

Gene Hawkins

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. Luke 21:25,26

“And 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 I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: Acts 2:17-20

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? II Pet. 3:10,12

We have been bombarded for some time now, with reports that global warming is going to destroy planet earth, if man does not take drastic steps to stop the misuse and abuse of earth's natural resources which have caused it. However, we knew something was very different when News Media began to report “climate change” instead of global warming, meaning they simply could not explain record low temperatures in some places, which were far different from the proclamation of the predicted warming trend. The new term is much more scriptural in light of the texts quoted above, but regardless of what it is called, many are still trumpeting the idea that man is causing it, and men are literally clamoring to fix it, manifesting yet another reason for the “distress of nations, with perplexity;” recorded by Luke in our opening text.

Recently “leaked” e-mails, from the UK’s Hadley Centre, added to the confusion when they presented details of “how temperature data was being forged to prove alleged ‘manmade global warming.’ Lord Christopher Monckton, a noted ‘climate skeptic,’ says the actions were criminal and should be prosecuted. ‘The Hadley-CRU temperature data set is simply a joke. It has no scientific data whatsoever,’ he asserts.”

Alaska Magazine also reports that Alaskans are confused by reports that global warming is melting Alaska’s glaciers, a sure sign of impending doom. What they see, however, is that a few of their local glaciers are advancing. Scientists indicate that even though the glaciers in Icy Bay are reaching out farther into the water than they have in recent memory, they are thinning faster than any other glaciers in the state. The same Science Forum also reports that glaciers above 10,000 feet do not change much because the temperature there stays cold. They also say that some glaciers such as the Hubbard Glacier, north of Yakutat is “in an advancing phase and is also gaining in mass, and threatens to dam off Russell Fiord -- as it has several times in the past -- which could cause massive flooding and damage.”

The global warming summit in Copenhagen, following similar summits in Italy and Germany, has also been fraught with chaos. A large contingent of “developing nations” boycotted some of the meetings fearing that some industrial countries were backpedaling in their promises to cut greenhouse gases, while at the same time demanding that poorer nations be included in a plan for more robust emission reductions. Also at issue is the promise for these industrial nations to give billions of dollars to the smaller developing nations, enabling them to convert to other sources of energy that would curb the production of these culprit greenhouse emissions, one of them being carbon dioxide. This is almost laughable because every human on the face of the earth exhales that particular “gas”. In fact, we were taught in elementary school, that carbon dioxide was necessary for the trees to produce oxygen, and some scientists insist that the “normal natural cycle” is for the atmosphere to rid itself, of as much

CO2 as is dumped into it. Other reports have concluded that earth's atmosphere 385 million years ago, contained ten times the levels seen today, and the planet was not destroyed.

Tony Blair, Former British Prime Minister, said (undoubtedly referring to the e-mails out of his own country) that, "even if the science is uncertain, we must still act as though it were." This seems to be the consensus throughout the world, as men relentlessly pursue their quest to control global temperatures. When the aforementioned e-mails came to light, it seemed that the mainstream media were very reluctant to report it, and when they did, the reports were of some scientists literally enraged that anyone would dare question their "scientific" proof of man made global warming.

The debate in this matter is much like the ongoing controversy over creation, revealing the very heart of man. Scripture plainly declares in the first chapter of Romans that God gave creation as an absolute proof of Himself, thus leaving men without excuse as to His Existence. "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:" V. 19,20 Men truly believe that if they can scientifically disprove the "theory" of creation, they can indeed rid themselves of God. Likewise, there is a definite agenda propelling the idea of global warming and it is control. We see it on two major fronts. First, man truly believes that if he has caused the problem, surely he can fix it, and that idea is as old as Adam, who was directly responsible for the fall of all humanity in the Garden of Eden, and immediately used his ingenuity to sew the fig leaf aprons to cover his nakedness. However, he very quickly learned, that though he was responsible for the damage, he could in no wise "fix it." Only God, through the marvelous redemption in Christ Jesus, could accomplish that task. We are often amazed at the astounding strides man has made in changing his environment. He discovered fire to protect himself from the cold, and created air conditioning to shield from the heat. He has created dikes and levies to control devastating flood waters

and has been ingenious in building skyscrapers that will withstand rather strong tremors from earthquakes. He found ways to bring water to otherwise arid lands and make them into productive fields, but his commitment to ensure that the temperature of the earth will not rise “more than 2 degrees C (3.6 degrees F) above preindustrial levels,” to prevent global damage as some scientists warn, is something that only God can control. It seems that each side of this global warming debate has its own scientists and R. Timothy Patterson, professor of geology and director of the Ottawa-Carleton Geoscience Center of Canada’s Carleton University, says, “I and the first class scientists I work with, are consistently finding excellent correlations between the regular fluctuations of the sun and earthly climate. This is not surprising. The Sun and the stars are the ultimate source of energy on this planet.”

Other scientists confirm this same conclusion, as reported in the National Geographic. “Habibullo Abdussamatov, head of the St. Petersburg’s Pulkovo Astronomical Observatory in Russia, says the Mars data is evidence that the current global warming on Earth is being caused by changes in the sun.” That “data,” shows that “In 2005, data from NASA’s Mars Global Surveyor and Odyssey missions revealed that the carbon dioxide “ice caps” near Mars’s south pole had been diminishing for three summers in a row. Mr. Abdussamatov thus concludes that “The long-term increase in solar irradiance is heating both Earth and Mars,”

Still other reports have cited evidence of temperatures also rising on planets such as Jupiter and Pluto, where man with his shroud of greenhouse gasses has not been, thus proving Peter’s assertion that heat is beginning to rise in the entire universe and will culminate by the melting of the elements “with fervent heat.” II Pet. 3:10,12

All these assertions combine to tell us emphatically that the sun is getting hotter, and scripture confirms that fact, foretelling events shortly to transpire in the tribulation. “ And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God,

which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.” Rev. 16:8,9

Scripture is very emphatic that we are to conserve, and use all our resources wisely, but with all his efforts to “go green,” the puny efforts of men will never prevent these prophecies of “global warming” from being fulfilled. Only God “hath power over these plagues....”

