

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the Whole counsel of God

Definite Sign Posts Of the End

Paul N. Smith

“AND WHEN THESE THINGS BEGIN TO COME TO PASS, THEN LOOK UP, AND LIFT UP YOUR HEADS; FOR YOUR REDEMPTION DRAWETH NIGH” - Luke 21:28.

These words of Jesus to His disciples concern things pertaining to the nation of Israel. He gave them signs to watch for, prior to the restoration of Israel. He pointed out that there would be the wars, commotions, earthquakes, famines, and other international catastrophes. These are termed “the beginning of sorrows.” He foretold the terrible persecution of the Jews, and the greater suffering that would come to those of Israel who held the testimony of Jesus. “And ye shall be hated of all men for My Name's sake” - Matt. 10:22.

There will arise in the nation of Israel a remnant, which will testify of the coming of Jesus the Messiah. They will suffer great persecution - first from their own countrymen, and then later from the false prophet and anti-Christ. The Lord promised to give them wisdom and the words to say in their time of witness. “And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinfolks, and friends; - and some of you shall they cause to be put to death.” This refers to the testimony of the remnant during the first years of the Tribulation period. We believe that this witness has begun already, and the Lord is preparing others to proclaim this message during the Tribulation time.

We read in Revelation eleven, of the two witnesses who will fearlessly defy the anti-Christ and stand true to the Lord Jesus Christ. They will have the faith and power of Moses and Elijah. They will stand against the forces of evil in this day, even as Moses and Elijah did in their days. This may be more than just two men. Two is the number of witness, and this number may be symbolic. There will be another group who will make up the remainder of the one hundred and forty-four thousand, and they will go forth with the message of the soon coming of the Messiah from Heaven.

Another great sign to the nation will be, “And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.” This is prophecy of “the great and the terrible day of the Lord,” termed also “Jacob's Trouble.” It will be a period of great devastation, even as Jesus testified here. The people of the Tribulation will have many signs confirming the nearness of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in great power and glory. The remnant will be forecasting the overthrow of the anti-Christ and all of the world system. The

unbelievers will become more ungodly and rebellious. The believers will become more steadfast in their declarations.

ISRAEL IS THE KEY TO WORLD PEACE. This has been said many times before, and it is still true. The articles in the Definite Sign Posts of the End have been telling for many years that Israel is God's Timepiece; and, we need to watch the movements concerning this nation, to learn of the nearness of Jesus' coming. This clock is chiming loud and clear today; and the message is, "Jesus is coming soon." The nations can never achieve what they hope for, without dealing with Israel. Peace, even false peace, will not come to them until they make a covenant with Israel. A few years ago, this seemed to many to be a fantasy; but, today, all nations acknowledge that the situation in the Middle East commands the most attention.

JESUS SAID, "WHEN THESE THINGS BEGIN TO COME TO PASS, THEN LOOK UP, AND LIFT UP YOUR HEADS; FOR YOUR REDEMPTION DRAWETH NIGH." Notice the word "BEGIN." It does not state, "When these things are all fulfilled, then look up." Israel can look up today, and lift up their heads, for their redemption draweth nigh. Their time of liberation from the hands of the Gentiles is here. All signs point to the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Formerly, we had only "the beginning of sorrows" signs, of the wars and rumors of wars. Lately, the other signs concerning Israel have come into view, and by this we know that our day on earth is about over.

IF ISRAEL'S DAY OF REDEMPTION IS SO NEAR, HOW MUCH NEARER IS THE RAPTURE OF THE OVERCOMERS! We know that Israel will not come into their day of blessing, until the Church is in her place in Heaven. We are overjoyed for Israel's prospect of redemption; and we know that they have waited so many years for the promises of God to be made real to them. The closer their day approaches, that much closer is ours. We will be in Heaven when many of these prophecies to Israel will be fulfilled. In fact, the covenant with the nations will take place after the overcomers are gone. This means that our day here is all but over. We can expect Jesus to return for His Bride any time. There are just a few minor details that must come to pass; but these may be present now, and we are not aware of them.

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week ..." - Daniel 9:27. This "he" refers to the world empire, out of which the anti-Christ will come. The "many" refers to the nation of Israel, or its leaders. The signing of this agreement is, imminent. The nations are seeking a settlement between Israel and the Arabs. Why would the nations need to interfere in this struggle that seems to be between the neighboring countries? On the surface, it would seem to be only a border clash; but we know that the trouble goes far deeper than that.

From a natural viewpoint, we know that the great world powers have many investments in these countries. We also know that, if one country could control the Mediterranean, it would be almost invincible as a world power. There is also another viewpoint, and that is God's. He has purposes for Israel, and the other nations must come into line either willingly or by force. The Lord has already predicted what will come to pass, and it is unfolding before our eyes right now.

WE CANNOT PREDICT THE DAY AND HOUR OF THE LORD'S COMING FOR THE BRIDE. We can tell the times and seasons, however; and this is what we are doing. The Day of the Lord will begin with the signing of a treaty between Israel and the nations. This will signify the end of Gentile times. When the nation of Israel enters into an agreement with the nations, it will be in rebellion of Christ's Kingdom. Jesus will be crowned King in Heaven, seven years before He is revealed to the nations. Between Revelation four and nineteen, there is a period of almost seven years.

There will be momentous things happening, both in Heaven and earth, during this period of time. Jesus will be crowned in the presence of the full overcomers (the Bride) and the rest of the heavenly bodies. At the same time, Israel will enter into covenant relationship with the nations, instead of turning their cause over to the Lord. Satan will be raging in heaven because Jesus has been crowned, and because more mortals have become immortal. The nations will be raging upon earth in rebellion against Christ's Kingdom in Heaven.

