

Glorious Gospel Publication



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Published Monthly, No Subscription Price



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I AM APPREHENDED



“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus” – Phil. 3:12. Thank God for His wonderful Word that gives us a real sense of belonging and even of being possessed, owned, wanted, needed, and held onto. Our Redeemer’s rights should be realized and acknowledged.

Strong’s translates this word “apprehend” as meaning “to take eagerly, seize, possess.” Vine says it is “to appropriate, to possess as one’s own.” Romans 3:9 tells us that we were all under sin. But now we praise God that we have been brought out of sin’s slave market; we have been set free. We are free to go and serve whomsoever we will. Yet, we are held by one strong cord – *the love that bought us* – I Cor. 6:17-20 & II Cor. 5:14-15.

The love of Christ that has won our hearts is to have a powerful hold on our lives as we return that love. We cry out like Paul, “Oh, I have been captured, laid hold of, appropriated, won.” We feel like the Hebrew slave who served his master for seven years, and was at liberty to go out free in the seventh year. But he, having obtained a wife and children, could go and have His ear bored through with an awl to the door post of his master’s house and confess, “I love my master, and I love my wife and my children. I will be your servant forever.”

So, today, *the love of Christ constraineth us*; and as we grow in our love for Him, the more completely He possesses us. What can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord? (Rom. 8:39).

“That For Which...”: Why have I been apprehended? What was His ultimate purpose for apprehending me: Was it not for Bridehood? II Cor. 11:2. Was it not that I might *win the Prize* – Christ as my Bridegroom? Most of God’s people fail to realize that He is able to save to the uttermost those that come to God by Jesus Christ. Many think they are just saved to tell others. Oh, how few are interested enough to wonder, ask, or even seek to find out. Most are satisfied to just take what someone tells them.

I met a man who at the time, was head of a large Christian Association. He suggested that the only reason for assembly life is to prepare those that believe to go out and minister to the world. He said that you usually have the same people in the same condition year after year. Thank God, we know that this is not the whole truth. The Lord *adds* to the Church and to individual believers. He is still giving the *increase*. Saints are growing, and lives are producing *fruit* to the glory of God.

It is true that the Body of Christ does have ministries to fulfill in this world: a message to share, shining as lights, holding forth the Word of life, holding back the forces of darkness, and having a powerful influence here. Those that say such things have a point: but, oh, there is so much more that is of great importance (Phil. 2:12-16). Did He not have in mind for the Church, *complete development* into full spiritual maturity? Has He not provided that He may present us holy and unblameable and unreprouable in His sight? (Col. 1:20-23). Oh, yes, He gave Himself. He sanctifies and cleanses to

make spotless, unwrinkled, unblemished, in order to present unto (by the side of) Himself a *glorious Church* (Eph. 5:25-27).

“That I May Apprehend:” It is good for us and very important, that our purpose matches His. He has purchased us because He would completely possess us. He wants us to be His manifestly in every detail, in every aspect, totally – body, soul, and spirit. But He would have this totality come out of hearts *willingly*, being captured and controlled *by His love*: a love that would inspire us to want to possess all of Him, a mutual grasping and clinging. It involves an appropriation of faith that produces *obedience* and *submission*.

Consider some related phrases: “That I may know Him.” “The excellency of the knowledge.” “That I may win Christ.” Paul says, if by any means, I follow after. This one thing I do. This is indeed spiritual exercise: reaching forth, pressing toward, forgetting things left behind. He wants us to claim Him as He has claimed us. In our outreaching love we should reach forth, and press toward Him as being worth everything!

How – By What Power or Ability? We are taught in Scripture to lay aside every weight (all hindrances), to lay hold, seize the privileges, grasp the opportunities, and hold fast, but that we have little strength. This is the secret of how we may apprehend – not counting on our own wisdom or strength. I can do all things **through Christ** which strengtheneth me (Phil. 4:13). But in these days of religious, do-it-yourself kits, how to win in three easy lessons, self-help programs, etc. Submission (majority-wise), seems to be a thing of the past. Jesus said, Without Me ye can do nothing. The apostle said, To will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good I find not (Rom. 7:18). In Galatians 5:17 he wrote:

The flesh lusteth against the Spirit...so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Thank God, we read in Hebrews 13:20-21, Now the God of peace...make you *perfect* in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. In Hebrews 11:33-34 we have the testimony of those who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword. I believe these all as the true overcomers today, out of weakness were made strong.