The second avenue of control, enacted by the threat of global warming, is that of personal lives being forced under the authority of government requirements. We have stated before in these pages that the very spirit of antichrist is already at work, to establish a one-world government, to be given into the hand of the man of sin, the son of perdition. We are witnessing the early stages of such a government, as regimes around the world are making every effort to implement mandatory policies to bring earth’s entire population into submission. One of the major goals of the global warming issue is to eliminate the need for oil, and one of the major issues in the 2008 U.S. Presidential election was to convert from fossil fuels to wind and solar energy. Once again, scripture is quite emphatic in telling us that such a scenario will not come to pass. “And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.” Rev. 6:5-6 This scene takes place well into the tribulation, when there will be great shortages of food and other commodities, due to the ravages of war. The cry to preserve the wine could well be a reference to the fact that drinkable water may not be available, because it is so polluted, but “hurt not the oil,” indicates that it is still a most sought after and valuable resource, having by no means been eliminated by the demands of global warming advocates. At the time then present, it is quite clear that the nations will in no wise be worrying about leaving their “carbon foot print” on the atmosphere as they lubricate and fuel their war machines with oil while they press headlong toward Armageddon.

At this point, we simply do not know how many additional restrictions will be imposed by the requirements of global warming, but the signs announced by Jesus and others, are quickly coming to pass before our very eyes. Rather than being consumed by fear due to the, sometimes preposterous, proposals of men, these things should pull our hearts and our eyes upward, because we do see them as harbingers of the coming of Jesus. I recently received a rather sizable offering for Grace and Glory, from a dear brother who said: "We thought we would send you this check now so you can use it before the rapture." What a glorious scriptural sentiment reflecting two glorious admonitions of Jesus. "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 ".....Occupy till I come." Luke 19:13

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**FINISHED**

The sculptor laid his tools aside;  
Unfinished, though he was, he died.

The artist, with his work undone,  
Laid down his brush at set of sun.

The writer, with his tale half told,  
No linger to his life could hold.

The farmer put away his plow,  
Sod still unturned, he's resting now.

God's Son alone, triumphant died,  
For "It is finished!" Jesus cried.

The price is paid, the battle's won,  
The great work of, salvation done.

Because He finished, all for me,  
Complete in Him, I know I'll be.

--Edith Bergman

“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.” Proverbs 31:10-12.

"I adjure you, in the presence of God and of Jesus Christ who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom; preach the Word, be zealous in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, encourage, with the utmost patience and instruction. For a time is coming when men will not tolerate wholesome instruction, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will find a multitude of teachers to satisfy their own fancies and will close their ears to the truth and turn away to fables." II Tim. 4:1-4 (Weymouth)

Paul, in this epistle, is informing Timothy of the spiritual condition in the last days (Ch. 3:1), wherein we are now living. It was revealed to Paul, thru the Holy Spirit, that man's religion would mobilize forces against the Word of God and withstand it, even as the religious world during Jesus' earthly career withstood Him who was the Living Word, and would not have Him to reign over them. The natural man, even in believers who fail to walk in the light of God's Word, cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 2:14), therefore, must turn away their ears from the Truth, unto the multitude of teachers who can tickle their itching ears with fables. Paul informs us of this existing condition, but he also declares there are luminaries or lights set to guide and deliver honest, sincere, hearts who seek deliverance from this appalling condition.

Our opening text asks, "Who can find a virtuous woman?" It is made known to us through Paul, that the Body of Christ is likened to a woman. Eph. 5:22-23. The Virtuous Woman consists of believers who are separated unto Christ, recognizing and holding Him only as their Head, in both word and practice. When Paul brought this matter before the Corinthian believers, he charged them with being in a carnal state and walking as babes: "And, I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto

babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk and not with meat; for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal; for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal and walk as men? for while one saith, I am of Paul; another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?" I Cor. 3:1-4. "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same things, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? (split up - Weymouth) was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? I Cor. 1:10-13. Only a few of these believers recognized Christ as their rightful HEAD,-- while the majority said they belonged to men such as - Apollos, Cephas and Paul -- other heads, -- a practice which caused contentions, divisions, denominations or sects among them, and robbed Christ of His rightful place as Head and Lord. Though God gave Paul the truth for the building up of believers unto a perfect man, he reprimanded even that portion of the Corinthian saints who said they were of him (Paul), by asking, "Was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?" If Paul's teaching had been heeded, none of them would even have declared, "I am of Paul," but all would have said, "I am of Christ." Christ alone was crucified for them, and only in His name were they baptized (Acts 10:48, 19:5) He alone drank the bitter cup and tasted death for every man, and God raised Him from the dead, far above all principality, and power, and "has appointed HIM universal HEAD of the CHURCH. which is HIS BODY". Eph 1:22. Believers, who abide by Paul's instructions, will absorb his teaching, thus permitting Christ to be Head in reality, - that is, both in word and in deed or practice. This error of declaring themselves of men was disastrous to their spiritual development, and was then, as is today, the vital cause of all the corruption and refusal of truth among believers. Through

our Apostle Paul, we learn this is a serious practice, which will hinder believers from winning Christ as Bridegroom. As it was then, so today, believers with "other heads", though they may have a far distant vision that there is such a glorious privilege as winning Christ as Bridegroom, yet have never entered upon the race course, for the attention and devotion is divided between other heads" and the Lord, thus wanting to please and serve both, which is impossible.

Paul's teachings will build us up (Acts 20:32), and set us upon the racecourse, enabling us to "so run that we may obtain," or win Christ as our Bridegroom. With such a marvelous opportunity offered us, no sacrifice, suffering or loss should be considered too great. We "count all things loss for the EXCELLENCY of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord" Phil. 3:8

Paul, in writing to the Corinthians, reproves them in keen irony for their religious egotism and superficial spirituality, which resulted from their refusal to heed his instructions. "But ye, forsooth, (in truth) have eaten to the full, ye are rich, ye have seated yourselves upon your throne and have no longer need of me. Would that you were enthroned, that I, too, might reign with you." I Cor 4:8 (Conybeare). When the Word of God is rejected by this element of believers today, they will announce with all super-spirituality (?), "I will follow Christ, I don't care what Paul says", possibly not realizing they are rejecting the Word of God, as though it were the word of man, thus casting away their own rewards by perverting the Scriptures to their own loss.

As we see organized divisions, (denominations) like an octopus, with its many tentacles entwining the hearts of God's people, we realize the need of stressing the vital truth of the Headship of Christ. "Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one Husband, that I may present a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth

another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with me". II Cor. 11:1-4. Paul's concern for the spiritual development of these believers was so much deeper than their own realization of their spiritual need, that this certain element did not appreciate his interest in them, but considered his instructions and admonitions as "folly". "PAUL'S FOLLY" is this marvelous truth of CHRIST THE HEAD OF THE BODY WHICH IS THE CHURCH. He implores them to put up with him a little in "HIS FOLLY". He had betrothed the whole Church to Christ, therefore is mightily moved by the Holy Spirit with deep concern for their growth and chastity. "Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it; That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish". Eph. 5:23. ONLY CHRIST is the SAVIOUR OF HIS OWN BODY, the CHURCH. Other heads do not save the BODY, but corrupt, defile and destroy.