The Tribulation will be fierce. The true believers will be suffering as they did in the early Church. Martyrdom will again be common. "... And in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate" - Daniel 9:27. At this time, Satan will have filled the person known as the anti-Christ; and he will cause all worship to cease except that of himself. He will have an image placed in the temple in Jerusalem, and all people must acknowledge him as sovereign.

This blasphemy will bring on greater tribulation; and there will be a period of almost three months in which suffering and death will be general. It will be during this time that the nations will gather around Jerusalem to battle. This will culminate in the battle of Armageddon, and blood will run freely. The Lord Jesus Himself will descend in power and glory and put an end to the bloodshed, or "no flesh should be saved."

Knowing these things, we should be wide-awake and looking for our Savior to come. "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief." If Jesus is speaking to hearts of Israel today, and bringing them to an awareness of His coming, surely He is speaking to the hearts of those who will be with Him in Heaven. We must be ready before Israel is. If we are not awake now, it may be too late to get ready later. There is a limit to God's patience and longsuffering. He is not bound by time, as we are; but He does have certain purposes to perform, and He is on a definite schedule as far as they are concerned.

We are part of His purposes, and the prospect of being with the Lord fills our souls with glory. We will soon be taken out of this world which has become so foreign to us. We are not looking and expecting to find peace and happiness in this world. Our joy comes from the Lord, and the hope of being with Him. We, too, are waiting for our redemption - the redemption of our bodies - Romans 8:23. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that

we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” - Romans 8:16-18.

There are many signs that tell us the Day of Christ is at hand. The national signs, the religious, the moral conditions of mankind, have been reviewed from time to time. None are as timely as those concerning Israel. We keep our eyes upon that little country. We pray for them individually and as a people. We are interested in the Lord's interests. We want to be a part of His purposes - not only those which concern us, but for Israel and the nations as well. We will not be here much longer to tell others about the Scriptures. We will not be publishing the Truth much longer. Our day is almost over. We will enter another phase of our life - much more exciting and glorious than we can imagine. We will enter into reality, when we leave this world. Our spirits will be loosed from these bodies of limitation, and we will have bodies that will fit the spirit within. “For now we see through a glass, darkly (as a riddle); but then face to face: now I know in part (imperfectly); but then shall I know even as also I am known” - I Cor. 13:12. Who would not trade his lowly position on earth for that glorious position in Heaven! From the dung-heap of earth to the throne-room in glory, that will be our change!
Jesus is coming soon!

“Who Gets the Dog?”

A clergyman was walking about his neighborhood and came upon a group of boys, between 10 and 12 years of age. They were surrounding a dog, and concerned lest the boys were hurting the dog, went to them and asked, “What are you doing with that dog?”

One of the boys replied, “He's just an old stray in the neighborhood. We all want him, and decided on a way to see who will get him. Whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie will get to keep the dog.”

The reverend was taken aback. “You boys shouldn't be having a contest telling lies!” he exclaimed. He then launched into a ten-minute sermon against lying, beginning with, “Don't you boys know it's a sin to tell a lie?” He ended with, “Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie!”

There was dead silence for a minute. Just as the reverend was beginning to think he'd gotten through to them, the smallest boy gave a deep sigh and said, “All right, give him the dog.”

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- If we could merit our salvation, Jesus would not have died to provide it.
- When we sow seeds of sin, we can count on a harvest of judgment.
- Repentance means hating sin enough to turn from it.
- The only leader worth following is one who is following Christ.

JESUS, THE JUDGE

A. S. Copley

(Continued from June, 2007 Issue)

LABORERS CONTRASTED

“Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it; because it shall be revealed by fire, and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide, which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss, but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire.” (I Corinthians 3:12-15)

The “Day” mentioned here, that shall declare, or make manifest the character of every man's work, is the “Day of the Lord;” that is, the period of His Kingship. There is nothing said about the saints being judged on that day; rather, the decision of the Judge will then be declared publicly. We read in the next chapter, that the hidden things of darkness will be brought to light. The counsels of the heart will be disclosed. It will then be made known why the Lord, the righteous Judge, made difference between saint and saint, and pronounced certain sentences upon certain believers. It will also appear plain why saints go in different classes today and cannot all work as one grand, victorious and harmonious band.

“The fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.” That fire is burning now. Our works are being tried now. My ministry, as to whether I am building with Scriptural material, has been severely tested all my days. Note what follows our labors: “If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon (i.e. on Christ), he shall receive a reward.” The labor of the one who builds with gold, silver, precious stones, shall abide, because these substances which are mined from the Word of God, are enduring. Where does it abide? In the hearts of the people who receive and believe. If we put Christ into men's minds and hearts, He will abide there. If we unfold the Scriptures and rightly divide the Word of God, that will abide. If we feed the lambs and sheep, they will grow up into Christ, and our work will abide, no matter what tests of flame may arise. Such saints will stand for the Truth under all circumstances. There have been many people who have been rooted and grounded in the Truth, and they have gone out with the Message, and stand alone in difficult places, fighting the good fight of faith. The Candlestick Examiner is judging them now, as well as others, and judging our work also. In the Day of the Lord, it will be made manifest with what kind of material we have built.

