peace in the future. The disruption in Syria, on Israel’s northern border where the government is killing

many of their own innocent citizens, seems to go on and on with no end in site. The U.N. Security Council voted recently to gain authority to intervene in Syria. China and Russia voted against the proposed option, which stymied the course of stopping Syria. China, and Russia have brought war ships into the Mediterranean off Syria's coast, while Iran has been having war games and build-up of ships in the Persian Gulf, threatening to attack Israel. U.S. warships, who are stationed in the gulf are there to help keep Iran from attacking Israel. Iran has openly said they plan to wipe Israel off the map. That whole region of the world is a power keg ready to explode at any time.

Can you see the fulfillment of Jesus' words, "wars and rumours of wars?" We who know the Scriptures are comforted by seeing them fulfilled. We are nearing the coming of the Lord for His bride, who will be taken out before the tribulation begins. Very soon the man who seems to have the answers to global peace will arise and will sign a peace treaty with Israel, (Daniel 9:27) and "with many." That last phrase seems to point to a treaty that will bring peace to the whole world, as other portions of the Word of God teach. The man that has the answers is ready to come on the scene at any time. The first part of tribulation will be a time of peace as we see in Revelations 6:2 with the "white horse rider," which has a "bow but no arrows."

U.N. WANTS GUN BAN – According to Newsmax.com "the U.N. is against Americans' Second Amendment gun rights - it wants gun ownership banned in the U.S. and it's not going to stop until it gets its way." The present U.S. Administration is totally supportive of this ban. At this time the U.N. has been meeting to discuss this, and will sign the treaty July 27, 2012. According to the news after the U.S.

signs this agreement with the U.N., the treaty would have to pass the Senate of the U.S. to be ratified. For the last twenty years the National Rifle Association has fought to oppose these efforts, which they consider to be undermining the U.S. Constitution Second Amendment. The U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon said in an emotional speech that it is a disgrace that there is no treaty covering conventional arms (implying the inclusion of small arms). He said that the world is over armed, and called for strict national legislation to control arms.

If you look this up today on “snoops.” you will find that they deny the thought that the treaty could allow confiscation of small arms in the United States. However, many people very far up in government, or are active in politics, declare that this treaty will lead to the confiscation of small arms. John Bolton, the former United Nation’s Ambassador has cautioned gun owners about the Arms Trade Treaty and says, “The U.N. Is trying to act as though this is really just a treaty about international arms trade between nation states, but there’s no doubt that the real agenda here is domestic firearms control.” The right of a citizen of the U.S. to have a gun for hunting would require special permits and enforcement of new laws, or maybe denial of the right to own a gun.

How does this fit into the last days scenario? We know from Scripture, when the Antichrist comes into power he will be in charge of all weapons. He will rule the whole world. He will have a great army to control mankind in such a way that all the world will have to come under his authority. The confiscation of weapons, would be factor when the “Man of Sin” rules the earth. Let’s keep our eyes open to be aware

that we are in the last days just before the seven years of tribulation which is fast coming upon the earth.

THE TROUBLE WITH THE SUN – The sun is still erupting viciously, and has changed the weather patterns on the earth as the sun's solar rays hits it. We are having terribly hot weather which has ruined the crops in the farmland of Middle America. It remains to be seen as to what effect this will have on the faltering economy. Already, the price of food is higher than before. This too is mentioned in our lead verses as “famines.” Many areas of the earth have had famines for decades, but the change in weather in the U.S.A. is highly unusual. Last winter was not a normal winter, we had practically no snow, and now we have unusual lack of rain. There was enough rain to get the crops planted and sprouted, but now the usual rain that causes the crops to develop and mature is not coming. The corn crops across the country are especially affected.

HEAT ALMOST UNBEARABLE IN THE U.S.A. - We live in Kansas, where the temperature has been over one hundred degrees for days upon end. The weather bureau states, “The U.S. drought could go through October. Hotter than normal temperatures are expected to continue in the forty-eight contiguous states, with below than average precipitation. This is considered to be the worst drought in half a century. Experts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has reported that the drought that could mean even more excessive heat and dry conditions, may go on to the end of 2012. Drought has hit 29 U.S. states, with Texas feeling the heaviest impact, followed by Colorado, Missouri, Florida, New Mexico, Arkansas Indiana, and Hawaii. This drought has caused crops to burn up. This will cause the price of many food items to

go even higher. People who are already having a hard time making ends meet are going to have an even harder time now.