In order for us to apprehend as He would have us apprehend, we need to be *strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man*. We must continually go to Him for that strength. As Paul prayed, saints need to be strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power. We find, as Paul, that when we are weak, insufficient of ourselves – we then may become powerful in His all-sufficiency.

We think of Jacob, and how he wrestled all night demanding a blessing. But, he was named Israel (*a prince with God*) when his hip was put out of joint. So, being brought to a condition of dependence was a great blessing to him, as it also is to us. The Lord has given us such wonderful independence (SET US FREE), but how we use it determines how much of a blessing it is to us. As we use our independence in dependence upon Him, we are blessed.

The lily of the valleys says, My Beloved is mine, and I am His: He feedeth among the lilies (Song of Solomon 2:1,16). The love affair between the Shulamite and King Solomon pictures for us the

intimate relationship that each believer may enter with the Lord as the Lover of our souls. We consider a transformation of her attitude toward their relation as *love progresses*. She seems more possessive at first, telling what is mine. I am my Beloved's (His possession first), and my Beloved is mine: (yet) He feedeth among the lilies (6:3). I am my Beloved's and His desire is toward me (7:10). So now she speaks of His possession and His desire, and this is after He has told her the king is held in the galleries. This could better be translated "the king is held captive or spellbound in thy tresses." The long glowing locks tells us of the Bridal attitude of *weakness and submission*. Our complete dependence upon Him is so very sweetly captivating to His tender heart of love. Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her Beloved? (8:5).

Oh, wandering days are over, the trials of the trail have had their desired effect. She is His Queen and He is her King, for she has learned to lean.

By J. D.

Once when singing the song I love, "Christ My Prize," there is the phrase "If I may but win Him, If Christ I may Gain, I care not know not the fire." I asked myself how easily do I say, "I care not how hot is the fire," My answer was not easily nor lightly, because at times the Lord can require a great deal from us. Our human weakness can cause us to have fears and at times to draw back. Jesus said, "Let this cup pass from me" when facing a difficult task. Yet, because He knew the joy that was set before Him, He endured. So I sing "I care not how hot is the fire," by faith, because the Lord has given me a glimpse of the joy set before me. I desire to KNOW and WIN Him. So whatever is contained in that phrase, becomes stepping stones to me and in His will is perfect peace.

The Last Days



Anita Clark

“And I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bring fruit; and I will settle you after your old estates, and will do better unto you than at your beginning; and ye shall know that I am the LORD” – Ezekiel 36:11.

God’s promise to the nation of Israel, whom God chose as His own people in Old Testament times is still true today. Israel is still His chosen people. The promises of God do not change. He has fulfilled his promise to settle them back into their own land, and He is multiplying them as He has promised in the above Scripture. Israel now has 7.8 million people and is growing at a rate of 1.8 percent or 137,000 new citizens since this time last year. In this last year 161,000 babies have been born in the state of Israel.

The verse from Ezekiel also says, “I will settle you after your old estates, and will do better unto you than at your beginning.” God is blessing Israel with this population growth, but lately there has been so much danger for them, with Syria and its explosive condition, and with the threat of war with Iran. Even more recently, the rocket bombing exchange with Hamas in the Gaza was an extreme problem for Israel. The times are definitely “perilous.” God’s full promises to Israel can only be fulfilled when they fully returned to their God, after they are tried by the fire of the tribulation of seven years rapidly coming upon the earth.

U.N. Vote Recognizes the Palestinian State - The vote at the U.N. on November 29, 2012 approved the de facto recognition of the sovereign state of Palestine. The majority of the members voted to allow this to take place. It is actually limited to “non-member status,” but is believed to be detrimental by officials of the U.S. to the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

Abbas, Palestinian leader of the P.A. denounced Israel in his speech to the U.N. for its “aggressive policies and the perpetration of war crimes.” Israel’s president Benjamin Netanyahu responded quickly condemning Abbas’s critique of Israel as “hostile and poisonous and full of false propaganda.” It has been voiced by the Palestinians that they plan to present their case to higher courts, accusing Israel of “war crimes” against them. The rhetoric goes on and on.