Paul's Witness as a Racer

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do; forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark (goal) for the Prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14). In this chapter, Paul recites his

experience on the race course. He saw the Prize at the end of the race. He had not yet reached that goal; neither was he sure that he would, but he was full of hope, exclaiming: "If by any means I might attain," or arrive at the goal, "the resurrection out from among the dead." He knew that the resurrection of the just, in which he was included, was certain, but he knew that he must run victoriously the race in order to arrive at the goal of the out-resurrection; that is, to be raised ahead of other sainted dead. Therefore, he put himself on record as a sample racer: "Be ye followers (imitators) of me as I follow Christ." His heart was fixed on the Prize, to win Christ as Bridegroom. He pressed past every obstacle, and encouraged us to follow him.

"Let us therefore as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything 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." The one perfection, the resurrection, Paul had not yet reached; but he was enjoying the perfection of heart in Christ, and so are others. He lived with a single eye to God's glory. If there is an unknown hindrance for anyone running the race, the Lord will make it known to the earnest soul. It is the highest will of God to win the Prize, Christ as our Beloved Bridegroom; hence the Father in all His love and power will enable us to win. He called and anointed the Apostle Paul to teach this superlative and climacteric truth, and appointed him to set the pace for other racers.

PAUL'S TESTIMONY OF THE END

"For I am now ready to be offered, (I am already being poured out), and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith" (II Timothy 4:6-7). Paul knew at this point that when the end came, the race was won. He had yielded to the righteous judgment of the Lord day after day, so that he missed nothing that he needed to know, to make the grade. He knew that he was ready to depart, because he had done three things: "fought, finished, kept." Was he guessing? Or boasting? No. He wrote to the church at Corinth, saying, "I judge not myself; the Lord judges me" (I Corinthians 4:3-4).

The Lord had watched his believing, his fighting and running, and judged him blameless. The Father revealed Christ in Saul of Tarsus. The New Covenant body of truth was also revealed to him, as he walked in the Spirit. Now at the end, the faithful Lord who appeared to him on the road to Damascus, revealed to him that his career was satisfactory. Every step of his new life was by revelation. The Judge had done His work. Sentence was pronounced. The verdict was - he fought the good fight; he finished the course; he kept the faith. The judgment seat traveled with the racer. We read of no judgment for Paul after his death, but we do read of a glorious reward: "Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." Paul was not only fully assured of the past, but of the future also. While yet in his earthly body, he knew what his heavenly reward would be. He saw a crown, without a judgment seat ahead. He wrote, "the day shall declare it." He had a look into that day before he reached it. His testimony is on record to encourage all his

followers. We know that it is possible to run and to win. He assures us that the reward is for all those who run the race with Paul. The righteous Judge will deal squarely with every saint. If we yield to the criticism and correction of our Head, given to us when we read or hear the Word, we will run triumphantly. But, if we sit on the judgment seat against the Divinely-appointed minister and teacher, and against other saints, we will lose out and miss the Prize. Oh, let us profit by Paul's experience! Let us yield to every conviction of the Truth and the prompting of the Spirit! Let us run that we may obtain!

VERDICT OF THE JUDGE

“And unto the angel in Philadelphia write, These things saith he that is holy, He that is true, He that hath the key of David, He that openeth and no man shutteth, and shutteth and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it; for thou hast a little strength and hast kept My Word, and hast not denied my Name” (Revelation 3:7-8). Each of those seven letter begins by saying, “I know thy works.” The Lord knows whether they were good, or bad. How does He know if He is not walking in the midst of the churches as a Judge? He found five of the assemblies faulty, and pronounced sentence against them. He found no blame against either Smyrna or Philadelphia. The judgment of those churches occurred day by day, just as it did with the Apostle Paul. The items of commendation could also be said of Paul. Some saints today, like Paul, see the open door by faith, because they are fulfilling the Philadelphian requirements for translation. They simply need to hold fast to that which they have, that no man take their crown. What an encouragement and comfort.

Let us follow Paul who held fast to the Truth. He held fast to the place that God had given him in the Body. He held fast to the honor bestowed upon him, as the steward of the mysteries of Christ and the chief apostle of this age. He held fast to the hope of the out-resurrection, out from among the sainted dead. Thus, he will lead the Smyrna overcomers from the tomb, just a little ahead of the translation of the Philadelphia overcomers. Paul allowed no man to take his crown. He permitted no one to throw anything across the racetrack to hinder his progress. If there was a hindrance, he leaped over it.

We are certainly in that hour, when it is needful to press on with vigor. We must slay all the “Amalekites” and “king Agag.” We must be unsparing against the finest and nicest of the flesh. Everything pertaining to the old creation must go. Let us judge our own old man and yield continually to the Word of instruction and correction. Then, we shall win! There is no reason why we may not live victoriously, with Calvary back of us - Christ's daily intercession for us - the working of the Holy Spirit within us - the fellowship of other racers to encourage and comfort us - and the hope of Jesus' soon coming to spur us on. Why may we not live, so that the Righteous Judge will say to us, “thou hast a little power; thou hast kept the word of my patience; thou hast not denied my Name; thou hast fought the good fight; thou hast finished the course; thou hast kept the faith”? Oh, let us run that we may obtain! The just reward will be certain.

The End

Christ My Prize

If I may but win Him, if Christ I may gain;
I care not how hot is the fire.
Though dark be the way and though stormy the day;
The Christ is the Prize I desire.

I've counted the cost, yes, I've counted the cost –
The lost of all earth-winning gain.
The cross I will bear, and His sorrow will share,
That jointly with Him I may reign.

His cup I am drinking, His cup I will drink;
For this is the price I must pay.
Though pleasure it cost and all Egypt is lost,
I'll go ev'ry step of the way.