POVERTY IS SPREADING – at record levels across many groups in the U.S., from underemployed workers and suburban families to the poorest poor. The Associated Press surveyed more than a dozen economists, think tanks, and other non-partisan groups and found that the official poverty rate in the U.S. is on track to be the highest since 1960's. It is now at 15.1 percent, and predicted to climb as high as 15.7, its highest level since 1965. This is a serious crisis. We wonder if this is part of the judgment of God upon our nation for being so liberal in area that contradict the Holy Word of God. When will mankind ever begin to understand that the Scripture warns, Be not deceived, God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap” (Gal.6:7). We can't snub our noses at God and disregard His Word. Time is getting short for the judgment draws very near. The drought is a sign and warning of the soon coming of Christ. During tribulation famines and droughts will be even greater.

We as Christians should look up. God will provide and bless His people. Let us ask the Lord how we may help others who may be suffering. Supplying what others need physically is a good open door to help them spiritually. The Prophet Habakkuk says, chapter 3:17&18, “Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines: and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and He will make

my feet like hinds feet, and He will make me to walk upon mine high places...”

We, who love the Lord with all our hearts must be ready to go to be with Him, as He will call His beloved ones, His bride, to come before the seven years of tribulation. Revelation 3:10 tells us, “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” Notice that there are some prerequisites to being kept from the tribulation (taken away in the rapture, as we call it). The first is “Because thou hast kept the Word of my patience.” The word “kept” means “a watch; to guard from loss or injury, properly by keeping the eye upon; which implies a fortress or full military lines; hold fast, preserve or watch.” The child of God who has the armour of God on as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, on guard against the devil, honoring the Word of God and holding fast to the truth is whom the Lord will keep from the tribulation.

“The Word of My patience,” can be rendered, “kept my Word patiently.” It takes lots of patience to wait faithfully for the coming of the Lord, and endure all things that God allows to come our way. Those who endure and hold fast to the truth of the Word will be justly rewarded. They will be caught up before other carnal people of God, who are taken up with the world and all its enticements. As II Corinthians 5:10 says, “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether good or bad.” There will come a time for rewards. It is not in this life, but in the life to come. However, we walk with God not for rewards, but because we love Him. Praise the Lord!

FROM OUR MAIL BOX

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6/23/12

Dear Jack and Earlene,

You are in my prayers, that the LORD will strengthen you and help you through all these trials. The evil one means it to destroy us, but God always turns it around for our good. Sometimes we don't see how He is working, but He is working His will and blessings as we pass in the fire.

My folks (Roy and Anita Clark) have sure had their share of trials also. One thing I am sure of, if you were not doing good you wouldn't have these trials. In Philippians 1:27-30 we learn we are blessed with twin gifts of God, "The Gifts of Faith and Suffering." It shows our heroism and courage and fearlessness toward the suffering because of our faith and belief. We are faithful citizens of God's kingdom and this, a token of our own salvation and our opponents doom. This is another reason we are despised and hated so much by the evil one. We have the most powerful element, and triumphant gift of spirit against fearful odds, we are guaranteed, great assurance of victory by our Most Powerful God. Amen! Verse 27, this arrangement brings, the "whole course" of God's administration before us. He gives his people, on Christ's behalf not only to believe on Him! But also in suffering for Him! Paul's love of God caused him to embrace and love the experience of the two twin gifts, so overcoming daily for Christ's sake, we are adding to the finishing touches of our overcoming and ready for the trumpet to sound! Come Quickly LORD Jesus, your bride has made herself ready! Amen! Jesus is coming soon!