The News From Israel

magazine reports, “Egypt’s Islamists aim to install a global Islamic caliphate with its capital in Jerusalem. Caliphate is the word - meaning a global Islamic kingdom. This is the ultimate aim of the vast majority of Muslims. The man who rules the world wide caliphate is the Caliph, which means “peace.” Even though the meaning of the name denotes a peaceful government, history shows that it has always been their aim to eradicate the Jews and anyone else that opposes their beliefs.

This magazine article states, “We can see how the dream of Islamic caliphate is being realized, God willing, by Dr. Mohammed Mursi.” You might recognize this name as that of the newly elected Islamic Brotherhood, Egypt’s president, who just negotiated a suspension of rocket bombing between Gaza’s Hamas and the State of Israel. Mursi vowed, “Yes, Jerusalem is our goal. We shall pray in

Jerusalem, or die as martyrs on its threshold.” A statement was made to the Jerusalem Post by an American translator and academic, Raymond Stock, who has spent the last two decades in Egypt, “This is what the Muslim Brotherhood really stands for: the extermination of Israel - and Jews everywhere - as well as the spread and control of radical Islam over the world.”

Ahmedinajab, President of Iran has stated that he wants to bring the world to chaos in order to hasten the appearing of the Mahdi., by wiping Israel off the face of the map, as well as the United States. The Mahdi is a person, called the Twelfth Aman, whom the Muslims believe will be revealed in the end time. He is to be a great leader, a prophesied “redeemer, who will rule for seven to nine years. He will start a great war to eradicate the false messiah and his followers and then will unite humanity.”

These signs speak to us that the time of the end is very near. The Antichrist is no doubt alive in the world today. He will arise very soon and have the answer for world peace. He will make the “covenant with many (Dan. 9:27),” deceiving the world, who will worship him and give him their whole hearted allegiance. There are many things that are not revealed in God’s Word to us, but we stand on what is revealed as being the Divine Truth. The poor ignorant leaders of the world will follow blindly after this man, and be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ, who will come at the end of the seven years of tribulation in power and glory, with his saints (Rev. 19:11-20).

Trials and Test Ever Harder - We have noticed that the trials for the overcoming people of God are getting harder and harder. We hear of greater persecution in foreign lands, where Christian church buildings are being burned and Christians martyred and imprisoned.

In our local meeting we have been experiencing extreme trials and tests. Diseases are rampaging in the world and in our local assembly. What is the meaning of this? I believe that these are the final testings before our dear Lord Jesus comes. They are such severe trials that it seems that the last particle of that which is not yielded to God is being routed out. We have asked God to “perfect our faith.” He has taken us at our word, and is doing just that. We ask that all Christians pray for one another in this last times, the last days of the Church Age. The Lord Jesus is going to have a bride “without spot or wrinkle or any such thing” (Eph. 5:26,27). He has called us to come and be in that company who will honour Him supremely. We have said, “Yes” to that call. He is performing His exquisite work in our lives. As Psalms 45:13-15, “The Kings daughter is all glorious within; her clothing is of wrought gold. She shall be brought unto the King in raiment of needlework, the virgins, her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee. With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought. They shall enter the King’s palace.” Also, verse 11. “So shall the King greatly desire thy beauty; for He is thy Lord; and worship thou Him;”

Press on weary, Pilgrim. “For yet a little while, and He that shall come, will come and will not tarry” Hebrews 10:37.

“MYSTERIES”

***We cannot see God with our natural eye,
His Glory is much too bright.
But we can see Him face to face
As we walk by faith, not sight.***

—Martha Wainright

STAND

F. H. Crook

Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle” II Thes. 2:15.

We want to consider the thought of standing mentioned here and elsewhere in the Word of God. This is speaking of spiritual things as taught in the scriptures, a timely exhortation at this time when we hear and read so much mixture and error proclaimed today.

There are those that are turning aside, letting down, and compromising, yet we have a number of statements in the Word encouraging us to stand according to God’s instructions. We may not always understand just why God tells us to do or not to do certain things, but our part is not to question, but simply stand for the Word as God has given it. We need to be firm in staying by the Word in our teaching and in our walk; yet not arrogant or domineering.

Some who are in error stand for their belief, but they are taking the Word out of its setting. This is not what the Bible means in telling us to stand. We need to search the scriptures, comparing scripture with scripture and thus come to an understanding of what God is telling us.