For thus would I know Him; His suffering know,
Be found in His fullness as mine.
In fellowship deep, the good harvest to reap;
United in wedlock Divine.
(From Grace & Glory Hymnal)

COUNTERFEITS

Question: Did you ever see a counterfeit ten-dollar bill?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Why was it counterfeited?

Answer: Because a ten-dollar bill was worth counterfeiting.

Question: Was the ten-dollar bill to blame?

Answer: No.

Question: Did you ever see a scrap of brown paper counterfeited?

Answer: No.

Question: Why?

Answer: Because it was not worth counterfeiting.

Question: Did you ever see a counterfeit Christian?

Answer: Yes. Lots of them.

Question: Why was Christianity counterfeited?

Answer: Because it was worth counterfeiting.

Question: Was Christianity to blame?

Answer: No.

Question: Did you ever see a counterfeit unbeliever?

Answer: No, never.

Question: Why?

"A little while!" Our Lord shall come,
 And we shall wander here no more;
 He'll take us to our Father's home,
 Where He for us has gone before,
 To dwell with Him, to see His face,
 And sing the glories of His grace.
 'A little while!" He'll come again:
 Let us the precious hours redeem;
 Our only grief to give Him pain,
 Our joy to serve and follow Him:
 Watching and ready may we be,
 As those who long their Lord to see.
 "A little while!" 'Twill soon be past:
 Why should we shun the shame and cross?
 O let us in His footsteps haste,
 Counting for Him all else but loss;
 Oh, how will recompense His smile
 The suffering of this little while!
 "A little while!" Come, Saviour, come!
 For Thee Thy Bride has waited long:
 Oh, take Thy wearied pilgrims home,
 To sing the new eternal song,
 To see Thy glory, and to be
 In everything conformed to Thee!
 James G. Deck

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS:

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet ... And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh instead thereof, and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made (buildd) He a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. " - Genesis 2:18-24.

What a Scripture for an editorial! Are these verses relevant to our day and our needs? Are they so important to warrant special notice of them? Most emphatically, Yes! Without a complete knowledge of what these Scriptures are teaching, we will flounder around in our Christian experience without any spiritual direction. This is the most important message for this day. No, this is not a symposium on the successful marriage and harmony in the home. This is a message that affects our relationship to our Lord Jesus Christ. It is, indeed, a message of harmonious relationship between Husband and Wife-in this case, between Christ and His Bride.

Space prohibits a complete commentary on these verses, so a few will have to suffice. Forget that this is speaking to the first Adam and his wife, Eve. Adam spoke prophetically, anyway, when he said a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, since he could not say this of himself. He spoke of a provisional relationship, and he indeed had to prove his words when Eve submitted to the serpent's suggestion and ate of the forbidden fruit. He knew they were one, and when she fell, he had no other recourse but to follow.

Now, let us think only of Christ and His Bride. It is not good that the Lord takes divine dominion alone. He must have "His Woman" with Him when He reigns over heaven and earth for a thousand years. God is taking a "rib" out of the whole Body of Christ, and with this portion of that body, He is building a Wife for His Son. Adam's body was functional after the rib had been removed; so Christ's Body of people will not be hindered by the removal of that group of people who will make up His Bride. It functions very well without the "rib portion" today. In fact, most of the religious activity-that activity which is so evident and prominent-is being done through the "ribless" Body of people, the Church.

If you are a part of that "rib company" you will know because this bridal message is revealed only to those who will be receptive to it. The whole Church will not constitute the Bride of Christ; only a very small portion. The Bride will be made of those people who believe that they are truly one with Christ. As we said, at first, Adam knew only this oneness in theory. A little later he experienced that oneness. He could not be, be separated from his Woman which God builded for him.

What a beautiful picture of Christ! He could not be satisfied without His Bride, though fallen and in sin. He also knew that dominion was given to male and female, and He must have a wife who could share that responsibility with Him. He put on human clothes, lived and ministered on earth for a short time, but His real purpose was to die on the cross, being made sin that His beloved one could ascend to his level. He had to leave His glory in order to lift her up to his height. Of course, He died for people, and millions have, believed unto salvation and forgiven of sins; but very few hear the call to bridehood.

The Apostle Paul espoused the whole Church as a chaste virgin to Christ, and it would have pleased God immensely if the entire Body of Christ were in this company; but as Paul feared, so it has happened. Satan has blinded the eyes of believers and has corrupted their minds from the simplicity of this message, They have been taught contrary to the Scriptures, and thus have been hindered from taking the place which they might have had. What a shame! Millions have been robbed of that wonder place of reigning with Christ.

But some have heard the call and are letting the Father "build" them into a suitable person to be called the Bride of His Son. The Holy Spirit reads the hearts of all men and knows who will yield and be pliable in the hands of the Master Builder. Being in the Bride of Christ does not come just by accepting Him as Savior. It takes a willingness, a yieldedness, a supreme love, an experimental oneness. It is a "husband wife" relationship. Read Ephesians 5:15-33. Christ is return soon to take those people who are ready away with Him. Then He will be

crowned and His wife will be by His side. Now, see why this message is so important?

'Tis near that glad and holy day,
When Christ shall call His Bride away,
From east and west in raiment gay,
Changed in the twinkle of an eye.

Oh, hour of bliss when we shall hear,
The trumpet peal so loud and clear,
And sail away to yonder sphere,
Changed in the twinkle of an eye.

Then we shall see our Bridegroom's face,
And praise Him for abundant grace,
That brought us to perfection's place,
Changed in the twinkle of an eye.

And He shall own His Bride so fair;
For she shall stand in favor rare,
His throne in glory she shall share,
Changed in the twinkle of an eye.