Though the Church was betrothed to Christ, she, as a whole, has broken her engagement, through her attention to other lovers or heads, and becoming one with them. Paul likens this beguilement of believers to the beguilement of Eve by Satan. Adam, is a figure of Christ (Rom 5:14), even as Eve is a type of the Church (2 Cor 11:2-3). It was through Satan's shrewdness that he deceived and persuaded Eve to believe him, instead of abiding by the words of her rightful head, Adam. Though God had given this commandment to Adam before He had given Adam his help meet (Gen.2:16-18), Adam was faithful to inform Eve of God's command (Gen. 3:1-3). All believers are saved by grace, through believing on the Lord Jesus Christ (Gal. 4:6), and become joined to the Lord in one spirit (1 Cor 6:17), but many become deceived as did Eve, and receive another Jesus (or head) whom Paul did not preach, and they become one with other heads. Such believers are controlled by other heads, rather than Christ, and their religious activities are controlled by sectarianism or organized divisions.

Oh, that God's people would let the Holy Spirit awaken them to the fact that Jesus Christ is not a divine Being, far off, Who does not understand the nature of a man, but He became partaker of flesh and blood (Heb. 2:14-16) through being made of a woman (Gal. 4:14), and tabernacled in a body such as we possess, - but sinless. He is a God-Man, now a glorified God-Man, who is going to take unto Himself a wife, a company of people fully matured, who have placed Him first in their lives, and are amply qualified to reign with Him and share in executing His affairs.

When we learn that some man, who has been engaged to a woman, is not going to marry her because she is not loyal to him, but has been unfaithful by sharing her love and devotion with other men, we do not censure him for breaking off the engagement. But on the contrary, we would think it strange if he **should** marry her. Much more, will Jesus have a Bride who is faithful to Him as her Head and Lord. By permitting Christ to reign supremely in our lives now, we are ready as the Lamb' wife, for that great marriage which is to come. "Let us rejoice and triumph and give Him the glory; for the marriage day of the Lamb has come, and his Bride hath made herself ready. She has been allowed to robe herself in fine linen of dazzling purity - the fine linen being the "righteous actions of the saints." Rev. 19:7-8 (Weymouth)

There is no need to enquire, "Who are these other heads today?" Every sect or division that has sprung up since the beginning of the Church Age, has divided the Body of Christ, and each has a name of its own with its own head. Paul writes, "I hear that there are divisions among you; and I partly believe it. For there must be also heresies (sects) among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you." I Cor. 11:18-19. Heresies against Paul's orthodox doctrine were beginning and are present today, ever seeking to divide the Body of Christ. Paul advises Titus to reject a HERETIC (Sectarian) after the first and second admonitions. "A sectarian after two admonitions, reject, knowing that such a man is perverted, and by his sins is self-condemned." Titus 3:10-11 (Conybeare). Christendom has placed the cart before the horse, and brands believers who reject other heads than Christ,

as "heretics". They warn believers who have been lured into their organized divisions to have nothing to do with such "heretics". But Paul informs us, "There MUST be also HERESIES among you, that THEY which are APPROVED may be made MANIFEST among you." He also writes to Timothy, "Study to show thyself APPROVED UNTO GOD, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Tim. 2:15. Believers who seek God's will, and walk in the light of His Word will become MANIFEST among all believers, - to one element they will be manifest as being far-fetched or narrow in their ideas, - while to the more spiritual they will be manifest as PILLARS of spiritual comfort and encouragement. Most marvelous of all, such believers are APPROVED UNTO GOD.

Believers were called "CHRISTIANS" or ANOINTED ONES, first at Antioch. "And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called CHRISTIANS first at Antioch." Acts 11:26. It is not necessary for believers to take other names, 'so people will know who we are,' as some express it. Jesus said, "Ye belong to Christ." The believer has no promise or reward for being reproached under the names of sects or organized denominations (other heads), but there is a promise or reward for suffering as a CHRISTIAN. "Blessed are you if you a reproached for BEARING THE NAME OF CHRIST; for the Spirit of glory - even the Spirit of God is resting upon you. If however, anyone suffers because he is a CHRISTIAN, "let him not be ashamed, BUT LET HIM GLORIFY GOD FOR THAT NAME."\_1 Peter 4:14-16 (Weymouth).

One of the outstanding characteristics of the Philadelphia Assembly, and that for which Christ highly commends her, is that she has not denied the NAME OF CHRIST. "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." Rev. 3:8. She is the Assembly who has made herself ready to be Christ's wife, "A VIRTUOUS WOMAN" in reality.

## THE *Awakening* WE NEED

***“Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion, put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city....Shake thyself from the bands of they neck, O captive daughter of Zion.” Isaiah 52:1-2***

The ancient icons of the Hebrews depicted Israel as a captive maiden -- laden with chains, defiled by dust -- seated under an olive tree in dejection and apathy. From this familiar figure Isaiah drew his stirring appeal. Today, as then, the Church needs an awakening. God's prophets need to be the type of men who know how to awaken the Church. People with an airy optimism often decry this awakening message. They label God's ministers as "depressive personalities," but no truly spiritual person resents an "awakening" message. Can any candid and knowledgeable person argue that the Church does not desperately need this in our day? To the modern church as to ancient Israel, the prophet has some pungent directives:

"Shake thyself." The commandments of God always imply free moral agency and the possibility of compliance. We wait for God to shake us, when God admonishes us to shake ourselves. God is not responsible for our apathy. He expects us to face our spiritual captivity with determination, and marshal the necessary energy to be liberated. The will is the supreme moral factor of the soul. It is the deciding factor. Exert it to the fullest -- "shake thyself." The will can be terribly feeble on moral and spiritual issues, it is not easy to employ our powers of right choice, because we have formed the habit of neglect. We have cultured a spiritual stupor by inaction, but it *can be done*, "for it is God that worketh in you."

"Arise, and sit down." These might seem to be conflicting ideas, but they are not. The Church is to sit in the heavenly places with Christ -- her proper position. But she has left the throne for the street, the demonstration of the Spirit for demonstrations in defiance of the powers that are ordained of God. She is a captive of the confusion that reigns. The redemptive note is muffled by the raucous cry of the clashing forces of an age in revolution. Her enemies would persuade her that her God is dead and that her message is irrelevant. By deadly compromise her enemies would lure her into the delusion that the Kingdom in which she is destined to rule is

the kingdom of secularism, but there is hope in the prophet's appeal. If the Church will arise and *sit down* with her Lord in her rightful position of authority in the heavenlies, again, as in other dark days of her history, the ends of the earth shall see her salvation.