Romans 5:1-2 states; “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we *stand*, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” We are not left to stand in our own

strength, but it is by his grace that we stand. One meaning of the Greek word that is translated grace is – “The divine influence upon the hearts, and its reflection in the life.” We simply let God do what he wants to do on the inside, and it is manifested on the outside. Surely there is no ground for man to boast, but all the honour Goes to God. Notice we have access, that is; the grace is there for us, and all we need to do is believe what God has said and receive it. So we not only are saved by grace, but we are enabled to stand by His grace.

In Romans 14:4 we have this statement – “Who art thou that judgest another man’s servant? To his own master he standeth, yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him *stand*.” Sometimes when things get a little rough, and the general trend as a whole is contrary to the teaching of the Word, we may make excuses such as, “everybody is doing it; it is the time in which we are living,” etc.. We are told here that God is able to make us stand. As we trust God and believe his Word, we find he is not only able, but does cause us to stand. Remember that when God gives us instruction, he also gives us the ability to make that a reality in our lives. Tests, trials, temptations and battles come our way, but you see God enables us to stand.

I Corinthians 10:13 is a wonderful promise bearing on this thought. However, the preceding verse V. 12 gives us a word of warning. Don’t think for a moment that you can stand in your own strength. Give God the glory, otherwise you might take a tumble. As we stand true to God in the midst of trials of various kinds, surely this should be an encouragement, for God is no respecter of persons.

In I Corinthians 15:1 the Bible says this – “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye *stand*.” Gospel means: “good

message – to announce good news; to declare glad tidings.” To have the gospel preached to one is not in itself enough. It must be received by that individual if it is to be beneficial. This is what the Corinthians did. So as any one receives the gospel they are enabled to stand. When we face things that from the human standpoint are an utter impossibility to overcome, how blessed to receive the gospel. God has given us good news concerning these trials that we are faced with.

Romans 8:37 tells us – “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” There are so many statements of glad tidings of what God will do as we just believe what he says. The most glorious part is what will be done in the future; after we have run our course down here. Many proclamations of good news are given to us concerning the future. Why shouldn’t we stand when we believe and receive these various lines of the gospel?

In I Corinthians 16:13 we are told – “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit ye like men, be strong.” The thought of watching brings to our mind the hope of the coming of the Lord. The Bible says; “unto them that look for him shall he appear.” Jesus said “watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh.” So it is by the faith that God gives that we can stand. The word quit used in this verse does not mean what we usually mean when we say quit. In fact, it really means just the opposite. It means action. So this God given faith by which we stand produces action.

Our strength is not in ourselves, but as we read in Ephesians 6:10, “be strong in the Lord.” Galatians 5:1 says, “*Stand fast* therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” What Paul is speaking of here is religious bondage. There had been those who had told

these saints that unless they were circumcised and kept the law of Moses, they could not be saved. The Bible teaches very clearly that Jesus has put away our sins in His sacrifice on the cross. God's Word states that Christ has obtained eternal redemption for us. Therefore we are to stand fast, knowing what has been accomplished for us through redemption.

We are not to live for ourselves, and satisfy the fleshly desires. This too is bondage and not liberty. We are to walk in newness of life, trusting entirely in the Lord, and obeying him. This is the way to stand fast, and not allow a yoke of any kind to be put upon us, only the yoke spoken of by Jesus in Matthew 11:29-30.

In Ephesians 6:11-14 we find these words, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to *stand* against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Therefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to *stand*. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness."

God has provided the full armour to equip us in this fight against the powers of darkness, but we must lay hold of it for ourselves; God does not force it upon anyone. The inference is that if we do not take or put on the whole armour, we will not be able to stand. Surely the devil is a wily or tricky foe, and in ourselves we are not able to stand, but as we have on the whole armour we are equipped to stand against all his tricks. Our fight is not against man, but against the unseen forces of the devil and those who are in harmony with him, although sometimes man may be involved if he allows himself to be a tool of the devil. We are indeed living in the evil day,

although a religious time. As God's Word tells us, evil man and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

The loins speak of fruitfulness. As we stand on the Word of God and allow it to work in our lives we bring forth fruit that honours God. This is fruit that will remain, will abide.