Love in Christ Jesus, Brother David

RUTH

Debra Isenbletter

Naomi's husband, Elimelech, made the decision to leave his home and go to Moab. His justification was that "*there was a famine in the land*" (1:1). The time frame was "*when the Judges ruled.*" This reveals something concerning his spiritual condition. During that time, there was this cycle of repeated behavior seen among God's people. They began by serving the Lord, and then turned to idolatry and sinned. As a result they were oppressed and enslaved by the nations around them. When this went on long enough they finally cried out to the Lord for deliverance and the Lord raised up a Judge who delivered them and then they again served the Lord. Then the cycle repeats again. This was a time of obedience and disobedience, a time of faithfulness and faithlessness, a time of blessing and judgment, a time of turmoil and adversity and a time of peace and prosperity. Judges 17:6, "*In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*" How sad that this is used not only to sum up their behavior but almost as a justification for their condition. This was their attitude, "We don't have a king, so this is why we have these problems? They wanted a king and eventually received one, but they already had One, it was their God!" Elimelech's name means "*My God is King*" yet he does not live up to the meaning of his name. If God were his King, he would have stayed and submitted to the authority and discipline of his King!

So we have a "*certain man of Bethlehem-Judah*" who is facing hardship of famine. Why do you think the famine was there? It was probably because the Lord was chastising His people. The condition of the land was tied to their obedience or disobedience (Lev. 26:18,20; Deut. 28:15-19). The condition of the land, shows

the condition of their hearts. Elimelech makes this decision, on the surface, because he wants to feed his family. The underlying truth is that he is running away from the Lord's correction, away from the Lord. He is not trusting in the One who will meet his needs.

Think of all those that stayed and didn't run away. Boaz stayed, what if he had left? Naomi's husband leaves *Bethlehem* (house of bread), he leaves *Judah* (praise), and he leaves and takes his family with him. How many times do we make decisions contrary to the Will and Word of God and take others with us? How sad that his actions will affect his wife and his sons. He will run away from a famine, fearing death and will die. His sons will choose to stay in Moab after he dies and marry women of Moab. It looks like they have settled down in a place that they shouldn't be. Their father's decision to disobey has encouraged them to disobey and eventually they die. Warren Wiersbe said, "you can't run away. A family makes a bad decision and exchanges one famine for three funerals." That's a good lesson and reminder for us, we can't run away from the Lord, Jonah tried and failed, he ran right into the mouth of a big fish and stayed there until he was willing to cry out to the Lord. But we also see from this that the Lord is in control and He can take even our bad decisions and use them for our good.

Verse 6: "*Then she (Naomi) arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the Lord had visited his people in giving them bread.*" Her husband and two sons have died and as a result she "arose," it shows a progression. It means 'to rouse up,' then 'to rise up,' "to get up" and 'to stand up.' There must have been a degree of contentment and complacency in Naomi's life during those ten years, but she is not content now, she was been "roused up" by this great loss. Once she has been roused, she does something, she arose, she gets up, and she stands up! Her heart awakens and the heart of one of her daughters in law will

respond and awaken also. Mary M. Bodie writes: “Her afflictions were the very means that the Lord used to cut her loose from her surroundings, and her steps turned homeward.”

She arose with a purpose: “*that she might **return** from the country of Moab.*” Return used 6 times in this chapter is a key word in Ruth. The basic meaning of the verb is movement back to the point of departure. The verb can also mean “to follow after:” “Behold, thy sister-in-law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after they sister-in-law (1:15).

Naomi was going “back to the point of departure,” she was “returning along a path already traversed.” Spiritually she was going back to the Lord, and this is a path that all who repent and accept chastisement take, it is a well traveled path. It is a path we all have taken from time to time. Naomi had a desire to return home, and **it was her need** that brought this desire. It was a *physical* need and it was a *spiritual* need. She was a widow, and there was a wonderful provision made for the care of widows that she would not find in Moab. She would be treated justly (Deut. 27:19). She knew that in Bethlehem (house of bread) Judah (praise) that both needs would be met. She was returning to the place of blessing and the place of fellowship, but she had to leave Moab first.