"Loose thyself." Spiritual freedom was once highly prized by true Christians. For the freedom the fathers paid the heavy price of persecution and ostracism. Their children have forgotten the meaning of the word. If spiritual freedom is advocated or preached, it is regarded as associated with some fanatical or foolish display. "The bands" of our necks have choked out the notes of victory and the expressions of our glorious freedom. The quietness of death reigns in many sanctuaries, and we have many substitutes for our once treasured freedom. Some rejoice that the old era has passed and that we can now worship the Lord without the uneasiness or embarrassment of demonstration. There are countless others, however, who hunger to hear the victorious shouts and the triumphant notes of deliverance, and to experience the waves of glory. They still believe that the fire is the attractive element of Christianity. A loud and fervent "amen" would startle a great many people. A watered-down version of the true Gospel has embraced many psychological terms that empty our theology of its true promise of spiritual freedom. We have drifted so far that we *put up* with the "old man" instead of *putting him off*.

"Put on thy strength." The strength of the Church is the Holy Spirit. When the early Church surged forth from the upper room to wage war against paganism, it did not put on the strength of political alliances, secular programs, or pontifical blessing. Without the active direction and leadership of the Holy Spirit there would have been no Book of Acts. Our fathers may have been deficient in some areas, but they knew where their strength lay. The humble men and women of God, in both pulpit and pew, worshipping in small buildings, often under bitter persecutions, knew from whence their help came. They did not major in minors; they majored in the Holy Spirit. With all due regard to the demands imposed upon the modern church by a changing society, our imposing buildings do not guarantee revival. Our increasingly complex educational structure, our highly trained ministry, our attempt to wring a little more mileage out of imposing statistics, and to realize our

mission through promotion, and our endless streams of publicity, are not the strength of the church. "Projecting our image," "restructuring our organizations," "relevance," "communication," "encounter," and a score of other terms are only an exercise in semantics unless we put on our strength -- the Holy Spirit.

"Put on thy beautiful garments" -- The beautiful garment of unity. Christian unity may exist without ecumenism. It has yet to be proved that any church merger has been statistically profitable. Merger often destroys personal initiative, so vital to progress. It sometimes results only in more protesting splinter groups. True unity of the Spirit exists without organization. Unity is not conformity, nor is it uniformity. A "structured" unity may be only an uneasy façade for misgiving, compromise, and frustration. The record of history shows that the same Holy Spirit who unites Christians, also divides them for the sake of a purer faith, a more vital spiritual life, and a more effective witness. To be *one* does not necessarily mean that all need to be alike.

The beautiful garments of holy living. The fathers spoke much of separation. The Church today would moderate rather than accentuate its differences. It is fast erasing its distinction. The gap between holy principle and holy practice is widening alarmingly. To win the world (so goes the argument) we must not make the mistake of appearing different. While the cry to conform is raised, however, worldliness is sapping our lives away. Let us "strengthen the things that remain."

The beautiful garments of evangelism. The disconsolate maiden to whom Isaiah spoke had lost her vision to be a light to the world. What is more beautiful than a witnessing church? She faces the day with courage. She defies the erosion of secularism. She overcomes worldliness. She is not confused as those who are wandering in the ecclesiastical underbrush, trying to define the Church's "mission." Evangelism in a church streams like light from the sun. she does not say, "Ye must be," but says "Ye shall be witnesses."

Such a church will be in business until Jesus comes. Serenely confident in her Lord, she will overcome.

-- L.W. Northrup

# The PENTECOST

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Go Ye into all the World and Preach the Gospel to Every Creature. Mark 1 6: I 5

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Volume II. Kansas City, Mo., January 1, 1910. Number 2

This issue of Grace and Glory marks one hundred years of continuous publication for this little “white winged messenger” of truth. As seen above, it was still called “The Pentecost,” which had been co-edited by A.S. Copley and J. Roswell Flower, and there are copies of it, dating back to August 1908.

According to Bro. Flower’s farewell testimony, which appeared in the February 1910 issue, he had “remained in Kansas City until November 7th, when I felt definitely led to launch out into the harvest field for personal work.”

It is rather amusing that the January 1910 issue records the following announcement revealing the fact that Bro. Copley was now “flying solo” in publishing the magazine.

“A Blunder and Explanation.

Though filled with the Spirit, we are not yet beyond the possibility of mistakes. The readers no, doubt discovered that they had to read each page of the December number of Pentecost from right to left. (Ed. Note. The page layout comprised 3 columns) How came this blunder? Brother Flower had heretofore done all the mechanical work on the paper in preparation for the printer, thus saving about \$4.00 each issue. Since his departure, this fell to me. In my first attempt at making up the form, I reversed the arrangement of the columns. We trust that you will bear with this mistake counting on Rom. 8:28, provided it is not repeated. This, by God's grace, we promise. In His goodness, the dear Lord lets things come into our lives as He sees we have need of them, to keep us humble. For He alone knows what is in man.

We thank all the Pentecost family for your past interest and prayers and freewill offerings and solicit their continuance for Jesus' sake.”

The name “Grace and Glory” does not appear on the cover until the May 1911 issue, wherein Bro. Copley gives the following explanation for the name change.

“ ‘Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward—’ Ex. 14:15

For many months we have seen that God does not want us to encamp around the second chapter of the Acts of the apostles, but

that He would have us to go on to perfection. There are beginnings, unfoldings and consummations of God's plans and dealings with His people. The Holy Spirit is given to us to lead us into all the truth concerning His Son. But we must follow His leadings. Then He will bring to our view all the spiritual blessings with which we are blessed in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:4), and our inheritance in Him, and God's inheritance in the saints, as well as the power which is to usward who believe (Eph. 1:18,19).

It is our duty as teachers to shun not to declare all the counsel of God. Accordingly, we have had a conviction for some time that we should change the name of our paper. The title "Pentecost" is too narrow. It is not sufficiently comprehensive. We waited on the Lord. And while in prayer with the saints one evening, He most, wonderfully gave us this new name. There came to us a heart-sickening sense of the deep-seated, widespread legality in the hearts of God's dear people, and how that He wanted them to know His matchless grace. With this revelation came also this beautiful Scriptural - combination--"Grace and Glory," and a profound conviction that it should be the new title for the paper. So here it is. For making the design, we are deeply indebted to dear Dr. D. W. Dumble of Toronto, Ontario. He has taken great delight in doing this work for us for Jesus' sake and highly appreciates the title. We are devoutly thankful to him and grateful to God for this rare kindness.