In a moment we will go,
Leaving everything below,
In a moment we will rise,
Meet the Bridegroom in the skies,

Changed in the twinkle of an eye.
We'll ascend that very day,
Laughing shouting on the way,
Changed in the twinkle of an eye.

The Forgotten Feast

Gene Hawkins

“And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths; for since the days of Joshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness.” -- Nehemiah 8:17

This ritual is a part of the Feast of Tabernacles which was observed on the 15th day of the 7th month. According to Leviticus 23:34-44, it was two-fold, in

that offerings were given daily during its seven day duration, and the people were to dwell in booths for that same period. Evidently they had observed this feast just sporadically. Ezra records the fact that it was observed by offering the prescribed sacrifices even after the captivity, but Nehemiah informs us that they had not kept the feast by dwelling in the booths, since the days of Joshua. That's a rather lengthy period of time.

There were 12 judges who had governed Israel. After that, the people demanded a king, and the first three reigned 40 years each. After Solomon, the kingdom was divided as "Israel and Judah." Israel, made up of ten tribes, had numerous kings, not one of them which was a good one. Judah had a total of seven godly kings, but ultimately both Israel and Judah were taken into captivity. After 70 years, the history of Judah resumes, as a remnant is allowed to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. Artaxerxes, king of Persia, commissioned Ezra to return to Jerusalem to "set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know them not" (Ezra 7:25). Some years after that, Nehemiah requested, and received permission from Artaxerxes to return to the promised land and rebuild the wall. That wall had now been finished (Nehemiah 6:15) and the Jews began to celebrate. They gathered together "as one man ... before the water gate and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses" (Ch. 8:1). The discovery was made at this time that Israel had not observed completely the Feast of Tabernacles.

The booths were flimsy brush arbors wherein they were to dwell for the seven days, and symbolized God's protection when He had delivered them from Egypt and brought them into a very rich, but hostile land. It is also prophetic, and was fitting that Israel should keep this particular feast at this time. They were once again in a hostile land with no one but Jehovah to protect them. This symbolism points forward to a time when Israel will be gathered to their land once again, but their walled cities, great armaments and covenants with the nations will have failed them. They will learn that only God can defend them, and only the miniscule defense offered by these booths is needed. The time of this feast also coincided with their time of harvest, and is also called the "feast of ingathering" (Exodus 34:22). Also, we read: "Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine" (Deut. 16:13). This feast is symbolic also of the time when Israel will dwell in their land in absolute peace, and enjoy tremendous prosperity.

Jesus observed this feast of tabernacles a scant six months before He was crucified. It was observed on the 15th day of the seventh month, while the Passover was celebrated on the 10' day of the first month of the following year. There is no record that the Jews offered sacrifices, or dwelled in booths. However, Jesus took advantage of a ritual the Jews had adopted, although God had not ordained it. History tells that the priests would form a line from the pool of Siloam to the temple. The first priest would draw a bucket of water from the pool, which would then be passed from priest to priest to the temple. The last priest would then pour out the water, evidently symbolic of Numbers 24:7: "He shall

pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters, and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted.”

This ritual was to remind them how God poured water out of the Rock in the wilderness, but when Israel came into the land of Canaan, such a miracle was no longer needed, for rains watered the Promised Land abundantly. Regardless of the reasons for which the Jews had adopted this practice, Jesus took advantage of it to preach the depth of the Gospel to them. “In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified” (John 7:37-39).

Some teachers use these “rivers of living waters” in reference to salvation, but Jesus declared plainly that He is speaking of the Holy Ghost. If some would conclude that being saved and filled with the Holy Spirit are the same experience, then we must conclude that the disciples and others who heard these words were not even saved until the Day of Pentecost, for we read, “the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.” Jesus, in fact, brings the two feasts, Pentecost and Tabernacles together, and Acts 2 records the fulfillment. Peter quoted from Joel in unfolding the mystery of Pentecost to the astonished bystanders, who thought the 120 were drunken with wine. “It shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy” (2:17-18).

There is an important contrast in the phraseology used by Joel and Peter. They were both inspired by the Holy Spirit and spoke absolute truth, but while Peter said, “in the last days,” Joel said, “Afterward.” Joel's “afterward” defines a distinct timeline. In Chapter 2:1-28, Joel describes the horrible devastation that is yet to occur in Israel, as well as worldwide. There will come a time, however, when Israel will learn through this great hardship, that they cannot trust the protection offered by the nations. The covenants and promises of peace will have failed miserably, and Israel will finally be forced to fall on their knees and cry out to their Messiah. This is when Joel declares: “Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; for He hath given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.” When Israel turns to the Lord, He will bring forth rain which will cause this desert land to blossom as a rose bush. Some people have declared that this promise has already been fulfilled, pointing to the great technology which have made small portions of the desert to thrive. However, all efforts of men today will be completely destroyed, and it will be the supernatural rainfall of God that will be the fulfillment of Isaiah 35:1. This will be after His chosen People have bowed their knees to Him. Then will come the abundance spoken of by Joel: “And the floor shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil. And I will restore to you the years that the locust

hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit.”

These natural rains are a type of the spiritual rains that are to follow, when Israel as a nation will enjoy those glorious blessings and revelations of the Holy Spirit, that we, the Church, have been privileged to experience since the Day of Pentecost.