What caused her to make this decision, she *heard* something and she knew something: she heard the news, the famine was over, but only she would realize that the Lord had provided for His people. She acknowledged the “Lord” was responsible and she saw this blessing as a “visit” by the Lord. The word “visit” comes from “to visit (with friendly or hostile intent). It can mean ‘to avenge’ – the Lord defends His people. It can also mean “to punish” – the Lord corrects His people. It can mean “to bestow” – the Lord blesses His people. The Lord visits His people in all three of these ways: to defend, to correct, to bless. She was able to see what those in

Moab could not see; she saw who brought the famine and who stopped the famine. In Naomi's heart she knew Who was the Great Provider – Who gave them bread. It was the Lord. He had taken away the bread, withdrawn the land's fruitfulness, now He restored that bread, brought back the land's fruitfulness. This is the lesson she learned in Moab, that the Lord could and would do both. Job saw the Lord do both, take away and give back, when the Lord took away, Job did not turn from the Lord, he turned to the Lord, he “worshiped” God (Job 1:21).

The reason for this restoration and blessing was that His people must have cried out to Him. Could Naomi have cried out at the same time? She had experienced ten years of spiritual famine and she was hungry! She is like the prodigal son who was willing to go back to his father's house because he knew there was bread there. He “came to himself” (Lk. 15:17-18) and was willing to humble himself, he returned and in his return said, “I have sinned.” This was what the Lord was waiting for Naomi to say.

Finally, in her return, in going back to (the house of bread), going back because she knew the Lord had “visited” His people, we have a picture of the Lord Jesus. We see this in the word “visit” and the word “bread.” The Lord “”visited his people” in the Person of Jesus, who is “Immanuel” (God with us) Mt. 1:23. The Lord gave “them bread” in the Person of Jesus, Who is the Bread of Life (Jn. 6:35). What a wonderful lesson for us in times of trial and tribulation, in times of rebellion, in times of spiritual famine because of wrong decisions we have made. We learn not to run away from the trial but to embrace it and to trust in the Lord. And if we have run away we learn that all we have to do is return to where we started and the Lord willingly and graciously receives us and feeds us!

continued

GATEKEEPERS

(Both Old and New)

By Bonnie Richards

Lesson 2

Jerusalem's destruction by Babylon in 586 BC was extensive. The Temple, the city homes and walls, were left in total ruin. Their leaders, both Kings and priests had abandoned following the Lord and idol worship was rampant. The faithful "gatekeepers" of the Word were hated and even slain. Jeremiah charged them with the fact **"ye have not hearkened.** They burned the house of the LORD, and the king's house and all...the houses of the great men, burned he with fire: and all the army of the Chaldeans... **brake down all the walls of Jerusalem** round about." No walls meant no protection, hence total devastation and the Jews being cast out of the land. The captives of the people were taken to Babylon just as the ten Northern tribes had also been taken captive by Assyria years earlier.

Jeremiah had warned the Jews for over 40 years that judgment was coming because of Judah's disobedience, Lamentations 2:8-9. The reason? V. 14, "The visions of your prophets were **false and worthless;** they did not expose your sin to ward off your captivity. The oracles they gave you were false and misleading." NIV. They chose to heed the false prophets rather than the pleadings of God through Jeremiah, to seek repentance of their wickedness. **Sin has consequences!** God will not protect from that. This is the nation God called to be an example to all the nations of the earth! Even to this day the Jews have been scattered throughout the nations, hated and hunted for annihilation.

They refused “to hear a word behind them saying “*This is the way, walk ye in it.*” (However, Daniel, who had been taken captive to Babylon, closely examined Jeremiah’s prophecies to learn when the people would be restored to their land.)

It is also evident the church, the Body of Christ, has been often exposed to false and worthless teaching during nearly 2000 years. Barnabas and Paul declared “(God) had **opened the door** of faith to the Gentiles” Acts 14:27. While the Church’s battle is spiritual, it is as real as the physical one Israel has had since the time God called Abraham. Even so, Israel’s future is assured – God does not fail to do what he has promised.

Due to the efforts of the thief and robber Satan, much of the church has departed from the source of help, hope and security of the Word that God revealed to Paul. This leaves them open to deception and blindness about the work of the cross, as we are seeing within Christendom. The apostasy of the “church” is foretold by Paul in his letters, by Jude, and by Peter. But those who value God’s Word and work are hidden with Christ in God. What a wall of security! Our future is secure. Remember again, **God does not fail to do what he promises.** Jesus tells us not to go outside our secure wall of abiding in Him and His Word abiding in us. And Paul warns in Colossians 2:8 “**Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.**” Our salvation is secure, but he has multiple warnings against losing out on God’s best. By the grace of God, there are still gatekeepers for the Truth of the Word of God in the church today. Be One!