We earnestly solicit the believing prayers of the saints that God will enable us to issue a paper worthy of His name and in harmony with the title, which we believe He has led us to adopt. We believe that "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" (Isa. 40:5).

I am quite sure that Bro. Copley did not envision the publishing of Grace and Glory for one hundred years, for his writings reveal that he thought the coming of The Lord was eminent. He did however, have a vision of publishing The Truth until the bride of Christ was taken out of this world. We still have that same vision today, and are believing God for the same grace and power that has sustained this ministry down through the years.

The following message, beginning on page 20, was published in the January 1910 issue, and is evidently the last in a series he preached entitled "Pentecost in Type."

GH

Pentecost in Type  
A.S. Copley  
Seventh Type – The Eyes Of The Lord

"And I saw and behold in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders, a Lamb standing as having been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes which are the seven Spirits of God which have been sent into all the earth." -Rev. 5:6.  
"And seven lamps of fire burning before the throne which are the seven Spirits of God."-Rev. 4:5 (Int.)

"And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord, and shall make Him of quick scent in the fear of the Lord."-Isa. 11:2-3.

We now come to the last of the seven **types** of the Holy Spirit. There are also seven typical events and seven typical persons foreshadowing Pentecost which may be considered later. This last, the Eyes of the Lord, is a rich study. May God make it a deep abiding blessing to many.

Observe that God has seven Eyes. (See also Zech. 4:10.) And these Eyes are declared to be the seven Spirits of the Lord. The number seven always stands for completeness, fullness, symmetry dispensationally. It includes the divine number three and the human number four. It therefore represents God's perfect dealings with men in the earth during the seven dispensations, or ages of probation. The number seven cannot be divided. The divine element predominates and subdues the human, so that yielding man and conquering God become gloriously one. This number, therefore, as referring to the Holy Spirit indicates His perfection and fullness of wisdom, knowledge, power, love and tender watch-care over His cause and people and His just judgment against the wicked and all sin. There should be no lack of confidence in us toward the all-roundness and fullness of the Holy Spirit's treatment of us as we seek God's glory alone. However, let us look a little further into this matter. What about these seven Eyes?

### Their Omnipresence.

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the evil and the good."-Prov. 15:3. "Behold, the eyes of the Lord God are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from off the face of the earth; saving that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob, saith the Lord. For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth. All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, which say, The evil shall not overtake nor prevent us."-Amos 9:8-10.

How foolish, then, to try to hide anything from God. How foolish to propagate any selfish or wicked scheme. God, in His faithfulness, will bring every evil to a dismal end. Every little secret wicked device will be hunted out and judged, for the seven eyes of the Lord are diligent and untiring in their search.

But these eyes also behold the good. How encouraging! How comforting! No real good that the Eyes of Love do not see. Much that passes for good is only sham, or born of selfishness. Divine wisdom discerns the genuine, and not a grain will fall to the earth. Every deed of kindness, every word of comfort, every smile of love, flowing from a Christian heart, is noticed and will receive its reward. Oh, let us go on letting Jesus have His way; let Him live in us and bless the world through us as He wills.

### Their Unbounded Service.

Here is one of the most amazing statements in all the scriptures "The Eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong in behalf of him (strongly to hold with him, mark), whose heart is perfect toward Him."--2 Chron. 16:9. King Asa proved this word true when "the Ethiopians and the Lubims, a huge host with very many chariots and horsemen," came against him. For God quickly delivered them into his hand. Some time afterwards, when Baasha came against Judah, Asa turned to the king of Syria for help, instead of to the Lord. Whereupon Hanani gave him

this word from God as a stern rebuke. It stands forth in bold relief as a perpetual reproof to any resorting to human aid for spirit, soul or body. "Woe unto them that go down to Egypt for help." These words are also the mightiest impetus to put implicit trust in God. Just look at them. Here is the power of Jehovah; here are His untiring activity and omnipresence in our behalf; here are His perfect wisdom and oversight. The unlimited resources of infinite love and might at the service of finite man. Oh, how wonderful! There is only one condition stipulated--"to him whose heart is perfect toward Him." Ah, here is where we stumble. We say: "My heart is not perfect. Or how can I know that my heart is perfect toward God? How can I have a perfect heart?" It is true we can not make our hearts perfect. But the Lord can, praise His name! And He will gladly do so if we ask Him. He will most gladly deliver us from all sin and self and fill us with perfect love. Better still, Christ Jesus will dwell in us and become our perfection. Take His very affections for your heart and His wisdom for your mind--"but we have the mind of Christ." Take Him for all. "For He is made unto us of God, wisdom, even righteousness and sanctification and redemption."-1 Cor. 1:30. Do not try to take perfection, or patience, or anything abstractly from God. But take Christ as a person for everything in detail. "In Him we are made full." Appropriate Him as your perfection of love and faith and heart and Christian character. Then this amazing promise is yours for His glory. You can depend upon it and draw on it whenever you have need. Remember that the seven Eyes of the Lord, the fullness of God, are at the disposal of your faith.

“The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of the assemblies, which are given from one shepherd.” – Eccl. 12:11

Reprint January 1910

# ***THE UNIQUE CHRIST***

***“But He was wounded for our transgressions;  
He was bruised for our iniquities:  
The chastisement of our peace was upon Him  
And with His stripes we are healed.”  
Isaiah 53:5***

He came from the bosom of the Father to the bosom of a woman. He put on humanity that we might put on divinity. He became the Son of man that we might become sons of God. He came from Heaven where the rivers never freeze, winds never blow, frosts never chill the air, flowers never fade, and no one is ever sick.

He was born in a supernatural way, lived in poverty, reared in obscurity, only once, in early childhood, crossed the boundary of the land. He had no wealth, no influence, and no college education; yet the profoundest wisdom of man has never equaled His last discourses in John 13-17, and the sermon on the mount. “Never man spoke like this Man!”

His relatives were inconspicuous and non-influential. In infancy He startled a king; in boyhood He puzzled the doctors, even at 12 years of age, proving He was far in advance to the theologians, for He was taught of God. In manhood He ruled the elements, so that He could defy the laws of gravitation by walking on the water, and quieted the raging sea. He healed multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His services. He never wrote a book, yet not all the libraries of the world can hold the books that have been written about Him. He never wrote a song, yet He has furnished the theme of more songs than all other songs combined. He never founded a college, yet all the schools could not boast of as many students as he has taught. He never practiced medicine and yet He healed more broken hearts than the doctors have broken bodies.