Joel and Peter both proclaim the advent of the Holy Ghost. But the times are different. Joel's “afterward” is only a part of Peter's “in the last days,” which in reality began at Pentecost. This entire Church Age is a part of the Last Days; however, today we are living in the LAST of the Last Days. The judgment, of which Joel and Peter warned, is yet coming to pass. Although Peter declares the judgment, his primary thrust is in announcing the “rivers of water,” promised by Jesus. The history of “Jesus of Nazareth,” as He performed miracles, but was rejected of men, tortured, crucified, buried, and then raised from the dead the third day is found in Acts 2:22. Jesus had to be glorified before the Holy ghost could be poured out, as Verse 33 points out: “Therefore, being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.”

It is interesting that Joel never mentions speaking in tongues; Peter asserts that the Holy Ghost “hath shed forth this which ye now see and HEAR.” Joel omits this because “speaking in tongues” is sign given exclusively to the Church. This phenomenon does not occur in the Old Testament, nor is there any record of it happening during the Millennium, even though Joel's prophecy surrounds that time. Could it be that there will be only one language at that time? History tells us that there was only one language through the first ten chapters of Genesis. The language barrier did not begin until the tower of Babel, when God confused their one language into many. Be that as it may, God has given the sign of speaking in tongues only to the Church, and though men may try to reason this phenomenon away, Scripture has not removed this sign for the duration of the Church Age.

The Church Age was completely hidden from Joel and the other prophets, although some of them unwittingly wrote of it. Isaiah prophesied of the Day of Pentecost and God's purpose of this age in Chapter 28:9-13: Whom shall He teach knowledge? And whom shall He make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will He speak to the people. To whom He said, this is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing; yet they would not hear. But the Word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken and snared, and taken.”

These words are a beautiful outline describing the ministry of the Holy Ghost during this Church Age. Jesus defined Him as “The Spirit of Truth ... He dwelleth with you and shall be IN you” (John 14:17). He also asserts that He is

“The Spirit of Truth which proceedeth from the Father; He shall testify of me” (John 15:26). The above is a direct reference to Isaiah's description as those to be “weaned from the milk and drawn from the breasts.” In addition, John 16:13 also refers to them: “Howbeit when He the Spirit of Truth is come, He will guide you into all truth; for He shall not speak of Himself, but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come.” This is the purpose for the Church today. God has made provision for the Holy Ghost to lead us into all Truth, that we might grow up in Christ in all things. When the Church, as a whole, refuses this glorious experience and rejects the initial infilling, marked by “speaking in tongues,” they are in fact also rejecting the “rivers of water” promised by Jesus in John 7.

It is imperative that we do not forget to observe this most glorious “feast” in our experience today. We must discover the refreshing waters of His Spirit. We will come to complete rest and refreshment which results from the fullness and ongoing ministry of the Holy Ghost in our lives.

* * * * *

GREAT REJOICING IN MY SOUL

There are peace and rest and glory in my soul;
For the power of redemption, this the goal.
Since the Holy Word, the Seed, planted in my heart indeed;
There's a song of great rejoicing in my soul.

I was crucified with Christ, He paid my toll.
He's my present joyous Life, my future Goal.
On His Word I'm daily fed, growing up into my Head.
There's a song of great rejoicing in my soul.

There is healing for my body, I am whole;
For the Holy Spirit has complete control.
Simply trusting in the Word, sweetest that was ever heard,
There's a song of great rejoicing in my soul.

There is Pentecostal Power in my soul,
In His temple, bells of grace and glory toll.
With the Truth my heart's on fire, I enjoy the heav'nly choir,
There's a song of great rejoicing in my soul.

--- A. S. Copley (Grace & Glory Carols)

Go on sowing!
Though yet no life appears,
The seed is incorruptible;
'Tis working through the years.
Go on sowing!
Thou may'st not reaper be,
Yet with the reaper shall rejoice
Throughout eternity.

**“BE STILL, AND KNOW
THAT I AM GOD”**

Psalm 46:10

There is immense power in stillness. A great saint once said, “All things come to him who knows how to trust and be silent.” The words are pregnant with meaning. A knowledge of this fact would immensely change our ways of working. Instead of restless struggles, we would “sit down” inwardly before the Lord; and would let the Divine forces of His Spirit work out in silence the ends to which we aspire. You may not see or feel the operations of this silent force; but be assured it is always working mightily, and will work for you, if you only get your spirit still enough to be carried along by the currents of its power.

Hannah Whitall Smith

* Incarnation is not evolution. It is a revolution. It is a denial that the original creation can produce anything for God. Otherwise, why the incarnation?

* Christ will not live in the parlor of our hearts, if we entertain the devil in the cellar of our thoughts.

* It is not so important to be serious, as it is to be serious about important things. The monkey wears an expression of seriousness which would do credit to any scholar, but the monkey is serious because he itches.

THE STORIES OF LUKE

Mary the Mother of Jesus, Part 2

Ty Robinson

This interesting story comes from Luke 2:1-20, where there is found a tremendous amount of information. It is important that we clearly understand what took place. Some people have concluded that this is not a unique account of Luke's, for Matthew 1 & 2 also records the story of the birth of Jesus. Matthew does not record the same story.

In Luke 1:26-38, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her she would become the mother of Jesus. In Matthew 1:18-25, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph, and told him that Mary was with child, and not to be afraid to marry her. "Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife; and knew her not (had no marital relations with her) till she had brought forth her firstborn son; and he called His name JESUS." (1:24-25).