We have a wonderful exhortation given in Philippians 1:27 "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye *stand fast* in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." The words conversation used here not only means things that we say, but covers the whole manner of our life. The word becometh means – "that which is suitable -appropriate– after a Godly manner." This is to be the daily condition of each believer. As we gather together, we should agree together and stand together, not allowing the carnal mind to be in control, but rather the mind of Christ, and stand for the faith delivered to the saints because of the gospel. This is the fulfilment of what we have recorded. Ephesians 4:3 "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

.....

*Fret not because thy place is small.
Thy service need not be,
For thou canst make it all there is
Of joy and ministry.*

*The dewdrop, as the boundless sea,
In God's great plan has part;
And this is all He asks of thee;
Be faithful where thou art.*

RUTH

Debra Isenbletter

Ruth 1:10 – *“And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.”*

In this verse, we see what both women say to Naomi, *“We will return.”* They know who they will be retuning with and who her people are *“thy people.”* Do they fully realize what they are saying? Do they fully realize what this may cost them? When they say *“thy people,”* do they realize that if they do this that her people will become their people? If they return with Naomi, there will be a cost, a loss, a forsaking of everything. They will have to forsake their country, their family, their friends, their gods. In a way, Naomi’s words in the following verses will put to the test the strength of their desire and their purpose of heart. Her words will force them to look at their real motive for going with her. Is it based on emotion? Is it based on obligation? Is it based on custom? Is it based on love? And if love, is it just love for Naomi? If it is only love for Naomi, it will not be enough. To return with her to her people, is to return with her to her God.

How many have we seen start out with us, that seem to have a desire. But is it a deep desire? They express an emotion, but is there deep devotion? Many start out saying, *“I will go”* and they begin the journey. Rebecca said *“I will go”* and she went all the way! Naomi needed to know they would go all the way, there can be no turning back once they start. Many start out saying *“I will run”* when others run with them. The true test is what will we do if others turn back.

Paul gives us the rules of the race, and he shows us the hardships, he wants us to see that it is not easy. There must be a **desire**: Paul said “*run that ye may obtain*” (I Cor. 9:24). There must be a **discipline**: Paul said don’t “*run uncertainly*” (without purpose or discipline) – I Cor. 9:26-27. There must be a **direction**: Paul said “*press (pursue) toward the mark for the prize*” (Phil. 3:14). That “mark” is several things. It is the white line on the track that shows the course, the path to follow. If you didn’t *follow the mark* laid out for you, you were *disqualified*. The mark is also the goal, the finish line, to show the end of the race. There must be **patience**: Paul said “*run with patience*” (Heb. 12:1), that means “active persistence and passive endurance.” Whatever the cost or whatever the obstacles, we go on, we go forward. Even Paul saw many start out running and not go on because they were hindered (Gal. 5:7) and there is a lot to hinder. Some get impatient; they get tired of the discipline. Some get distracted by the world and are hindered. Some don’t follow the course the Lord set for them, they go their own way. Some take their eyes off the prize.

Naomi’s next words will force them to decide if they really want to go. Naomi will show these women all the obstacles, all that they must give up and let go of to return with her. She will take the lead and they must follow and ahead of them will be different customs (different dress, different behaviour), a different language; and ahead of them will be a different God and a different way of worshipping. Sometimes we don’t know the real motive of our hearts until we are forced to examine our hearts. To go on, they must want to go on despite everything. Only one will choose to do this and what an example she is for us!

Ruth 1:11: “*And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?*”

What did Naomi tell them? She said “*Turn again...*” She said this in response to their declaration that they will return with her, Naomi’s words are “turn back,” “turn” is used six time (vs. 6,7,8,10,15,16) and “turn back” is used two times (Vs. 11,12). After chapter 1, the word return is never seen again! Once they go on, there is no turning back and they don’t turn back! But here Naomi reminds them of where they are from. They are from Moab, not from Israel, which is true. They must be willing to let go of who they are before going on.