He never marshaled an army, drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun, yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have under His order made rebels stack arms or surrender without a shot being fired.

He is the Harmonizer of all discords and the Healer of all diseases.. Great men have come and gone, yet He lives

on.. Herod could not kill Him, death could not destroy Him, the grave could not hold Him, and even demons obeyed Him. He fed the multitude with a little boy's lunch, broke up funerals and gave life back to some who had died.

He laid aside His purple robe for a peasant's gown. He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor. How poor? Ask Mary. Ask the wise men. He slept in another's manger; He cruised the lake in another's boat; He rode on a borrowed beast; He had no certain place to lay His head; He was buried in a rich man's tomb.

He conquered death, rose the third day as He said He would; ascended into Heaven and is now at the right hand of the throne of God. He will one day come in the clouds of heaven for His own born-again ones to be forever with Him, as He promised. Then He will come with power and great glory and judge the world in righteousness, when every knee shall bow to Him and every tongue shall confess Him as Lord. His friends and followers will receive Him gladly, but His enemies will seek for a place to hide from the face of His wrath.

The ever perfect One -- He is the Chief among ten thousand. He is the only One who can satisfy the soul and give everlasting life to all those who believe. He is altogether lovely and He is my Savior.

-- Sent In (Author unknown)

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MY PRAYER

***Lord Jesus, make Thyself to me
A living, bright reality;
More present to faith's vision keen
Than any outward object seen;
More dear, more intimately nigh
Than e'en the sweetest earthly tie.
- Anon -***

* The measure of a Christian is not how great his faith is but how great his love is.

* Let your testimony be written in large enough letters that the world can always read it.

Lessons in **HEBREWS** Continued

Ch. 11 Concluded

NOAH a preacher of righteousness - II Peter 2:5. Noah agreed with Abel and preached Abel's doctrine of righteousness based upon and springing from sacrifice; because he "found grace in the eyes of the Lord" - Genesis 6:8. "**Noah walked with God**" and learned His perfect will for that day. God made him peer into the future, even as He does all His faithful prophets, and he "prepared an ark to the saving of his house," by which others would have been saved from a watery grave if they had believed his prophetic word. The animals and birds had more faith than the people, and went into the ark. By his faith, he condemned the world, because the world is filled with unbelief and controlled thereby. Men persecute those who believe God, because they are brought under conviction by the obedient and holy walk of the saints, which is the fruit and proof of faith. Jesus Christ is the Ark of safety from the storm of God's wrath to all who trust in Him. "**Noah was a just man;**" that is, justified, or righteous as to his standing. He was also "**perfect in his generations;**" that is, his state measured up to his standing - Gen. 6:9. Paul says here, that by faith "he became heir of the righteousness which is by faith," which refers to his perfect walk. We receive initial righteousness by one first act of faith when we turn to God from sin and idolatry. Then we are justified, or reckoned righteous. But we also inherit a life of righteousness by walking with God by faith. In the New Testament, this is expressed as inheriting everlasting life - Matt. 19:29, Gal. 6:8 and I Tim. 6:12. By faith, a sinner obtains justification and eternal life; and by a walk of faith, a saved man, a saint, inherits eternal life as a finished product, and finally receives a "**crown of righteousness**" -II Tim. 4:8.

ABRAHAM, "the father of the faithful," came on the scene about 1,000 years after Enoch. He was a unique character. So many precious things, many phases of doctrine cluster around his career, the which would fill a book. His faith as an adventurer, an explorer, is emphasized here. "He went out not knowing whither he went:" but he believed God, and his faith was counted in him for righteousness - Rom. 4:2,5. By faith he obeyed. By faith he sojourned and taught his children the life of faith. He dwelt in a strange country by

faith, which his earthly progeny shall yet possess and enjoy, and that doubtless very soon. And "he looked." Four things recorded here that Abraham did, which bounded his entire career. But later, as if the Apostle had forgotten, we read that "by faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac" -vs. 17, which was the expression of perfect faith. He offered his own son, in whom were wrapped the fulfillment of all the promises made to him. If he should slay him, how would God make His word good? God would have to raise him from the dead, which very thing He actually reckoned to Abraham in a figure. Likewise, God had faith in His own mysterious and stupendous scheme of redemption. His Son, 2,000 years later, died on a cruel cross, was buried and raised again from the dead, that all the divine superstructure of the new creation should be on resurrection ground. Isaac's figurative death and resurrection foreshadowed that great truth; therefore, the Holy Spirit did not let Paul overlook it.

SARAH, mother of the faithful, also appears in the hall of fame. By faith in the supernatural, she gave birth to a son. A careful study of these characters shows that the miraculous, the supernatural, the unusual enveloped every one. And since we are the spiritual; offspring of Abraham and Sarah, or of faith and grace, we should expect our God and Father to work wonders for us; for we live by faith and not by sight. Let us, like Sarah, continually judge Him faithful who has promised. Then we shall never know depression, nor defeat. Sarah is a figure of the heavenly Jerusalem; for "**Jerusalem which is above is free**, which is the mother of us all" - Gal. 4:26. God counts us as free as our father and mother, Abraham and Sarah, as free as heaven itself; and we should suffer no one to put us under bondage. Legality glories in its self-righteous uprightness; but let us glory only in the Lord of righteousness, by whom we were born eternally free. Read Jeremiah 9:23,24. "**These all died in faith**, not having received the promises." This is written of Abraham and Sarah and of Isaac and Jacob. Seven significant facts of faith are stated here concerning them. They received not the promises; they saw them afar off; were persuaded of them; embraced them; confessed their pilgrim life, and thus declared their hope of another, a heavenly city and country; and they died. Note the logical gradation of those facts. They not only saw the promises; but they were persuaded of their certainty and

value. Nor did they stop there; but they embraced them. That is the only profitable way to read the Bible, or hear it expounded. Only what we embrace really becomes our own. If they declared themselves strangers and pilgrims on earth, because they looked for a better, a heavenly land, though far away; how much more should we, who see the heavenly city so very near. According to verses 39 and 40, they must wait for the fulfillment of those promises until they are fulfilled to us also. Oh, how devotedly to our coming Bridegroom we should live.