David said in Psalm 27:4 “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that is what I will seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to enquire in his temple.” Even before the Temple had been built, David set the service of the porters (gate or door keepers) in order.

Let us look closely at some of the Old Testament gatekeepers. The gatekeepers of the **Temple** were Levites. They stood on guard at every designated gate and door, and they were on duty within the Temple in their regular courses. They lodged round about the Temple so as to be present for opening the doors. Their responsibilities were great. I Chron. 9:22b-34 (NIV) “...The (212) gatekeepers had been assigned to their positions of trust by David and Samuel...their descendants were in charge of guarding the gates of the house of the Lord (called the Tent). The gatekeepers were on four sides: east, west, north and south. Their brethren in their villages had to come from time to time and share their duties for seven day periods. But the four principal gatekeepers, Levites, were entrusted with the responsibility for the rooms and treasuries. They would spend the night stationed around the house of God, because they were to *guard it*. And they had *charge of the key* of opening it each morning. Some of them were in charge of the articles used in the temple service; they *counted* them when they were brought in and when they were taken out. Other were assigned to take care of the furnishings and all the other articles of the sanctuary, as well as the flour and wine, and the oil, incense and spices. Some of the priest took care of mixing the spices. A Levite named Mattithiah, was entrusted with the responsibility for baking the offering bread. Some of their Kohathite brothers were in charge of preparing for every Sabbath the bread set out on the table.

Those who were musicians, heads of Levite families, stayed in the rooms of the temple and were exempt from other duties because they were responsible for the work *day and night*. Not only keeping the door, but also the articles housed inside that door. Every article and offering spoke of an aspect of Christ. They were charged to see that nothing unclean should enter in.

The Church believers have such a structure also as alluded to by Paul in Colossians 2, especially verse 19 “Holding the Head from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increases with the increase of God.

The Levites had very busy days and nights. By night also they joyfully filled the lonely hours with songs of praise. Psalm 134:1-3, “Behold, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord, which by night stand in the house of the Lord. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord. The Lord that made heaven and earth bless thee out of Zion.”

It is impressive to realize the great detail of these responsibilities. The order and structured way of life for a gatekeeper was (and is) demanding. But it provided fellowship with God and security for each strata of their society. Oh, that the church would, with zeal, take such care of the precious truths of **Paul’s gospel** committed to us! The resultant JOY in the Holy Spirit would be the unifying factor in the churches rather than today’s confusion and/or discouragement.

Every believer in the church has a responsibility for his *personal* temple. I Cor. 6:19-20 “Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you which

ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." God is very concerned about faithful gatekeepers. We are **"bought with a price."** In each of Paul's epistles he enlarges on God's provision for victory over **the world, the flesh and the devil**. Again, the Scripture provides the wall and the gate is Jesus Christ in us. Eph. 2:10 "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before **ordained** that we should walk in them." Contrary to 'conventional wisdom,' the Body of Christ is a living organism, not a structured organization. Only the Truth sets us free **from** sin and **to** worship Him acceptably by the Holy Spirit. Let us faithfully and responsively protect and seek the Word in our personal walk with Him. **Daily!!** Remember that "No man that wars entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may **please Him** who hath chosen him to be a soldier." Tim. 2:4

Beside the Temple gatekeepers, there were also the gatekeepers of the king's house. They are credited with protecting young King Joash from his aunt Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. She had murdered the other sons of the King, all members of her own family. Young Joash was secretly taken from the king's house when he was a year old and protected from her for six years in the house of God. Joash did what was right as long as the High Priest, Jehoida, lived. In II Chron. 23:7 "The Levites shall compass the king round about, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whosoever else cometh into the house, he shall be put to death; but be ye with the king when he cometh in, and when he goes out." In verses 14 & 15 we read the culmination of the amazing intrigue and faithful service they rendered in protecting young King Joash and in slaying Athaliah, the usurper: "Then Jehoida, the priest brought out

the captains of hundreds that were set over the host, and said, unto them, Have her (Athaliah) forth of the ranges: and whoso followed her let him be slain with the sword. For the priest said, Slay her not in the house of the Lord. So they laid hands on her; and when she was come to the entering of the **horse gate** by the **king's house**, they slew her there." God's judgment.