In Matthew 2, we do not find the baby Jesus in a manger, but rather as a "young child," a fact mentioned nine times. Comparing Matthew 2:7 with 2:16, He was two years old. Also in Matthew two, we read of the "wise men from the East, and they visited Jesus in a "house" not a manger. The number of wise men is not mentioned, but they brought three gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold was a gift for royalty, a king; frankincense a gift for a priest, and myrrh, a gift for a prophet. These gifts showed symbolically that these wise men knew that Jesus was special. Did they know that Jesus was to be King of kings; the great High Priest and the Prophet of Nazareth of Galilee? It must have been revealed to them that Jesus was King of the Jews, because of their question, Matthew 2:2. There is a lot more to be said about Matthew's account, but for now the focus is on what Luke had to say about the birth of Jesus.

In Luke 2:1-5, we read that Joseph went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, and came into the city of David, called Bethlehem. Mary was also from Nazareth, for the angel, Gabriel, was sent to Nazareth where Joseph and Mary lived. Note also 2:39, at the conclusion of their trip: "And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. So, it is plain to see that the wise men were led by the star to Nazareth, which means "the guarded one."

The Roman method of paying taxes was where one lived, which is logical; however, the Jewish custom was to pay them at the city of one's extraction. Joseph and Mary both came from the royal line of David, and would have been enrolled by Jewish custom according to the tribes and families of Israel. Since his family had its land inheritance near the city of David, Bethlehem, that is where they went. The distance between Nazareth and Bethlehem is around 85 miles. Joseph and Mary made the trip, when Mary was "great with child."

It was while they were there, "the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in

swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” Had the world known who Jesus really was, there would have been room made for Him, but we read in John 1:11: “He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.” In a sense, Jesus began to suffer from the time He was born.

How many people were looking for the coming of Jesus at this time? There were four that we know of from the record. Mary, Joseph, Elisabeth and Zacharias, her husband. Later, we read of Simeon: “and it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ (or, Anointed One). Anna also was another one who was looking for Jesus to come - Luke 2:26 - 38. But, like today, there were relatively few people who were looking for His birth, just as the small number looking for the soon-coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

However, at His first advent, there were certain ones privileged to receive the news of our Savior's birth immediately. “And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night” - 2:8. Let's focus on the shepherds for a moment, and begin to understand their importance in this story of Luke's. The shepherds were the keepers of sheep. Abel is the first sheepkeeper of Scripture (Genesis 4:2). He is also the first worthy of faith listed in Hebrews 11:4. Perhaps the sheep spoken of here were descendants of the sheep David himself watched over in his youth.

There were five tasks of a Near Eastern shepherd listed in Strong's Concordance: (1) To watch for enemies trying to attack the sheep. (2) To defend the sheep from attackers. (3) To heal the wounded and sick sheep. (4) To find and save lost or trapped sheep. (5) To love them, sharing their lives, and so earning their trust. This brings more meaning to the following statements concerning Jesus: “I am the good Shepherd: the good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep” (John 10:11). “I am the good Shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine” (10:14). My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (10:27). Paul wrote in Hebrews 13:20: “Our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep.” In Acts 20:28, Paul makes this statement to the Ephesian elders: “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the Church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28).

The reason these shepherds were watching their flock by night was that it was lambing season, and the beasts of prey were lurking nearby, for new born lambs were easy targets. Also, shepherds often needed to help the sheep giving birth. No doubt, it was Springtime when Jesus was born. Consider these tender compassionate shepherds as they helped and protected the sheep, and especially the new born lambs, and who didn't know what was about to happen to them. God saw to it that they were the very first to see that most precious and tender Newborn Lamb of God, the Baby Jesus! Some 30 years later, John the baptizer would announce to the world: “Behold, the Lamb of God!” (John 1:29 & 36).

Have you ever thought why the shepherds were thus privileged? Pastors are sometimes referred to as shepherds, but more correctly they are overseers of the sheep, like a shepherd. They are to feed their flocks. True pastors always point their sheep to “Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” Jesus told Peter three times in John 21 to “Feed My sheep.” In Luke 2, What were these shepherds' names? How many shepherds were there? How many sheep did they have? This information is not given us, because the focus was not to be upon the shepherd, who he was, what he was wearing, what kind of books he read, or what kind of books he wrote, nor how many sheep he had, but the focus was on Jesus. There were then to spread the good tidings of great joy, that there is a Savior, who is Christ the Lord! Jesus should always be the center of attention, the focus of all pastors!

The multitude of heavenly hosts who announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds were angels. Hebrews 1:6 states: “And again, when He bringeth in the first begotten into the world, He saith, And let all the angels of God worship Him.” Why were these angels so excited to pass this news on concerning Jesus? Because they hadn't seen Him for nine months! I imagine every angel in heaven silently stole a look of Baby Jesus, as they passed back into heaven that night. What a unique and grand sight the shepherds witnessed that same night! Note further in Verse 13, that these angels were not singing, but rather, “saying.” No where in Scripture will you find angels singing.

“And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning the Child” (Luke 2:15-17). Note two things from these verses. First, the shepherds came with haste to witness the birth. Secondly, these shepherds did not keep silent about what they were shown. The word “abroad” means to make known thoroughly; to make known abroad, to publish abroad. Verse 18 confirms their witnessing: “And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.” Note also that those shepherds could not testify of Jesus without first having Christ revealed to them.

Why is it in Matthew 2, when the wise men came from the East unto Jerusalem, some two years later, that no one could be found who knew where Jesus was? It was because the wrong people were being asked. Herod sought the answers to his questions about Jesus from the chief priests and scribes. Supposedly, they would know. They were religious leaders, the educated ones. Herod never consulted the shepherds. He wouldn't have listened the them anyway, for they were only shepherds; they weren't supposed to know anything. This goes to show that you can have all the education you can get and surround yourself with so-called smart people, and be totally ignorant of the most important knowledge in life, that, being Jesus. The shepherds didn't know a lot about Jesus, but they knew He was the Savior. “And the shepherds returned, glorifying

and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them” (2:20).