ISAAC, the laughing son; for Isaac means laughter. “**By faith** Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.” We must refer to Genesis 27 for an understanding of this statement, which we will consider in studying chapter 12:16,17. **JACOB, the supplanter.** “By faith Jacob, when he was dying blessed both the sons of Joseph.” Observe that Paul does not aim to emphasize the blessings which Isaac and Jacob bestowed; but he emphasized the fact of their faith. This is a faith chapter. The Patriarchs were people renowned for their simple faith in God, which is recorded to stimulate us unto unswerving confidence in the Lord. He overrules our shortcomings as long as we steadfastly and absolutely trust Him; but He abominates self-righteousness and self glorying. Men repeatedly shoot at Jacob, even preachers do, parading his crookedness before the public and poking fun at his promise to pay tithes; but the Holy Spirit has recorded him among the worthies of faith in this sublime hall of honor. Even his supplanting of Esau was by faith. Let us not speak lightly of God’s men and women. “Touch not mine anointed,” God said. Men have no ground for saying that Jacob did not keep his promises to pay tithes.

JOSEPH, the dreamer and king. “By faith Joseph when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel and gave commandment concerning his bones.” He believed God’s promise to his great grandfather Abraham and to his grandfather Isaac, and said boldly, “God will surely visit you and bring you out of this land unto the land which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob.” As a proof of his faith, he requested that his bones be carried up with them from Egypt into Canaan. This suggests at least the resurrection of the bodies of believers. Joseph is the fullest and richest type of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament. He was indeed an

overcomer. No fault is recorded against him anywhere, because no fault could be found in Jesus, his anti-Type.

MOSES, the meek, “By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king’s commandment.” His parents believed God and instilled the faith of God into their son’s heart. Hence we read here of seven things that he did. He refused, chose, esteemed, respected, forsook, endured and kept. He was indeed a unique character. He was 80 years in Jehovah’s training school for 40 years of leadership. God does not do things as quickly as men do them; but He does things correctly and thoroughly. Moses was so deeply indoctrinated into the Truth, that when he became of age, he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, though he had the prospect of being a great man in Egypt. How it pays to train up our children in the way they should go. The treasures of Egypt loomed high before him, over which he had to get a great victory. But he looked beyond, “esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches” than the fading riches of this world; “for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.” The hope of a future remuneration made it easy for him to suffer affliction with the people of God. This explains why people are unwilling to suffer affliction and reproach. They do not believe in, or have respect for God’s promise of a reward. Future things are not real to them. What a clear and powerful revelation Moses had of the future. He gladly forsook Egypt, not caring for its honors and wealth; “for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible” yes, faith sees the unseeable. It penetrates the mist, fog and darkness of unbelief and skepticism and rests upon the invisible God. “Through faith **he kept the Passover** and the sprinkling of blood.” Moses believed in the blood atonement. He saw beyond his time and beheld the meritorious death of Jesus Christ, and rested upon it as the only protection from the just Destroyer who was to pass over the land and slay the firstborn. Moses and all Israel were secure from God’s wrath that memorable night; for God had said, “**When I see the blood**, I will pass over you” - Exodus 12:13. Oh, how sad that the multitudes reject the only redeeming and saving sacrifice. What fierce judgment is about to fall upon Christian Science, Unity (both falsely called) and other manmade religions for deceiving the masses by their bloodless and lifeless religious

theories. See chapter 10:27-29. Praise God for The sheltering rock in which we hide, happy and safe whatever betide.

“By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.” Israel’s security from the angry tide had been purchased typically and assured to them by the blood of the lamb slain the previous night. And in a figure, they passed through death and came up in resurrection on the other side. How marvelous are God’s ways and works. How powerful is simple childlike faith. It heaped up the rolling waters and held them back as a gigantic mountain till 2,000,000 people passed safely over. No sooner than the last footman was out of danger, the same faith let the floods loose in angry torrents upon their foes and they were enveloped unto death. The faith of God is constructive of its friends, but destructive of its enemies. See Jer. 17:5-8. The same faith also leveled the walls of Jericho after Israel was in the land. “All things are possible to him that believeth,” because “with God all things are possible” - Mark 9:23 and 10:27. Hallelujah! **“By faith the harlot Rahab perished not** with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.” Self-righteousness and affected sanctity would not mar the beauty of this record with the name of a harlot; but what does the holy and compassionate God care for make-believe piety? It is an abomination to Him. But He stoops and pays His respects to faith. Usually the moral man has no faith except in himself. Faith springs up in the heart of those who know that they are sinners and admit it. Rahab felt her need, witnessed the power of Israel’s God and fled to Him for refuge. “Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost,” whether they be one kind of sinners or another; for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Again the Holy spirit is emphasizing the place and power of faith. For want of time and space, the Apostle merely mentions six other worthy elders, for whose achievements we must go to the Old Testament. He speaks of **Gideon**, the hewer, or cutter down, who judged Israel 40 years, during which period, he put down idolatry and delivered them from the Midianites and the Amalekites - Judges 6. **Barak**, the lightning, flashed forth against Jabin, the high-minded King of the Canaanites. **Deborah**, a mother in Israel, inspired him and strengthened his hands. But the glory of

conquest was ascribed to two brave women, Deborah, who judged Israel 40 years, and Jael, who drove a tent pin into the head of Sisera, the enemy's general - Judges 14-16. **Jephthae**, the opposer, was rejected by his brethren; but in a time of dire need, they called on him for help. He became a mighty man of valor, hasty and fearless. He judged Israel 6 years and saved them from the cruelty of the Ammonites - Judges 11 & 12. **DAVID**, the beloved, "a man after God's own heart," became the second king over Israel and reigned for 40 years. His predecessor, Saul is not named in this list of the of the faithful. David was a mighty conqueror, a devoted worshipper of Jehovah and wrote many heart-touching and comforting psalms. **Samuel**, asked of God, judged Israel all his days, overlapping part of Eli's priesthood and the rulership of Saul - I Samuel 4:18 and 7:15. He was a very unique character. He was used of God to bridge a chasm between the difficult and self-willed period of the judges and the new order - the reign of kings. Samuel's word was unusually effective. "The Lord was with him and did let none of his words fall to the ground" - I Samuel 3:19. He typified Christ as High Priest. Those Old Testament personages speak volumes to us, if we have hearts to hear.