What did Naomi ask them? “*Why will yes go with me?*” could it be she wants them to know what they will be giving up? They must not make this decision lightly. In a sense they need to know the cost, and then choose. When Jesus began his ministry there were many that followed Him and wanted to be His disciples, Luke says there were “multitudes.” Jesus weeds out those that aren’t fully committed, and the number becomes smaller. Like Gideon’s band that started out with 22,000 and then was reduced to 10,000 and finally reduced to 300 men (Judges 7:2-7). Those that are fully committed are a minority, not a majority. When Jesus spoke to the multitudes that followed Him (Lk. 14:25-28), He gave the criteria for discipleship. That great number was reduced. He told them: They must choose God first, put Him before everything and everyone else (V. 26). They must be willing to bear their own cross (V. 27). They must count the cost (V. 28). By the time He is finished I’m sure that there was no longer a multitude of disciples. Later even that

reduced number becomes smaller for John says, “From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him” (Jn. 6:66). When Jesus asked the twelve “Will ye go away?” (Jn. 6:67), Peter gives the wonderful answer that is the cry of all our hearts: “Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life” (Jn. 6:68).

What reasons did Naomi give for them not to go? She told them there was nothing that she could give them. She could not provide more *sons*. Having no sons, she could not provide *husbands*: Naomi is referring to the custom of a brother marrying his brother’s widow in order to carry on that family line (Deut. 25:5-10). This law was called the law of Levirate marriage. The word “levirate” comes from the Latin meaning “husband’s brother.” If a woman’s husband died and she was childless, then the brother of her deceased husband was to marry her and the first son she had would be counted as the dead brother’s son so that his name and line would continue. Jesus was asked a question concerning this practice, showing that it was still in practice. The Sadducees, who didn’t believe in a resurrection posed the question of the widow having to marry seven times because each brother died before a son was born. The question posed was one that they thought Jesus would have no answer: “Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? For they all had her (Mt. 22:28). Jesus declared that there was a resurrection but that “in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage” (Mt. 28:30).

When Naomi makes this statement, she is referring to this custom. She has no living sons for them to marry that they might carry on the family line.

To be continued

GATEKEEPERS

(Both Old and New)

By Bonnie Richards

Lesson 6

The Horse Gate (Neh. 3:28) is the eighth gate. **“From above the Horse Gate repaired the priests, every one over against his house.”** Their dwelling places were in proximity to the Temple. It was at this gate Athaliah came out from the house of the Lord in a rage and they laid hands on her and at the entering of the Horse Gate by the king’s house they slew her there. Thus ended that war with Ahab and Jezebel’s usurping daughter.

When the mounted army of Israel went to war, it was through this gate. David reviewed his army here. When he could no longer go out with his troops, this is where he saw them off to do battle. The message of this gate for us is that there is warfare daily for the child of God.

This gate is used only for the *departure* of the army—not when they returned in triumph. Ephesians 6:10-18 speaks of the **essential armour** for the battles “Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of **his might**. Put on the **whole** armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities...powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the **whole** armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the

breastplate of righteousness, and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints and for me...that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel.”

The importance of intercession before God with the admonition in V. 18 cannot be over-stressed. The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man availed much.” Nehemiah was an example of a praying man as was every worthy of faith. How appropriate for the Priests to be the ones to repair this gate, because the “good soldiers in Christ Jesus need to be upheld before God in prayer continually.

II Corinthians 10:4-5: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.” So our battle will never end suddenly so long as we are still here on earth.

We must never lose sight of the fact that the spiritual warfare we are continually called upon to wage is very demanding. Our enemy is formidable. He is experienced, He is relentless. It is his purpose and determination to rob us of eternal riches and to cripple or destroy our faith. **But** our Captain *always* leads to victory. Satan cannot rob us of

To be continued

Would you be a soldier true:
 Can the Captain count on you?
 Are you ready, willing
 For the fiercest fight?
 By God's grace you'll win the day,
 As He leads you in the fray,
 Always following by faith
 And not by sight.

• Christ wants soldiers tried and true;
• Fearful ones will never do,
• Those entangled with
• The glare of worldly lure,
• Certain is a great reward
• For those always standing guard,
• And by grace the toil and
• Hardship now endure.

• *Soon all fighting will have passed,*
• *And rewards will come at last,*
• *When the Captain says,*
• *Our wars on earth are o'er.*
• *Then we'll never, never roam.*
• *He will lead us safely home,*
• *Where the victors sing and*
• *Shout for ever more.*

- *We're marching on! To battle we will go,*
- *The triumph we shall gain o'er every mighty foe:*
- *For Christ our Captain leads His soldiers thru,*
- *And victory we'll surely know.*

Revelation

Chapter 19:1-10

The Hallelujah Chorus in Heaven

Vs. 1-6 – There is a change in the vision John was viewing, from the earthly to a heavenly scene. “And after these things,” after the destruction of Babylon (Chapter 17 & 18) which was an earthy event; John “heard a great voice of much people in heaven.” A shout of triumph bursts forth from some of the heavenly saints. “Alleluia,” which means “praise ye Jah” (used in the sense of victor – He was and is). This is the highest praise found in the Word of God.