What about Mary? “Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart” (2:19). Later, the same statement is seen (2:5 1). There are two rarely used Greek words that are translated “kept” in these verses. The word “kept” in Verse 19 means to Preserve, to keep a thing from perishing, or being lost. In Verse 51, it means “to keep continually, or carefully.” She pondered all these things for years. The six statements of Mary recorded in Scripture are found (1) in Luke 1:34; (2) Luke 1:38; (3) Luke 1:46-55. (4) Luke 2:48. (5) John 2:3, and (6) John 2:5. The statements found in Luke 1, were made before Jesus was born. In Luke 2:48, Jesus was 12 years old. The statements in John 2 were made after she had pondered these many things about Jesus in her heart, and all that she had witnessed of Him. In all that time, she had never seen Jesus fail, she had never heard him lie; she had never seen Him unable to solve a problem. She found Him full of grace and truth, and saw nothing that He couldn't do.

It was really John's job to introduce Jesus unto this sinful world; yet in this study, the shepherds were given the first opportunity to witness of Him. Mary knew who Jesus was, yet she kept her silence about Him for 30 years, pondering in her heart, yet kept her silence about Him. May we be more like the shepherds, who make known abroad what little they did know of Jesus.

“But of the times and seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye brethren, are not in darkness that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others, but let us watch and be sober” (I Thessalonians 5:1-6). The shepherds were away at night, watching, and they were among the first to see and to be with Jesus at His first coming. May be like the shepherds, awake and watching, so that we will be in that first rank to see Jesus, and be with Him at His second coming!

I Love To Tell The Story

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story, more wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.

I love to tell the story, 'Tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The Message of Salvation from God's own holy Word.

-- Catherine Hankey

SOMEBODY CARES

“Somebody knows when your heart aches,
And everything seems to go wrong;
Somebody knows when the shadows
Need chasing away with a song.
Somebody knows when you're lonely,
Tired, discouraged, and blue;
Somebody wants you to know Him,
And know that He dearly loves you.

Somebody knows when you're tempted,
And the world grows dizzy and dim;
Somebody cares when you're weakest,
And farthest away from Him.
Somebody grieves when you've fallen,
Though you're not lost from His sight;
Somebody waits for your coming,
Taking the gloom from your night.

Somebody loves you when weary;
Somebody loves you when strong;
Always is waiting to help you.
Watches you - one of the throng,
Needing His friendship so holy.
Needing His watch care so true.
His Name? We call His Name. Jesus.
He loves ev'r one, He loves you.

Our Lord is now rejected,
And by the world disowned,
By the many still neglected,
And by the few enthroned;
But soon He'll come in glory!
The hour is drawing nigh,
For the crowning day is coming
By and by.

The heavens shall glow with splendor;
But brighter far than they
The saints shall shine in glory,
As Christ shall them array:
The beauty of the Saviour
Shall dazzle every eye
In the crowning day that's coming
By and by.

D. W. Whittle

OUR HERITAGE

Immediately after creating the Declaration of Independence, the Continental Congress voted to purchase and import 20,000 copies of Scripture for the people of this nation. Patrick Henry, who is called the firebrand of the American Revolution, is still remembered for his words, "Give me liberty, or give me death;" but in current textbooks, the context of these words is omitted.

He actually said, "An appeal to arms and the God of hosts is all that is left us. But we shall not fight our battle alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone. Is life so dear, or peace so sweet to us to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it Almighty God. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death."

Was Patrick Henry a Christian? The following year, 1776, he wrote this: "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For that reason alone, people of other faiths have been afforded freedom of worship here."

Consider also these words that Thomas Jefferson wrote in the front of his well-worn Bible: "I am a real Christian; that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus. I have little doubt that our whole country will soon be rallied to the unity of our Creator." He was also the chairman of the American Bible Society, which he considered his highest and most important role.

On July 4, 1821, President Adams said, "The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: It connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."

Calvin Coolidge, our 30th President reaffirmed this truth when he wrote: "The foundations of society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible, that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country."

In 1782, the United States Congress voted this resolution: "The Congress of the United States recommends and approves the Holy Bible for use in all schools."

William Holmes McGuffey, is the author of the McGuffey Reader, which was used for over 100 years in our public schools, with over 125 million copies sold, until it was stopped in 1963. President Lincoln called him the "Schoolmaster of the nations." Listen to these words of Mr. McGuffey: "The Christian religion is the religion of our country. From it are derived our nation, on the character of God, on the great moral Governor of the universe. On its doctrines are founded the peculiarities of our free institutions. From no source has the author drawn more conspicuously than from the sacred Scriptures. For all these extracts from the Bible, I make no apology."

Of the first 108 universities founded in America, 106 were distinctly Christian, including the first, Harvard University, chartered in 1636. In the original Harvard Student Handbook, rule Number 1 was that students seeking entrance must know Latin and Greek, so that they could study the Scriptures. "Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the main end of his life and studies, and to know God and Jesus Christ, which is eternal life, John 17:3; and therefore to lay Jesus Christ as the only foundation for our children to follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments."

James Madison, the primary author of the Constitution of the United States, said: "We have staked the whole future of all our political constitutions upon the capacity of each of ourselves to govern ourselves according to the moral principles of the Ten Commandments."

Most of what you have read in this article has been erased from our textbooks. Revisionists have rewritten history to remove the truth about our country's Christian roots. Share this with others. -- - (sent in)

To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. -- Acts 10:43