Twenty heroic things are cited here by Paul, as the achievements of faith in the lives of those six noblemen and of the prophets. We shall not speak of them in detail. They are all plain. All of them "**out of weakness were made strong;**" for God is pleased to employ weak things to confound the mighty. Faith in God's abounding grace, exercised by the helpless and dependent, accomplishes wonders. May we learn from them to believe Him simply and watch Him work. "**Others were tortured**, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection" - vs. 35. This probably refers to the extreme sufferers during the time of the Maccabees, when saints were beaten to death for their faith and godly lives. The "**better resurrection,**" which they experienced is doubtless the out-resurrection recorded in Matthew 27:52,53 -- "And the graves were opened, and many bodies of the saints which slept, arose **and came out of their graves after His** (Christ's) **resurrection**, and went into the holy city and appeared unto many." If there was a coming forth of saints from among the graves of Israel, is it far-fetched to expect that some saints will have an out-resurrection with

Paul before the church as a whole will be raised? See Philippians 3:11

“Of whom the world was not worthy.” No, the Lord would not leave His loved ones in the world, except that they might witness of Him and His great salvation and open men’s blinded eyes, and that also He may train us for rulership with Him in the coming ages. Jesus prayed that the Father would keep His disciples from the evil, but not take them out of the world. John 17. The more severe the suffering in the world the greater the glory we shall enjoy after being taken out of the world. For every sigh and pain, He will give eternal gain. **“And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise”** - vs. 39. Observe that the chapter begins and ends with this interesting statement, “the elders received a good report,” and that by faith. And to their credit, this good report has been registered, not only in heaven, but also on earth, written for our admonition and comfort. Their reward will be the greater for this record. But they have not yet received the fulfillment of the promises, “God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.” The Old Testament worthies must wait till the resurrection of all the redeemed at the coming of Jesus - Daniel 12:2. Whom does Paul mean by “us” in verse 40? Certainly he does not limit the “better thing” to Israel. The church is included. The many blessings enumerated in this book are surely not for Israel alone. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” - II Timothy 3:16,17. The church will be raised and translated first. Then the believing dead of Israel will be raised. The book of Revelation gives the order of the resurrection, which is the perfection meant here. All the believing dead are embraced in **“the first resurrection;”** for they are **“blessed and holy.”** The phrase, “The rest of the dead,” refers to the wicked - Revelation 19:5,6. What a great and glorious reunion, then all the glorified will meet Jehovah in the air and forever be with Him.

Yes, I know Him as my Savior,
For my sins are washed away;
And I'll never cease to praise Him
For this truth through endless day.

-- Hallan

Hold the Fort

Ho, my comrades, see the signal Waving in the Sky!
Reinforcements now appearing, Victory is nigh.
See the mighty host advancing, Satan leading on;
Mighty men around us falling, Courage almost gone!
See the glorious banner waving! Hear the trumpet blow
In our leader's Name we triumph Over ev'ry foe.
Fierce and long the battle rages, But our help is near,
Onward comes our Great Commander – Cheer, my comrades,
cheer!
“Hold the fort, for I am coming,” Jesus signals still;
Wave the answer back to heaven, “By Thy grace we will.”

Author: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

As was true of so many of P. P. Bliss's gospel songs, this stirring hymn was inspired by an illustration used by Major Whittle, an officer in the American Civil War, while addressing a YMCA meeting on the text from Revelation 2:25. “But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.” Major Whittle's illustration was about a small Northern force of soldiers in charge of guarding a great quantity of supplies. They were being hard pressed by greatly superior Confederate forces. Finally, the Confederate general, General French, commanded the Federal troops to surrender. At that moment the troops saw a signal from their leader, General Sherman, on a hill some miles away which said, “Hold the fort, I am coming. Sherman.” The story so captivated Bliss's interest that he could not retire that evening until he had completed both the text and the music for this rousing gospel song.

At the next day's YMCA service, Bliss introduced his new hymn to all of the delegates and the response was immediate and enthusiastic. Later it became a great favorite in the Moody-Sankey campaigns both in Great Britain and in the United States. As Moody and Sankey were leaving the British Isles in 1874, Lord Shaftesbury, presiding at the final service remarked, “If Mr. Sankey has done no more than teach the people to sing ‘Hold the Fort,’ he has conferred inestimable

blessing on the British Empire, and it would have been worth all the expense of these meetings. "

Although Philip Bliss did not consider this to be one of his better songs, his monument at Rome, Pennsylvania, bears this inscription: "P. P. Bliss, author of 'Hold the Fort. ' "

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THIRTY-THREE YEARS

***How young He was, how short His time on earth!
A pulse-beat through the centuries, a breath
Between the starlit hour of His birth
And that strange darkened hour of His death!***

***Yet had those years not gone their swift sure way,
Had their significance been lost to men,
There would be darkness in the land today;
No faith would lift, no heart could hope again.***

***Thank God, thank God, for those years' precious
store!
Thank God for sparing Him to you, to me,
Out of the glory that was theirs, before
The world was,....and the glory yet to be.***

***The darkened years for him that brought us light;
The weary years for Him that gave us rest;
The clamorous years, that we might know the white,
High silences of peace within the breast.***

***For thirty-three brief years that His feet trod
The earthly roads for us, we thank Thee, God!***

-- Grace Nell Crowell

GIVING THANKS ALWAYS

“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” - Ephesians 5:20.

This well known verse is the prelude to the daily duties of the child of God which are enumerated from Verse 21 onwards: a holy walk between husband and wife, between children and their parents, and between servants and masters. In this way it becomes clear that thankfulness is the foundation of a holy life, just as soldiers march in time to music, so ought our hearts to walk in holiness to the music of thankfulness.

Even if we cannot always thank the Lord in words, we can nevertheless always have thankful hearts. However, it is good to express our thankfulness in words -- yet words alone are questionable thanks if they are not accompanied by deeds of thankfulness. The best expression of thankfulness is obedience towards the Lord. The angels do not only praise the Lord but also obey Him and are always ready to move at His command. It says of them in Hebrews 1:7, “Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.”

Therefore when we fulfill a difficult duty or suffer and pray with suffering brethren it is a good expression of thankfulness to our God.

-- U. Senn M.D.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Reminder: Grace and Glory is now available in audio form for those who are sight challenged or: if you would simply desire Sis. Kathleen Tye to read to you while driving, she would be more than happy to do so. If you would desire these CDs, just let us know either by e-mail (genehawkins60@msn.com) or at P.O. Box 831, Grandview, Mo. 64030, and we will put you on our mailing list.

Also available: The book entitled “Freedom” has recently been put into audio form, once again read by Sis. Tye. Order these CDs from the address above.

We continue to hear from those whose names were dropped from the mailing list. Please continue to let us know if you know of others to whom this has happened. Hopefully we have the problem corrected.