They praise God for judging that great harlot, the apostatized church headed by the mother church, Catholicism. God “hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand” (Chapter 18:24). No doubt the voice of much people includes those who have suffered persecution at the hands of Babylon. They glorify God for His divine justice saying, “Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God.” Note the title “the Lord our God,” we will have more about His titles in this chapter.

His judgments are “true and righteous” (V. 2), for the great whore did corrupt the earth. She pretended to be Christ’s church and His voice in the earth as a purifying influence, but God charges her with corrupting it. The great false religious system had to be judged. Who did God use for her judgment? Chapter 17:12,16-18, those ten kings united with the Antichrist destroy her and her judgment will last for ever and ever (V. 3).

The four living ones and the 24 elders which figure the full overcomers of the true church agree with God's judgment and say "Amen" (V. 4). Again they fell down and worship God, "Alleluia" He is victor. It is a privilege to fall on our face before Him and give Him the glory He deserves.

"A voice came out of the throne" (V. 5), this must be the 4 living ones for they alone are seen "in the throne" (Chapter 4:6). What does the voice say? "Praise **our** God, all ye his **servants.**" Praise Him for taking rulership and reigning. The full overcomers seem to always lead the heavenly hosts in worship – 4:8-11; 5:8-9; 11:16-17. We will see three groups of saints at the wedding of the Lamb in this chapter. The "servants" are one group.

All the host of heaven respond to the call to "Praise our God" (V. 6), "as the voice of many waters," Oh, what a great sound that will be. Have you ever heard water falls, it is a terrific noise. "And as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." The praise just builds (Isa. 9:6 is fulfilled). Here is another title, "Lord God omnipotent," Omnipotent means, "all powerful."

The marriage of the Lamb

The crowning event of the Lamb's reign will be His marriage (V. 7). With the false bride judged, the marriage to the real bride (a company of full overcomers) takes place. "His wife hath made herself ready," the Lord can not marry just anyone. Not everyone in the body of Christ will be the bride company, because they are not making themselves ready. Oh, we want to be ready, we desire to be in that company. It is not just that we know this truth about the bride company in theory. NO! It is yielding to the Holy

Spirit so that the Word God is made practical in our lives –
Rom. 8:13 & Gal. 5:16.

Verse 8, in the Greek text reads, “for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” For everyone who is born again receives a robe of righteousness, being clothed with Christ’s righteousness. That is our standing, accepted in the Beloved. He washed our robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. But they are not the bridal robes. The bride has made herself ready. She has made her bridal robe of fine white linen, her righteous acts. The Word made practical in her life, is manifested in her works of faith. The Greek for “fine linen” here means “brilliant,” bright white.

The bride is making her garment today and sending it on ahead. Her righteous acts are laid up to her account, awaiting the wedding day. So we read, “to her it was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen.” It is the linen she made all her days on earth.

“He saith” unto John (one of the full overcomers), “Blessed (fortunate) are they which are called unto the marriage (V. 9). The called ones are the **guests**, another group present at the wedding. This makes three groups: **servants**– V. 5; the **bride company**– V. 7; **guests**– V. 9. Some will miss the wedding (Mt. 25:10), for they answered the call too late for the marriage supper. May this be a warning to us, consider II Cor. 11:1-3.

This full overcomer looks so much like Christ (V. 10), possessing His characteristics because of being changed from glory to glory by the Holy Spirit while beholding Jesus, II Cor. 3:18. John thought it was Christ and fell down to worship. But this one will not rob His Lord of the glory

due Him. “See thou do it not,” I am just a redeemed human being. Just one of those precious full overcomers, “Worship God.” He is the worthy One (Compare V. 5). God made Jesus the supreme object of worship of redeemed humanity because He died for all mankind.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Once again we will be putting 2 months issues of “Glorious Gospel” together (December 2012 and January 2013) since Earlene will have another surgery this month and unable to do much. The Lord willing we hope to print a February issue if we are still here and the Lord has not come.

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