.....

*Only five barley loaves!
Only two fishes small!
And shall I offer these poor gifts
To Christ, the Lord of all?*

*To Him whose mighty word
Can still the angry sea,
Can cleanse the lepers, raise the dead?
He hath no need of me.*

*Yes, He hath need of thee;
Then bring thy loves of bread;
Behold with them, when Jesus speaks,
The multitudes are fed.*

*And when thine eyes shall see
The holy ransomed throng,
In heavenly fields, by living streams,
By Jesus led along,*

*Unspeakable thy joy shall be,
And glorious thy reward,
If, by thy barley loaves, one soul
Has been brought home to God.*

Revelation

Chapter 16:16-21

The “blessed” mentioned in verse 15 are those who are found ready when Jesus reveals Himself from heaven to the world. The church will be revealed with Him, for they make up the clouds of saints that accompany Him. “*Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments*” (V. 15). They have kept themselves in strict readiness by watchful expectation and not letting themselves be defiled from the abominations around them. This secures for them a share in the blessings. For those last day saints of Israel there is a danger that they will not be ready which would be their shame before His all searching eyes. They could lose their reward, even after enduring those awful days.

V. 16 – “*Armageddon*” means, “hill of slaughter.” It is in the valley of Jehoshaphat, which means “Jehovah is judge.” It is also called Jezreel or “it will be sown of God.” It is the place where some of the greatest battles were fought in Old Testament times. It is north of Jerusalem. That great, great battle of Armageddon will be fought there. The kings of the earth will be gathered there (v. 14).

V. 17 – Praise the Lord! The end of judgment of the **living wicked** has come. We will read the details of it in chapters 17 through 19. Then we will read in chapter 20 the judgment of the **wicked dead**.

V. 18 – The voices are the redeemed who stand in agreement with God in His judgment of men who refused His grace.

“There was a great earthquake such as was not since men were upon the earth.” In the last several years there has been more earthquakes all over the world, even in places where they have never been before, but then will be the greatest one ever.

V. 19 – The earthquake will divide the great city of Jerusalem into three parts. The prophet Ezekiel was told to shave his head and beard, dividing the hair into three parts showing the judgment of Jerusalem (Ezek. 5:1-11). We know the great city is Jerusalem because other cities will fall also, the cities of the nations and Babylon, (religious Babylon will especially be given the cup of the fierceness of God’s wrath).

V. 20 – What an earthquake, we can hardly imagine this. There are some big isles like Australia and mountains like the Rockies, etc.

V. 21 – Hail weighing a talent (50 lbs. and up) will fall upon men. By Bible reference gives 125 lbs. The plagues God put on Egypt was only a little picture of the plagues of the end time. All nature arises in triumphant agreement with God in His visitations of wrath. The earthquakes from beneath the earth and the hail from the skies. When God poured out His wrath because Christ was made sin for us – there was convulsions in the natural world (Mt. 27:45-54).

There is no repentance of men, they blasphemed God. They are not ignorant that it is God’s judgment they are experiencing, how wicked man is.

E. J. D.

OPEN LETTER

From Earlene Davis

I truly have a lot to be thankful for. The Lord has kept me healthy since I was diagnosed as having cancer some time in January. I had to wait a long time for surgery to remove it (April 11th). If I would have gotten sick, it would have hindered and delayed the surgery. The Lord caused my cancer to be found early (stage 1). The surgery confirmed that it had not spread to the lymph nodes, so all the cancer was removed. Even though the cancer was small, the pathology report that came back after surgery stated that two different cancers were present in it. Since I had reconstruction done at the same time, recovery was slow and long. I foolishly tried to move it along faster and did too much too soon, busting internal stitching and developing a hernia. A second surgery was done June 7th. A third surgery is scheduled July 27th because I am draining a lot of fluid which is not normal. I am **trusting the Lord** to take care of the situation. By the time this is printed, I should be back home recovering. The Lord has kept me down for a reason. I know He is working **patience** in me and teaching me to **rest in Him** and in His timing. He has brought me thus far and He will finish the work in me that needs to be done. I thank all the saints that have been praying for me. He is faithful and merciful!

